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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXXIII.



Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Dec. 31st, 1906

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

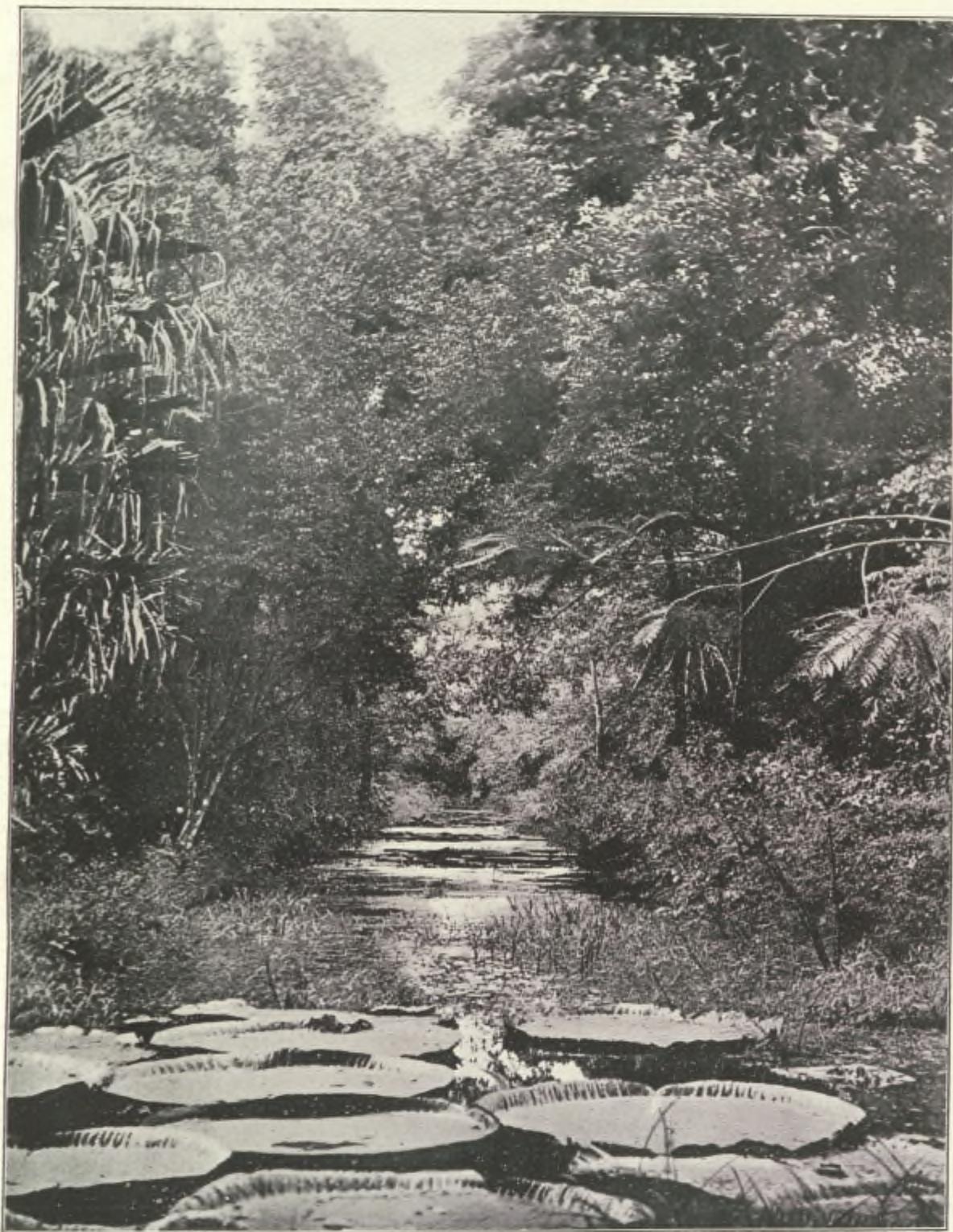
THE year which has just concluded has not been marked by any especially notable events in the West Indies, although it may be said to have been one of steady progress. Politically it has been a quiet one, and there has been no renewal of the disquieting conditions in the relations of the authorities to the proletariat, which found vent in the British Guiana riots of the autumn of 1905. It will be remembered that at the end of that year it had been definitely decided, in accordance with the new scheme of Imperial defence, that all white troops should be withdrawn from the West Indies, and that the North-American Squadron should be abolished. Just about the same time serious riots took place in British Guiana as the outcome of a labour dispute on the part of the black population. Strong feeling was aroused on the subject, and as the result of the urgent representations of the West India Committee, the decision to withdraw the white troops and the fleet entirely was modified to the extent of a small force being left in Jamaica, and a fast cruiser being provided to police the other West Indian colonies. In the course of the first six

months of the year, the remaining troops were duly withdrawn from Barbados and St. Lucia, the magnificent modern fortifications of this important strategic position being left tenantless and practically abandoned. The subject of Immigration into British Guiana, which was being used as a political weapon in connection with the attitude of the present Government towards Chinese labour in the Transvaal also came prominently before the public in the first months of the year. The complete want of analogy between the two systems were clearly demonstrated, and in March LORD ELGIN put the matter definitely beyond further discussion by quoting in the House of Commons Dr. Comyns' statement that the British Guiana Ordinance stood out before the world as an example of British organisation and control. In August, Messrs. DARGAN, BROWN, GONSALVES, and the other signatories to a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, complaining of the attitude of the authorities towards the people in connection with the British Guiana riots of December, and asking for a Commission to be sent out to enquire into their cause and the conduct of the officials in dealing with them, were replied to by LORD ELGIN, who was prepared to grant the Commission if the colony would pay the cost, but commented upon the statements of the petitioners in the matter in severe terms. As the elective members of the Combined Court were not in favour of paying for a Commission the matter dropped. A further petition was dealt with on the same lines. Imperial telegraphic communication was the cause of constant communication between the West India Committee and the Government, and though a departmental committee has sat, and is still sitting, at the Colonial Office on the subject, but little or no progress has been made towards solving the important problem of an improved service. One of the most important events of the year was the partial resumption of the intercolonial mail service, which had been discontinued for several months, with the result that an insupportable condition of affairs as regards correspondence and communication generally was created, and in July one of the intercolonial steamers, with a subsidy from the colonies served, resumed running fortnightly to St. Vincent, Grenada and British Guiana, and monthly to the northern islands. Turning to agriculture, the year has been distinctly one of progression for the West Indies. The old-established sugar industry, if not largely extended, has been further strengthened by centralisation, while the value of seedling canes as a substitute for the Bourbon is being recognised more and more every day. Two central factory schemes were given actuality to in Jamaica, powerful compound mills were supplied for Trinidad and British Guiana, while further promising experiments have been carried on with mechanical tillage in Trinidad and Antigua. The sugar crops of the islands were good, but for British Guiana the results yielded have not been of promise. The price of sugar varied but little during the year, but on the whole improved on that obtaining for the early months of the year. A rise in the price of 88 % Beet to 10s. in September was of very short duration, and the closing price on December 31st was 8s. 9½d. against 8s. 1¼d. on January 2nd, which means sugar still below the average cost of production. During the summer months a considerable amount of dissatisfaction was expressed at the action of the Canadian refiners in making one of the conditions of their paying a share of the preference to the planters in the Leeward Islands, that the sugar should be carried in Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamers. As we pointed out at the time, this was due to the command the refiners have had of the market, up to now, owing to the demand not being equal to the supply, and also to their inability to deal with much muscovado sugar. The consumption of sugar in Canada is steadily rising, and it is expected that very shortly the excess of demand over the West Indian supply will enable the sugar growers to make equitable terms with the refiners, until any coming into operation of the intermediate tariff, referred to in our last issue, modifies the British preference. In the early part of the year considerable interest was excited in rum circles by a successful prosecution of sellers of imitation Jamaica rum, under the auspices of MR. J. C. NOLAN, the Commissioner appointed by Jamaica for that purpose. The question of the rum surtax was also taken up at the meeting of the Associated Chambers of

Commerce of the Empire in July, and, on the motion of the British Guiana representative, MR. E. R. DAVSON, a resolution was unanimously passed urging that the Government should make an impartial enquiry into the question. As regards cocoa the crops have been below the average, but this has been compensated for by the increase in price which has characterised the year's sales. The combination of short crops and increased consumption on the Continent and in America brought about speculation of a kind seldom seen in the cocoa market, and as the result of this, an enormous and gratifying rise in price occurred. As an illustration of this, Trinidad cocoa rose during the year from \$52 to \$86, the value at the time of writing. Anticipations regarding cotton have been fully realised. This industry is daily assuming increasing importance, and there is now no doubt that the Sea Island cotton of the West India Islands will, in fact, become a factor of considerable magnitude in the supply of this speciality. The acreage increased from 10,800 in 1904 and 13,100 in 1905 respectively, to 18,000 for the past year, while the quality has been well maintained, and it may be stated that this industry is now firmly established once more in its old habitat. The cocoa-nut industry has shaped well during the past year. In addition to the mere shipment of nuts, products, such as copra, appear in the exports from Trinidad, which indicate more active development, while the demand for the raw nut has been good. The cultivation of rubber is also being steadily taken in hand, and the appearance of this commodity as a regular item of export may soon be anticipated. Only comparable, however, to the growth of the cotton industry, has been the development of the fruit trade of the smaller islands. Bananas, oranges, &c., have been for some years the principal export from Jamaica, but during the present year Dominica has come very much to the front with its citrus fruits, especially limes, which have taken a definite hold on the British public. Not only in the quality of the fruit, but also in the methods of preparation for shipping, has this island made enormous strides in the twelve months under review. Another interesting and encouraging feature of the past year has been the enormous expansion in the rice-growing industry of British Guiana, and it is gratifying to observe with this an increasing interest in other agricultural products in this colony, which has for many years identified its agricultural interests with those of sugar only. The placing of paddy on the Canadian tariff free list, and the preferential treatment of finished rice in that country, should stimulate the industry still further now that it has arrived at an exporting point. As the agriculture of the West Indies develops the question of labour comes prominently to the fore. During the years of depression in the sugar industry, agriculture in the smaller islands sank to a very low ebb, and more or less emigration took place, while the habit of agriculture was lost to a considerable extent by the labouring population. In British Guiana and Trinidad the maintenance of the coolie emigration by the sugar and cacao planter secured the up-keep of the labour supply for those industries, and at the same time provided a proportionate amount of labour for purposes of general industry. Now, however, that the rice cultivation of British Guiana, the cotton, and other products of the islands are becoming important industries the question of labour is becoming felt, and some means of meeting the demand is urgently wanted, and we look to the adoption of mechanical substitute for labour as likely to do much to get over the difficulty. A notable feature of the year was the visit of the West Indian cricketers to this country, under the captaincy of MR. HAROLD B. G. AUSTIN. Although the tour did not result in many victories, for the team only obtained three wins and two draws out of thirteen first-class matches, the members of it are to be congratulated in that they showed that good cricket is played even under the trying conditions of a tropical climate, and that they strengthened the link between British sportsmen and their brothers across the seas. The death list in official circles has not been heavy, although we have to record the untimely death of SIR ROBERT BROMLEY, the promising administrator of St. Kitts, which took place in May. The loss of SIR ALEXANDER ASHMORE, who died in Ceylon in December, has been much felt in British Guiana. The only change in governing circles which has occurred during the year has been the retirement of SIR ROBERT LLEWELYN from the Government of the

Windward Islands, and the appointment of Mr. RALPH WILLIAMS in his stead. Summing up the year 1906 from the point of view of the West Indies, it may be said that although the sugar industry has felt considerably the abnormally low price of sugar, on the whole there has been every indication of more confidence, more commercial strength, and more enterprise. While the smaller islands have taken a step forward towards regaining their old status, Jamaica has completely recovered from the disastrous effects of the hurricane of 1898, and the extension of the cacao cultivation of Trinidad is materially adding to the resources of that island, which is showing signs of rapidly increasing prosperity. Speaking generally, if progression on the present lines is maintained the commercial importance of these colonies is in a fair way of being brought up to their old and historic level.

THE decision of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to hold the sixth West Indian Agricultural Conference in Jamaica is one which should commend itself to agriculturists in the West Indies. Four of these gatherings have been held in Barbados, namely, in 1899, 1900, 1901 and 1902. In 1903 and 1904 no Conferences were possible owing to the quarantine regulations then in force—a contingency which in view of the recent legislation on the subject is hardly likely to arise again—but in 1905 they were resumed, and a very successful series of meetings was held in Trinidad. In the following year, owing to the dislocation of the mail arrangements consequent upon the abandonment of the mail contract, a Conference which it had been proposed to hold in Jamaica had to be postponed; but these obstacles have been overcome, and at the request of the Commissioner of Agriculture and with the permission of the Governor of Jamaica, arrangements were successfully completed for conveying the delegates from Barbados to Jamaica in the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co.'s steamer "Port Kingston." It was hoped that it might be possible to combine with the Conference a visit of a large number of cotton spinners to the cotton growing Islands, but owing to the lack of the necessary means of communication this was found to be impracticable, though we are glad to learn that Mr. J. ARTHUR HUTTON and Mr. E. LOMAS OLIVER are visiting the West Indies as representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association, and that they hope to be able to reach St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, and Montserrat. We can imagine nothing better calculated to stimulate planters and to open their minds than a visit to neighbouring colonies and the inspection of the conditions of cultivation prevailing in them, for though many of the visitors may have nothing to learn themselves, they can by friendly discussion and intercourse impart to their hosts information as to what is best in this respect in the islands from which they come, while others can pick up many valuable wrinkles. Indeed, we have always felt that this opportunity for an exchange of views is one of the chief advantages derived from these Conferences, which are so admirably organised by the Commissioner of Agriculture. They have, moreover, done much to bring the islands closer together into that social, commercial and political union, the realisation of which is so much to be desired. We were privileged to attend one of the earlier Conferences, and were struck upon that occasion by the useful nature of the proceedings. It must be remembered that the papers read are like grains of mustard seed, and that it is not only those attending the meetings who benefit, but those among whom the reports, published in the *Bulletin*, are subsequently circulated. Like their fellows in Trinidad, the Jamaica merchants and planters are showing that they are past masters in the art of entertaining, and the programme of excursions provided for the delegates, which extends over four days, from January 11th to the 14th, is very comprehensive and complete, including, as it does, visits to fruit, rubber and sugar plantations, the inspection of pens and tobacco cultivation, with the usual banquets interspersed, the only matter to be regretted being the very short time which will be available in the island. From the highest to the lowest in the land the delegates will, we feel sure, be heartily received in the characteristic West Indian style, and we shall eagerly await the report of the proceedings, which we may be sure will be given at length by the enterprising Press of Jamaica.



Photograph by]

[F. V. McCONNELL.

VICTORIA REGIA,
IN THE BOTANIC GARDENS, BRITISH GUIANA.

AMONG the passengers in the R.M.S.P. "Tagus" leaving Southampton to-morrow is MR. ALFRED J. WEST, who, under our auspices, is about to make a second and a more extended tour through our West India colonies, with the object of securing a further series of views of the life and scenery of the West Indies. It will be within the recollection of our readers that MR. WEST on the occasion of his first visit was, owing to the short time at his disposal, compelled to confine his operations practically to Jamaica alone, and though that island afforded him an abundant field for the exercise of his operations, it will be a satisfaction to those connected with the other West India colonies to know that on the present occasion they are not to be omitted from the itinerary of this capable artist. According to present arrangements MR. WEST will proceed to British Guiana direct, where he will arrive on January 18th. After spending fourteen days in that colony he will visit Grenada, dividing his time between that island, St. Vincent, Trinidad, and Tobago, from February 4th to February 18th. He will then visit the northern islands in turn, endeavouring to spend approximately a day at each, and he expects to return to England at about the end of March. Those who have visited MR. WEST'S entertainment at the Polytechnic must have recognised the great possibilities the West Indies afford to the photographer, and must have felt that if MR. WEST had had longer time at his disposal on his first visit the exhibition would have benefited by the inclusion of such picturesque spots as Codrington College, Barbados, the Carenage at Grenada, the Bocas at Trinidad, and such features of surpassing interest as the Pitch Lake in the latter colony, and we have, therefore, armed MR. WEST with a programme of suitable subjects for his camera, of which, we believe, he will make good use. Possibly he may see his way to present to a London audience some of the more prominent features in connection with the principal industries, and it is hardly necessary to add that in the event of his doing so incalculable good would undoubtedly result. We have furnished MR. WEST, who has now become a member of the West India Committee, with a general letter of introduction, but we may also add a request to our readers who may come across this gentleman on his travels, whether they be officials, planters or merchants, or to whatever class they may belong, to give him every facility for seeing what there is to be seen, and for securing those pictures best qualified to attract the British public to our glorious possessions in the West.

SIR FRANCIS FLEMING, K.C.M.G.

Sir Francis Fleming, son of the late James Fleming, Q.C., was educated at Downside College. He followed in the footsteps of his father, being called to the Bar as a member of the Inner Temple in 1866, but he was destined for a colonial career, and in 1869 he was appointed Crown Solicitor of Mauritius, becoming District Magistrate in 1872. He first went out to the West Indies in 1876, when he became District Judge in Jamaica. Two years later Barbados claimed him as Attorney General. In 1880 he acted as Private Secretary to Sir G. C. Strahan, Governor of Cape Colony, but in 1882 he returned to the West Indies as Puisne Judge of British Guiana. He was made Queen's Advocate, Ceylon, in 1883, and in 1886 and 1889 respectively he went to Mauritius and Hong Kong as Colonial Secretary. He administered the Government of both places, but his first actual Governorship was in Sierra Leone, to which he was appointed in 1892. From 1895 to 1901 he was Governor of the Leeward Islands, where he added to his large circle of friends, and since his retirement in the latter year he has been assiduous in his devotion to the West Indies. Indeed there is rarely a meeting concerning these colonies held at which he is not present. An energetic worker, he found it difficult to rest, and as a Poor Law Guardian for the parish of St. Mary Abbott's, at Kensington, a Vice-Chairman of the Board, a member of the Teachers' Registration Council, and also of the Charity Organisation Society, he is still very much in harness. He married in 1892 a daughter of M. D. Kavanagh and the Hon. Mrs. Kavanagh, who dispensed generous hospitality at Government House, Antigua.

THE VICTORIA REGIA.

The particular corner of the Botanic Gardens in British Guiana depicted in our full page illustration, was chosen for the camera by Mr. F. V. McConnell—through whose courtesy we are permitted to reproduce it—in order to show the remarkable *Victoria Regia* lilies. These water lilies

are indigenous to British Guiana, where they are to be seen in many of the trenches which run down the middle of the streets. Many of their leaves measure from 3 to 4 feet in diameter, and their size and stability are such as to enable them to support the weight of children, though we have not ourselves ever seen a man sitting on a chair on them, as is stated to have been done. The edges of the leaves being turned up makes them look like large green trays. The plant is so common in British Guiana that it causes visitors from that magnificent province surprise when they visit England and see the zealously guarded specimen in the Botanical Gardens at Regent's Park, which has a house built for itself. The Botanic Gardens of Vlissingen, British Guiana, covers an area of about 180 acres, and they form a very beautiful drive for visitors and residents in the Colony.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, December 20th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
FRANK COOPERS.	F. N. Martinez.	Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.
THE NEW SCHOONORD SUGAR PLN. CO., LTD.	G. E. S. Fryer.	Mewburn Garnett.
ALFRED J. WEST, F.R.G.S.	Mewburn Garnett.	Spencer H. Curtis.
R. CHEALES (Nevis).	The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.	E. L. Marshall.

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 GUADELOUPE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* draws attention to a letter of M. Gerault-Richard, in which the deputy for Guadeloupe alludes to the distress among the population of that island, and to the means of alleviating it. The sugar crisis, he says, is at the bottom of it, and adds, "endeavours are being made and will be continued, to gradually substitute for sugar the cultivation of coffee, cacao, cotton, and other products, for which the soil of Guadeloupe seems adapted. In order that this step may be carried out under normal conditions, it is necessary that the parent country, which has sacrificed, in its anxiety, the old colonies to the new, gives us help. Until the freeing from taxation of our secondary commodities gives our agriculture a salutary impulse, I ask my colleagues of the Budget Commission not to deprive us of resources which are indispensable to us." This indicates a desire to give up cane cultivation, but, as the *Journal* observes, the proper course would be to develop the secondary industries, and at the same time to put the sugar industry on a more efficient footing. It is a well-known fact that the Guadeloupe factories, at one time the most advanced in the West Indies, have for many years remained stationary, and that the cost of production is a long way above that of the sugar grown in the British West Indies and British Guiana.

SUGAR SHIPMENTS TO CANADA.

There seems to be considerable uncertainty in sugar circles as to whether cargoes sent to Montreal *via* New York from the West Indies will be entitled to the benefit of the British preference or not. The wording of the new tariff in this respect is precisely the same as that in the old, *viz.*, that to obtain the preference there must be direct shipments to Canadian ports. In the past, however, this has not been given effect to, so long as the cargoes were accompanied by their certificates of origin. Advices from Montreal distinctly lay down that the conditions of the clause are to be carried out; on the other hand, authorities on this side state that the position of matters in this respect will be as before. Should, however, the former obtain, shippers will do well to bear in mind that there is no lack of steam tonnage available, and that the united sea and land freight *via* St. John or Halifax is practically the same as through New York, and that by combination the sellers should be able to obtain some of the amount of the preference from the refiners. In connection with this subject, it may be pointed out that the latter have already provided against the extra cost of raw sugar, due to the increased duty, by raising the price of refined 10 cents per 100 lbs.

CACAO REPORTS III.—ECUADOR.

The West India Committee have received from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a further contribution to the series of special reports on the cacao industry with which he has been

* For Reports I. Bahia and II. Cuba see *West India Committee Circular*, Nos. 213 and 214, pp. 559 and 582.

pleased to furnish them. This is a report by Mr. Consul Cartwright on the methods of cultivation, production, and export of cacao from Ecuador:—

Cacao in Ecuador, is only grown on the lower level of the country—in no case exceeding 1,000 feet above the sea level. It requires a very deep, loamy soil, with a depth of at least 20 to 25 feet of yellow loam. For this reason the orchards are established, as a rule, on the higher "lomos" or banks piled up by the detriment or silting of the river. If the roots of the cacao trees strike a sandy or poor soil the production diminishes and the quality deteriorates. Plenty of moisture is required, and in a dry season the production frequently is decreased by at least 50 per cent. At the same time an excess of moisture—flooded orchards,—constant rain, and absence of the light and heat of the sun, have a deleterious effect upon the trees—cause blight in the pods, and prevent the ripening of the beans. The Ecuadorian rainy season generally lasts from the end of December to the middle or end of April—after which latter date there are frequently misty or dewy days, with a slight drizzle in the succeeding months. If the rainfall during the proper season is fairly abundant (between 60 to 90 inches in the season), and there are occasional moist drizzly days in the rest of the year, the cacao crop is generally a success. An abnormal decline in the temperature brings on what is called the "helada" of the pods, blighting their growth, and causing the beans when gathered to be nearly or even entirely without kernel. In dry seasons, and sometimes even in extra wet ones, without thunderstorms or electricity in the air, the orchards are frequently attacked by myriads of caterpillars of moths (nearly all thickly covered with sharp, stinging hairs), which destroy every leaf of hundreds of trees and thereby expose the pods to the scorching hot sun, which utterly destroys them.

Cacao is planted, as a rule, direct from the ripe pods to prepared beds or boxes with the appropriate soil, and is kept in these until the plants (called "lechugins") attain a height of 3 to 6 inches. They are then transplanted to the orchard in which they are to grow. The usual and best plan is to plant them in straight lines, with a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 yards between each plant. A good thick shade must be provided whilst the plants are young. Frequently the banana is used for this purpose, as its fruit pays a very good proportion of the expenses of forming a new plantation. All cacao orchards, even at maturity, must be provided with a certain amount of shade, generally about one tall spreading tree to every 25 yards of orchard. A well-grown cacao tree should have from two to four stems (molonillos). It begins to flower in the second or third year, but gives no fruit to mention until the fourth year, and attains its full bearing capacity, according to soil, climate, &c., in eight or ten years.

In Ecuador a fair average estimate of the production of a cacao tree is one pound per tree, although in some favoured districts it is much heavier; and as much as five or six pounds have been produced per tree. It must be borne in mind, however, that absolutely nothing is done in Ecuador towards aiding the trees by manure, only pruning or by irrigation. The orchards are generally (though not invariably) cleaned ("rosado") every year, *i.e.*, the parasites and extra growth, &c., are cleaned off, but all the rest is left to nature and the mercy of the climate and the weather. A cacao tree's duration is not yet well ascertained. There are many plantations reputed to be of over 100 years old, and it is generally believed that with good attention to the cleaning of trees the prevention of the growth of suckers, &c., an orchard will remain in good bearing condition for over 100 years.

Ecuadorian cacao for export consists chiefly of four grades:—

ARRIBA.—This is collected all through the year, but the regular crop is from March to July, when the cacao attains its finest quality, and is quoted in the European markets as "prime red summer Arriba." The sale of this cacao is made principally to Europe. Very little goes to England; by far the larger part is shipped by British, German, and French steamers to "Havre for option," and though the final destination cannot be decided here, it may confidently be stated that the consumption is greater in Germany than in any other European country. The total crop of Arriba was in 1904, 406,563 Qs. = 18,000 tons of 2,240 lbs.; in 1905, 297,000 Qs. = 13,300 tons; and in the first ten months of 1906, 288,122 quintals = 13,000 tons. Export statistics for 1904 and 1905 are appended, but they relate not to Arriba only but to the other classes of cacao, all mixed in one total.

BALAO (with which Naranjal and Tenquel are also included).—The principal crop of this comes from May to October. It is considerably inferior to Arriba, and fetches a lower price, but the orchards, as a rule, provide a much heavier weight per tree. The total crop of Balao was: In 1904, 86,548 Qs. = 3,900 tons of 2,240 lbs.; in 1905, 78,173 Qs. = 3,500 tons; and ten months in 1906, 84,281 Qs. = 3,800 tons. This cacao is principally consumed by Spain.

MACHALA.—The crop of this cacao is supposed to commence about August, but like Arriba and Balao, it is to be obtained the whole year round. The price varies according to quality, but is generally from one to two shillings cheaper than that grade. The production has been as follows: In 1904, 52,605 Qs. = 2,400 tons, of 2,240 lbs.; in 1905, 58,000 Qs. = 2,600 tons; and ten months of 1906, 56,000 Qs. = 2,500 tons. The cacao is in good demand both in Germany and the United States.

BAHIA DE CARAQUEZ is a grade of cacao exported from Manabi (to the north of Guayaquil). It varies considerably in grade between a quality equal to good Arriba and another inferior even to Balao or Machala. The production has been as follows: in 1904, 2,347 tons of 1,000 kilograms; in 1905, 1,641 tons of 1,000 kilograms. That for 1906 cannot yet be ascertained. Chief sale for this in previous years has been found in London almost exclusively, but in 1905-6 a large share of it has been diverted to Germany. It may be interesting to add that cacao seeds and cacao pods have been forwarded from this Consulate to Jamaica as an experiment for planting, but that they unfortunately got spoiled or rotted on the voyage. Subsequently a box with earth full of sprouted seeds was forwarded. The result of this is not yet known, but should any supply of plants be required as a trial, they will be obtained and forwarded at little, or probably no expense beyond transportation charges. Lists of exports to different countries in kilos. are appended:—

CACAO EXPORTS FROM ALL PORTS OF THE REPUBLIC IN 1905.—VALUES IN DOLLARS.

COUNTRIES.	GUAYAQUIL.	MANTA.	BAHIA.	ESMERALDAS.	PUERTO BOLIVAR.	CAVO.	TOTAL VALUE.
France	5,053,906	8,396	191,545	—	543,362	126	5,797,335
Germany	1,223,497	7,578	8,207	26,627	28,000	—	1,293,909
United States	1,455,726	7,688	225,024	—	—	—	1,688,438
Chile	43,839	—	1,067	—	—	—	44,906
Great Britain	443,160	13,394	298,928	3,942	—	—	759,424
Spain	833,140	—	3,026	—	—	—	836,166
Peru	3,500	—	—	—	—	—	3,500
Italy	33,500	—	710	—	—	—	34,210
Argentina	72,614	—	—	—	—	—	72,614
Mexico	23,069	—	675	—	—	—	23,744
Cuba	7,244	—	—	—	—	—	7,244
Holland	285,871	—	—	—	4,000	—	289,871
Salvador	7,745	—	—	—	—	—	7,745
Austria	25,975	—	—	—	—	—	25,975
Guatemala	5,030	—	—	—	—	—	5,030
Columbia	6,675	—	—	—	—	—	6,675
Uruguay	19,300	—	—	—	—	—	19,300
Total value	9,543,791	37,056	729,182	30,569	575,362	126	10,916,086

CACAO EXPORTS FROM GUAYAQUIL FOR TEN YEARS IN KILOS. AS UNDER:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
France	7,478,897	7,305,808	10,303,857	10,904,958	7,301,803	10,217,237	11,080,245	7,772,165	11,333,163	9,360,427
Spain	2,255,208	1,913,211	1,998,717	2,872,394	2,019,213	2,209,389	2,108,208	2,027,482	1,850,671	1,459,739
Germany	3,379,750	2,955,782	2,769,162	4,835,007	1,962,825	1,339,196	1,552,553	3,381,415	4,521,200	2,434,682
England	1,743,042	1,692,144	2,222,090	2,611,807	2,301,823	2,097,251	2,114,318	2,099,765	2,407,010	870,143
United States	1,333,309	1,325,625	1,597,797	2,043,151	2,366,843	2,270,150	3,187,867	4,036,914	3,597,295	2,872,274
Central America	327,673	348,221	117,809	380,409	104,649	494,604	343,185	1,102,823	581,962	534,046
Belgium & Holland	516,773	132,520	51,515	55,763	24,166	62,436	51,679	7,354	10,369	25,453
Chile	66,673	62,200	84,535	96,712	67,191	84,964	95,083	103,708	90,816	72,485
Mexico	61,280	25,044	59,253	46,886	23,762	25,108	77,733	84,547	41,177	43,907
Italy	12,254	30,397	4,043	39,744	8,199	68,104	102,299	18,575	30,352	39,761
Peru	15,223	—	15,632	23,243	4,266	3,660	8,458	8,225	3,599	7,610
Uruguay & Argentina	21,227	2,450	36,878	68,791	60,813	113,271	148,331	152,324	235,343	164,970
Columbia	2,171	—	—	—	—	4,094	140	—	—	12,175
Austria	—	16,231	14,300	8,176	—	21,694	16,424	32,740	53,187	47,947
Cuba	—	—	7,491	7,492	18,688	18,698	7,486	14,972	16,490	14,972
Totals	17,896,596	15,919,855	19,326,018	24,072,499	15,346,232	19,686,806	20,956,406	20,843,012	24,778,674	17,951,584

MANY YEARS AGO.

A Serious Sugar Famine.

In 1790, owing to a shortage due to the San Domingo insurrection and to the Islands not having recovered from the effects of the war, the supply of sugar in Great Britain became very low, and the price was proportionately high. So high was it, indeed, that the Government thought it time to interfere, with the view of securing a larger supply of sugar to the English market. With this object Mr. Pitt proposed to the West India Committee: 1st, The importation of East Indian sugar upon duties equal to those on British plantation sugar, and if this were felt to be objectionable, he desired some other form of duties to be named, adding that his present opinion was in favour of the sugar being admitted on equal duties for a limited time by way of experiment; 2nd, The warehousing of foreign sugars or their admission under protecting duties, so as not to injure the British plantation sugars. The Committee pointed out that the acuteness of the situation was not likely to continue, as the approaching crops were likely to exceed those of the preceding year by 69,000 hhds., 36,000 from the British Islands and 33,000 from the Danish and French, the latter of which at that time included Tobago and St. Lucia. At a meeting of the West India Committee on March 12th, 1792, Lord Penrhyn, who was in the chair, reported that a deputation had waited upon Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas, who stated that they were still of opinion that

something should be done to lower the exorbitant price of sugar. Mr. Pitt also made suggestions to the deputation as to what they considered would be a proper step to take. It was accordingly resolved by the meeting :

" THAT notwithstanding the laws of Great Britain have of late frequently occasioned the British West India Islands to be deprived of an adequate supply of necessaries, particularly in the case of provisions for their Negroes, by means of which many thousands of these have perished from famine, or its consequent diseases between the Years 1780 and 1787; yet it is the wish of this Meeting, that Great Britain may be supplied with British West India Sugar (though Sugar is not deemed as a necessary) at prices which shall at no time be excessive.

" THAT for this purpose it be signified to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Secretary Dundas, that it is the opinion of this Meeting, that whenever the low lump Sugar of the Refiners exceeds 110 Shillings the hundredweight, the drawback or bounty on raw and refined Sugar respectively, may then cease; but that in order to compensate in some measure to the British West India Sugar Colonies for the same, an addition of 4 Shillings upon each hundredweight ought to be made to the present allowance on refined Sugar at export, when the low lump Sugar is reduced below 75 Shillings the hundredweight. That at the same time it be understood that this scale of prices can only suit moments of peace, and may require a total change of system during war, on account of the necessary Rise of the article. That by means of a regulation made on the above principles, it is hoped that Sugars will never rise too high for the consumer, nor fall too low for the Planter."

This means of dealing with the situation by practically regulating the exports of sugar according to prices, was accepted by the Government, and the question of equalising the East and West Indian sugar duties dropped.

"ORINOCO" AND "KAISER WILHELM."

The hearing of the action in the Admiralty Division brought by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the owners of the steamship "Orinoco," against the North-German Lloyd, the owners of the steamship "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," to recover the damage they had sustained by reason of the collision off Cherbourg on November 21st, was concluded on December 18th. Mr. Aspinall, K.C., and Mr. Dunlop appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. Pickford, K.C., Mr. Stephens, and Mr. H. C. S. Dumas for the defendants.

Sir J. Gorell Barnes, President, in giving judgment, said that the case was one arising out of a collision which happened about three weeks ago at the entrance to Cherbourg Harbour. The "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" had passed the "Orinoco" earlier in the afternoon, when both vessels were proceeding to Cherbourg, and the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" had picked up her passengers and mails and was coming out of the harbour again when she met the "Orinoco" coming in. The place of collision was agreed as being about half a mile W.N.W. of the fort on the western end of the breakwater—Fort de l'Ouest—at the entrance of the harbour. The broad case made by the "Orinoco" was that the other vessel ought to have ported when rounding out of the breakwater and so passed them port to port, or she ought to have slowed and allowed the "Orinoco" to have passed into the harbour before she came out, instead of which she tried to cross ahead of the "Orinoco." The defendants, on the other hand, alleged that if the "Orinoco" had not ported they would have passed ahead of her in perfect safety. The first question to be considered was what rules of navigation were applicable to the case. The plaintiffs alleged that vessels ought to pass there port to port, and that the narrow channel rule, Article 25, applied, and it seemed to him, and the Elder Brethren advised him, that vessels ought to meet, and seamanship demanded that they should meet, and pass in that place port to port, and so, broadly speaking, the contention of the plaintiffs was right. He was doubtful whether the crossing rule Article 19 applied; it probably did not apply, but seamanship, prompted by the spirit of Article 25, required these vessels to pass port to port, and there was nothing which could have prevented the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" from waiting or from coming out at a slower speed. He accepted the bearings and distances spoken to by those on the "Orinoco," and the real truth was that the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" was going out of the harbour at high speed, expecting to pass ahead of the "Orinoco," and failed to do so. The points made against the "Orinoco" were that she improperly ported and was to blame for not stopping sooner than she did. He had come to the conclusion that the angle of the blow was six points, which meant that she could only have ported two points, and she was justified in doing that, for she had a reasonable and proper expectation that the vessel coming out of the harbour would pass her port to port. With regard to the second point he thought she had stopped and reversed as soon as those on board her realized what those on the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" were attempting to do. The Elder Brethren desired him to point out that in all probability the fact that the "Orinoco" had schooner

bows minimized the damage done by this collision, for instead of the vessels coming together at once, first the bowsprit, then the figurehead, and then the overhang of the "Orinoco" touched the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," and this probably prevented the latter from being cut down to the water's edge. The result was that the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" would be held alone to blame. Notice of appeal in this case has been lodged.

THE PROPOSED EAST INDIA COMMITTEE.

In a leading article in the last issue of the *West India Committee Circular* reference was made to the proposed formation of an East India Committee on the lines of the West India Committee. A copy of the *Statesman* of Calcutta, dated November 28th, which contains an editorial on the subject, has now come to hand; and in view of the importance of the suggestions contained therein, it is felt desirable to reprint it in full. The *Statesman* says:—

"In the latest of his weekly contributions, published elsewhere in to-day's paper, the able writer of our London Financial Letter puts forward a suggestion which we believe to be well worthy of the consideration of the mercantile and industrial community in India. In referring to the urgent demand for the construction of the Sara Bridge, our correspondent remarks that no organised representative body exists in London which can authoritatively voice the legitimate demands of India in such a case as this, and prove to the Secretary of State, not only that the project is feasible, but that it has behind it an overwhelming mass of public opinion. The value of organisation is thoroughly appreciated by all trade interests at Home, and when questions affecting any of these interests arise, machinery is promptly put in motion to obtain, if possible, the support of public opinion through the Press, and to influence the Government of the day by sending deputations to Ministers or raising the subject in Parliament. An organised body will obtain a hearing where an individual has no chance of making his voice effective, and it is eminently unsatisfactory, considering the vast interests involved, that the commercial and industrial community in India should have no representative organisation in London—a body which could perform, on its behalf, functions similar to those so effectively fulfilled by the West India Committee for the West Indian Colonies. The activity and ability displayed by the West India Committee have extorted expressions of admiration from public men, although they may have dissented entirely from the policy that the Committee has from time to time advocated, while the manner in which it brings to public notice, through the newspapers, and to the attention of Parliament, through members of the House of Commons, the claims of its constituents, has deservedly earned for it the warm gratitude of those concerned. When, for example, the question of the abolition of sugar bounties was stirring the public mind at home, the West India Committee seemed ubiquitous, and its energy and persistence contributed in no small degree to the decision finally arrived at by the Imperial Government in this matter.

"An official summary of the objects and performances of this Committee states that it 'is formed of British subjects personally interested in the agricultural and manufacturing industries and trade of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, and its object is, by united action, to promote the interests of such industries and trade, and thus increase the general welfare of those Colonies. Co-operation is its watchword, and its members, now numbering over 1,000, realise that their united representations carry more weight than those of the individual; that a solid West India cable is of more practical utility than a single island link.'

"The closing words of the above statement admirably express an obvious fact; but the Committee does not content itself with fine phrases. Its Executive meets fortnightly, or more often if need be, representatives of each of the Colonies being appointed to this body, and it has correspondents in every Colony, from Jamaica to Guiana, who keep it fully cognisant of local affairs. Among these correspondents are agricultural and commercial societies as well as individual business men of standing; and, in England, the Committee is associated with the West India sections of the Bristol and Liverpool Chambers of Commerce and the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool. Its members in London include many firms of eminence, together with important public companies, such as the Colonial Bank, the Direct West India Cable Company, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and the London and India Docks; while its energetic administrators, headed by Sir Neville Lubbock, who was knighted in 1899 as Chairman of the Committee, lose no opportunity of extending its influence and increasing its membership. An admirable illustrated periodical, modestly entitled the *West India Committee Circular*, is issued under the auspices of the organisation, and sent gratuitously to the newspapers and to journalists of standing, with very excellent results. And apart from the work which the Committee performs in this public manner, it provides a bureau of information regarding the West Indies, and has been instrumental in causing many settlers with capital to take up estates in the Colonies which it represents. In 1904 the Committee, whose records date back to 1769,

was granted a Royal Charter in which it was set out that the Sovereign was 'desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary' as the petitioners for incorporation had in view.

"We have described the aims and the work of this body at some length, because we are convinced that the creation of a kindred organisation for India would be attended with none but the most beneficial results. Important as the British West Indian Colonies undoubtedly are, their commercial and industrial interests are small in magnitude compared with those of the Indian Empire. If leading business men in this country co-operating with firms at home, were to take the matter vigorously in hand, there should be no insurmountable obstacle in the way of bringing into existence a body that could speak with authority and with knowledge on Indian subjects. The ignorance of these subjects displayed by newspapers and politicians in England is often lamentable in the extreme, and that ignorance breeds apathy is only too apparent. In such an atmosphere, it is comparatively easy for powerful private interests to exercise a dominant influence in matters of urgent public importance, while the opinion of the community, not finding adequate expression, is entirely ignored. A great sphere of usefulness, therefore, lies before an influential and representative body in London, which could act with promptitude when the commercial and industrial interests of India were at stake. We strongly commend the suggestion to the notice of our Indian Chambers of Commerce and the various representative bodies in our midst whose business it is to watch over the commercial and industrial well-being of this country."

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The remarkable contrast between the attitude of the United States and that of Great Britain towards the British West Indies has been a subject of frequent comment in the *West India Committee Circular*, and in this connection the following leading article, which appears in a special Jamaica number of the *New York Commercial* is not without significance. Under the heading "British Conservatism," it says:—

"In the West India Islands Jamaica appears to furnish an instance of the failure of the home Government to recognize and adapt itself to a condition of affairs which might seem to warrant a more strenuous policy. In the 20th century publicity plays an important part. If one possesses resources unusual and advantages exceptional, then the world should know it. The figures given in recent statistics of the Island of Jamaica demonstrate that a good deal more force and a good deal more money might well be used in the upbuilding of this very important British station. While the merchants, as a whole, appear to be progressive, some much more than others, yet there is an absence of concentrated effort. The tourist influx is one of the most important features now existing. This element means a larger interest in the trade and commerce of the Island—a great development of its resources, an enhanced value to the real estate. Americans seem to have grasped in a measure some of these opportunities, not only in their investments of capital, but in the facilities offered to those who desire to see for themselves. This means easy access to the Island and the best of accommodation to remain awhile and study the conditions. England, by right of possession, should scatter far and wide a knowledge of one of her most picturesque and prolific possessions, but it seems to be the policy of those who lead in the charge of these matters to be rather half-hearted. By a certain inaction very great opportunities are being lost."

MR. ARTHUR ASHLEY PEARSON.

At the end of last month Mr. Arthur Ashley Pearson, C.M.G., the head of the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office, retired, owing to ill health. Mr. Pearson would have completed his fortieth year in the office next year, and has been private secretary to two Secretaries of State—the Earl of Carnarvon and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach (as he then was)—while he has also represented Great Britain on several important occasions, including the Sugar Conference at Brussels. Though no announcement on the subject has as yet been made, it is confidently hoped that Mr. Pearson's connection with the West Indies may not be completely severed and that he will continue to watch over their interests as a British representative on the Permanent Commission. His visit to the West Indies—he sailed for Jamaica in the "Port Kingston" on Saturday last—is an earnest of the interest he still takes in our colonies, and our readers will join with us in hoping that this trusty civil servant will benefit greatly from his visit to the West. Mr. Pearson is succeeded by Mr. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., who was in 1895-6 Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, Secretary of the West India Royal Commission 1897, Colonial Secretary of Jamaica 1899-1904, and Acting-Governor of that Colony in 1900, 1902, and 1904.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT.

In an article on the Christmas fruit trade, the *Times*, on December 26th, said that among the receipts of oranges were choice Denias, which are unusually sweet this year, and command particularly good sales in the fruit markets. In one instance a well-known firm of fruit brokers realized 50s. a case of 420 oranges for samples from this centre. Nevertheless, oranges generally are obtainable at popular prices throughout the United Kingdom. Quite 250,000 cases will be disposed of this Christmas season. At times the imports this month have been at the rate of 200,000 cwt. and even 227,000 cwt. a week. Mandarins are abundant and cheap. Jamaica specimens are in prime condition and very popular.

The banana entries have been enormous. The average for the month, week by week, has not been less than 100,000 bunches, so that the stocks have been large. The arrival of red, purple, and yellow skinned bananas at the one time has caused some stir in fruit trade circles, as it is said that in future seasons the shippers will send fair quantities of each into the British markets for Christmas. Whether the popularity of the red and purple skinned fruits will equal that of the ordinary yellow-fingered banana remains to be seen, but for table decorative purposes there is ample room for good quantities of each. As curiosities some of the purple-coloured fruit realized from 10s. to 12s. a bunch wholesale. The Canary "giants" are in demand, and making fancy figures in special cases, but in general rates have been cheap this Christmas. The present has been an excellent season for these fruits as far as the nature of the imports is concerned. By the close of the year all records will be easily broken, and a total of 7,000,000 bunches will be reached. It is stated that a movement is on foot to secure the distribution of all bananas without their stalks, by which method the cost will be reduced considerably. Tests made in this direction have proved highly satisfactory. There are large quantities of Costa Rica and Jamaica bananas on sale.

Mangoes are plentiful and highly esteemed by the best class of consumers. This year they have come in for an unusual amount of attention from hotel keepers. Pineapples from St. Michael's are dearer than usual and in increased demand. They are finely coloured and large, and some have realized as much as half a guinea apiece, although most of the samples are worth from 2s. 6d. to 5s. in the markets.

IMPERIAL CABLE CONNECTION.

In an article entitled *Strategical Cables and the Imperial Council* which appears in the *Morning Post* of yesterday's date, the writer (C. T.) says: Again, take the case of the West Indies. Here again we are in bondage and under the same disability in the matter of news, which operates against us so sadly in Canada. No cable connecting a British Colony with the Mother Country touches so many foreign territories as the one which links up with the West Indies. Before it ever reaches Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana it traverses Puerto Rico, the Danish Island St. Thomas, and the French Islands Guadeloupe and Martinique. So far from quickening Inter-Imperial intercourse it merely serves the fertile genius of the New York journalist, who sends fiction in the shape of news to both Great Britain and the West Indies, the Islands of Bermuda, Turk's Island, and Jamaica being the only exceptions, as they are served by a British corporation. The line itself is often broken, and nearly always at a critical moment, as, for instance, two years ago when the sugar crop was being reaped. Until it was laid the islands were cut off from the world, and as it happened that prices were rising the planters suffered heavy losses for the benefit of speculators in New York. To-day British Guiana is in a similar position from the same cause. Under the late Ministry the garrison and fleet, as well as the mail subsidy, were withdrawn from the Caribbean. Hence the Governor alone was left to represent British prestige, his one channel of rapid communication with the Home Government being the unreliable cable. By the grace of Lord Elgin the mail service has been resumed. But our strategical position in the "very domain of sea power," as Captain Mahan calls it, is no better. So grave is the situation, indeed, that in the event of war nearly all our possessions in the West Indies might be captured by a foreign Power and England know nothing of it for weeks. Where is our enterprise, let alone our dignity, when such a state of things is allowed to continue?

For we, who were the pioneers in using the inventions of science for the annihilation of distance, are slower in making them serve the purposes of national policy than our rivals, consequently cable communication between Great Britain and her colonies in the Caribbean is far 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 is linked up with distant Halifax and Bermuda, but not with any of the island fortresses of which she is the forefront, facing the Panama Canal of the future. St. Kitts and Antigua are connected with the outside world, and so are St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and British Guiana, but only by way of foreign

territory. Nevertheless, Mr. Balfour's Government declined to give any assistance to the all-British cable scheme. Nor is this the worst. The rate for sending telegrams to the West Indies from this country varies from 3s. to 7s. a word. As it is only 1s. 8d. to Havana and 1s. 10d. to the rest of Cuba it can readily be seen under what a handicap the neighbouring British Colonies labour. When the fleet and garrisons were removed we were told that it was a measure permitted by "modern conditions." As these have no existence in the strategical sense our policy is without any solid foundation. Only a few years ago dependencies under foreign flags suffered badly in comparison with dependencies under the Union Jack. But the position is being reversed, so that, unless we wake up in the near future, it will be the British Colonies whose decay points a moral to the foreigner.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Crown Agents and Railways.

On the motion of Mr. H. de R. Walker a return is to be prepared showing, in regard to the remuneration received by the Consulting Engineers to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates for their services in connection with the construction of railways which have been undertaken upon their recommendation, (1) what has been the amount of their remuneration from this source during the last ten years; (2) how it is assessed; and (3) from what fund or funds it has been paid.

Trinidad and Coolie Immigration.

In the House of Commons, on December 18th, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland) asked the Under Secretary for the Colonies if his attention had been called to a resolution, passed at a public meeting at Port of Spain in October last, to the effect that, having regard to the sufferings of the middle and lower classes of this Island, and the readiness of the West Indians to labour for a reasonable wage, as is evident by their recent departure to the Isthmus of Panama, in view also of the cane-farming industry being presently sufficiently well-established in this Island, the Trinidad Working Men's Association, in public meeting assembled, protested against any further appropriation of £70,000 per annum of public money to continue the importation of East Indian indentured immigrants to this Colony to compete with the West Indian labourer, and that such practice has tended not only to add to the Colony's commercial depression in its contribution to the impoverishment of the Colony, and to be an obstacle to the relief of taxation, but was a standing menace to public peace and property in the Island; and, if so, whether he was prepared to give instructions for an inquiry into the whole of the circumstances complained of to be held, and a report presented thereon. Mr. Churchill (Manchester, N.W.): The attention of the Secretary of State has been drawn to the resolution in question, but he cannot admit that it accurately sets out the facts relating to East Indian immigration. It is not the case that £70,000 of public money are annually applied to the introduction of immigrants. The East Indian immigrants, the majority of whom remain in the Colony after serving their indenture, and their descendants, form a large and valuable element in the population of Trinidad; they contribute most materially to the revenue of the Colony, and are in no way a menace to public peace and property. The Secretary of State is informed by the Governor that such distress as now exists in Trinidad is not among the agricultural labourers, and is not, therefore, the result of East Indian immigration. Lord Elgin sees no reason for ordering an inquiry to be held into the matter. The proposals which have been submitted by the Governor with a view to mitigating such distress as exists have been approved.

NATURE NOTES.

NOTES ON RUBBER. The matter in the *Bulletin* of the Department of Agriculture of Jamaica for November, beyond the extracts from the minutes of meetings of the Board of Agriculture, consists solely of "Notes on Rubber-producing Plants," drawn up by Mr. W. Harris, F.L.S., superintendent of Hope Gardens, and we recommend our readers interested in rubber cultivation to study it, as being a useful summary of all that is known on this important subject.

COTTON IN AUSTRALIA. The Curator of the Botanic Gardens at Palmerston, in the Northern Territory of South Australia, in his report for 1905, says: "Last season I had twelve varieties of cotton under cultivation in the garden, with the usual satisfactory result. The Sea Island and Egyptian varieties have proved themselves thoroughly adapted to the soil and climate, and where such varieties can be successfully grown it would be folly to cultivate for profit any less valuable kind. For this reason I have only planted Sea Island and Egyptian varieties this season."

THE DIGESTIVE PAPAW. A new kind of papaw has been introduced into St. Kitts. It is called the Guinea papaw. The fruit is much superior to the common papaw or to the long cucumber-like fruit known as the Barbados papaw. The pistillate flowers are white. The fruit is shorter than the common papaw, precisely melon-shaped, with the fine ridges more distinctly marked and of a deeper green when unripe. The ripe fruit is often very large and has a thicker, juicier and sweeter pulp than it would appear has that of other papaws, with a superior flavour. Remembering the potent digestive qualities of papaws, this new papaw is worthy of a place in every West Indian orchard.

FIGHTING THE WORM. Mr. Walter Draper, F.L.S., in the *Egyptian Gazette*, speaking of the enormous loss to the Egyptian cotton industry from the attacks of the cotton worm, recommends a natural and economic method of prevention. Heat and dryness are fatal to the young cotton worms, and rank, succulent foliage and shade by over-watering is to be avoided. The writer has shown that naturally grown cotton on average land will stand from 30 to 40 days without water, with excellent results in ripening the wood and producing an unusually heavy crop. Cotton therefore, which is kept dry during the egg laying period is free from egg deposits. This system, of course, only applies to places where cotton is grown by irrigation.

HINTS FOR JANUARY. This month your Provision of all sorts being Ripe, trench in your Corn, dig in your Yams, and Eddoes, gather your dry Grain of all Sorts; though you will have several Gathers of the Pigeon-Peafe, &c., after you have reaped the Corn. If you can avoid it, do not plant the Pigeon-Peafe in the Guinea Corn-Fields, and that will prevent your Grazing your Cattle after you have gathered your Corn, and which should be done to enable your Cattle to perform the Labour of your Crop; and besides that Disadvantage, when your Peafe-Trees are full of Blossoms in the Month of November, the high Winds then will strike the Stalks of the Corn against the Boughs of the Peafe, and brush off the Blossoms and young Peafe, and in the beginning of *January* before the Corn is ripe enough to reap, the same Stalks will strike those Boughs of Peafe which then will be full of dry Grain, and hulk them out, therefore they ought if possible to be separate. Cut down your Corn Stalks for Fuel, and provide as much as you possibly can of Brush, &c., for your Stoke-Holes. As your watchmen are now called in, get immediately to making Sugar. It is best to avoid grinding Canes on a Saturday. If many Canes are cut down, and left all night in the Field, or at the Mill, they must be carefully watched and well licensed, otherwise they will be greatly stolen. The Fuel should be dry to make the Coppers boil well, and the Stokers should be engaged to keep regular constant good Fires. The Boilers should be very diligent in well attending the Coppers, and very well cleaning the Liquor only of the Filth, and not throw down to the Still-House any Liquor that may be made into Sugar; and you should never boil after 11 o'clock at Night at the latest. Skip your Sugar at an equal moderate due Height, and neither Pot it too hot, or too Cold. Although your Canes will yield but indifferently in this Month you'll find it more to your Advantage to meet your Lofs at the beginning of the Crop than at the Clofe of it. Don't let your Cattle run too long over your Guinea Corn Stumps, because you'll require that Supply of Meat for your Crop, and thereby be reduced to assign the too Common, which indeed is an idle Reason, for not clofing the Crop, *i.e.*, "If I should finish my Crop, the Stock must starve."—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting* by William Belgrave, 1755.

CONSULAR REPORT.

Trade of Cuba.

Both the imports and exports show a large increase over those of 1904, as shown in the following table, due to the continued prosperity of the Island:—

	1904.		1905.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
Merchandise	£15,405,663	£17,802,551	£18,994,304	£22,033,497
Coin and bullion	1,161,467	193,077	1,649,893	422,508
Total	16,567,130	17,995,628	20,644,197	22,456,005

Owing to the rising, however, it is not expected that there will be a large increase in the imports and exports for 1906. As might be expected from the trend of political matters, the trade of Cuba is gradually leaving the United Kingdom and going towards the United States. In 1904, 44½% of the above imports came from the United States, in 1905, 46½%. On the other hand the British trade, which constituted 19½% of the whole in 1904, sank to 17½% in 1905. Of the exports, 83½ and 86½% went to the United States for 1904 and 1905 respectively, and 7½ and 5½% to the United Kingdom. The death rate for 1905 only amounted to 14.38 per 1,000 inhabitants. The report mentions that there is a good opening for alcohol engines for driving repair machinery during the dead season in sugar works.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" left Kingston, Jamaica, on December 6th, and arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, December 18th. The R.M.S.P. "La Plata" left Barbados at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12th, and reached Southampton at 8 a.m. on Christmas morning. Among her passengers were the Bishop of Antigua, Miss M. G. Marryat, Mrs. Monypenny, and Mr. W. H. Arnold-Forster. We received by the mails numerous expressions of good wishes and greetings from our friends in the West Indies and on this side which we cordially acknowledge and reciprocate. Included among them were cards from Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Michael de Cordova, Mr. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. and Mrs. Lechmere Guppy, Mr. J. J. Law, Mr. E. X. Leon, and Mr. R. G. McHugh.

The need for Imperial Sentiment.

"It does not speak very well for Imperial sentiment that the Christmas mail leaves this island *via* the U.S.A., but if the folks at home have not much sentiment to cast away on colonies like ours, we still preserve a much tried yet staunch loyalty to that mother country whose hand has so often been against us, and who now may, by the denunciation of the Brussels Convention, bring us once more face to face with the gravest disasters. At all events, we owe nothing but gratitude to the West India Committee, and so here's to a Merry Christmas and better things for the New Year to it!" Thus the Hon. A. St. G. SPOONER wrote from Antigua on December 4th. He added that the season had been an exceptionally wet one, and on the whole the prospects for next crop were quite promising, both as regarded cane and cotton, although the wet weather had interfered considerably with the preparation of the land for 1908 crop replant. The cotton worm had lately been much in evidence and had only been kept in check by the liberal application of paris green, and then not without considerable damage being done. It was rather remarkable that this insect did not seem to attack wild cotton, and some Peruvian tree cotton planted by the writer had remained quite untouched; the Sea Island cotton seemed particularly liable to insect attack. The weather had been too wet for the steam ploughing plants to do much work, and they had had to go back to ploughing by cattle to get along with replant cultivation. The difficulty with steam ploughs had been that owing to the rather narrow cane beds and deep trenches between them, the ploughs could only be drawn across the beds, and so the trenches became filled up and then if heavy rains fell the water lay in puddles on the heavy clay soil and nothing further could be done until it had evaporated. Cattle ploughs, on the contrary, worked along the beds leaving the drains untouched, so that a heavy downpour would always run off at them.

Another prospective cotton grower had arrived in Antigua, and had prudently apprenticed himself for a short time to a sugar estate to learn the ways of the planter and more especially the ways of the labourer. Anyone desiring to do so should not find much difficulty in apprenticing himself to a plantation in Antigua; the difficulty came in with regard to board and lodging, few planters being able to arrange for this with respect to pupils. The best method for anyone desirous of learning estate ways to adopt would be for him to take up his residence in town and ride or drive out to some estate in the neighbourhood of St. John's every day.

Welcome Rains in Barbados.

Even before the Hon. FOSTER M. ALLEYNE's previous letter was posted, heavy rains had begun to fall, and the last days of November were very wet, thus bringing the rainfall of the month to a very respectable total, but it was unevenly distributed. The average would be about 8 inches, but in the north of the Island it was much heavier. December also came in wet, and a heavy rain was general. In St. Peter's, St. Lucy's, St. Andrew's, and in all the Scotland districts the downpour was particularly severe, one estate (Lowland) in St. Lucy's marking 10 inches in the first three days of the month, and several others 8 inches. In Scotland roads had been torn up and bridges destroyed, locomotion for the present being almost impossible. In some places there had been landslips, and whole fields had migrated entire. Throughout a large area field preparations would have to be done over again. Writing on December 9th, the Hon. FOSTER M. ALLEYNE said that the rain where the fall had not been excessive, had nevertheless been of great benefit to the Island generally, and the prospects of the crop had considerably improved. It had been rather too much for the early planted cotton, however, the bolls of which were small, and many of them had seeds in them. Later planted fields would probably do better. A large part of Barbados had already been planted for the crop of 1908, and some shoots were apparent. Cane holes, however, had had to be cleared out after the rain. The railway suffered little damage, though the water was on a level with some of the highest bridges. A shock of earthquake was felt in Barbados on December 3rd, which seemed to have been general throughout the West Indies.

The annual Agricultural Show for peasant proprietors was held this year on December 4th at

Maynard's in St. Lucy's. It was the first time that one had been held in this neighbourhood, and the people did not avail themselves of the seeds offered to them as readily as they might have done. Consequently the exhibitors from the immediate locality were not so numerous as usual. Many came from a distance, however, and the result was a very attractive show. The Commissioner of Agriculture gave an address to the people, which will probably make them more on the alert next time and stimulate them to greater efforts. Lady Morris distributed the prizes.

The Legislature had granted £1,000 for the necessary repairs to Harrison College, and for the fitting up of the Retreat, late an addendum to Queen's House, as a residence for the Assistant Masters. The matter was now being dealt with by a sub-committee of the Governing Body, and it was hoped that all would be in readiness for next term.

The Exaggerated Earthquake in Guiana.

When Mr. J. C. McCowan closed his letter on December 7th the sugar market was a trifle stronger and 2 cents could be obtained. The weather during the fortnight had been dry until the previous night, when some good showers fell, which appeared to have been general throughout the colony. Two shocks of earthquake were experienced on the evening of December 3rd, which, although severe for the colony, did no noticeable damage, although the houses, &c., rocked considerably. The cable had again been interrupted; the break occurred on the 3rd and was repaired on the 6th.

Another case of arsenical poisoning among officials had taken place. It will be remembered that the former victim was Professor Harrison; in the present instance it was Dr. Campbell of the Colonial Hospital. Fortunately, the remedial measures taken proved effective, and Dr. Campbell was progressing favourably.

Agriculture in Grenada.

In a letter dated December 7th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton reported that the last general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held at the Botanic Station on Friday, November 23rd. After the meeting the station was inspected. It was, unfortunately, a very wet day, as almost every day had been for some time past.

A public meeting had been held at St. David's under the auspices of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, at which the Agricultural Superintendent, Mr. Anstead, addressed about sixty of the leading residents of the parish on agricultural matters.

The Strickland Trophy falls to St. Kitts.

Writing on December 7th, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson said that since last advices the weather had been showery; at the same time the rainfall had been "spotty," the total fall varying from 3 to 15 inches, and some damage had been done to roads. The rain would be of very material assistance to the cane crop, but had done damage to the ripe cotton. Everywhere the cotton seemed to be ripening more slowly than usual, and it was feared that the return all round would not come up to expectations.

The Strickland Trophy had been shot for and won by St. Kitts by the narrow majority of four from Montserrat, who in turn were only seven ahead of Antigua Defence Force. On form St. Kitts should have won by a much larger margin; on the last practice before the match they averaged 88.5, though on the day of the shoot they could only reach 79.8. The weather during the competition was not favourable to good shooting. On the night of the shoot a dance was given for their visitors, for which the use of Government House was obtained, and before their departure by R.M.S. "Eden" on Saturday morning they had opportunities of inspecting what was to be seen in St. Kitts. The R.M.S. "Eden" on Friday night (November 30th) brought the new Administrator, the Hon. Thomas Lawrence Roxburgh, and on the following day he was sworn in at the Court House by his Hon. Acting Administrator Wigley, being escorted by a detachment of mounted infantry, under the command of Major Todd, and received by a guard of honour composed by "A" Company of the Defence Force, under Capt. Branch, and a detachment of Police, under Capt. O'Farrell.

A long, but not very severe, shock of earthquake was felt about 7 o'clock on the evening of December 3rd.

A New Ginnery for Nevis.

During the week preceding November 27th, the date of the Hon. C. A. Shand's letter, the weather had been all that could be desired for the cotton and cane crops of 1907, and a great improvement was evident, especially in the less advanced pieces. The local instructor of cotton had been very active, and was bringing the small growers into line and persuading them to adopt more rational methods. In a place like Nevis, where so many peasant proprietors existed, it was very necessary that the best advice should be available, as so often enterprises were undertaken without any probability of their being brought to a successful issue, chiefly through the lack of scientific knowledge on the part of those who took the risk. The machinery had arrived for the erection of an

oil factory to extract the oil from the cotton seed, and if run upon proper lines this venture should prove a great success and would materially affect the revenue of the Presidency. The capital had been raised in England, and a ginnery was also included in the plant. The Circuit Court opened in Nevis on the 25th inst., and as no criminal cases were on the list, the Chief Justice was presented with his usual "white gloves," upon the receipt of which he complimented the Island on its freedom from crime of a serious nature. The accident to the "Orinoco" would still further complicate the disjointed mail service, and it was sincerely hoped that a more satisfactory state of things would be established in the immediate future. The rifle competition for the Strickland trophy was to take place in St. Kitts on November 28th. Five teams would compete, but there seemed to be little doubt that the holders would retain the cup for another year, as they were in good form and the other Islands would be at a disadvantage shooting on a new range.

A St. Lucia Honey Report.

Mr. G. S. Hudson states in his notes dated December 10th that the weather during the past fortnight had been wet, 11½ inches of rain having fallen during that period, which was considerably in excess of the requirements of both cane and cacao planters. The cacao crop had on the whole so far proved disappointing, owing to excessive rains during the past two months, and prospects of "small crop" pickings (March to May) were not very promising as yet. Canes were well advanced this year and the crop promise was distinctly better than for the past two years. The report of Mr. Ballou, the Entomologist of The Imperial Department of Agriculture on diseased cacao plantations in the Roseau Valley, pointed to the belief that "thrips" were not entirely responsible for the loss in health and death of the trees examined, although they might be regarded as a contributory cause. The St. Lucia Agricultural Society had offered a premium of £25 to the importer of an approved Maltese Jack Donkey, and £10 to the importer of an approved Bull of Hereford, South Devon, or Jersey pedigree. St. Lucia honey appeared to be establishing a reputation in Mincing Lane as a sound article suitably packed. A recent market report stated: "An interesting feature of the auctions was a consignment of 142 cases fine St. Lucia which brought very full prices, dark to good 23s. to 25s., fine amber 29s. per cwt." This contrasted very favourably with the first reception of this honey in London three years ago, and with careful grading of qualities the better flavoured clean bright honies from St. Lucia should compete with the Californian product of high price.

Trinidad Agricultural Society.

We are informed by the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, who wrote on December 10th, that the Governor has appointed a Committee of Management of twenty-four members under the provisions of the New Ordinance with regard to the Agricultural Society, being eight representatives each for sugar, cocoa, and "other industries," and a meeting was summoned for December 4th to elect a Vice-President and a Deputy, also a sub-committee to frame rules and regulations. Mr. Fenwick was elected Vice-President and the Rev. Dr. Morton his Deputy. The appointment by the Governor of a Secretary was left open until it was seen what will be the duties of the office under the widened scope of the functions of the Society.

The Governor in Executive Council had definitely refused to grant to the Electric Company permission to extend the tram-line along the eastern main road to St. Joseph's. The reasons for the refusal had not been made public, but it was currently reported that the Government did not consider that any *quid pro quo* was offered for a certain loss to the revenue of the Government Railway at a time when the revenue required careful nursing. The refusal was expressly stated to be final, but the general feeling was a hope that the proposals might be reconsidered when the conditions were more favourable.

The Hon. Hugh Clifford, Prof. P. Carmody, and Mr. J. H. Hart would represent the Government at the 1907 meeting of the Agricultural Conference to be held in Jamaica in January. The Hon. S. Henderson (for sugar) and Hon. Carl de Verteuil (for cacao) would represent the Trinidad Agricultural Society.

Heavy rains fell throughout the colony on November 23rd and 24th, and since then there had been daily showers, mostly light. The canes had benefited greatly, but a continuance of showers for another four or five weeks was necessary to effect any material improvement in the prospects of the coming crop. To the cocoa planters the showers had been very welcome, and the prospects of crop had assumed a much brighter complexion. From all sides reports of the rapid ripening of the pods were heard, and heavy pickings were anticipated towards the end of December. The extreme scarcity of supplies, combined with the anxiety to complete November shipments, had advanced prices to a further high level, but needless to say only the most urgent demands were being filled at these prices, and manufacturers from all sides declined to entertain offers at anything like the present range of

prices. The London auctions showed a further advance, but this advance had not been reflected in the other European centres. The New York buyers also would not pay the advance prices, and the large quantity of cocoa consigned to that market during November remained when advices were last received, unsold. In sympathy with the advance in Trinidad, Venezuelan descriptions were again higher.

				SHIPMENTS.			
Totals at last report	...	...	...	131,494	Trinidad.	31,880	Venezuela.
Nov. 24th.—S.S. "Maracas"	...	...	...	1,597	"	646	" New York.
" 27th.—S.S. "Atrato"	...	...	...	83	"	—	" Europe.
" 30th.—S.S. "France"	...	...	...	215	"	332	" "
Dec. 3th.—S.S. "Maraval"	...	...	...	2,005	"	559	" New York.
Total to date	...	...	...	135,394	"	33,417	Venezuela.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Mosquitoes and Malaria.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—The letter on "Mosquitoes and Malaria," in your issue of the 6th ult., opens a wide field for discussion by correspondence from your readers abroad, and it is sincerely to be hoped that full and adequate information from medical men and laymen may be forthcoming. To show that interest is being taken in this matter, I might, perhaps, remind your readers that only very lately a question was asked in Parliament as to what measures were being adopted in the colonies to prevent malaria and other mosquito born diseases, and a circular letter was very recently addressed by the Secretary of State for the colonies, to our various Governors and Administrators in our tropical colonies. The replies will, I am sure, be awaited with the greatest interest by all Colonists, and it is to be hoped that the public Press will be supplied with the information conveyed in them. Writing from a general and fairly accurate personal knowledge of the West Indies and British Guiana, I am very much afraid that up to very lately not much has been done to protect the inhabitants from the ravages of Malaria, Filaria, and Yellow Fever. The grand example of America in ridding Cuba to a very great extent of Yellow Fever, is an instance of how medical science is appreciated in the United States, and forms an object lesson to our West Indian colonies and British Guiana. In West Africa, every encouragement is given to prevent and combat disease, and I am credibly informed that the houses and institutions of the Government are made mosquito proof at the Government expense; also that in the Straits Settlements and Malay States this protection is also afforded officials for the mere asking. How many Government houses and public institutions in British Guiana and the West Indies have mosquito-proof protection?

I suggest that those who should set a good example are the Government officials, because mercantile firms would soon follow them. The further important facts that not only Malaria, but Filaria and Yellow Fever are communicated by mosquitoes have to be borne in mind. To these no doubt in time will have to be added biting flies and ticks, which are known to communicate disease in Africa, but have not yet been worked at, so I am informed, in British Guiana and the West Indies. They afford vast fields for scientific observations in tropical medicine. Your footnote only points to the fact that faulty construction of houses will have to be remedied in the future, and that a little discomfort at present is better than fever, and I can see no insuperable difficulties even now; houses with jalousies, I am confident, are a mistake and harbour dust, dirt, and mosquitoes. The whole question of malarial prophylaxis resolves itself into one of sanitation and money. No circulars and recommendations will be of any avail if British Guiana and the West Indian Islands are not prepared to vote and spend money for sanitation and research. A word about the measures to be adopted would, perhaps, not be out of place here; the same conditions will not suit all the West Indian Islands and British Guiana; further, what would prove effective in one colony would result in failure in other colonies; British Guiana would require special treatment, as the conditions prevailing there are very different to those in the West Indian Islands, and thorough local knowledge is essential. At present, the various West Indian Islands and British Guiana have not enough medical men trained in tropical disease to carry out much, and this cannot be wondered at considering their multifarious duties. It would be a sound investment for any West Indian Island, or British Guiana, to engage expert medical men trained in tropical disease, and these would have to be paid an adequate salary to investigate local conditions; and, perhaps, what is more to the point is, that their recommendations should be honestly and faithfully carried out, and that they be given a free hand in all matters medical.

Yours, &c.,

A MEDICAL MAN.

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 with thanks the receipt of many attractive calendars for the New Year, including one from Messrs. Andrew Barclay, Sons and Co. and the Direct Line of Steamships, while the Royal Mail has sent us a very handy letter-case containing a quantity of useful information regarding their steamships and routes, and a diary from Messrs. J. R. Parkington and Co.

Yellow Fever and Yellow Journalism is the title of a pamphlet written by Mr. J. J. Franco in reply to statements contained in an article in McClure's Magazine for June last by Mr. S. Hopkins Adams, and bearing the title of "Yellow Fever; a Problem Solved," in which the outbreak of this malady in New Orleans in the beginning of the year is stated to have been due to the fruit and passengers brought from Belize in the United Fruit Company's vessels. Mr. Franco brings irrefutable evidence to bear against this accusation, among which is a letter from Dr. Thomas, of the Louisiana Quarantine, who states definitely that the disease was not brought from Belize, but from Havana.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

VOLUME XXII. *With this number of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR a new Volume is begun—Volume XXII.—and the index for Volume XXI. is issued free of charge. Special lettered cases for binding Volume XXI. can be obtained, post free 2/6 each, and readers can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- on sending them to the West India Committee Rooms.*

YET AGAIN. The Demerara cable, which was repaired on December 5th, was again interrupted on December 18th, but it was restored on December 28th.

DESIDERATA. Will any of our readers who have copies of the *West India Committee Circular* 210 and 211 to spare kindly forward them to the Editor, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

WELL DESERVED. Steps are being taken in British Honduras in the direction of erecting a memorial to the late Mr. C. T. Hunter, and a public meeting was to be held in Belize, when the last mail left, to which a resolution on the subject was to be submitted.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended December 27th, 36 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.

RUM v. BRANDY. The *Wine Trade Review* gives the consumption of rum in Great Britain for the first ten months of 1906 as being 31,687 gallons more than in the corresponding period of 1905, and 34,989 gallons more than 1904, while the diminution in the consumption of brandy amounted to 3,852 gallons as compared with 1905, and 92,824 gallons as compared with 1904.

ST. THOMAS' IMPORTS. United States Consul Payne reports that the imports into St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1906, amounted to \$833,907. Of these, the United States furnished goods to the value of \$407,561; Germany, \$61,319; the United Kingdom, \$166,645; France, \$20,176; the British West Indies, \$58,639; and Denmark, \$39,464.

SO SAY ALL OF US. Sir Alfred Jones, prior to his departure from Avonmouth to Jamaica on Saturday last, received the following telegram:—"Cordially wish all success to your expedition. Hope it will call attention to importance of West Indian production of cotton, sugar, and fruit, and will lead to a great increase of trade between the West Indies and the Mother Country.—CHAMBERLAIN."

COTTON IN ANTIGUA. A company has been formed in Antigua for the purpose of buying out the interests of the Government of Antigua and the British Cotton Growing Association in the Government cotton factory. It is proposed to increase the power of the factory and to establish a branch ginnery at English Harbour, and to extend facilities for the development of the cotton industry in Antigua generally.

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.

NOURISHING SUGAR. Any action tending to increase the consumption of sugar must be appreciated by sugar producers and those of our readers who fall under that category will be glad to learn that the French syndicate of sugar producers is about to distribute among the grocers in France an elaborately decorated show card recommending the use of crystallised beet sugar as a food, and calling attention to its advantages when used for puddings and preserves. The West India Committee is also about to take vigorous action, but it will be in the direction of emphasising the superiority of cane sugar over beet, and a pamphlet on the subject is now in the press.

OBITUARY. The death, on the 23rd inst., has been reported by cable of Mr. Walter Bagot, of Georgetown, Demerara. Mr. Bagot was a well-known figure in commercial circles in the Colony, where he was greatly respected. He was most popular as Chairman of the "Georgetown Club," the members of which during the current year presented him with a service of plate in token of their esteem. We tender our sympathy to his bereaved widow and family. The death is also recorded, on December 29th, of Canon Henry Bailey, D.D., who since 1866 had been one of the commissaries of the Bishops of Jamaica. He had served four Bishops, and, though he had recently left the actual work to younger men, he maintained his keen interest in the West Indian Church.

INFLUENTIAL TOURISTS. Sir Alfred L. Jones took with him in the "Port Kingston" to Jamaica a number of distinguished guests including Mr. Arthur A. Pearson, Mr. J. A. Hutton, and Mr. E. L. Oliver, of the British Cotton Growing Association, en route for the Cotton Islands; Mr. H. Cotterell, Chairman of the African Association; Lord Mountmorres, Director of the Liverpool Institute of Tropical Research; Sir Ralph Moor, Mr. Arnold Forster, M.P., Mr. Jesse Collings, M.P., and Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., and Mr. W. Howell Davies, M.P. Lord and Lady Dudley, Mr. Crum Ewing, Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, Mr. A. Pawsey, Mr. H. Berger, Captain W. W. Rhodes, Mr. H. J. Rudolph, Mr. A. N. Dixon, and Mr. E. Lucie Smith were also passengers in the same vessel; while Sir James Fergusson left by the R.M.S.P. "Atrato" to attend the West Indian Agricultural Conference. The visit of so many influential personages to Jamaica cannot fail to have far-reaching results.

EDUCATIONAL. In 1898 the British Guiana Scholarship—representing £150 per annum for five years—was won by Miss Ida Tengely, daughter of the late Mr. J. A. Tengely, a well-known merchant in Demerara, being, at the age of eighteen, placed first in the Senior Cambridge Local Examinations, having obtained first class honours with five distinctions. The conditions attached to the Scholarship is that it should be devoted to a University of other specific educational training, and Miss Tengely chose as her path in life the medical profession, entering as a student at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine after matriculating at the University of London. In due course she passed the Preliminary Scientific and the Intermediate, and we now have the pleasure of offering this accomplished and energetic young lady our congratulations on obtaining the M.B. and B.S. degree of that University. Miss Tengely for the present remains at the Hunter Street School of Medicine attached to the Hospital. The only other lady who is qualified Medical Practitioner belonging to the West Indies is, we believe, Miss Dowdey, of Barbados.

SWISS CHOCOLATE. The annual report of the Zurich Chamber of Commerce states that the importation of cocoa by Switzerland in the year 1905 was valued at 6,898,000 francs, and the exportation of Swiss manufactured chocolate, cocoa flour and manufactures of cocoa amounted to 30,395,000 francs, exceeding the exports of 1904 by 3,559,000 francs. Fully one-third of the Swiss exported chocolate goes to Great Britain. The exportation to the United States has not been up to expectations, as the home manufacture there dominates the market, owing to tariff protection. Germany, Russia, and Italy are also excellent customers for Swiss chocolate. The report, while speaking of the favourable condition of this important article of Switzerland's exportation, notes the increasing and sharp competition among the manufacturers, which shows itself markedly in the inordinate and highly expensive advertising methods and large discounts and price concessions to the customers, thereby greatly reducing the profits. The large number of tourists visiting Switzerland every year prove profitable customers, as they take home with them considerable Swiss chocolate.

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.

- Mon., Dec. 17.—The Hamburg-American steamer Prinzessin Victoria Louise ran aground off Port Royal, Jamaica, last night.—88% Beet, 8s. 8d., quiet.
- Tues., Dec. 18.—Sir Francis J. Hopwood appointed to succeed Sir Montague Ommalley as Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.—The King held an investiture at Buckingham Palace.—The "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" was held to blame in the case of the collision with the "Orinoco" on Nov. 21.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" arrived at Avonmouth, 8.30 a.m.—The R.M.S.P. "Tagus," outward, arrived Barbados, 6 a.m.—Beet, 8s. 9d., dull.
- Wed., Dec. 19.—It was announced that the "Prinzessin Victoria Louise" was practically abandoned, being impaled on a rock.—Education Bill: the Lords by 132 against 52 decided to insist upon their amendments, the bill being thus rejected.—Beet, 8s. 9½d., steady.
- Thur., Dec. 20.—The Government abandoned the Education Bill.—Mr. Percival Hughes appointed Chief Agent of the Conservative Party in succession to Colonel Haig.—Beet, 8s. 10d., quiet.
- Fri., Dec. 21.—Mr. J. Bryce appointed British Ambassador at Washington.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., steady.
- Sat., Dec. 22.—Principal Rainy, head of the United Free Church of Scotland, died.—A Reciprocity treaty between New Zealand and South Africa settled.—Beet, (morning call) 8s. 11½d., firm.
- Mon., Dec. 24.—Dr. Randall died.—Leading article in the *Morning Post* on the organisation of the Colonial Office.—Further insubordination at Portsmouth Barracks.
- Tues., Dec. 25.—Christmas Day.

- Wed., Dec. 26.—Boxing Day.—The Herero leader captured in German South West Africa.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent," homeward, left Barbados noon.—The R.M.S.P. "La Plata," homeward, arrived Southampton 8.15 a.m.
- Thur., Dec. 27.—Prince August Wilhelm, fourth son of the Kaiser, betrothed to Princess Alexandra Victoria, second daughter of Duke Frederick of Schleswig Holstein.—Beet, 8s. 11d., quiet.
- Fri., Dec. 28.—Railway accident near Arbroath.—Cable communication with Demerara restored.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., easier.
- Sat., Dec. 29.—Mr. Samuel Smith, ex-M.P. for Flintshire, died in Calcutta.—Sir Alfred L. Jones' party started for the West Indies.—The Lord Chancellor's reply to a memorial regarding the appointment of magistrates published.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston," outward, left Avonmouth.—Beet (morning call) 8s. 9½d., dull.
- Sun., Dec. 30.—Lady Burdett-Coutts died in her 93rd year.—Mr. A. W. Black, M.P. died from injuries received in the railway accident at Arbroath.
- Mon., Dec. 31.—Trouble in Cuba between the Cubans and American troops reported.—Article in the *Morning Post* on "Strategical Cables and the Imperial Council."—Beet (morning call) 8s. 9½d., 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.

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.

Pickering.—We do not know of any estates' proprietors of names you mention in Jamaica. We shall be glad if anyone reading this reply and knowing of any family named Pickering or Turnbull still in the Island, will kindly communicate with the Editor, the *West India Committee Circular*, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Dracus.—The stately cabbage palm (*oreodoxa oleracea*) which is characteristic of Barbados, was first introduced into Jamaica from that island by Governor Knowles in about 1756. The palm tree of the same nature in Demerara, of which there are magnificent specimens forming an avenue leading to Plantation Houston, also originated from Barbados.

Broker.—The exports of West Indian sugar to the United Kingdom have been as follows:—

FROM.	1901-2. Tons.	1902-3. Tons.	1903-4. Tons.	1904-5. Tons.	1905-6. Tons.
Demerara	12,868	16,326	11,451	17,681	21,039
Trinidad	24,373	28,242	21,153	27,487	20,961
Barbados*	2,105	2,556	1,122	4,789	8,330
St. Lucia	1,142	1,139	2,800	3,646	3,761
Antigua	50	215	nil.	1,290	†
St. Kitts	389	1,216	1,842	875	†
Jamaica	1,270	2,230	3,001	1,731	4,000

* 1 hhd. taken at .9 ton.

† Figures not available owing to delay in the publication of the Blue-book.

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. THOMAS BANCROFT OUGHTON, LL.B., has been appointed one of His Majesty's Counsel for Jamaica.

Mr. F. B. SMITH, Provost Marshal and Inspector of Prisons, Barbados, has returned to the Colony and resumed his duties.

Mr. F. W. URICH, F.E.S., C.M.Z.S., has been appointed Clerk of the College Council, Trinidad, vice Mr. J. V. de Boissiere, deceased.

Mr. G. A. GOODMAN, K.C., M.C.P., Solicitor-General, Barbados, has returned to the Colony and resumed the duties of his office.

Mr. GRAHAM YEARWOOD, M.C.P., has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee, Barbados, vice the Hon. J. Challenor Lynch, M.L.C.

LIEUT. CECIL RICHTER, British Guiana Militia, has been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to be Honorary A.D.C. from December 1st.

HON. OSCAR MARESCAUX has been granted further leave of absence till June, 1907, in respect of his duties as Custos of the parish of St. Andrew, Jamaica.

Mr. C. W. ANDERSON, F.R.G.S., First Class Officer, Department of Lands and Mines, British Guiana, has been granted six months leave of absence from November 24th.

Hon. PHILIP STERN, M.L.C., has been appointed a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica, in the room of Mr. G. V. Lockett, B.M., C.M., F.R.C.S., resigned.

COLONEL STEPHEN LUSHINGTON, R.A., Inspector General of Police, Commandant of the British Guiana Militia and Volunteers, and Inspector of Prisons, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence and resumed the duties of his offices.

His Excellency RALPH WILLIAMS, C.M.G., leaves England by the mail to-morrow to assume the Administration of the Government of the Windward Islands. He will be accompanied by Mr. S. C. Fitzherbert as Private Secretary, and Mr. Dean as A.D.C.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 6 per cent. (changed on October 19th, 1906), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86½.

West Indian Electric Companies.

The gross earnings of the Trinidad Electric Company for November, 1906, were \$17,041.00, as compared with \$16,236.38 in November, 1905, and the net earnings \$9,206, as compared with \$1,190.77. The gross earnings of the Demerara Electric Company were \$11,086, and the net earnings \$4,634, being an increase in gross earnings of \$1,418.65, and net earnings \$1,509.32, over the corresponding month of last year.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 27th. "Some rain would be acceptable."
British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 21st. "Moderate rains continue."
 (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), December 21st. "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message."
Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended December 19th. PORT ANTONIO: "13th to 18th, fine; 19th, rainy." KINGSTON: "fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), December 25th.—Mr. Sydney K. Berry, Miss B. Johnson, Mr. G. C. May, Miss Violet Beauclerk, Mr. J. Talbot Clifton, Mrs. Faraday, Mr. and Mrs. Federico Hütte, Mr. Mayeul Grisol, Miss M. G. Marryat, Mr. Noel G. Hackney, Miss A. de J. Pegler, Mr. S. J. Wilson, the Right Rev. the Bishop of Antigua, Mr. and Mrs. Carew and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. King and family, Mr. C. S. Buckle, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ferraira, Mr. C. G. McEwen, Mr. R. T. Brand, Mr. W. H. Arnold Foster, Mrs. Monypenny.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per "R.M.S.P. "Thames" (Capt. Rudge), January 2nd:—His Excellency Ralph Williams, C.M.G., Mrs. Ralph Williams, Miss Dorothy Dean, Mr. Chas. Thomas Fitzherbert, Mrs. Hamilton Dean, Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, Miss Mary Chamberlain, Mrs. John S. Nettlefold, Mr. Edward Packard, Mr. E. B. Jarvis, Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., Miss Augusta Lamont, Miss Landale, Miss Mann, Mr. Robert M. Birch Parker, His Honour Mr. Justice and Mrs. Lucie Smith and two children, Mr. Paul von Rantenberg Garoznske Magellan, Major-Genl. Jas. C. Dalton, R.A., Captain Vandaleur, R.A., Major Edwin B. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. de Dreuille, Col. and Mrs. Hickman Morgan, Captain Chas. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Crush and two children, Mrs. Grace Oliphant and child, Miss Hamburg, Rev. Canon Sloman, Mrs. Sloman, Col. Sir H. Hoxier Laborcaba, Mrs. Charles C. Munton, Mr. G. W. Wolff, M.P., Sir T. Crossley Rayner, K.C., Miss May, Capt. Edgar H. Brassey, Mr. H. L. Thornton, Mr. A. J. West, F.R.G.S., Mr. Chapman, Rev. E. Alard, Master Jno. F. Irving, Mr. H. Chapatte, Mr. N. Haskell, Mrs. Beeston, Miss Mary C. Layne, Mr. T. O. Eastman, Mr. Samuel Boxill, Mr. Chacorane, Mr. Charmenter, Mr. Alevayne, Mr. Edward R. S. Cheales, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Leon Delvant, Mr. Jean Galmot, Mr. E. J. Wagner, Mrs. J. B. Mayers, Miss Rachel Mayers, Mr. J. B. Mayers, Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Javier Caziao, Mr. E. F. Wright.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), January 16th.—Major and Mrs. Geo. Montgomerie, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Butler, Rev. James Rae, Mr. Alex. Lang, Miss Lang, Mrs. and Miss Darnley Da Costa, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bowring, Mr. G. E. Jarvis, Mr. T. E. Peters, Mr. W. B. Gibbs, Mrs. F. Aste, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Grieve, Mr. Robert Boyle, Mr. G. E. S. Fryer, Mr. Fryer, Junr., Mr. Charles Parks, Mr. J. I. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Evarisoto Obregon, Mr. Carlos Obregon, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. R. Burton, Col. H. G. Burrowes, R.F.A., Miss Murley, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Kennway, Rev. E. G. A. Sutton, Miss Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Risdale, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Horasby, Miss Briscoe, Mrs. O'Neale, Mr. P. J. Whitaker, Rev. Father H. L. Koos, Mr. George M. Stuart, Mr. N. Ross, Mr. C. Behrens, Mr. Chas. T. Maw, two Misses Maw, Mr. P. Van Tieghem, 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, Mr. A. F. Leyba, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. F. Voelcker, Miss Leacock, Gen. Sir Thomas Kelly-Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thom, two Misses Thom, Mrs. R. J. and Miss Lockhart, Mr. and Mrs. F. Muir, Mr. Victor Ferhenfelt, Mr. Karl Hamaun, Mr. H. Muir, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Morgan.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), December 18th.—Mr. C. Allan, Mr. A. E. Ades, Mr. F. E. Bates, Mr. Baillon, Master Clare, Mr. P. A. Craven, Mr. J. F. Collins, Mr. J. C. Charlesworth, Mr. Dawson, Lieut. E. E. D. Henderson, Miss Frith, Mr. R. Haughton, Mr. W. Morris, Mr. E. R. McPherson, Miss Hunt, Mr. R. W. Hay, Miss H. Hutchinson, Mrs. Pilliner, Mr. T. L. Stevens, Miss M. Taylor, Mr. W. W. Wynne.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), December 29th. **Jamaica.**—Miss Armitage, Mr. E. F. Abell, Mrs. Abell, Mr. P. G. Austin, Mrs. Austin, Mr. W. Burrows, Miss Bles, Mr. J. Buckley, Mr. E. Bicker-Caarten, Mrs. Bicker-Caarten, Mr. E. Bryan, Mr. H. Berger, Rt. Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P., Mr. W. Hall Caine, Mr. W. Cleaver, Miss Copeland, Mr. P. A. Craven, Master J. Commachee, Mr. H. Cotterell, Mrs. Cotterell, Miss Cotterell, Mr. W. Howell Davies, M.P., the Earl of Dudley, the Countess of Dudley, Mr. J. G. Davies, Mr. A. N. Dixon, Mr. Crum-Ewing, Miss Crum-Ewing, the Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Right Hon. H. O. Arnold Foster, M.P., Mrs. Foster, Mr. Arnold Foster, Junr., Mr. Flynn, Mr. W. H. Gaze, Mrs. Gill, Miss M. A. Herkiss, Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, M.P., Mr. J. A. Hutton, Mrs. Hutton, Miss Jessie Henderson, Mr. P. L. Hollins, Rev. W. Head, Miss D. Head, Mr. F. E. R. Hall, Mr. P. Murray Hunter, Miss Huxtable, Sir Thomas Hughes, Mr. D. D. C. Henriques, Mr. H. Jervoice, Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Mr. Picton Hughes-Jones, Mr. Harry Hughes-Jones, Mr. E. H. Hudson Kinaham, Mrs. W. Ker, Miss Landale, Miss Leigh, Rev. B. J. Lower, Mr. J. Lawrence, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Chas. Lancaster, Mr. McDonall, Master W. Munn, Master D. Munn, Sir Ralph Moore, K.C.M.G., Lady Moore, Capt. J. E. Mackenzie, Hon. Alex. McDonnell, Viscount Montmorres, Mr. J. Maquire, Mr. McDowell Nathan, Mr. E. Lloyd Owen, Mr. L. O'Connell, Mrs. Ollard, Mr. L. C. Paterson, Mr. J. H. Havard Protheroe, Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., Mrs. Pearson, Mr. James Parkinson, B.A., Mr. P. Phillips, Mr. A. Pawsey, Miss Pawsey, Master Pawsey, Mr. H. G. Porter, Capt. W. W. Rhodes, Mr. C. H. Rugg, Mrs. Rae, Miss Rae, Miss D. Randall, Mr. H. J. Rudolph, Mr. Roslyn, Mr. E. Lucie Smith, Mr. H. Shelmerdine, Lieut. H. S. Sewell, Mr. R. Sidebottom, Mrs. Sidebottom, Miss Sidebottom, Miss F. Sidebottom, Dr. Thomas Savage, Mr. J. Dods Shaw, Mr. F. Swanzy, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. Tod, Mr. F. Tod, the Hon. Mrs. Sidney Trench, Mr. John Taylor, Miss Vaughan, Lieut. A. C. Ward, Mrs. Ward, Dr. Neville Williams, Mr. W. Wright, Mrs. Wright, Mr. Jules Girard. **Barbados.**—Mr. W. Abbott, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Carter, Mr. E. Oliver, Mrs. Oliver.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Jan. 2	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Thames"	Jan. 1, mdn't.
" 11	Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad	*Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Sarstoon"	" 10, ..
" 12	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"	" 11, †6 p.m.
" 12	Barbados (for Demerara and W. I. Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Senator"	" 11, 6 p.m.
" 16	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"	" 11, mdn't.

* Letters to be addressed per private S.S. "Sarstoon" via Dartmouth.
 † In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Jan. 2	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"
" 7	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Nov. 26	1906 1905	Jan. 1 to Dec. 6	1906 1905	April 1 to Nov. 25	1906 1905	Jan. 1 to Dec. 2.	1906 1905	Oct. 1 to Dec. 10.	1906 1905
Sugar	49,922 41,768 Tns.	...	101,141 87,407 Tons.	...	8979 7844 Tons.	...	507,152 280,320 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...	...
Molasses	61,099 38,744 Pns.	...	3498 2558 Casks.	...	...	...	{ 3216 2888 Puns. 266 178 Trcs. 102 165 Brls. 1488 349 Puns.	...	...	...
Rum	17,876 14,832 Puns.	...	1,030,045 779,494 Galls.	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	10,866 849 Tons.	...	38,138 19,301 Cwts.	...	23,039,420 25,533,655 lbs.	...	5483 11,731 Bags	...
Cacao	31,857 53,797 lbs.	...	20,737 26,557 "	...	16,960 11,930 "	...	...	...
Coffee	5,363,797 5,860,609	...	11,600,465 10,304,117	...	...	...
Coconuts	52,216 256,071	...	...	...	18,119 10,588 Bags-	...	...	...
Copra	16,882 43,307 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton
Cotton Seed	134,153 103,003	...	...	...
Asphalt	42,369,184 58,690,238	...	...	...	...	...
Oranges	12,160,135 11,425,703 Stms.	...	...	...	...	...
Bananas	56,196 63,527 Cwts.	...	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice	85,321 88,494 grs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gold	1226 5287 carats.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamonds
Rice	1,440,774 20,195 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SPICE

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/November, 3 months.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Convention Europe	1,114,000	1,122,000	1,065,000	Tons.
America	314,000	300,000	327,000	"
	1,628,000	1,622,000	1,592,000	"

Of course, three months' Consumption figures out of twelve are no certain guide, but so far as they go they are satisfactory, as well as needed, in this season of again possible large production.

F. O. Licht's latest estimate of Beet crops.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Convention Europe	4,790,000	5,550,000	3,420,000	Tons.
Other Countries	1,880,000	1,380,000	1,280,000	"
	6,670,000	6,930,000	4,700,000	"

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

	1906.	1905.	1904.	
	3,230,000	3,410,000	2,830,000	Tons.

The large beet crops now practically finished are a menace to prices, and once again Continental Nations have over-produced, although in Convention Europe moderation has been shown. The figures are given above. It now remains to be seen what sort of an output will come from Cuba, and this will be the determining asset in the future course of prices. It seems pretty generally accepted that there is a very large weight of available canes in the Island, but the uncertainty as to the weather during crop time and the more serious question of labour can easily make a difference of 500,000 tons in the final results of this crop. This uncertainty induces caution amongst all classes of buyers, and with occasional gleams of activity of short duration, we are experiencing lifeless markets, little calculated to increase permanently the value of sugar.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 31st December, were:—December, 8s. 9½d.; January/March, 8s. 10½d.; May, 9s. 1½d.; August, 9s. 3d., and October/December, 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	3,050,000	3,080,000	2,710,000	3,290,000	3,060,000	Tons.
United States	130,000	170,000	90,000	90,000	140,000	"
Cuba... ..	—	30,000	10,000	120,000	40,000	"
Afloat	20,000	10,000	30,000	60,000	50,000	"
Total	3,200,000	3,290,000	2,840,000	3,560,000	3,290,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet, 31st Dec:—	8s. 9½d.	8s. 1½d.	14s. 4½d.	8s. 4½d.	8s. 2d.	"

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The Christmas recess has interfered with business in yellow crystallised, but the demand for properly made sugar continues good within the range of 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d., average qualities remaining at 16s. 9d. Inferior grades at 15s. 6d. to 16s. move off very slowly. Refiners' imitations are offering at 15s. 3d. With the recent decline in New York the value of a 96 centrifugal to refiners is quite nominal.

Molasses Sugar.—Dark qualities testing 76 to 78 are much wanted, but grocery kinds are in less request. The value of 89 test to arrive is in the neighbourhood of 8s. on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds are scarce, being nominally worth 14s. to 15s. For 89 test to Refiners a quotation cannot safely be given at the moment.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	50,000	40,000	43,000	24,000	60,000	Tons.
Deliveries	48,000	40,000	47,000	41,000	43,000	"
Stocks, 24th Dec.	10,000	9,000	8,000	12,000	29,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, 31st Dec.:	16s. 9d.	15s. 0d.	22s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	"

Rum.—Stocks in London, 24th Dec.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	7,000	7,000	8,500	9,200	Puns.
Demerara	3,700	4,800	5,100	7,600	"
Total of all kinds	17,900	19,100	20,800	26,800	"

Demerara is quieter, and our buyers are pausing, no doubt waiting to see what further shipments are being made from the Colony. As Importers do not press sales, prices remain firm from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3½d. Jamaica is unchanged, with Standard Home Trade Marks at 2s. 3d. Leewards and Foreign kinds are quoted 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—24th December

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	7,400	12,700	22,800	11,400	Bags.
Grenada	3,600	9,000	11,400	9,100	"
Total of all kinds	43,000	61,000	86,000	51,000	"

The Market continues firm at present, supplies being much reduced. Only a small business has been done on the spot and the quotations, which are somewhat nominal, are: Trinidad fair collected, 85s., Estate Marks, 87s. to 94s.; Grenada fair, 76s., fermented, 77s. to 80s. From other Islands fair Native is quoted 75s., and fermented, 76s. to 79s. It is not possible to indicate with any degree of certainty what course prices will take from now onwards for the next few months.

Sundries.—**COFFEE:** steady; good to fine ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 44s. **NUTMEGS:** small sales at about late prices. **MACE:** fair red and palish sold at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. **PIMENTO:** slow, 2½d. to 2¾d. **ARROWROOT:** quiet, at 2½d. to 2¾d. for manufacturing St. Vincent. **GINGER:** dull, Jamaica common, 56s. to 58s., middling to fine, 62s. to 85s. **COPRA:** firm, East India quoted £24 10s. to £25 15s. **LIME JUICE:** quiet, at 10d. to 1s. 1d.; Concentrated, steady, at £21 10s. to £21 12s. 6d.; Distilled Oil, quiet, at 2s. to 2s. 2d.; Hand Pressed, dull, nominal value, 3s.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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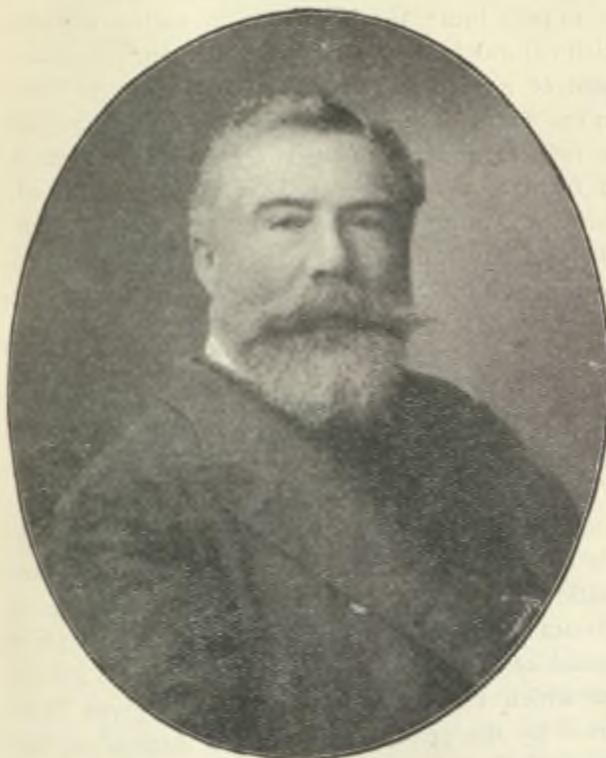
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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXXIV.



Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch, C.B.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON,

Jan. 14th, 1907

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

WE have received from LORD ELGIN a copy of a report from SIR DANIEL MORRIS, Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies to the Colonial Office regarding his recent visit to Canada, which we reproduce elsewhere in our pages. A considerable portion of the report is devoted to the question of the preferential tariff of that country in its relation to West Indian sugars. The Commissioner interviewed the directors of the St. Lawrence and the Canada Sugar Refinery, and discussed the position with them; but we are afraid that the report voices the views of those gentlemen rather than those of the West Indian planters who have studied the facts of the case. *En passant*, we may say that the Commissioner is not quite correct in his statement as to the quantity of British West Indian sugars which went into Canada in 1905. The actual figures are 145,000 tons, and not 160,000 tons as represented. SIR DANIEL MORRIS was informed that muscovado was not suited to the requirements of the Canadian refiner,—a fact which we have all along realised as being mainly

due to the insufficiency of the appliances of the refiners which only permit of their taking

a limited amount of it—with the result that they are thereby unable to give the full preference to it under the Dominion tariff. The refiners, however, omitted to inform SIR DANIEL that it has only been on one or two occasions that even with 96° crystals the full preference has been given. The Commissioner alludes to muscovado sugar from the West Indies as having been consigned to the Clyde and refined at Greenock for ultimate shipment to Canada, and considers that it is doubtful whether an extension of this trade would be an advantage to the West Indies, and that it would probably be better to produce grey crystals and ship direct to Canada. SIR DANIEL evidently did not understand that the sugar was shipped to the Clyde by reason of the Scotch refiners paying a higher price for it than the Canadian, even although the refined product was intended for the Canadian refiners' own market, and thus would have to bear an extra sea freight; and further that these shipments included grey crystals as well as muscovado. If in this way the sugar growers receive more for their sugar, surely it is to their advantage, and the remedy for this competition rests with the Canadian refiners. SIR DANIEL goes on to advocate Canadian capital being put into West Indian central factories; but we cannot say that, looking at the Shylockian treatment which West Indian sugar producers have experienced at the hands of the Canadian refiners, we consider the former would benefit thereby. If there has been a difficulty in obtaining a proper proportion of the preference in the past, it is not probable that the position would be improved by the command of the sugar being in Canadian hands. The Canadian refiners have conducted their transactions on a thoroughly business basis, *i.e.*, the utilisation of opportunity to get the greatest advantage of the preference for themselves, and with cane growers dependent upon central factories run by Canadian and probably interested capital, that would have a still greater grasp of the situation. The West Indian planters are now, on account of the increase of sugar consumption in Canada, in sight of a position in which they will be able to insist upon a due share of the benefits of the preference being given them, and for the control of the actual sugar to pass into Canadian hands at such a moment would, indeed, be to give up the strong position which natural laws of supply and demand are about to give them. We have advocated the establishment of a refinery run by and belonging to West Indian planters in Canada, so as to secure to them the share in the preference which they have all along had so much difficulty in obtaining from the refiners, and which the latter now deny to them altogether under the new Canadian tariff. To further any converse scheme would, indeed, be retrograde and against the interest of the planters. SIR DANIEL MORRIS says that 20,000 tons were received from Fiji, where Canadian capital was invested, and doubtless received full preference. Exactly—but how much did the Fijian cane grower get of this? We are at one with SIR DANIEL as to the desirability of the establishment of further West Indian central factories, but are afraid that these in the hands of capitalists interested in the sugar going to a particular market under special conditions would be anything but to the advantage of the cane grower. The value of the growing interest which Canada takes in the West Indies cannot be over-estimated, and the commercial position of greatest advantage to both parties is that of mutual give-and-take—the West Indies to take what Canada produces, Canada what the West Indies can give her, on mutually advantageous terms; and we confidently expect to see the commercial bonds between these Imperial possessions strengthened and expanded in the near future. It is not too much to say that the West Indies and Canada are necessary to one another, and the realisation of this will do much to smooth the paths of mutual trade. Such a union, however, as MR. CHAMBERLAIN says in his message to the people of Canada, "can only be brought about by the spread of mutual understanding." If the already well-protected Canadian refiners use the position which the excess of supply has given them, to take as much as possible of the advantage given by the preferential tariff to themselves, they cannot be surprised if anything but good feeling is given rise to among the West Indian sugar producers, and that when the time comes the latter will take the opportunity of reversing the situation.

WE reproduce elsewhere figures taken from the report of the Commission which recently sat in British Guiana to enquire into the mortality in general, and the high infantile rate in particular, of that colony, which show the general death rates as compared with those of children under one year of age in various tropical colonies. The striking feature of the latter is the enormous proportion, in many instances, of infantile deaths as compared with the general death rate of the colony. Thus the infantile death rate in Barbados—probably the healthiest of the West Indian colonies—for the five years 1900 to 1904 stood at 282 per 1,000 births, while in Surinam and British Honduras, which cannot compare with Barbados in the matter of health conditions, the rate works out at 135 and 139 per 1,000 births respectively. As the result of this high infantile rate the general death rate of Barbados mounts up to 24.9 per 1,000 of population—higher than that of Surinam, which is 22.5 per 1,000, and of Trinidad 23.5 per 1,000, and almost equal to that of British Guiana and British Honduras, 26.9 and 26.3 respectively. Even the Straits Settlements, with their high general death rate of 41.2 per 1,000, only show an infantile mortality of 257. St. Kitts, again, comes forward with the high figure of 247 per 1,000. On the other hand British Guiana can claim the comparatively low infantile rate of 185 per 1,000, but this is mainly due to the low rate among East Indian coolie children, which only amounts to 171 per 1,000. We have drawn special attention to this subject, bearing in mind the importance of population to meet the agricultural development of these colonies. We may take it that no West Indian colony should show a higher death rate among young children than obtains in British Honduras and Surinam, and that the high figures which prevail elsewhere are a serious blot on the colonies where they exist. Were the infantile death rate of Barbados reduced to that of the latter colonies the population of that island would, for the year 1905-6 alone, have shown an excess of somewhere about 1,200 souls over the actual figures, a notable contribution to a future labour supply. We have taken Barbados as an example on account of the natural healthiness of the island, the conditions being more marked there than elsewhere in the West Indies. This indifference to infant life shown by the negro populations exists, however, to a greater or lesser extent in the other islands and British Guiana. If these colonies are to continue their agricultural and industrial development the question of labour must be considered. Mechanical appliances can, and probably will, do much to relieve the strain, but there are many branches of agriculture which call for hand labour, and this must be supplied if continued progress is to be made. An important step which suggests itself in view of the nature of the figures which we reproduce, is that proper supervision be secured by legislation, so that the mortality among these very young children should not exceed the limit fixed by the natural causes of climate, &c. The West Indian climate is especially suited to young children, and no excuse exists for high death rates among them. In the old slave days, when the slave children were carefully looked after by the owners, these did not occur, and there is no reason why they should now. Nowhere in the world, we can safely say, does the ease of living among the peasantry exist so markedly as in the West Indian Islands. The infantile death rate of the British Isles for the ten years 1895-1904 averaged 141 per 1,000 of the births, and when we consider the poverty and distress among the lower classes, and the trying conditions of an English winter for young infants, the heavy death rate among the latter in Barbados, which should be a children's health paradise, stands out in an appalling manner. It is well-known, and is distinctly pointed out in the report of the Commission on which we base our data, that so far as British Guiana is concerned, this excessive infantile mortality is due to the want of care as regards diet, &c., on the part of the negro peasantry in their treatment of infants, and to the insanitary conditions under which they live, and we imagine that this holds good elsewhere. This should be dealt with with a firm hand. We trust that the recommendations of the Commission will be carried out, not only in British Guiana but also throughout the islands, and although benefit will not be seen in the labour market immediately, the effect in less than a couple of decades will begin to be felt. The prejudicial influence of the high rate of wages

held out has, by attracting labour from the West Indian Islands, done much to accentuate the labour conditions in many of them. These, however, have an end sooner or later, and these abnormal disturbances of labour fortunately rarely occur. With high infantile mortality, however, we are in contact with a condition which strikes at the root of national prosperity, and constitutes a serious drawback to national progress.

REVIEWING the legislative aspect of the past year, *Confectionery* expresses regret that, although an overwhelming body of Members of Parliament pledged to the repeal of the sugar tax was returned, nothing has been done towards its removal. Mr. Asquith, in his first Budget, was unable to hold out any hope either of a reduction in the tax or the removal of it. This condition the trade accepted with equanimity, the members of it fully realising the difficulties which surrounded a new Chancellor of the Exchequer, and whilst making their protest tacitly agreed that their claims might fittingly stand over. But, *Confectionery* goes on to say, at the conclusion of the fiscal year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have had plenty of time to look round for fresh sources of taxation, and the confectionery trade will show a united front in making a demand for cheaper sugar. It seems to us that so long as this only means that sugar will be legitimately cheaper from the removal of the tax, we can cordially agree with our contemporary, who further states that he is all in favour of "free trade" in sugar. Here again we are at one with him, but would point out that no trade can be free when the industries which originate it are made dependent upon the arbitrary will of foreign protectionists. The Brussels Convention, our withdrawal from which the confectionery industry advocates, put a stop to the protectionist devices of bounties and cartels, and thus restored true free trade—the free trade which is based on the utilisation of natural advantages and unrestricted competition. No industry can be healthy which exists on such a precarious basis as dependence on the price of its raw material being below the cost of production. Is this what the confectioner wants as regards sugar?

COLONEL MALCOLM OF POLTALLOCH, C.B.

Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch, son of the late John Malcolm of Poltalloch, joined the Royal Engineers from the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in 1854, and served through the Crimean War, Indian Mutiny, and also in China and Canada. He received the medal and clasp for Lucknow, was twice mentioned in despatches during the Mutiny, and awarded a pension for distinguished services. He occupied the post of Inspector of Submarine Mining Defences at the War Office, and was made a C.B. in 1881. Colonel Malcolm is intimately connected with the West Indies, being the proprietor of the Knockalva, Retrieve, and Bogue Estates in Jamaica, and is a keen sportsman with rod and gun. He is the Hon. Colonel of the Clyde Submarine Mining Volunteers, and a valued member of the West India Committee.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE MAIL.

The departure of the West Indian mail steamer from Southampton is a familiar episode to the majority of our readers. The acres of busily monotonous docks, the many steamers of varied types and expressions lying at all angles, loading and unloading, locomotives hauling trucks of merchandise over a bewildering mesh of railway lines, all impart an air of steady industry and solid Imperial strength, which contrasts curiously with the varied emotions which hold the passengers and the friends and relations who are seeing them off. In the particular instance depicted in our full-page illustration, the steamer is the R.M.S.P. "Thames," which left for the West Indies on January 2nd.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE SUGAR CANE.

It is generally asserted that the sugar-cane is not indigenous to the West Indies, but was introduced by the Spaniards, who in their turn had received it from the Moors. A "Treatise on Sugar" in the library of the West India Committee, written by Dr. Moseley, a distinguished London physician, and dated 1799, modifies this statement considerably. The author, after going at length into the ancient history of the sugar-cane, says that "On the discovery of the Western Hemisphere



Photograph by]

[A. R. ASPINALL.

R.M.S.P. "THAMES"
LEAVING SOUTHAMPTON FOR THE WEST INDIES.

the sugar-cane was found on the Continent, and also on some of the islands, but that the art of making sugar, it is said, was never practised by the aborigines of the West Indian Islands until they were settled by Europeans, nor by the Mexicans, Peruvians, or any other native inhabitants of South America previous to their subjugation by the Spaniards, although there might be some doubt on this head with respect to Mexico." Speaking of the South Sea Islands, where the sugar-cane was found in great abundance, Dr. Moseley states that not long before the date of his work, canes had been imported from Otaheite into Jamaica, and had given an astonishing yield of sugar as compared with the canes of that island. And in this connection he says, "This should be a lesson to the planter of the sugar-cane not to continue propagating from the same stock; or, at least, to try the effects, where any degeneracy appears, of new plants from another island, or from remote parts of the same island where the former cannot be obtained."

The French introduced into their West Indian Islands canes from the East Indies; and Sir John Laforey planted them in Antigua, and proved their superiority over the old canes of the West Indies. They were of three sorts—one from the Island of Bourbon, reported by the French to be the growth of the Coast of Malabar, another sort from Otaheite, and a third description from Batavia. The first of these is the well-known Bourbon; the second, the Otaheite cane, is spoken of by Sir John Laforey as closely resembling the Bourbon, but making finer sugar and being much larger; further, that it is ripe to grind in ten months. The third variety is, of course, the Java or purple cane, which is still occasionally met with in the West Indies. Barbados does not seem to have had indigenous canes; anyhow, when the manufacture of sugar was first carried out there in 1647 the canes had to be brought from Fernambrook (Pernambuco) in the Brazils. Dr. Moseley, speaking of the method of propagating the sugar-cane, says that no other method is known than by cuttings, although it was said to be raised from seed in Abyssinia. Summing up, Dr. Moseley says that the fact that the cane was not cultivated for the purpose of sugar until the arrival of the Spaniards has led to the erroneous supposition that it was not an original plant of the West Indies, Mexico and South America. The question is, What was the original West Indian cane? The different varieties known prior to the introduction of seedlings were the Bourbon, the White Transparent from New Caledonia, and the Purple Transparent and Java cane from the latter island; and no record appears to have been left of the aboriginal cane. Some of our planting friends may be able to supply interesting and valuable information on the subject.

SUGAR IN HAWAII.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of the 5th ult. reproduces the particulars of the working of the crop of the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Co. for the year 1905, the actual crop having commenced in November of the previous year and ended in July, 1905, which are interesting reading. From a total area under canes of 4,827 acres, made up of 2,169 acres of plant and 2,658 acres of ratoons, 293,079 tons of cane were obtained and 39,340 tons of sugar, the plant canes having given 66.42 tons and the ratoons 56.05 tons of canes per acre, the mean return being 60.7 tons of canes and 8.14 tons of sugar, 7.44 tons of canes having been taken per ton of sugar.

Consequent on the greater pressure on the factory for the 1905 crop than for the preceding, the grinding results were hardly so satisfactory, the extraction in 1905 only being 91.9% as against 92.77% the previous year. 273 lbs. of sugar were obtained per ton of canes, or 13.65%, the polarisation of the sugar being 96.74%. The analysis of the cane showed that it contained 12.33% of fibre. The canes ground gave an average of 1,915 lbs. of diluted juice per ton, which tested 17° Brix, the actual dilution being 26.54%. In the megass 4.69% of sugar was left, the water present being 45.14%. The megass was 25.3% of the weight of the cane. The sugar contained in the cane was 15.56%. Of this 14.30% was extracted by the mills, or 91.98%, and 1.26% left in the megass, or 8.02% of the whole. Summarising the manufacture, the results show that for 100 parts of sugar contained in the cane there was—

Recovered in bagged sugar	85.14 %	Lost in filters	1.24 %
Lost in megass	8.10 %	.. molasses and unknown	5.52 %

The proceeds of the crop amounted to \$2,938,239 and the expenses \$1,545,319, yielding a profit of \$1,392,930, the sugar, of course, getting the advantage of the United States protection. The cost of production for the crop in question would thus be \$39.25 per short ton. The sugar realised \$74.96 per ton. Five irrigation pumping stations were at work for the crop, supplying 5,812,544,971 gallons of water at a cost of \$55,466 or \$9.54 per million gallons, the height raised varying from 83 to 211 feet. The irrigation plant will be increased for the present year by a further 10,000,000 plant.

Four sets of steam ploughs were at work during the season, three worked by petrol and one by coal. The ploughs driven by petrol motors worked most satisfactorily.

As regards the crop of the present year, the whole of the cane has been cultivated under contract; 43 "companies," comprising 315 men, worked 2,344 acres of plant canes, and 53 "companies," 420 men, 3,185 acres of ratoons. Mechanical cane loading is gradually being introduced, and the whole of the canes cut are expected to be dealt with in this way for the current crop. The great advantage of the method is that it allows of the employment of workmen whose physique would not permit of hand loading. In the factory the 9-roller mills have been converted into 12-roller mills with the view of obtaining still further extraction. Among the experiments tried during the crop was one of using a sugar centrifugal for the purpose of freeing molasses from gummy and viscous matter, and as the result the purity of these was considerably raised.

JAMAICA AND COTTON.

The absence of Jamaica from the cotton boom in the West Indies is attracting attention on this side, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 10th in referring to the subject points out that while the West Indies as a whole exported upwards of a million pounds of cotton for 1905, Jamaica contributed less than five thousand pounds to that total—and that in this instance our largest West Indian colony, which has won pre-eminence by reason of its fruit, coffee and rum exports, was far out-distanced by the smallest and least known of our Caribbean dependencies—that the little island of Nevis, boasting but fifty square miles as against Jamaica's four thousand, produced more than 144,000 lbs. Quoting Sir Alexander Swettenham's remark as to the main cause of this being "a want of confidence in the application of capital to land, except in certain favourite ways, such as banana planting," the *Gazette* goes on to say that once this diffidence is overcome, there is no reason why the future of the cotton industry in Jamaica should not be of the brightest, and its past successes repeated. It is on record that the small quantity raised during the past year or two was of very high quality, and the prices realised good. Moreover, there is abundance of land awaiting cultivation. The acquisition of so important a contribution to the material well-being of the island, also, is not to be overlooked, and in this connection it is interesting to learn that a company was formed in the "Port Kingston" on the voyage out, having for its objective the promotion of cotton cultivation in Jamaica.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S MESSAGE TO CANADA.

In response to a request from the editor of the *Montreal Star* Mr. Chamberlain has sent the following message, which is dated December 24th, 1906, to the people of Canada:—

I thoroughly appreciate the patriotism of the Canadian people, and the sentiment which so strongly moves them in the consideration of all questions of commercial preference between the Dominion and the Mother Country.

I am profoundly convinced that of all the bonds that can unite nations, the bond of commerce is the strongest, and the perception of this fact will, I feel assured, ultimately lead to the closer union between Great Britain and her colonies, which I can see to be the only foundation for a great empire. Such a union can only be brought about by the spread of mutual understanding, and I rejoice that the movement has made great progress during the last few years. The issue has never been fairly raised in the United Kingdom, and the defeat of the Unionist party at the last election was due to causes altogether outside the question of mutual preference.

Meanwhile the efforts of some of our most influential journals in this country, and of others in the Dominion, prominent among which I count the *Montreal Star*, will have their national weight when the opportunity comes to appeal for a new decision of the people of the British race throughout the world on this critical question.

The growing strength and prosperity of Canada will give to her decision an importance that it never had before, and I do not believe that in the long run the people of this country will be behind the other parts of the Empire in promoting a policy which must tend to place the British Empire on a level with the other great associations of nations with which it will have to compete.

WEST INDIAN CABLE COMMUNICATION.

The following letter was addressed by the West India Committee to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on Dec. 29th last:—

SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 42,793/1906, of the 26th ult., on the subject of cable communication with the West Indies.

We note that this question is now under consideration of a Committee, and that pending their final recommendations, Lord Elgin can make no statement on the subject. We trust that you will not think us importunate when we ask for information as to when the Committee referred to was first appointed, and when it is likely that some announcement regarding its decision will be made.

The matter of cable communication has been one of pressing importance to the West Indies for a considerable time past, and the need for an early settlement has been emphasised by the recent breaks in cable communication

between Trinidad and Demerara, which again cut British Guiana off from communication by cable with the outside world at a particularly critical time, namely, when the crop was being reaped.

We would also respectfully call your attention to paragraph 6 of our letter of the 19th ult., in which we asked that we might be kept fully informed as to any further negotiations which may be made with a view to improving cable communication, and venture to hope that we may be favoured with a reply.

Trusting that some satisfactory arrangement may soon be arrived at with a view to ameliorating the present unsatisfactory state of affairs,

We have the honour to be, &c.,

NEVILLE LURBOCK, *Chairman.*
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

MANURE EXPERIMENTS IN BARBADOS.

The report of the manurial experiments carried on in Barbados by Prof. d'Albuquerque and Mr. Bovell gives an account of the results obtained at the several Experimental Stations during the years 1903-1905. In every instance farmyard manure was applied, in quantities varying from 20 to 42½ tons per acre, and the artificial manures experimented with comprised sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, nitrate of potash, and dried blood, representing nitrogen; superphosphate of lime and basic slag, phosphoric acid, and sulphate of potash and potash. The results, which were obtained on both black and red soils, showed that advantage was gained in each instance by the use of sulphate of ammonia, even with the larger proportion of farmyard manure, and that potash, as a rule, also gave paying increases of yield. In no instance did the application of phosphates benefit; in fact, at Dodd's the application of both superphosphates and basic slag led to prejudicial results. Every manure experiment carried out in the West Indies during the last twenty-five years has shown the suitability of sulphate of ammonia as a source of nitrogen, and, in Barbados, of the advantage derived from potash applications. The experiments of Messrs. d'Albuquerque and Bovell further confirm these conclusions. Probably over and above being a supply of nitrogen to the plant, ammonia salts stimulate the nitrifying bacilli, on the action of which the fertility of soils depends.

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN THE WEST INDIES.

The following figures, showing the comparison between the infantile, under 12 months of age, and the general death rates of some of the West Indian and other colonies, are taken from the report of the Mortality Commission which sat in British Guiana in May last, under the chairmanship of Prof. Harrison, C.M.G. The excessive character of the former, in several instances, is well brought out:—

Death rate average for five years, 1900-1904.

	Infantile, per 1000 births.	General, per 1000 of population.		Infantile, per 1000 births.	General, per 1000 of population.
Jamaica	171	22.1	British Honduras ...	139	26.3
Surinam	135	22.5	British Guiana ...	185	26.9
Nevis	197	22.7	St. Kitts	247	28.9
Dominica	185	23.2	Mauritius	238	36.2
Trinidad	162	23.5	Straits Settlements ...	257	41.2
Barbados	282	24.9			

THE WEST INDIES AND CANADA.

Lord Elgin has forwarded for the information of the West India Committee a copy of a report by Sir Daniel Morris, Commissioner of Agriculture, on his recent visit to Canada.

SIR,—With reference to my letter No. S.S. 2336, of June 2nd, 1906, I have the honour to report for the information of the Secretary of State that in accordance with the permission granted to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture to proceed from the United Kingdom on a visit to the Dominion of Canada, I embarked at Liverpool in S.S. "Victorian" on Friday, August 31st, and arrived at Montreal on Saturday, September 7th.

During my stay in Montreal I obtained interviews with the Directors of the St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery and those of the Canada Sugar Refinery, and discussed with them the position of West Indian sugars in Canada and the prospects of still further extending the trade between the two countries. In this connection it may be of interest to state that out of 200,000 tons of all sugars entered for consumption in Canada for the year ending June 30th last, nearly 160,000 tons, or four-fifths, were obtained from the West Indies. A good deal consisted of grey crystals produced at British Guiana and Trinidad, while an appreciable quantity was muscovado sugar from Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts. I was informed that muscovado sugar was not suitable to the requirements of the Canadian refiners; that they could only take a limited quantity of it at one time and they could not allow the shippers the full preference offered by the Dominion tariff.

Some muscovado sugar from the West Indies, when prices were occasionally higher in London than in New York, had been consigned to the Clyde and refined at Greenock. Such sugar, when refined, was admitted into Canada with a rebate of duty equal to 40c. per 100 lb. It is doubtful, however, whether an extension of this trade

would be of advantage to the West Indies. It would probably be better to produce grey crystals and ship direct to Canada.

I was informed that probably about 20,000 tons of sugar from Fiji (where Canadian capital has been invested) had been received on the Pacific coast and refined in British Columbia. This had doubtless received the full rebate offered to British grown produce. If it were possible to interest the people of Canada in the sugar industry of the West Indies, and central factories were established at Jamaica, St. Kitts and Barbados, it is felt that the prospects of the sugar industry in these colonies would be greatly improved. Canadian capital has already been successfully invested in electric trams in Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad, so that it would be only an extension of the same idea if the erection of central sugar factories were also entertained, especially as the sugar would all go to Canada.

On September 12th I visited Ottawa and had an interview with Mr. W. G. Parmelee, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, with whom I discussed the terms of the contract for the Canadian and West Indian steamer service. The twelve day service now in force is not popular, owing to the omission of calls at the smaller islands. When the trade develops what should be aimed at is a weekly service. I was informed that the addition of one ship only to the present fleet would enable this to be done. As indicated in the enclosure to my letter of October 29th, 1906, I was able to arrange for the steamers "Olenda" and "Orinoco" to call at Montserrat on the south-bound voyage under conditions which are now under consideration by the Government of the Leeward Islands.

It was established to my satisfaction that the figures given in the despatch from the Governor of the Windward Islands of June 23rd, 1906, commenting on the figures given in Messrs. Pickford & Black's letter of March 24th, 1905, as to the value of the trade carried on by Canadian steamers with Grenada during the four years 1902-1905, did not represent the actual amount earned by the steamers. In the returns forwarded by the Governor there were included out-of-pocket monies disbursed by Messrs. Pickford & Black for inland carriage and insurance which were added to the bill of lading for collection at destination. I am satisfied that the figures given by Messrs. Pickford & Black were on the whole correct, and that the entire inward and outward business at Grenada during the year 1904 only amounted to \$9,24.

I also had an interview with the Minister of Customs (the Hon. W. Paterson) who was kind enough to afford information in regard to the free admission of West Indian muscovado molasses and "fancy" molasses into Canada. I enclose a copy of a memorandum on the subject. It is probable that an announcement in regard to changes in the general tariff will be made in the Dominion Parliament in November next. I was informed by Mr. Paterson that it was not probable that any changes would take place in the preferential tariff offered on sugar and other produce from the West Indies.

I arrived at Quebec on September 16th, and had an interview with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who was kind enough to afford me information in regard to what was being done in the Province of Quebec to improve the local breed of goats. On Tuesday, September 25th, I arrived at Halifax, and the following morning I visited the Dominion Exhibition, which was being held under the auspices of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission. Both at this exhibition, as well as the Provincial Exhibition previously held at Toronto, there was an interesting and successful display of the products of the West Indies. The exhibits had been selected and forwarded with the active co-operation of the Permanent Exhibition Committees lately formed in these Colonies. The exhibits had been conveyed to Canada, free of expense, in the steamers of the Canadian Mail Service and Messrs. Pickford & Black had also tastefully arranged them in such a manner as to attract the attention of visitors. A newspaper print of the West Indian Court is enclosed herewith. Mr. C. S. Pickford was daily in attendance, and great credit is due to him for the services rendered to the West Indies. The total number of visitors at the Toronto Exhibition was about 250,000, and at the Halifax Exhibition 150,000. It may be assumed that nearly the whole of these were brought into intimate relations with the products of the West Indies.

I may mention that a Grand Gold medal was awarded for the exhibits as a whole. An additional gold medal was awarded to Jamaica cigars. The exhibits from British Guiana, Barbados, Dominica and St. Kitts were highly commended for the careful manner in which they were prepared and the valuable information given in connection with them from the commercial point of view. I enclose herewith a copy of a pamphlet entitled "West Indies in Canada," prepared by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Of this several thousand copies were distributed at both the Toronto and Halifax Exhibitions. In addition, a large number of copies of the "Agricultural News" and the "West Indian Bulletin" were also distributed.

The impression left on my mind is that it would be greatly to the advantage of the West Indies to take a still more active part in connection with these and similar exhibitions in Canada, and I trust that the Secretary of State will approve of this Department affording every encouragement in that direction.

In accordance with what is stated in the tenth paragraph of my letter of June 2nd, I selected in Canada several fine animals to be introduced to the Leeward Islands and St. Vincent, and some of these have already arrived in the West Indies.

Before leaving Canada I attended a meeting at the Board of Trade rooms at Halifax in order to meet Halifax business men and talk over West Indian matters.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

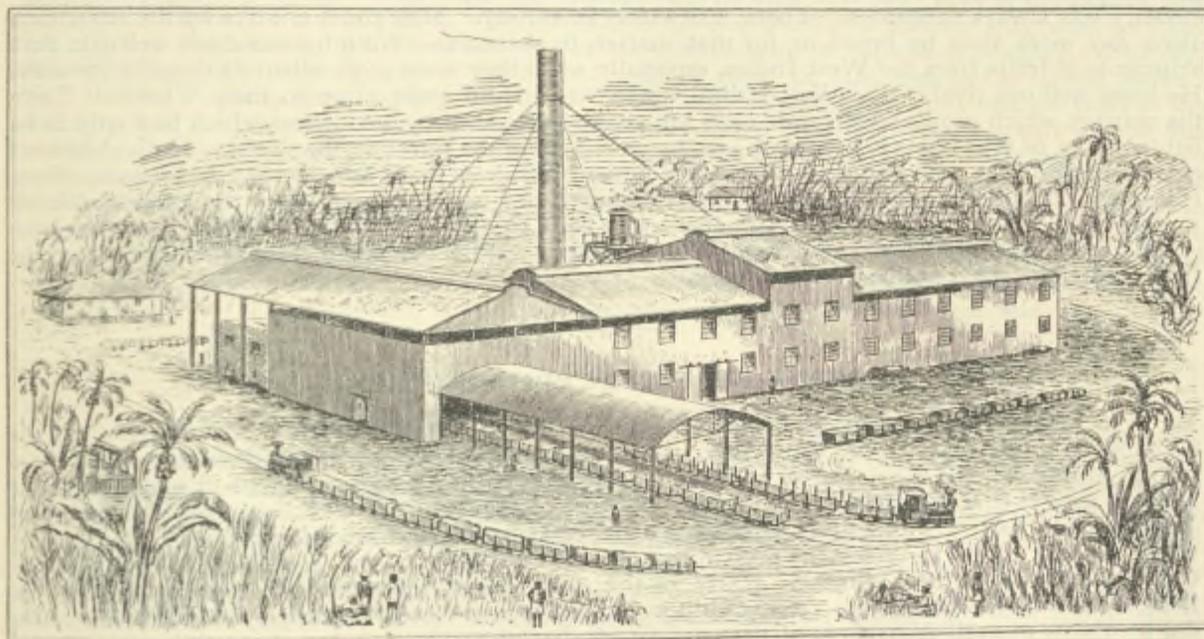
D. MORRIS.

Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies.

THE NEW CENTRAL SUGAR FACTORY IN JAMAICA.

The central sugar factory, which is now in course of construction for the Vere Estates Co., Ltd., in Jamaica, has been designed to take off the crops of Raymonds, Hillside, Morelands, Braziletto, and Olive Park Estates, and Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., through whom the plant has been ordered, have entrusted the whole of the work, other than the railway—which is being supplied by Arthur Koppel, of London—to the Harvey Engineering Company of Glasgow. The building itself is of iron throughout, built by Messrs. A. & J. Main & Co., of Glasgow, to the designs of that firm. The railway attached to the factory is of 2 feet 6 inch gauge, with locomotive traction. The cut canes will be loaded on trucks in the fields, and the latter conveyed by means of portable railways to the

main line. On arriving at the factory the trucks will be discharged mechanically over the cane carrier. The milling plant consists of a six-roller compound mill with preliminary crusher, the whole driven by one engine. The megass will be burnt direct in furnaces attached to a range of Babcock & Wilcox' boilers. The clarifying plant consists of juice-heaters, subsidiers, eliminators, without filters, but with arrangements for sulphuring if necessary. The triple effect is Harvey's Patent, and eliminators are provided for cleaning the syrup. Two vacuum pans are of Messrs. Harvey's latest type, and both triple and vacuum pans are connected to one central barometric condenser, with the latest type of dry air-pump. The condensation water from the barometric columns is so arranged at a sufficient height to pass over into the cooling tower. Crystallisers are provided for the massecuites, and the centrifugals are water driven. The handling of the dry sugar, between the centrifugals and sugar-store,



The New Jamaica Sugar Factory.

is entirely mechanical. The bagged sugar is taken on the factory's line to the company's wharves at Salt River. In the sketch of the factory appended, the distillery and workshops, which will be in a separate building, are not shown. The Vere district is famous for its soil and canes, and as steam ploughing is to be employed, the success of the undertaking should prove a powerful incentive to the Jamaica sugar industry generally.

THE RECENT COLONIAL FRUIT SHOW.

A paper on the West Indian lime, by Mr. Archibald Brooks, of Dominica, was read at the recent show of Colonial fruit, and formed the "last word" on this subject for some time to come. The author, who is Superintendent of the Agricultural School at Dominica, gave a short history of the industry in the West Indies, and described the cultivation, which is principally to be done by selection, to get a thin-skinned fruit full of juice, and containing an average of about two seeds, and he mentioned the serious loss and damage caused by the orange mussel scale and the orange snow scale, which had reduced the exports in 1903 to £23,470, or just about half what they had been in 1902 (£45,370). In the previous year the damage done by the combined attack of these two pests had been so great as seriously to threaten the industry, many of the trees being killed outright and left as if bleached with fire. The Imperial Department of Agriculture had come to a timely rescue, and recommended that all affected trees should be sprayed with resin and whale-oil soap compound, and this had proved very effective, so that the exports of 1905 had again reached £40,000.

Women collected the ripe fruit after it had fallen to the ground, and thus a more uniform juice was obtained, and the trees were not damaged by the gatherers. The essential oil was then extracted from the rind by revolving the fruits in a copper basin, the inside of which is studded with brass pins. This essence of lime is largely employed in perfumery. The fruit was then picked over, washed, and squeezed in a mill, and the result of the first crushing was shipped to England to be manufactured into the well-known cordial. The second squeezing, and whatever could be obtained from the mucilaginous matter, were used for the manufacture of citric acid.

At the close of the lecture Sir Albert Rollit said the paper had an excellent illustration in the Fruit Show in the hall below in the exhibit from the West Indies, and especially in that from Dominica. Both the paper and the show indicated the regeneration of the West Indies, one of our very oldest colonial possessions. Formerly the islands were practically dependent on the sugar crop, and a single industry was always dangerous. There was safety in variety. Man could not live by the sugar-cane alone any more than by bread, or for that matter, by bananas. Nothing was more welcome than shipments of fruits from the West Indies, especially when they were so excellent as those in the show. He knew well one rival of the West Indies, which was indeed quite close to them, Florida. There the oranges, which grow under a wide open lattice, and protected by wood fires which had only to be lighted three or four times in a normal season, were among the finest in the world. He had himself grown many of the citron fruits in Yorkshire under glass, and pines and lemons, tangerines, grape-fruits, &c., could be so grown in plenty and perfection; but edible oranges were much more difficult to fruit well. The beauty of such products was hard to excel; in scent, which was now too often sacrificed to other qualities, and general appearance; while the commercial importance of the fruit of the lime could not be over-estimated.

LABOUR BUREAU IN BRITISH GUIANA.

In 1904 the Government of British Guiana, Sir J. A. Swettenham being Governor, and the late Sir A. M. Ashmore, Government Secretary, considered the advisability of the establishment of a General Labour Bureau for the colony, so as to afford employment to those seeking it, and to supply labour to those in need of it, and it was thought that the Institute of Mines and Forests, being possessed of a staff experienced in dealing with a great proportion of the various kinds of labour employed in the interior, would be best fitted to undertake this work. A small subvention was accordingly granted by the Combined Court for this purpose. Early in the experimental stage of the Employment Office the Director, Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, remarked in an interim report, that the unemployed of the colony had not been slow to avail themselves of the services of the labour bureau, but that with the exception of the planters, employers had not responded, up to then, as might have been expected. It was interesting to note that, even at that time, the number of unskilled labourers applying as compared with clerks, mechanics, and domestics, was not so large as might have been expected, and that of those of that class who applied for work a large proportion were unfitted for continuous labour by reason of physical or other disabilities, and were only equal to light employment, which is not always easy to procure. The result, therefore, of the first year's work, though eminently useful in some other respects, was not very satisfactory from the point of view of securing much employment for those out of work. In the following year, however, a great improvement was shown in finding occupation for those whose names were on the books, and during the year 1906 the applications for employment were nearly doubled, the number of those for whom places were found having also almost doubled the record of the previous year.

There are now 2,141 names on the books of the office, for 684 of whom work has been found, and the places obtained during the past year have been 108 more than the two preceding years put together. Although the labour bureau is general to the whole colony, it will readily be understood that its principal operations are in Georgetown, because it is always to the large towns that the waifs and strays and ineligible migrants, constituting a class which becomes a burden to the community, and a danger to health and good order.

To deal with many of this class no labour bureau is sufficient, and herein lies, as in pretty nearly every large town in the world, one of the greatest problems with which a Government can be confronted. There is still a large and deserving class of people to whom the employment office has proved a great boon, comprising mechanics, artisans, clerks, domestic servants, &c., people who are accustomed to lead decent lives, and to whom lack of employment is doubly hard. The comparatively small number of prædial labourers applying for work, especially when weeded of those ineligible from disease or otherwise, would scarcely seem to bear out the contention of some who would have us believe that East Indian immigration is in any way responsible for lack of employment, as it is only as a prædial labourer that the East Indian labourer comes into the field at all. Since his arrival in the

colony Sir F. M. Hodgson, the present Governor, has taken great interest in the development of the labour bureau.

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

Considerable anxiety is being experienced in Cuba at the troubled condition of the political waters, and the Administration is much exercised thereat. The following important statement outlining the position of the Administration appears in the *Morning Post* of January 5th, having been made to the correspondent of that paper by a prominent official who speaks with authority. "By common consent of all parties," he said, "no election will be held until next June at the earliest, and we therefore have some six months in which to watch developments and consider what shall be done. Frankly, I do not believe the Cubans are fit for self-government or capable of managing their own affairs; consequently some element of permanent stability must be furnished by the United States." The "element of permanent stability" is good. Does it mean annexation? From the reply of the official, quoted to a question under this head, it looks very much as if the trend of events were in this direction. "I am not prepared," was the answer, "to discuss details at this time. It may be that we shall have to supply the lawful Government of Cuba with the necessary power to maintain law and order, or some other methods may be employed; but I repeat that while we are firmly opposed to annexation we are equally firmly determined that life and property shall be held sacred and peace maintained." One point in connection with the immediate future in Cuba is very evident, viz., that the reaping of the large crop on the ground is taking place under troubled conditions which may seriously affect it. The American troops in Cuba have recently been reinforced and now number 5,000.

THE JAMAICA CONFERENCE.

The accident to the "Orinoco," and the consequent disturbance of the intercolonial mail service, threatened at one time to interfere seriously with the prospects of the Agricultural Conference now being held in Jamaica under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture from the 14th to the 17th of this month, owing to the impossibility, from this cause, of some of the Colonial delegates meeting the "Port Kingston," which was to call especially at Barbados and carry them to Jamaica. At the request, however, of the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. authorised a special trip of the "Esk" for the purpose, which, therefore, met the "Port Kingston" at Jamaica as originally arranged. Cable advices from Jamaica report the successful opening of the Conference.

THE PROPOSED EAST INDIA COMMITTEE.

In the last issue of the *West India Committee Circular* an extract was given from the *Statesman* of Calcutta referring to the proposal to establish an East India Committee on the lines of the West India Committee. In the issue of December 12th a further editorial on the subject appears, which we reproduce:—

A reference was recently made in this column to the activity of the West India Committee in all matters affecting the welfare of the West Indian colonies, and particularly to its action in the matter of the sugar bounties. When the abolition of these bounties was a subject of public concern, the Committee organised the largest deputation that ever waited upon a British Minister, and managed to impress the public mind in a most effective manner by persistence and diplomatic skill. Prior to this the Committee had done much to obtain the appointment of the Royal Commission which in 1897 reported upon the steps it was desirable to adopt in order to improve the industrial condition of the colonies, and it also took a prominent part in preparing the evidence to be given before that body. One of the recommendations of the Commission was that an Imperial Department of Agriculture should be established; another, that the steamship communication with the islands should be improved; and a third that the Imperial Government should guarantee interest for a period of years on the capital required to erect central sugar factories. The Imperial Department of Agriculture, which was established for a period of ten years, has done useful service, particularly as regards cotton growing. The Committee has also been able in recent years to obtain grants-in-aid for colonies that have been in distress; it opened relief funds when Jamaica was devastated by a hurricane in 1903, and when great damage was caused by floods in Montserrat. If questions affecting the interests of the West Indies can with advantage be raised in Parliament, the Committee is able to have this done through members of the House who sympathise with its aims and take a direct and intelligent interest in its work. Indeed, if the West Indians are not prosperous and contented no charge of neglect of their interests can be laid at the door of this vigilant and persistent body. Were India as well represented in London in proportion to its industrial and commercial importance as are the West Indian colonies, there would be little fear of any of its just claims being neglected.

NATURE NOTES.

WHAT NEXT! Cotton is now being picked by machinery in America. The machine selects the cotton ripe for picking by suction, the cotton that is ready being fluffy and easy to detach from the boll.

GOOD GROWTH. After six years growth from seed, trees of *Hevea brasiliensis*, in Samoa, averaged at a height of 3 feet from the ground, 17½ inches in circumference. These trees were grown entirely under native supervision, and were planted 15 by 15 feet among cacao trees, at an altitude of 1,100 feet above the sea. Some of these trees were fit for tapping.

RUBBER FROM WHEAT. An artificial rubber, obtained by the action of *ptyalose*, the active principle of saliva, which also occurs in most animal tissues, on wheat or any cereal, has been patented by Mr. Threlfall Carr. This new rubber can be made to vulcanise in the same way as natural rubber, and will cost considerably less. All the present uses of rubber can be supplied with the artificial product.

RUBBER IN SINGAPORE. There has been, according to the *Indian Trade Journal*, a further extension of Para rubber in Singapore and in Malacca. The cultivation is everywhere increasing, and the demand for seed is larger than can be supplied. Some rubber was sold at 6s. 9½d. per lb. No new rubber estates have been opened in the province, but the existing estates which grow rubber are largely extending their cultivation. A feature of one large estate is the granting of land to Chinese squatters who cultivate tapioca and surface crops and tend Para rubber, which will eventually become the chief crop.

VOLCANIC ASH. Mr. W. N. Sands, the Agricultural Superintendent of St. Vincent, writing to the *Agricultural News*, says that so far as St. Vincent is concerned the advantage of the volcanic ash which fell during the last eruption was practically *nil*, as, with the exception of sugar-cane and leguminous crops, such as pigeon peas and ground nuts, no other crops can be grown satisfactorily in it. Cacao trees in those districts, where a large amount of ash has fallen, are producing little or nothing, are much diseased, and present an unhealthy appearance, and it is only where the ash has been removed from the trees that the cacao is doing well. Cotton, too, is more or less of a failure in volcanic ash. The cultivation and burying of leguminous crops, such as pigeon-peas, ground nuts, &c., is recommended for the reclamation of ash lands.

A DETERMINED ENEMY. In the early half of the last century, says the *Westminster Gazette*, a considerable amount of cotton was produced at Monclova, in Mexico. Twenty years later the culture of cotton had to be abandoned. The Mexican cotton boll-weevil had appeared from no one knew whither, and had settled down to enjoy itself. Many years after it was decided to recommence the culture of cotton, as the insect seemed to have entirely disappeared. Where in the world the creature lay hidden was never found out; but it had bided its time, and as soon as the crop appeared this was devoured. Twenty years more it had spread to Matamoras, bringing destruction in its track. Ten years after it had reached the banks of the Rio Grande, where for the moment it seemed baffled. But it tried again and again to cross the barrier, and after two or three years succeeded, and made its way into Texas. For the last ten years it has been advancing further north and east, has crossed into Louisiana, and is threatening Indian territory. During the last four years the loss to the cotton-growers of Texas has been reckoned at five millions sterling per annum. This small grey beetle, barely a quarter of an inch long, this tiny, ruddy-snouted desperado, has caused to the South a loss of at least twenty millions sterling, if we include the damage done to all the allied industries.

GUAYULE RUBBER. The guayule plant, says *Tropical Life*, is the *Parthenium Argentatum* of the natural order *compositae*. It is at times confused with the *P. Incanum*, which grows freely in Mexico, side by side with the rubber-producing shrub, but evidently yields no rubber, for the *P. Argentatum* is the only plant belonging to the order (*compositae*) that yields rubber. With this shrub the latex is not contained in a well-developed lactiferous system, as with other rubber-yielding plants, but the caoutchouc is said to be contained in isolated cells in the wood as well as in the bark, over three-fourths of the supply coming from the bark. In spite of the fact that more than a million pounds of guayule rubber has passed through manufacturers' hands, makers still seem to regard the supply as unreliable, and the whole industry as being more or less in the experimental stage. The rubber was formerly only valued at 1s. 4d. per lb., owing to its defective preparation and high percentage of resin, but improved samples have been valued from 3s. 2d. to 3s. 8d. per lb. The plant is found at altitudes ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 ft., and grows equally well on the plateaus and hillsides. The weight of rubber yielded is from 7 to 10 per cent. of the bulk of the plant. No one should cultivate guayule unless they have an extracting plant close at hand, as the cost of transport is considerable.

COLONIAL REPORT.

Sound position of British Guiana.

The revenue of the year 1905-6 amounted to £522,493, as against an expenditure of £506,173, an excess of £16,320. The imports were valued at £1,662,205 and the exports at £1,994,394. Compared with the previous four years, the figures stand as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
1901-2	£531,506	£522,631	£1,414,769	£1,883,624
1902-3	557,351	501,704	1,444,084	1,829,749
1903-4	555,853	530,225	1,656,024	1,810,038
1904-5	512,972	511,182	1,537,591	1,991,048
1905-6	522,493	506,173	1,662,205	1,994,394

The distribution of the trade of the colony was:—

	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom	£859,954	£861,766
British Possessions	203,712	674,856
United States	470,516	327,410
Foreign Countries	49,869	130,362
Transit trade	78,152	—

The value of the produce, mainly sugar, which was sent to Canada, had increased from £119,115, the figures for 1902-3, to £648,412 in the year under review, with a corresponding decrease in the United States shipments. It is interesting to note that the amount exported to the United Kingdom is sensibly increasing. This change in the direction of the sugar trade from a foreign country towards the Empire is well illustrated in the following table showing the sugar exports:—

	United Kingdom. Tons.	United States. Tons.	Canada. Tons.
1901-2	12,868	85,009	7,774
1902-3	16,326	89,895	13,777
1903-4	11,542	45,887	68,329
1904-5	17,682	44,633	44,329
1905-6	21,040	29,987	65,436

Speaking of agriculture, the writer of the report, Mr. G. D. Bayley, says that as regards the main industry, work on the experimental cane cultivation at the Botanic Gardens under the charge of the Board of Agriculture continued during the year. Cultivation of the new varieties of cane on the sugar estates of the colony received still greater attention on the part of the planters generally, and the area occupied by these experiments increased from 14,800 acres in the previous year to 20,000 acres. Practically all the sugar estates of the colony continue to take part in this work.

Under the heading of subsidiary agricultural industries, the area in rice is estimated as having increased from 21,920 acres for the previous year, to 23,853 acres, and the estimated rice crop from 421,660 bags paddy to 421,860 bags. The effect of the increase of the local production of rice had been to reduce the imports from 48,348,068 lbs. in 1895-6 to 13,289,573 lbs. in 1905-6. Cacao had increased from 1,460 acres in 1904-5 to 2,111 acres. The export of cocoa-nuts had largely decreased owing to a serious outbreak of bud-rot disease, which had caused much loss and was a heavy blow to the industry.

The output of gold for the year was 94,363 ozs., showing a small decrease of 1,501 ozs. on last year's production. Further development of this industry was, however, being made, and the report states that it may now be looked upon as being in a flourishing condition. 64,432 diamonds, weighing 4,036 carats, were entered during the year, an appreciable decrease on the last year's production. In forest industries the highest recorded amount of 557,118 lbs. of ballata was obtained during the year. Timber exports, however, showed a decrease of 16,500 cubic feet.

In his concluding observations, Mr. Bayley considers that the general business of the colony may on the whole be regarded as satisfactory, although the year had not been a prosperous one for the sugar industry. The rapid increase of the rice industry will soon necessitate an outlet for the rapidly increasing output. The possibilities of the colony as a rubber-producing country were receiving considerable attention, and the potentialities of the colony in this connection were considered to be promising.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

We have received letters by the R.M.S. "Port Henderson," which left Kingston, Jamaica, on December 20th, arriving at Avonmouth on Wednesday, January 2nd, and the R.M.S.P. "Trent," which left Barbados at noon on December 26th, reaching Southampton at 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 6th. Rainy weather had been experienced in most of the islands, with the exception of Barbados, where a

good soaking would be of benefit. Our Correspondents still complained bitterly of the mail arrangements, and we make the following extracts from their letters:—

The Worm quits Antigua.

There was not much of interest to report when Mr. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on December 18th; the weather was still unsettled and stormy, with frequent little showers. The cane and cotton crops generally looked well over most of the island, and the "worms" seemed to have left the latter at last, defeated after a great struggle. The capital was all secured locally for taking over the cotton factory from the Government, and the company which had taken it over would continue to gin cotton at the same rates as formerly.

Dr. Watts was expected to arrive from England in a few days. Following on the advice of Sir Daniel Morris, that delegates from the West Indies should interview the Canadian sugar refiners so as to arrive at a fuller understanding between sugar producers and refiners, the Agricultural and Commercial Society had requested Mr. A. P. Cowley, who was at present in Canada, to act on behalf of Antigua in this connection.

A successful Exhibition in Barbados.

Writing on December 23rd, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that there had been no heavy rain since December 1st, and in some cases another soaking would be very desirable. In most places, however, light showers had fallen, and the ground was sufficiently moist. The canes had much improved, and the planted fields were showing a good spring. It was curious how, during the last six months, short bursts of rain had alternated with periods of entire drought, and the writer's letters must have seemed strangely contradictory. It was satisfactory to hear favourable views of the prospects of the sugar market.

The annual exhibition of the Agricultural Society was held at Queen's House on December 19th, and was generally thought to be the best that had ever taken place. The show of inland bred horses was very good, no less than fourteen being exhibited, and pigs, goats, &c., were also excellent. The show of cotton was very large and of excellent quality, and the native pottery showed a marked advance on previous years. It was sad to see the state to which the grounds had come in the short time which had elapsed since the departure of the troops, but this was nothing to St. Lucia, where as Sir Daniel Morris had told the writer, the barracks on the Morne, many of them new and never occupied, were already a mass of jungle, and of course would become once more the home of the fer-de-lance and other reptiles. In response to an urgent request from Liverpool, the Permanent Exhibition Committee hoped to arrange to send a selection of the products of Barbados to the exhibition shortly to be held there.

The writer concluded that the new postal arrangements would come into operation after January 1st, as announced, and that by next mail it would be possible to send to England 1 oz. for 1d.* A similar act with regard to postage had just been passed in Barbados, with the addition that 4 ozs. might be sent by parcel post for 1½d.

British Guiana and Lime Cultivation.

When Mr. J. C. McCowan wrote on December 21st the cable was again interrupted, and in consequence very little was being done in the sugar market. Crystals were quoted at \$1.97½. Nice rains had fallen during the fortnight, and had been fairly general throughout the colony.

Two very successful shows had been held under the auspices of the Board of Agriculture, the Agricultural Show in September, and the Live Stock Show in December. The Hon. B. Howell Jones, in the absence of Professor Harrison, acted as Chairman of the General Committee, and Mr. T. S. Hargreaves as Hon. Secretary for both shows, while Colonel Lushington was Chairman of the Live Stock section, with Mr. Oscar Weber as Hon. Secretary. Sir A. M. Ashmore's death had been widely deplored in the colony, and there had been expressions of sympathy with Lady Ashmore on every side.

Mr. T. S. Hargreaves has forwarded to us a return of the gold, diamond and forest exports of the colony for November, 1906, with which we reproduce the figures for the month of October for purposes of comparison:—

	November, 1906.	October, 1906.
Gold	7,625	11,500 ozs.
Diamonds...	1,048	80 carats.
Timber, greenheart, &c.	21,352	1,137 cub. ft.
Lumber	141	2,126 ft.
Charcoal	5,533	5,599 bags.
Shingles	198,000	246,000
Wallaba and hardwood posts	50	231
Woods, Firewood	413	573 tons.
Gums, locust, &c.	236	2,059 lbs.
Balata	41,654	190,097 lbs.
Railway sleepers	2,000	—

* We are informed by the G.P.O. that no alteration will be made in the postal rates at present, probably not before October next.—Ed.

The Official Gazette has published the report of Mr. R. Ward, the Agricultural Assistant, on his journey with Mr. R. W. L. Bennett, who recently visited the colony in search of land suitable for the cultivation of limes. Mr. Bennett satisfied himself that British Guiana was the most promising place to grow limes, and that there was an unlimited area of land admirably suited for the purpose, and fixed upon Bartica as being most convenient for his operations. Samples of limes were taken from various districts and tested for citric acid, the analyses showing from 10.8 to 13.4 ozs. per gallon as being present.

The Inconvenience of the deficient Mail Service for Dominica.

Persistent rains had fallen until a day or two before Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on December 22nd. They were accompanied by really severe winds, severe enough to do slight damage in some parts of the island.

It was important that something should be done with regard to the mails; the one intercolonial steamer per month was practically useless, and Mr. Agar would endeavour in this connection to send by next opportunity a list of dates and steamers by which mails had been despatched and delivered. A broker had written: "We are in receipt of your letter dated 25th ult., and note that you had to write before receipt of your mail letters detained at Barbados. Nothing could be more unsatisfactory or unfair than the present system as far as the Northern Islands are concerned." There was to be a meeting of the Planters' Association on the evening of the 22nd, when it was proposed to pass a resolution calling for a second steamer.

Business brisk in Jamaica.

Nice weather prevailed when Mr. J. L. Ashenheim wrote on December 20th, and it was dry and cool. Business was very brisk, and apparently money was being spent readily. At the monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society, the Secretary presented the Finance and Office Committee's report on the estimates for 1907-8, and a motion was passed unanimously to the effect that the Government should be asked for a grant of £1,400 for the use of the Society for the next financial year. The present grant is £1,250.

The stranding of the Hamburg-American's splendid steamer, "Prinzessin Victoria Louise," off Plumb Point lighthouse, on December 16th, at about 9.30 p.m., through what appeared to have been an error of judgment on the part of the captain, was a sad disaster, and from what the writer had gathered, the ship would be a total wreck.

A severe gale in Nevis.

Writing on December 8th, the Hon. C. A. Shand stated that since last advices copious rains had fallen all over the island, and the outlook for 1907 was promising. Those planters who made an early start with their cotton were already busy picking when the weather permitted, but frequent showers had proved an obstacle up to the present, and a few days of dry weather would prove a boon. On December 1st a strong northerly blow with violent rain squalls was experienced, and some damage both to canes and cotton occurred, especially in the most exposed districts. The cotton worm was still *en evidence*, and had to be carefully followed up at all stages of the cotton plant's growth. There was no doubt that the cotton planters' lot involved a great amount of anxiety, but there was money to be made out of the industry if conducted scientifically, and the crop came in so rapidly that there was not the long period of waiting out of pocket that attended the cultivation of the sugar cane. It was to be regretted that no delegate from Nevis would attend the Conference to be held in Jamaica from January 12th to the 17th, as the finances of the society were not in a condition to bear such a strain, especially as they would have to contribute a large sum in March next towards the prize list of their Agricultural Show, which this time would not be so liberally supported as heretofore from the funds of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the grant-in-aid having to be divided between St. Kitts and Nevis, as both islands had decided to hold Agricultural Shows simultaneously. The inadequate means of transit proved an insurmountable barrier to the conveyance of exhibits from Nevis to St. Kitts. The only exhibits that might have had a chance of success would have been non-perishable articles, and, perhaps, some of the hardier vegetable tribe; but fruit, flowers, plants, and live stock would have been quite out of court, and indeed, no owner of the last-named would have run the risk of transit. At St. Kitts, of course, entirely different conditions prevailed, as there was no class of peasant proprietors there, whilst in Nevis this element predominated.

The writer had the pleasure of witnessing the rifle contest for the Strickland trophy, the finish to which was of an intensely interesting nature. The machinery for the new ginney and oil extracting plant had arrived, and a start had been made in preparing the site for its erection on the bay side, just

to the right of the landing-place. It was hoped that the venture might prove successful, as it would in that case largely contribute to the prosperity of Nevis.

More Complaints about the Mails from St. Kitts.

As illustrating the present state of the mail service, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson stated in his letter of December 20th that on the 15th he received London letters dated November 28th, and then, on the 19th, those posted a week before came to hand. Parcels per S.S. "Naparima" arrived on the 15th, and letters advising same on the 19th only. Sometimes a lucky few heard of a sloop going to Dominica, and sent there to catch the "Yare," but the public generally knew nothing of these chances until after they had gone. Cases similar to the above had occurred when remittances were being sent, which, on arrival in London, had not been advised, resulting in annoyance to bank and customer on both sides of the water.

The weather during the past few days had been characterised by a prevalence of strong northerly winds, with frequent flying scuds of rain measuring from 1.50 to 2.50 inches. The sugar crop for 1907 looked in fine condition, and reaping would begin early in the new year; the spring of young cane for 1908 was exceptionally good. Cotton was coming in now in large quantities, the main trouble being the difficulty in getting it dried and cleaned for ginning. The Agricultural Society was trying to arrange to send one or two members as lay representatives to the Conference in Jamaica in January, but unfortunately it came at a time of the year when it was exceedingly difficult for qualified men to be absent from the island.

Medals for St. Vincent Cotton Growers.

Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co., in their letter of December 24th, expressed the pleasure which was felt on hearing that the cotton delegates would still visit the West Indies, and it was hoped that this visit would be productive of general good to the islands.

Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on the same date, reported that since last advices there had been showery weather and high winds, which had kept the cotton back somewhat. To date, over 100 bales of lint had been ginned at the central cotton factory, and shipments would probably be made that week. Some samples of the present crop had been valued at 2s. per lb., an advance of 4d. on last year's prices. The two gold medals offered by Sir Alfred Jones to cotton growers in St. Vincent on 1906 crop results had been awarded to Mr. Alex. Smith, of Argyle Estate, a large grower, and Mr. Charles Layne, of Good Hope, a small grower. An effort had been made to appoint representatives to the Agricultural Conference to be held in Jamaica, but owing to the altered steamer arrangements it was doubtful if anyone would be able to go. It would mean, as far as could be seen, leaving the island on December 26th and remaining thirteen days at Barbados before the "Port Kingston" arrived, and another week at Barbados after her return. The other islands were apparently better placed.

Professor Annett, of the Liverpool School of Pathology, arrived by the last mail, and was working on the important anthrax question.

Alteration in the Trinidad Council Arrangements.

Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., stated, in a letter dated December 24th, that with regard to the procedure of the Legislative Council, something between the existing system of monthly meetings all the year through and a continuous session, had been adopted. The Council would in future meet once a fortnight between November 1st and March 31st, leaving the rest of the year free. A meeting of the Council had been held at which the second reading of the ordinance for providing immigration funds for the period from June 1st, 1907, to March 31st, 1908, was moved, the extra three months being added so as to bring the immigration figures in line with the financial year of the colony. Considerable discussion took place, and the second reading was subsequently passed. Mr. David renewed his attack on the system, but did not meet with support.

The first three days of the fortnight had been dry, but since then rain had fallen every day, some of the showers being very heavy. Canes had benefited much, and the prospects of the cacao crop were considerably brightened. In the northern districts the fruit had ripened up with great rapidity, and planters were experiencing difficulty with regard to their drying facilities. In the Southern districts, where the crop was not so forward, there were strong indications of large and continuous pickings during the months of January and February. The trees had also taken on small pods and flowers, and with the continuance of the present good weather they might look for a bumper crop. The excellent prospects had had an appreciable effect on the market, and prices were now easier. Supplies were also more liberal, and with the demand at the high rates falling off in the consuming centres, exporters had been unable to maintain the high prices ruling when Mr. Fenwick last wrote. Deliveries in town were exceeding the expectations of the more sanguine, and as soon as the immediate needs of the manufacturers were satisfied a fall in prices might be looked for.

SHIPMENTS.			
Totals at last report	...	...	...
Dec. 11th.—S.S. "La Plata"	...	135,394	Trinidad.
" 12th.—S.S. "Oruro"	...	126	"
" 15th.—S.S. "Grenada"	...	100	"
" 18th.—S.S. "Prins Wm. I"	...	3,564	"
		49	"
Total to date	...	139,233	"
			33,417 Venezuela.
			— " Europe. ●
			— " Canada
			627 " New York.
			50 " Europe.
			34,094 Venezuela.

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 thank the Mirrlees Watson Company, Limited, for a copy of "Sugar and the Sugar Cane," by Noel Doerr, a review of which has already appeared in our columns. (Vol. XX., page 379).

A Tour through the West Indies, E. G. Wood, 1s. 1d. The title of an interesting lecture by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, M.J.C., published in pamphlet form, comprising one of a series of Wood's Lantern Lectures. The lecture, which has been delivered to appreciative audiences in the neighbourhood of London and elsewhere, gives an excellent sketch of these Western possessions of the Empire, their natural beauties, historic and other interests, and is associated with a varied series of beautiful lantern views.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

COTTON IN INDIA. The cotton crop of India for 1906-7 is estimated at 5,105,000 bales, 21,826,000 acres being in cultivation, as against the crop of 3,395,000 bales from 20,829,000 acres in 1905-6.

A RECENT WEDDING. A marriage was solemnised at Littleham, Exmouth, on December 27th last, between Miss Evelyn Laura Carter, second daughter of Sir Gilbert T. Carter, Governor of Barbados, and Captain W. N. White, of the Army Service Corps.

A BARBADOS FIRM. We are informed that Messrs. J. P. Shepherd and R. G. Cave have retired from the business of Messrs. W. L. Johnson & Co., Ltd., of Barbados, which will be carried on as heretofore under the management of Mr. H. L. Johnson and Mr. F. H. Johnson.

A CORDIAL INVITATION. In a letter addressed to the *International Sugar Journal*, Mr. H. C. Hinton, of Madeira, invites any sugar planter in England interested in the Naudet process to see it in operation on his property there. The crushing season begins the first week in March.

MR. RANDOLPH RUST. His many friends will be glad to learn that a cable has been received to the effect that Mr. Randolph Rust, who by recent advices was reported to be suffering from a sharp attack of appendicitis, has made rapid progress towards recovery, and is now out and about again.

ST. THOMÉ LABOUR. It is expected that the report of the Commission appointed by some of the leading cacao firms in this country to investigate the labour conditions under which the St. Thomé and Principe cacao is grown will be in the hands of the principals at the end of the current month.

OIL IN MEXICO. Oil-bearing lands of great value have been discovered in the extreme south of Mexico by Messrs. Pearson & Sons. These are within easy reach of the Tehuantepec Railway, and the English Company's prospects of becoming the first large producer of oil in Mexico are excellent.

COLONIAL OFFICE. The post of Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, vacated by the retirement of Mr. F. Graham, C.B., has been conferred on Mr. H. W. Just, C.B., C.M.G., a principal clerk in the Colonial Office, who accompanied Mr. Chamberlain on his visit to South Africa in 1902-3.

WHERE IS LANCASHIRE? Mr. Thomatis' Caravonica cotton was awarded the silver medal at the Turcoing International Textile Exhibition, and even received special commendation from the President of the French Republic. Mr. Thomatis has stated that the whole of his standing crop has been purchased by French and Belgian spinners.

COTTON IN BARBADOS. Recent accounts of the cotton industry in Barbados are not so promising, and it is not expected that much will ultimately be grown in this island except as a catch-crop on sugar estates. The shallow nature of the soil on most parts of the island necessitates heavy farming and manuring to keep it going, which is only obtainable on the sugar estates.

CASTE AND SUGAR. According to the *Commercial Intelligence*, the agitation which has been spread by Swadeshi agitators in India among the Hindoos against the use of European refined sugars on the ground that bones, blood, &c., are used in refining, is being extended to Java sugar also; in fact, that all white sugar is to be regarded as unclean for the reasons given.

OUR BIGGEST BATTLESHIP. The battleship "Dreadnought," commanded by Captain Bacon, has left Portsmouth for her maiden commission. She proceeds first on an experimental cruise, which is to extend over three months. During this period the "Dreadnought" will visit Gibraltar and the West Indies, and carry out an exhaustive series of trials. On returning to England she will become a Chatham ship.

A "POCKET GUIDE." Mr. Edward Stanford announces for immediate publication "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies." It is an entirely new work, and is intended to meet the varied requirements of the large and increasing number of tourists and others who, for reasons of health, pleasure, or business, visit our West Indian possessions. The volume will be of convenient size, and will be well provided with illustrations and maps.

THE SUGAR TAX. The minutes of the sugar section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce record a request that a circular letter should be addressed to all members of the section, who are widely scattered over the north of England, urging them to communicate with their Members of Parliament reminding those gentlemen of their pledges to vote for the repeal of the sugar duties on the occasion of the discussion of the Budget in 1907.

OBITUARY. A well-known character passed away on the 2nd of this month in the person of the Hon. Oscar Marescaux, of Jamaica. Manager of the branch of the Colonial Bank for over thirty years, he intimately associated himself with the island, and on his retirement on a pension at the end of 1900, was nominated an official member of the Legislative Council, a position which he held until the time of his death. He was also Custos of the parish of St. Andrew.

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.

WHY IS IT? The Admiralty have issued an important notice relative to precautions to be adopted by merchantmen in approaching certain British and colonial ports in time of war, or when the relations between Great Britain and a foreign country are in a state of tension—at which "examination steamers" will be stationed—and a list of the ports to which the notice refers is appended. In our Islands in the west only two ports are mentioned—Bermuda and Kingston, Jamaica. Is this because of the uncertainty of cable communication with the rest of the British West Indies?

THE OLD STORY. The *Clarion* of British Honduras complains bitterly of the interference of the Crown Agents as regards the Stann Creek railway. The Secretary of State's despatch, it says, clearly shows that the Colonial Office has no intention of allowing the colony to handle its affairs without the intervention of the Crown Agents, in spite of the bitter experiences the colony has had in its dealings with them, and there is no use in the Council wasting valuable time in devising plans and schemes for the improvement of the colony only to have them vetoed by the Crown Agents.

SIR A. JONES' TOUR. Sir Alfred Jones and his guests, who left Avonmouth in the "Port Kingston" on Saturday, December 29th last, arrived at Barbados at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8th. All on board the "Port Kingston" were well. A meeting was held, at which speeches were made by Hon. F. J. Clarke, Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Earl of Dudley, Sir Alfred Jones, Mr. H. O. Arnold Forster, and Mr. J. A. Hulton, and later in the day the "Port Kingston" continued her voyage to Jamaica with the delegates who are to attend the West Indian Agricultural Conference.

MR. VEZEY. After thirty years service with the R.M.S.P. Co., Mr. C. E. Vezey is leaving that company to take over the important position of Assistant-Manager to the well-known tourist firm of Messrs. Cook & Son at Cairo. Mr. Vezey made a speciality of tourist arrangements while in the employ of the Royal Mail Company, and systematically advocated the West Indies as a tourist and health resort. Mr. Vezey carries with him to his new employ the goodwill of the Directors and his colleagues, and his many West Indian friendships will, we are sure, not cease on the assumption of his new duties at the end of the current month.

COTTON PRICES. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that since their last report, Sea Island

descriptions have remained firm in price, but owing to the absence of stock, very little business has been done. Factors in Charlestown are holding for 25d. without success, and it is to be hoped that they will continue to do so until West Indians are sold. During the fortnight ended January 10th, 95 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool 6.70d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 18½d. per lb.; medium fine, 19½d. per lb.; fine, 21d. per lb. Price paid 17½d.

A SERIOUS OBJECTION. One of the curious possibilities of wireless telegraphy, reports the *Indian Trade Journal*, and one that shows how much remains to be accomplished in the way of perfecting detail before wireless messages can command full public confidence as regards secrecy, has been brought to light in Switzerland. There is at Fort Stockli, on Mont St. Gothard, a wireless telegraph station, which, during the hot summer months was subjected, especially during the hours immediately following midnight, to strange "influences" which for some time baffled the operators. These "influences" became stronger as the heat became more intense, and then the receiving apparatus solved the mystery by reproducing nightly, between midnight and 2 a.m., a series of messages, in English. The explanation was, that owing to the marked presence of electricity in the atmosphere of the Alps during the high temperature, messages from Poldhu, in Cornwall, were reproducing themselves on Mont St. Gothard. This tendency to undesirable dissemination of messages would form a great objection to the adoption of the system in the West Indies for political and commercial work.

ROYAL MAIL STAFF DINNER. Mr. Alfred S. Williams presided over the first annual staff dinner of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, January 4th. There was a very large attendance, and when the toast list, which included besides the loyal toasts the R.M.S.P. Co., the Chairman and Directors, the Staff, and the Sea Staff, had been disposed of, a programme of vocal and instrumental music was admirably rendered by R.M.S.P. amateurs. Mr. J. S. Jewell and Mr. H. J. Terry contributed the lighter portion of the entertainment, and their songs were rapturously applauded. Other performers were Mr. A. Darton, Messrs. E. J. and A. T. Cason, Mr. H. J. Bailey, Mr. J. S. Morris, Mr. F. J. Haywood, Mr. D. S. Webster, Messrs. W. E. and C. E. Richardson, Mr. C. J. Le Feuvre, and Mr. J. B. Ward, the latter reciting in dashing style Ingoldsby's "Look at the Clock." Those present endeavoured to do so through the cloud of tobacco smoke which pervaded the atmosphere, and it appearing that it was already past midnight, proceedings were brought to a close by the hearty rendering of "God Save the King" by the full strength of the company.

AS SHE IS WROTE! We have received from a correspondent in West Africa the following delightful rendering of the 23rd Psalm, which was found written out in a bold handwriting on a piece of paper in a native hut:—

Diety is my pastor. I shall not be indigent.
 He maketh me to recumb on the verdant lawns. He leadeth me beside the unrippled liquidities.
 He restoreth my spirit. He conducteth me in the avenues of restitnde for the cilibriety of his appelations.
 Indubitably though I parambulate through the glen of the umbrages of the sepulchral dormittries I shall not be perturbed by any appalling catastrophe, for thou art present thy wand and thy crook insinuate delectation.
 Thou spreadest a reflection before me in the midst of inimical scruputations. Thou performest my locks with odoriferous ugent my chalice excubrates.
 Unquestionably benignity and commisseration shall continue all the diuternity of my vitality and I shall eternalize my habinance the mistropolis of nature.

God save the King!

One can picture in one's mind the translator diligently poring over his version of Common Prayer in Hausa, and his triumph at the result!

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., Jan. 1.—The King and Queen arrived at Chatsworth.—No beet call.
 Wed., Jan. 2.—The term of office of Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, G.C.M.G., Governor of Cape Colony, extended from March next until August, 1903.—The New Liverpool Cotton Exchange opened for business.—The R.M.S. "Port Henderson" arrived at Avonmouth.—88% Beet, 8s. 9½d., quiet.
 Thur., Jan. 3.—The first sod of the Franco-British Exhibition, 1908, at Shepherd's Bush, cut by Count H. de Manneville.—Beet, 8s. 9½d., quiet.

- Fri., Jan. 4.—Assassination of General von der Launitz, Prefect of St. Petersburg, announced.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Sat., Jan. 5.—Funeral of Lady Burdett-Countess at Westminster Abbey.—Whiskey prosecution case further adjourned.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, and Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, President of the Free Churches Council, publish an "Appeal to the Nation" on the subject of Sunday observance.—Beet (morning call) 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Sun., Jan. 6.—Mr. W.W. Read, the famous Surrey cricketer, died.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent" arrived Southampton, 5 p.m.
- Mon., Jan. 7.—Trade and Navigation returns of the United Kingdom for 1906 issued by the Board of Trade.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Tues., Jan. 8.—Mr. Chamberlain's message to Canada appeared in the *Times*.—Death of the Shah of Persia.—The *Gazette* announced the promotion of Major-General Lord Dundonald, C.V.O., C.B., to the rank of Lieutenant-General, in succession to Sir Bindon Blood, K.C.B., promoted.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Wed., Jan. 9.—Death of the Queen of Hanover.—International Economic Congress opened in London under the presidency of Mr. Haldane.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston," from Avonmouth, arrived Barbados.—Beet, 8s. 9½d., steady.
- Thur., Jan. 10.—Departure of the Duke of Connaught on tour of inspection in Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Hong-Kong, and Egypt.—Beet, 8s. 10d., steady.
- Fri., Jan. 11.—Arrival of the "Port Kingston" at Jamaica with the delegates to the West Indian Agricultural Preference.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., quiet.
- Sat., Jan. 12.—Appointment of Mr. Birrell as Chief Secretary of Ireland in succession to Mr. Bryce announced.—Beet, 8s. 11d., easier (morning call).
- Sun., Jan. 13.—The R.M.S. "Port Antonio" left Avonmouth.
- Mon., Jan. 14.—Death of Dr. Scott, Principal of Glasgow University, announced.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., 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.

- DAILY (Sun. excepted)—Mr. West's animated photographs of the West Indies at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, at 3 p.m.
- Jan. 23-31.—Lectures on the West Indies by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway at Plymouth, Falmouth, &c.
- Mar. 5 to 19 (inclusive)—Colonial Products Exhibition, St. George's Hall, Liverpool.

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.

Lecturer.—Lantern slides of the West Indies can be obtained from Mr. E.G. Wood, 2, Queen Street, Cheapside, London, E.C., who has published a lecture entitled "A Tour through the West Indies," by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway.

Burscough.—Carriacou, in the Grenadines, is the only West Indian island which continued to grow cotton from the time when the cotton industry was first established. The credit for the revival of cotton-growing elsewhere is due to Messrs. Sendall and Wade, who experimented with cotton in St. Kitts some years ago, their example being followed by Mr. G. Carrington in Barbados in 1887.

G. C. A.—The value of the bananas exported from Barbados in 1905-6 was £6,706, but the number of bunches dealt with is not get-at-able on this side. The Imperial Department of Agriculture—addressed Barbados—could probably supply the information. The red banana is not grown in Barbados, but in Jamaica and Trinidad. The small yellow Barbados banana is the *Musa Cavendishii*.

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.

CHEVALIER HUGO HOFFMAN has returned to Trinidad and resumed charge of the Imperial German Consulate.

MAJOR A. P. LANGE, Trinidad Light Horse, has been granted leave of absence from November 30th, 1906, to April 11th, 1907.

Mr. JOSEPH A. KING, Crown Solicitor, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for three months, during which period Mr. C. G. Parnell will act in his place.

Mr. EDWARD BATESON has resigned the post of Attorney-General of St. Lucia, to which he succeeded in the year 1903. Prior to proceeding to the West Indies, Mr. Bateson was for two years a District and Stipendiary Magistrate in Mauritius.

The Hon. CHARLES T. COX, C.M.G., Government Secretary, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for three months from December 8th, with an extension of leave for four months, during which time Mr. J. Hampden King will act as Government Secretary.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 6 per cent. (changed on October 19th, 1906), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86½.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000l.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44... ..	100	4 %	102-104
375,000l.	"	Barbados - - 3½ " " " 1925-42... ..	100	3½ %	99-101
194,500l.	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935... ..	100	4 %	104-106
123,670l.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42... ..	100	4 %	100-102
1,098,907l.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934... ..	100	4 %	108-110
85,479l.	"	St. Lucia - - 4½ " " " 1919-44... ..	100	4½ %	101-103
422,593l.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " " 1917-42... ..	100	4 %	102-104
600,000l.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44... ..	100	3 %	85-87
100,000	20	The Colonial Bank	£6	7 %	6-6½
600,000l.	Stock.	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Ord. Stock	100	—	53-55
900,000l.	Stock.	" " " " Pref. Stock	100	5 %	91-93
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	—	½-½
46,874	5	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref.	5	—	—
347,500l.	Stock.	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	79-81
345,000l.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6 %	96-101
165,000l.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	—	18-21
115,000l.	Stock.	" " " " 7 % Preference	100	4 %	101-104
31,250	10	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference... ..	10	4½ %	8-9
70,000l.	Stock.	" " " " 4 % Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	94-96
60,500l.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debts. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	99-101
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.	£2 10 0	6 %	—
33,500l.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4½ %	99-101
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary	10	—	½-½
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	5½ %	7½-7½
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd "	10	—	5½-6½
80,000l.	100	" " " " 5% Deb	100	5 %	99-102

The Guiana Gold Company.

The second ordinary general meeting of this company was held at the Great Eastern Hotel, London, on November 28th last, Mr. C. W. Dawson, the Chairman of the Company, presiding. The report of Mr. Braddon, the Company's General Manager in Guiana, gave an encouraging account of the development of the properties. The dredge erection had been pushed on satisfactorily (a telegram subsequently received dredger fulfilling all functions satisfactorily.—Ed.) The raiding of the company's rights by "pork knockers" had given much trouble, rioting had taken place, and an armed force had to be despatched to restore order. This had had the desired effect, and the company's property had remained free from molestation for some time. The report of the Directors was duly accepted by the meeting, and the retiring Directors, Mr. George Knight and Mr. C. W. Dawson, re-elected.

Indian Distilleries and Sugar Factories, Limited.

Presiding at the annual general meeting held at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., Mr. W. S. Shaw explained that the Chairman, Mr. E. S. Ormerod, was at present in India, inspecting their different factories and distilleries. On his return that gentleman would write a report, which would, in due course, be circulated among the shareholders. It was a matter of regret that they were not able to put better results before the shareholders, but the directors could not control prices, which for the greater part of the year had been against them. The last beetroot crop turned out a very large one, and being more than the Continent could consume, India was, as usual, made the dumping ground for the surplus. When he mentioned that the price of raw refined sugar in Calcutta from January to May last year only averaged Rs.8.14 per cwt., as against Rs.11.14 for the same period in the previous year, they would understand how it was that the company's profits

were not larger. The bulk of the beet sugar came from Austria-Hungary, where, there was no doubt, shippers benefited very largely by the secret rebates given by the steamship and railway companies, which were heavily subsidised by the Government. The beetroot crop now being harvested was expected to turn out under that of last year. Consumption on the Continent, owing to the reduction in internal sugar taxes, had improved considerably. Imports of beet since June had been gradually diminishing, and prices had in consequence been steadily rising, so that he thought they might look to present prices being maintained for some months. The company's estimate of profits up to the end of the year, from September to December, were quite encouraging. The report was adopted.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

British Guiana (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), January 7th. "Showery and favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), January 7th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." January 9th. "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message on East and West Coast." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), January 9th. "We have just had an average fall of five inches." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Jan. 11th. "Heavy rain Demerara and Essequibo, moderate rain Berbice generally." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended December 26th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "fine." **KINGSTON**: "fine; strong north winds 23rd to 26th."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), January 6th:—Mr. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. M. Wright, Mr. C. H. Producers, Mr. S. P. Risco, Mr. M. A. Olaechea, Mr. C. Engelbrecht, Mr. W. Bennett, Mr. M. Jacoby, Mr. E. Hoch Koppler, Mr. R. H. P. Kewley, Mr. F. Bowes-Scott, Mr. J. Gauguin, Dr. J. Hasard, Mr. B. Tomasi, Mr. and Mrs. S. Straas, Miss Mitchell, Mr. de Pass, Mr. P. F. Croce, Mr. Mohamed Israil, Mr. S. E. Dowding, Mr. H. E. Anderson, Mr. W. Harrison, Mr. R. Morling, Mr. J. Nyström, Mr. H. M. Abbott, Mr. W. W. Todd, Captain E. Pallesen, Mr. J. Mitchell.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. T. R. Pearce), January 16th.—Mr. G. E. Jarvis, Mr. F. Hutton, Mr. W. B. Gibbs, Mrs. F. Aste, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Gordon, Miss Brenda Gordon, Major-Gen. Barton, Major and Mrs. Geo. Montgomerie, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Butler, Rev. and Mrs. James Rae, Mr. Alex. Lang, Miss Lang, Mr. H. Muir, Mr. and Mrs. Darnley Da Costa, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bowring, Mrs. Constance Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Grieve, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Morgan, Miss Frances Burton, Mr. Robert Boyle, Mr. G. E. S. Fryer, Mr. Fryer, junr., Mr. Charles Parke, Mr. J. I. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Evaristo Obregon and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Burton, Lt.-Col. H. G. Burrowes, R.F.A., Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Kennaway, Rev. E. G. A. Sutton, Miss Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Ridsdale, Mrs. O'Neale, Mr. Philip J. Whitaker, Rev. Father H. L. Koos, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. Nathaniel Ross, Mr. Carlos Behrens, Mr. Chas. T. Maw, two Misses Maw, Mr. Paul Vantieghe de Ten Berghe, two Misses Herry, Major C. W. Vesey, Miss da Costa, Mr. H. W. Hartridge, Dr. and Mrs. Argyll Robertson, Mr. A. F. Leyba, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Cox, Mr. F. Voelcker, Miss J. M. Leacock, Gen. Sir Thomas Kelly-Kenny, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thom, two Misses Thom, Mrs. R. J. and Miss N. Lockhart, Mr. and Mrs. F. Muir, Mr. V. Ferhenfeld, Mr. Karl Hamann, Mr. C. Zapp, Mr. A. E. Browne, Mr. Lee, Mr. A. S. Gaminara, Capt. and Mrs. J. J. Moses, Messrs. W. H. and W. Dickinson, Mr. J. Wedgwood, two Misses Wedgwood, Rev. H. A. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Maitland-Gordon, Mr. Broadbent, Mr. Mallalieu, Mr. Frank Merricks, Dr. W. H. Ince, Mr. Butler, Miss S. Foster, Mr. V. Cleall, Mr. C. H. Spooner, Mr. W. H. Hacking, Mrs. R. Brabazon Hardy, Miss Hirtzel, Mr. C. Mocatta, Capt. W. G. Cumming, Mr. J. T. Greg, Mr. Sidney, Mr. C. Winkee, Mrs. J. W. Tomlinson, Miss E. Tomlinson, Mr. M. C. Evans, Col. and Mrs. Gascoigne, Dr. J. D. Adamson, Mr. W. B. Scott, Rev. Father O'Byrne, Lt.-Col. C. J. Fox, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. O. R. Fellowes, Rev. G. H. Burnett, Mr. S. Abrahams, Mr. W. Klug, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Costa, Mrs. de Santana, Mr. S. Jurado, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Butler, Mr. H. B. Philipps.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per "R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), January 30th:—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hornsby, Miss Briscoe, Mr. H. Martin, Capt. and Mrs. Power, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Master d'Albuquerque, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. A. Herbert Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. C. Storey, Mr. N. G. Hackney, Mr. J. Dormeuil, Mr. Ebene Gallois, Miss D. Hutson, Hon. and Mrs. A. G. Bell, Miss Margaret Bell, Mr. Franz Wegener.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), January 2nd:—**Jamaica**: Mr. H. Butler, Mrs. Butler, Mr. A. Gray, Miss Hunt, Mr. Kirby, Mr. H. Mawer, Miss Pritchard, Mrs. Oliver Smith, Mr. L. G. Schwabe, Mr. P. MacFarlane.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), January 12th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. Arthur Ashworth, Lieut. A. C. Adair, Mr. A. C. Bealey, Mr. T. W. Carr, Mr. G. F. Fry, Mr. A. M. Fry, Miss J. Fail, Miss I. Fail, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. W. Franklin, Mr. R. Seton Graeme, Captain C. C. Higgins, Miss Higgins, Mr. H. G. Kingston,

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.—*continued.*

Sugar.—The position of sugar remains unchanged. If Cuba secures its crop, we have practically the same supplies of beet and cane before us as we had last season, and it remains to be seen whether the increased distribution of 1905/6 is maintained in 1906/7. On this point would seem to hang the question whether to day's price of 88%, 8s. 10½d., is too high or whether the 8s. 2½d. of this day last year was too low. Opinions, of course, vary widely on this point. It is also suggested that at the present currency there will be another curtailment in sowings, at least in the Convention Europe beet fields for 1907/8. This is greatly to be hoped, but the persistent quotation of about 9s. for October/December delivery may influence this action in another direction, and it is impossible at present to form any definite conclusion as to what extent of land will be put under beet cultivation. With all the flat indications of the Market that are paraded before us, and the absence of any demand for forward delivery of real sugar, Consumption for the first three months of the season appears to be satisfactory, and so far as can be seen at present, if any decline takes place in sugar during the spring and summer, such a decline may easily be measured by a few pence, whereas, if Cuban affairs become involved during crop time, a very different condition of things would quickly arise.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 14th January, were:—January, 8s. 10½d.; May, 9s. 1½d.; August, 9s. 3½d., and October/December, 9s. 0½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	3,060,000	3,120,000	2,730,000	3,280,000	3,060,000	Tons.
United States	130,000	160,000	70,000	90,000	120,000	..
Cuba... ..	50,000	20,000	40,000	90,000	70,000	..
Afloat	10,000	—	30,000	60,000	70,000	..
Total	3,250,000	3,300,000	2,870,000	3,520,000	3,320,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 14th Jan. :—	8s. 10½d.	8s. 2½d.	15s. 11½d.	8s. 1½d.	8s. 1½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There has again been a good demand for well-made yellow crystallised from 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d., and small lots of choice up to 18s., with considerable sales. These leave the value of average qualities 16s. 9d., which compares with 15s. 3d. for Refiners' imitations. Inferior grades from 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d. have also sold more freely. Last year's Consumption was the largest for five years, see figures below. The nominal value of 96 test to Refiners is 10s. 1½d. in bond, on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Steady, and low qualities still in good demand. Grocery kinds somewhat irregular. The value of 89 test remains about 8s. on floating terms, in bond.

Muscovado.—Unchanged. Grocery kinds quoted 14s. to 15s. For 89 test to Refiners the value is somewhere about 9s. in bond, on floating conditions.

West India Figures for 12 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	50,000	40,000	45,000	24,000	60,000	Tons.
Deliveries	48,000	41,000	47,000	41,000	43,000	..
Stocks, 29th Dec.	10,000	9,000	9,000	12,000	29,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, 14th Jan. :—	16s. 9d.	15s. 0d.	25s. 3d.	15s. 3d.	14s. 6d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 12 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Home Consumption	4,050,000	3,970,000	4,050,000	4,050,000	4,050,000	Galls.
Stocks 31st Dec.	6,630,000	7,140,000	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000	..
Stocks in London, 7th Jan. :—	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	6600	6700	8300	9200	8000	Pans.
Demerara	4600	5300	5500	8000	8000	..
Total of all kinds	18,400	19,100	20,860	27,110	27,110	..

Business in Demerara remains suspended, and as Importers hold firmly, quotations remain nominally 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3½d., proof. There are some 5000 Pans, here and known to be on the way waiting to be dealt with. Jamaicas are scarce and Standard Home Trade Marks are difficult to buy under 2s. 5d. Leewards and Foreign kinds are quoted 1s. to 1s. 4d. The year's Consumption in this Country, as given above, shows no expansion.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 12 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	23,207	24,182	27,191	27,191	27,191	Tons.
Home Consumption	19,816	20,757	20,229	20,229	20,229	..
Stocks 31st Dec.	2746	4521	5930	5930	5930	..
Stocks in London :—7th January :—	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	7100	11,700	21,400	10,900	10,900	Bags.
Grenada	4000	8500	10,000	9600	9600	..
Total of all kinds	44,800	65,900	82,600	51,700	51,700	..

The Market is very irregular but again at higher prices, and supplies on a much larger scale of West India cocoa in this Market are needed to keep the trade alive. It is to be hoped these will reach us in the course of the season. The latest sales have been on the following basis: Trinidad fair collected, 88s., Estate Marks, 90s. to 96s.; Grenada fair, 79s., fermented, 83s. to 86s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 77s., and fermented, 80s. to 86s. Consumption in this Country is only normal, see Board of Trade Returns for the last three years, printed above.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXXV.



The Right Hon. the Earl of Harewood.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Jan. 28th, 1907.

Telegrams: "CARR, LONDON." Telephone: 6682 CENTRAL.

ON Thursday next the "Port Kingston" is due to arrive at Avonmouth from Jamaica. She sailed for the West Indies on December 29th last with an enthusiastic party of visitors who were to attend the meetings of the sixth West Indian Agricultural Conference. She will return bringing with her the details of the events on that fateful Monday, January 14th, when Kingston was visited by an earthquake which destroyed the greater part of the city. That staunch Imperialist SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, who was to have come back in her, MR. A. McDOWELL NATHAN, who left Bristol in her, CAPTAIN CONSTANTINE, and many well-known residents have fallen victims to the disaster. Their loss is deplored and with the survivors the deepest sympathy is felt. But though the outlook must necessarily appear black to those who have lost their all, the spontaneous outburst of sympathy which has manifested itself in the mother country and the colonies affords a gleam of brightness, and the consequent hope that ready assistance will be forthcoming to enable the

life blood once more to circulate in Kingston, the heart of Jamaica, and business to be re-established

on its former substantial scale. The public are responding generously to the appeal of the Lord Mayor, the provincial relief funds are growing, and substantial assistance is already forthcoming from the colonies. At the request of SIR WILLIAM TRELOAR, the West India Committee has appointed a special sub-committee to confer with him as to the administration of the relief fund. To this committee several prominent subscribers to the fund, including the DUKE OF ABERCORN, have been added, and a meeting was held at the Mansion House yesterday. It was decided to send a telegram to the Governor of Jamaica to the effect that the Mansion House Committee, under the Presidency of the Lord Mayor, desired that the relief fund should be administered by the local relief committee in accordance with principles to be approved by the Governor, and further that the fund should be applied as far as possible towards assistance in re-building. It was also decided to notify the Press that, according to the latest telegram received from SIR ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM, money for this object is still needed, and that it is only of "gifts in kind" of which there is a sufficiency. If the fire insurance companies repudiate liability and, pleading the earthquake clause in the policies, refuse to do for Jamaica what they did for San Francisco, it is probable that much more will have to be done to avert disaster. Imperial assistance towards rebuilding will become absolutely essential, and the action of the West India Committee in representing this aspect of the case to the powers that be will be cordially endorsed by all who are interested in the progress and welfare of our colonies. Granted that such Imperial assistance be forthcoming, it is possible to look forward to the future with confidence. The prosperity of Jamaica is based on agriculture, and fortunately her agricultural industries have in no way suffered through the earthquake. With that resiliency characteristic of the tropics, they have already recovered from the cyclone of 1903, and the present year promises to establish a record as far as exports of the staples of the island are concerned. Then, again, there are the tourists. It is inconceivable that the reputation of Jamaica, with her four thousand two hundred square miles, can suffer through a disturbance which appears to have been confined to an area of about ten square miles. The Riviera has had earthquakes of a far more serious description than the one with which we are now dealing, and yet it suffers from no diminution in its visitors, and no one can ever think of the catastrophe which wrecked Nice and San Remo and its neighbourhood and involved the death of over 2,300 people, as in any way a deterrent to those going to those popular winter resorts. Fortunately, earthquakes of a serious nature are few and far between. The last one of any consequence which visited Jamaica occurred over two hundred years ago. In the natural course of events there is not likely to be any recurrence of the trouble for many more years to come; we trust, never.

TERRIBLE as the recent catastrophe at Kingston has been, it may yet prove to be highly beneficial to the Empire, if only one of the lessons which it teaches is taken to heart by the Government. Our lethargy must be deep indeed if we fail to realise the extent to which British prestige has suffered in consequence of the naval policy initiated by the late Government. Taking no account of the conditions of the Empire, and failing to grasp the fact that the British Navy, though primarily existing for purposes of war and destruction, has another and no less useful object, namely, the patrolling of His Majesty's dominions, what is known as the policy of the blue water school has been adopted by our rulers. The results of this policy, which is in direct opposition to the lessons of history, have now been exposed. The greatest sea power the world has ever seen has proclaimed its impotence; with the result that the relief of distress, the time-honoured privilege of our Navy, has had to be undertaken by the warships of America. We believe that for the first time in history England, who has always been able to help herself, has had to have one of her colonies assisted by a foreign power. This is not the place to enter into a detailed explanation of the various circumstances which have brought about so disastrous a state of affairs. Suffice it to say that following the counsels of those who were unable to grasp the idea of the Empire in its entirety, a "redistribution" of the Fleet and Army took place, which involved the withdrawal of the garrison and the removal of the White Ensign from the seas

where it had so long and glorious a record. As a sop to those who cavilled at this short-sighted policy, and in response to the urgent representations of the West India Committee, one small cruiser, the "Indefatigable," was left to patrol the Caribbean, with the result that at the time of the disaster it was at Trinidad, and over a week elapsed before a British warship was seen at Kingston. And great as must be our thanks to our American cousins for their prompt and noble help, at the same time we trust we shall not be construed into giving utterance to any feeling of ingratitude when we say that a small gunboat flying our flag would have given more encouragement to our own people than did the Stars and Stripes of America. The sense of isolation would have been removed, and a feeling that the mother country was near at hand to render assistance, would have been implanted in the minds of the residents. And even if it were not possible for us to have any cruisers at Kingston, all the less justification exists for the withdrawal of the garrison. It will be remembered that Mr. Balfour received an important deputation from the West India Committee just before the fall of his Ministry on this very point. It was then understood that some steps would be taken to remedy the condition of things. The Government has since changed, and the whole matter has been relegated to the limbo of official pigeon-holes. What will be the outcome? As we have pointed out in our columns again and again, we are steadily losing our grip on the West Indies, our prestige is being lowered, England is falling back and apparently displaying a lack of interest in the affairs of these colonies. This is one side of the picture. On the other hand we see the great power of the new world advancing and occupying every coign of vantage which we have deserted. We do not say this in any spirit of animosity to the great nation which is allied to us by ties which cannot be broken. The result is only natural in the friendly rivalry of trade, and this sort of thing will go on so long as this country displays such lethargy in matters of commerce, and continues to play fast and loose with the sentiments of its colonial subjects.

THE formation of permanent exhibition committees in the several West India Islands marked a distinct advance in the realisation of the good to be derived from advertising the commercial and tourist capabilities of the colonies. This is a day of advertisement, and those who rely upon the old-fashioned maxim as to good wine needing no bush, are in great danger of being left behind in the march of the world's competition. We have often put forward the great good derivable from industrial exhibitions, and the fact is now so generally recognised as to make any reference to it one of supererogation. Still it may safely be said that only recently have the West Indies really become alive to this fact, and the permanent exhibition committees have resulted. The West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition in 1905 was a great success, but it would have been a greater success still had these committees been then in existence. The recent Dominica fruit display at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show of Colonial Fruit, formed an excellent illustration of the value of permanent committees. We may safely say that no West Indian exhibit of its kind has been so well and cheaply done, and at the same time served its end so satisfactorily as this one has, and the fact that this has been the case may be attributed to the care, attention, and organisation of the permanent committee of Dominica. But something more is wanted than the formation of these committees—and that is communication between them with the view to unanimity in representation. A Barbados exhibit is good, a Dominica exhibit is good, and a Jamaica exhibit is good, but the greatest good is derived from the union of them all. No British exhibition dealing with the colonies should be without a West Indian Court, and that Court should contain sections representing not only every West Indian colony, but every industry and interesting feature in connection with them. This can only be brought about by unanimity of view and action among the permanent committees on the other side. These should act not merely for their individual colonies but for the West Indies as a whole as well. We cannot too strongly emphasise the fact that the interest of any one colony is bound up in that of the whole. In a united exhibition the special characteristics of one section contrast with those of

another—to the advantage of all, and we strongly impress upon the permanent exhibition committees of the West Indies the desirability of co-operation in future exhibitions on this side. There is another matter in this connection to which attention should be drawn, and that is the financial side of the question. At present several of the colonies are compelled to hold aloof from these exhibitions for the sufficiently good reason that no funds are available for the purpose of their participation in them. Now it seems to us that the best way of obviating this difficulty would be for each West Indian colony to include in its estimates a small vote for the express purpose of exhibitions. The permanent committees would then have some solid basis upon which to work. They would know exactly how much money they had to spend, and would not be obliged to go cap in hand to the Government when each separate exhibition proposal is made. There would be no necessity for a large sum of money, and judging from our experience which we have gained during the past few years, we believe that a great deal could be done with a vote of from two hundred and fifty or three hundred pounds in the case of the larger colonies, and a hundred pounds in the smaller places. We understand that a communication on this subject has already been addressed to the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the Hon. Correspondents of the West India Committee, and we further commend our suggestion to the serious consideration of our readers.

THE EARL OF HAREWOOD.

Lord Harewood was educated at Eton. For some years subsequently he held a commission in the Grenadier Guards, from which he retired as Captain. In 1878, he was attached to a special mission to Spain, and he succeeded his father in 1892. He married Lady Florence Katherine Bridgeman, daughter of the third Earl of Bradford, in 1881. Lord Harewood is the present representative of a family of Barbados sugar proprietors, which has been connected with that island for many generations, their possessions dating back to the beginning of the eighteenth century. The estates belonging to the Harewood family in Barbados, are Belle, Mount, Thicket and Fortescue's. Lord Harewood is a member of the West India Committee.

STOP PRESS.—An Important Announcement.

After going to press we have learnt that the intercolonial steamer of the R.M.S.P. Co. is about to be taken off. Barbados, feeling that she was paying more than her share for it, has refused to renew the subsidy of £3,200 per annum. The last connection with Demerara will be made by the steamer leaving Barbados on March 26th, and due at Demerara on March 29th. The steamer will return to Barbados on March 30th. No passengers will be booked from the Northern Islands after March 22nd, though the "Yare" will continue to ply as at present. We assume that Barbados would not object to paying the subsidy if she enjoyed the same privileges as under the old mail contract, namely, if she were headquarters, and there were two intercolonial steamers. We still feel, therefore, that it is in a contract providing for the use of two intercolonial steamers that a solution of the present difficulty must lie. It is reasonable to expect that the Treasury should contribute substantially towards the provision of such steamers, as it did prior to 1905; but loyal co-operation between the Colonies is also absolutely essential.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, January 24th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
SAMUEL ALLSOPP & SONS, Ltd.	Col. F. C. Trollope.	Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
W. MEADOWCROFT & SONS, Ltd.	F. N. Martinez.	W. P. B. Shephard.
W. STEDMAN ARCHER (Dominica).	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall.
A. CONSTANTINE GOFFE (Jamaica).	R. P. Goffe.	E. A. de Pass.
A. CORY DAVIS (Trinidad).	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	E. A. de Pass.
G. WILLIAMS (St. Lucia).	S. D. Melville.	Hon. E. du Boulay.
G. F. SUTTON, SONS & Co.	F. N. Martinez.	Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.
Capt. JOHN K. KIRKHAM (Barbados).	T. W. Wilkinson.	R. Rutherford.
Dr. J. F. E. BRIDGER (Barbados).	T. W. Wilkinson.	R. Rutherford.
Major E. B. WALKER (Tobago).	E. L. Marshall.	John Evans.
DAVID R. DA COSTA.	Cyril Gurney.	E. A. de Pass.

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.



Photograph by]

[Dr. J. JOHNSON.

A BAMBOO GLADE ON WORTHY PARK ESTATE,
JAMAICA.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN JAMAICA.

From the mass of cabled messages regarding the Jamaica earthquake which have been received, it is now possible to form something like a connected narrative, though the arrival of the next homeward mail must be awaited before a complete account of the disaster can be furnished. Business appears to

have been proceeding in the ordinary manner in Kingston, on Monday, Jan. 14th. Tourists and others were making their purchases in the various stores, and the only unusual event was the meeting of the sixth West Indian Agricultural Conference, which was in progress at the Collegiate Hall.* Between 3.30 and 4 p.m. in the afternoon the sky became dark, and a rush of wind gave warning of impending trouble. Then, three distinct shocks of earthquake were felt. A party of ten had been



Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica.

lunching with Sir Alexander Swettenham at the Jamaica Club. They included Sir James Fergusson, who had arrived by the Royal Mail steamer on the day before. The party had broken up, and Sir James Fergusson appears to have been in the tobacco shop of Mr. J. B. Machado, which fell around him, killing immediately not only the distinguished Cri-



The Jubilee Market, Kingston.

mean veteran, but also Mr. Machado. The Hon. Henry Cork and Mr. Henniker Heaton, who had been

* The cabled messages give the Collegiate Hall as the place of meeting; but it was previously announced that the Conference would meet in the old Mico Institute.

at the luncheon, were returning from the Post Office when the earthquake took place. In a message to the *Times* which appeared on January 18th, Mr. Henniker Heaton gave a vivid description of what occurred. The moment the ground began to quake thousands of people rushed and jumped into the street from the houses. A huge building fell across the road, a yard before them, and another building blocked the street behind. On their left, a third building fell into the street. Then followed absolute darkness. Great clouds of dust, mortar, and *débris* filled the air for five minutes, and when the light was restored Mr. Heaton and his companion found themselves black with dust and dirt like negroes. It was, he added, a miraculous escape.

The scene which followed baffles description. Women were embracing their little children. Others were on their knees praying loudly and with the most intense feeling to God with such words as "Lord, have mercy on us," "God, have mercy on us," "Christ, have mercy on us and save us." Some were fainting, and others running wildly looking for their loved ones. Mr. Heaton climbed over the fallen loads of bricks and mortar and got back to the club. It was in ruins, with the roof collapsed, and the room where they had been lunching was filled with tons of bricks from the fallen walls. A young fellow, hatless and coatless, and with a handkerchief round his head, addressed Mr. Heaton in the street outside the club for several minutes. At length something peculiar struck him, and he asked if he was Gerald Loder, his friend for many years in the House of Commons, and an ex-M.P. for Brighton. He said, "Yes." He was writing in the reading-room on the second floor of the club when the roof fell in. He had been pinned to the floor by the roof, but by freeing himself from his coat he escaped on to the parapet and descended by a ladder into the street.

The number of houses destroyed.

That night many bivouacked on the lawn of the Constant Spring Hotel, from whence the blaze of the fire rolling over the city could be seen. Mr. Henniker Heaton visited Kingston next day, and estimated that 98 out of every 100 houses were in ruins. Mr. Percival Phillips, who accompanied Sir Alfred Jones' party as special correspondent of the *Evening Standard*, also gave a graphic description of the disaster. According to his account, the direction of the three successive shocks was from west to east. The first was the severest, and did the greatest damage. The whole city seemed to shrivel up. The buildings crashed together, and fell into a crushed mass like egg-shells. The business streets in the lower parts of the city were well-filled with tourists, and there is no doubt that many were caught by the falling brickwork and buried in the *débris*. The shocks disorganised the electric supply service and the gas, and immediately after the crash fires broke out at three separate spots in the district where the wharves and warehouses are situated. A brisk wind had sprung up from the southwest, and it fanned the flames, which were soon raging along the entire harbour front and eating their way northwards into the residential portion of the city.

The fire brigade station in Sutton Street had been wrecked, and the fire apparatus was destroyed. This made resistance to the flames impossible, and they continued their course unchecked until the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 15th. By that time the whole business quarter of the city had been wiped out of existence—an area of about one square mile, extending from the Parade to Harbour Street, including King Street, Harbour Street, Tower Street, Orange Street, and West Street. One of the Royal Mail piers and several of the adjoining wharves were also destroyed. All the large warehouses in the lower part of the city were consumed, while not a single house anywhere was undamaged, and the majority are not fit for habitation.

Sir Alfred Jones was not at the sitting of the conference at the moment. He lunched at Myrtle Bank Hotel, in Harbour Street, and then went out at the back of the building with Mr. Jesse Collings on to the lawn by the harbour side. As they were crossing the lawn the earthquake occurred, and the hotel collapsed. Many of the inmates were killed, including Captain Young, of the coasting steamer "Arno," and Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, who was at the time in the barber's shop on the right-hand side of the entrance gates. The Treasury Building in Harbour Street appears to have been left intact, but the Headquarters House was destroyed. The Colonial Bank was burnt out, and the Nova Scotia Bank reduced to a heap of ruins. But fortunately the vaults were found to be intact, and business has again been resumed in temporary premises. Many of the churches were destroyed, and the garrison barracks at Up Park Camp, where there was much loss of life, damaged. The razed area is bounded roughly by Fleet Street on the east, to the Custom House and West Street on the west, and from the water front on the south to the race-course on the north. The whole of the water front has been burned, from the Royal Mail Wharf to the railway wharves at the west-end of the harbour.

A heavy death roll.

According to latest estimates received up to the time of going to press, the total loss of life has probably been between 800 and 900. The following is a list of those who are known to be killed and injured:—

Sir James Fergusson, Bart., Major Belcher, Mr. Bradley (Solicitor), Mr. W. C. Branday, Mr. Herbert Clarke, Captain Constantine, Mr. E. de Cordova, Mr. S. de Pass, with his son and nephew, Mr. Dixon, the wife and daughter of Quartermaster-Sergeant Gane, Mr. W. George, Dr. Gibb (Veterinary Surgeon), daughter of Staff-Sergeant Grant, Major

are wanted. The Governor is directing affairs, assisted by Sir Alfred Jones. The "Port Kingston" sails on Thursday with most of the English."

At 7.50 a.m., on Wednesday, January 16th, the following message from Sir Alexander Swettenham, the Governor of Jamaica, was received:—

"Severe earthquake shock this morning between 3 and 4 o'clock, causing considerable damage to houses in Kingston, followed by fire which continues, though confined to about one-sixteenth part of town containing wharves and warehouses. Camp hospital destroyed; 30 killed, no officer; Major Headyman seriously injured. Town hospital crowded with some 300. Fire now decreasing. Myrtle Bank hospital destroyed; also cable office. Conference delegates and Sir A. Jones' expedition believed uninjured, and now at Port Kingston in harbour. Numbers killed and wounded yet unascertained; slighter shocks continue."

The ruined area in Kingston.

This message was supplemented by the following cablegram which reached the Colonial Office at 8.45 p.m. on January 17th:—

"Continuing previous telegram on subject of earthquake, the evil effect has been confined almost to three parishes of the island—namely, Kingston, Port Royal, and St. Andrew. The fire in Kingston has practically ceased, only coal and rubbish now burning. District burned comprises triangular area between Parade Gardens, sea, Duke Street and Princess Street, parish church forming apex of the triangle, about one thirtieth part of town. Wharves burned are George and Branday, Malabre, Haggart, Lyons, Solomons, de Mercado, Henriques, and one, not both, of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Burned area is being cleared slowly owing to indisposition of population to labour at double usual wages. A few bodies are still covered with ruins."

"Burials to noon this day comprise 343 persons. Admitted to hospital—Kingston, 440, excluding some 60 cases sent to Spanish Town from Kingston for treatment. Population generally encamped in Parade Gardens, race-course, and open spaces, reluctant to return to ruined houses during fine weather. The usual provision shops are in the burned area and there is consequent difficulty in buying provisions. I am arranging for sales temporarily and for transfer of persons to other parishes. There was some pilfering last night from deserted shops. Population wonderfully patient, but listless."

"Amongst the killed are Sir James Fergusson, Bart., J. W. Middleton, A. Nathan, E. de Cordova, J. R. Mudon, J. A. Payne, Dr. Gibb, R. W. Bradley, B. Verley, W. George, H. Burrows, C. M. Sherlock, E. Morris, Captain Constantine, mail agent, and Miss Lockett. Great assistance given by Sir Alfred Jones, who converted "Port Kingston" into temporary hospital and refuge, and by Dr. Arthur Evans and the ship's staff, by Dr. Bucher, Spanish Town, who sent a staff of firemen to relieve the exhausted Kingston brigade, by the General Officer commanding the troops, who has furnished large contingents of military to assist in keeping order and patrolling, by the clergy of various denominations, by Captains Gorwood and Favell, by Professor Langtof, and by others too numerous to mention. Except Nathan no passenger on board "Port Kingston" seriously injured. Direct Line cable broken some three miles off coast. Both telegraph offices burned."

On Friday, January 18th, Lord Elgin telegraphed the Governor in the following terms:—

"Your telegrams received. You will know that I fully appreciate the courage and firmness with which you and your Government are facing this great disaster, and I do not wish to trouble you with telegraphic instructions or to fetter your discretion; but I wish as far as possible to be informed of English casualties by name and condition of injured so as to allay anxiety of relatives, and to be kept fully apprised of your views and wishes in regard to extent and kind of assistance required. Mansion House fund has been opened, and remittance will be made as soon as possible."

The following telegrams from the Governor were received at the Colonial Office on January 22nd and 24th:—

"Slight earthquake shocks continue. Confidence restored. Population returning. Weather fine. H.M.S. "Indefatigable" with stores from Trinidad arrived to-day. Both banks re-opened." (Jan. 22nd).

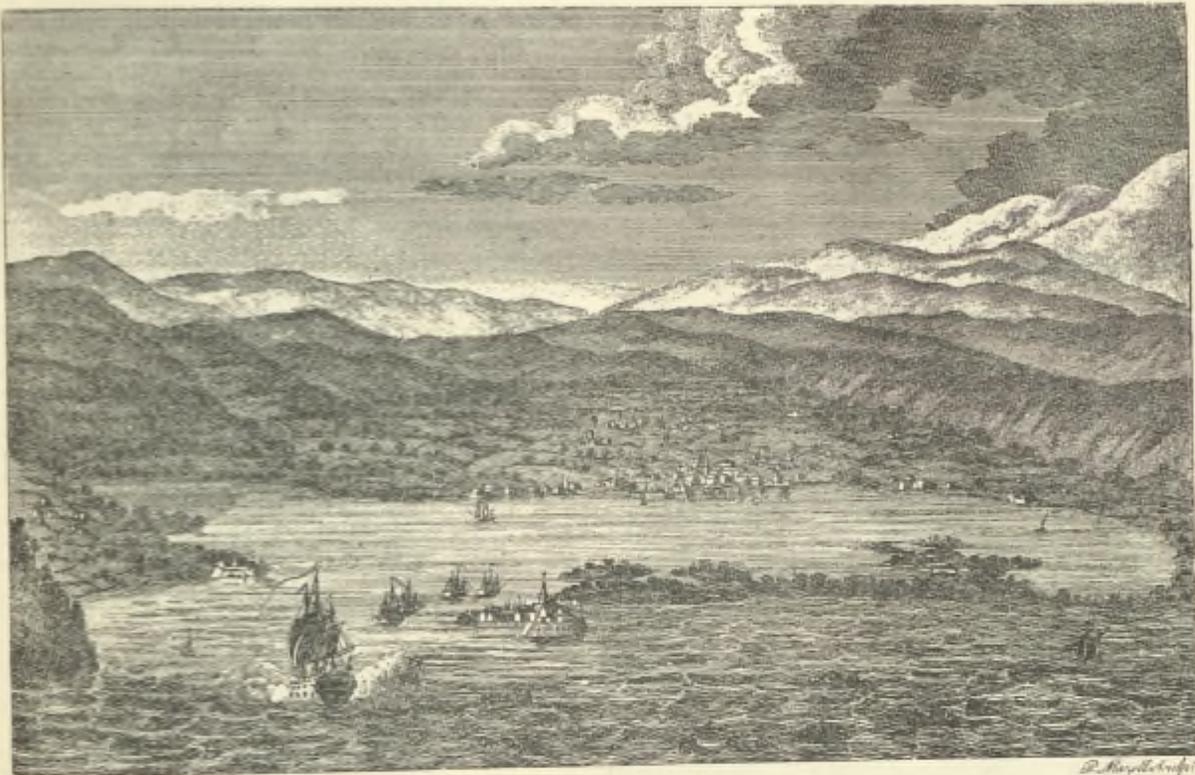
"Extent of calamity, almost every house in Kingston and Port Royal, and many in St. Andrews, seriously injured, more, perhaps one or two hundred, must await removal of extensive ruins during next twelve months; main thoroughfares almost cleared and tram cars running; majority of population living in their out-houses or less injured rooms of house; those quite homeless number over 3,000, and are in temporary shelters in gardens, public places and the race course fed by a relief committee and private benevolence; number diminishing owing to weather still fine with slight shocks of earthquake; the good conduct of the refugees is conspicuous; number of sufferers in general hospital 293, at Spanish Town 41, in private hospitals 40, besides very many treated in their own temporary locations or sheltering with friends. His Majesty's Ship "Indefatigable" arrived with stores and Government "Aviso," with Admiral le Bou, arrived 22nd, with stores and relief from Port au Prince; French Cruiser "Kleber," with Admiral Thierre, arrived 22nd, with stores and relief from Martinique; Steamship "Advance," from Panama, with stores and a deputation, arrived 22nd. Received subscriptions for relief local, £892; from abroad, £1,124; promised from Panama, £5,125; promised British Guiana, £2,050; St. Kitts, £200; Trinidad stores included £1,500; Lord Mayor's Fund, £15,000; besides many consignments of stores and tents; relief costs almost £100 a day; the orphans, cripples, aged and helpless will be a permanent charge." (Jan. 24th).

"Buried up to January 23rd (evening), 559; remains burned 40. Body of Miss Gordon, employee at the Post Office, recovered." (Jan. 26th).

Relief Measures in London.

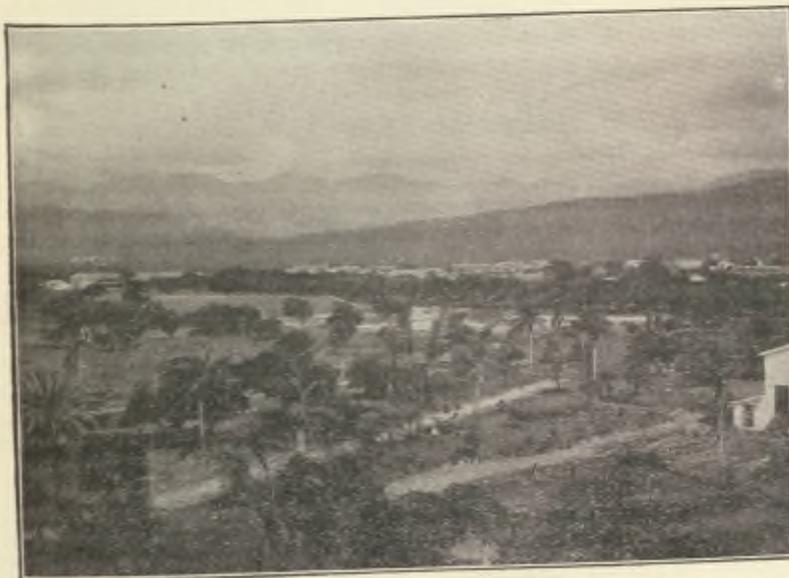
As soon as the news of the disaster was received, a meeting of Jamaica proprietors and others interested was immediately convened at the West India Committee Rooms, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, and among those present were: Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Gillespie,

Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Sir E. Noël Walker,



Kingston, Jamaica, in the olden time.

The interesting old wood-cut from which the above is reproduced conveys a good idea of the position of Kingston, Jamaica. It lies at the foot of the Blue Mountains, on the shore of the harbour which is protected from the east by the long and narrow spit of sand called the Palisadoes. At the end of this promontory stands the historic Port Royal.



Up Park Camp, near Kingston.

Mr. Sydney Olivier, of the Colonial Office, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. A resolution of sympathy with the sufferers, and the relatives of those who lost their lives was at once adopted. Then, the desirability of requesting the Lord Mayor to open a fund for the relief of the distress, which it was felt must be inevitable, was under consideration, and a sub-committee consisting of Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. C. Gurney, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. Sydney Olivier, with the Secretary, was appointed to take prompt action, should it be found desirable to do so after the receipt of further news from the island. On the next day, however, the Lord Mayor, at a meeting of the Corporation at the Guildhall, read the following

message from Sir Dighton Probyn :—

" I am commanded by the King to inform your Lordship that His Majesty, anticipating that you will at once start a fund for the relief of the sufferers from the terrible earthquake at Kingston, proposes to give one thousand guineas towards it.

The City Corporation at once voted a sum of one thousand guineas also, and the Mansion House Fund was accordingly opened. The Lord Mayor subsequently sent the following letter dated January 18th to the Press :—

SIR,—I solicit your kind assistance to draw public attention to the fact that, responding to a general desire, I have opened a fund at the Mansion House for the relief of the sufferers by the terrible earthquake which visited Kingston, Jamaica, on Monday last, and to invite the generous contributions of the citizens of London and the community at large for the alleviation of the wide-spread distress arising from this great calamity. As already announced, their Majesties the King and Queen were the first to show sympathy with the bereaved and suffering

people by making gracious and most substantial donations to the fund, to which the Prince and Princess of Wales have also sent a munificent contribution.

To the painful details of the visitation which have been published in your columns I am not in a position to add anything at present, but I am in communication, through the Colonial Office, with the Governor of Jamaica, and it may be possible shortly for His Excellency to favour me with an approximate estimate of the amount required for the relief of the distress.

Donations may be sent to the Mansion House, to the Bank of England, or to the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

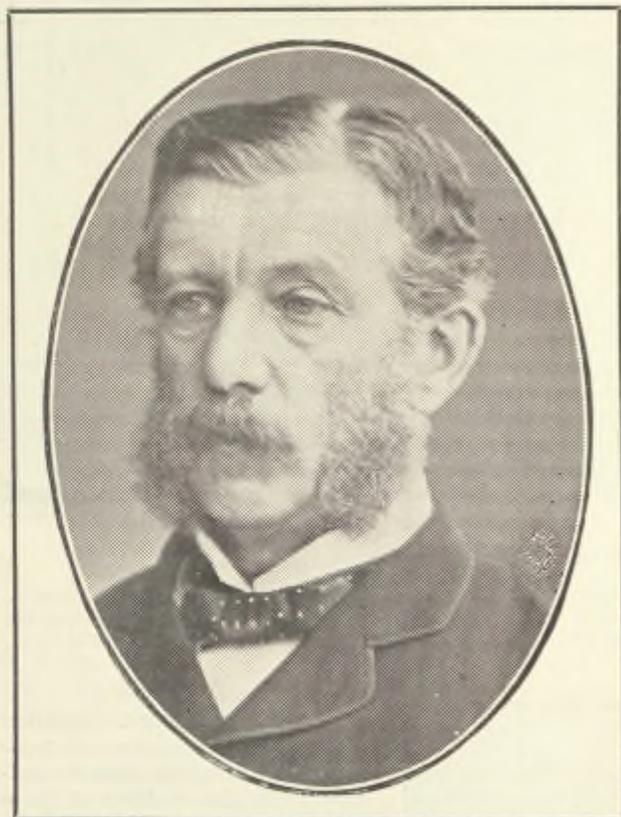
W. P. TRELOAR, Lord Mayor.

Mansion House, London, E.C.,

January 18th.

This appeal was supplemented by a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of which the following is the text :—

MY LORD MAYOR,—The cause of the sufferers by the terrible calamity which has visited the island of Jamaica has already received the highest support that it can receive in the most generous manner from His Majesty the King, from Her Majesty the Queen, and from their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. Yet, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, it is my duty not only to gratefully acknowledge the promptness with which your Lordship has placed the beneficent assistance of the Mansion House at the disposal of the people of Kingston in the time of their distress, but also to say what can and should be said by the responsible head of the Colonial Office for the time being on behalf of the cause for which the fund is being raised. The information which has now been received from the Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham, in whose capacity for dealing with such a



The late Rt. Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Bart.

crisis as has arisen I have the fullest confidence, leaves, I fear, no room for doubt as to the wholesale destruction which has taken place or as to the sorrow and suffering which has been caused in the city of Kingston. Over and above the conspicuous features of the catastrophe, the extent of the disaster, its terrible suddenness, and the importance to the colony of its principal centre of trade, there are to my mind two special considerations which may be urged in support of the Mansion House appeal. The first is that the historical associations and the great past of Jamaica—marked, as it has been, with calamities similar to the present—must attract the sympathy of all who feel the kinship of the British Empire. The second is that when, a little more than three years ago, half the island was swept by a hurricane, grave as was the crisis, it was met without trenching upon the services of the Mansion House. It is on behalf of a colony which had but recently been straitened in its resources and which in the initial stage of recovery, has again suffered a grievous disaster, that your Lordship has been good enough to invite assistance. I believe the appeal to be just. There is already evidence that the response will be generous.

Downing Street, January 19th, 1907.

I am, my Lord Mayor, yours very faithfully,

ELGIN.

With a view to stimulate the Fund, which, it was feared, might suffer from the unfortunate difference of opinion between Admiral Davis and Sir A. Swettenham, the West India Committee addressed the following letter to the Press on January 23rd :—

SIR,—The action of the Lord Mayor in opening a Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers from the Kingston earthquake will be very greatly appreciated in Jamaica, and, indeed, throughout the West Indies.

Will you permit us to avail ourselves of your columns publicly to convey our thanks to him and to express to the British public our gratitude for the prompt and generous response which they are giving to Sir William Treloar's appeal? The spontaneous outburst of sympathy from our colonies, which has assumed a tangible form, is also a subject for gratitude, while the assistance rendered by the United States of America must serve still further to cement the bond of friendship.

It would be a matter for genuine regret if any misunderstanding were to stem the flow of subscriptions towards the Jamaica Earthquake Fund, and we venture to hope that you will allow us to emphasise this aspect of the case.

From all advices received from Jamaica it appears that the earlier accounts of the disaster of January 14th were in no way exaggerated. The principal sufferers seem to have been the small householders and shop and storekeepers, many of whom will have lost all they possessed, and thus their means of subsistence and livelihood. We feel that it is in the direction of the rebuilding of premises and the re-establishment of the business of this deserving class that the bulk of the fund can most usefully be applied. This will require a very large sum of money.

In conclusion, may we once more remind your readers that we shall be pleased to receive subscriptions towards the Mansion House Fund, which may be sent to the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

We are, yours obediently,

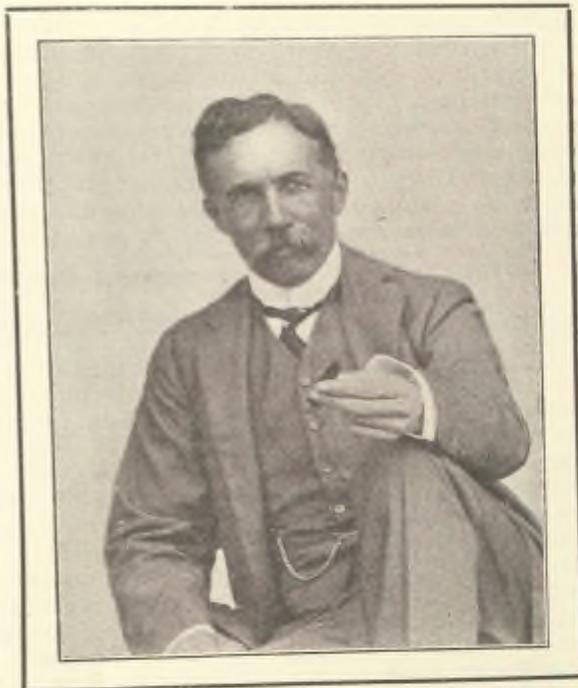
NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

The response of the public to this appeal has been spontaneous and liberal, with the result that the fund, up to the time of going to press, which the West India Committee have been in a position to forward to the Mansion House, amounts to £3,059 3s. 1d. The West Indian Club has also consented to receive donations, and is further assisting by collecting light clothing, of which nearly five tons in weight was despatched to Jamaica by the R.M.S. "Port Royal," on Saturday last.

Generous Assistance.

Ever ready to place their services and their art at the disposal of charity, the theatrical profession have nobly responded to the call which has been made upon them by the needs of those who have suffered so deeply in the recent catastrophe. Through the instrumentality of Mr. Arthur à Beckett, who has been indefatigable in his efforts on behalf of the stricken colony, Mr. George Alexander has offered to place his theatre and staff at the service of the West India Committee, and a matinee performance will be held in the early part of February. At the Criterion the Press Club, with the help of Mr. Thomas Coates and Mr. à Beckett, is organising an entertainment, while on Sunday next a grand concert is to be given at Covent Garden Theatre by the Winter German Opera Syndicate. No doubt a substantial increase to the fund will be the result of these performances. No less notable and prompt measures were taken by Mr. Fred Terry and his wife, Miss Julia Neilson, who



The late Mr. A. McDowell Nathan.



The late Captain Constantine.

aided the cause of charity by a special matinee of their great success "The Scarlet Pimpernel" at the New Theatre. The Directors of the Alhambra Music Hall also came forward and devoted the proceeds of a special afternoon performance to the fund, while a similar course was adopted at the Polytechnic, where with singular appropriateness a matinee of "Our Navy, our Army, and our Colonies" was given, at which special pictures of the West Indies were included in the programme. Among other efforts in the same good cause that of *The Tribune* in organising a relief ship for the sufferers at Kingston must take premier place, and it is highly satisfactory to learn that *The Tribune's* readers are generously responding to the call which is being made upon them, with the result that stores of all kinds are beginning to pour in.

Prominent Victims of the disaster.

The widespread regret which was expressed when the worst fears as to the safety of Sir James Fergusson were unhappily confirmed affords eloquent testimony, if such were needed, of the high esteem in which this veteran Empire-worker was held. A long and honoured career has been suddenly closed by a catastrophe in that portion of His Majesty's dominions to which Sir James Fergusson had been devoting the attention of his riper years, and in him the West Indies lose a friend and one who had their best interests at heart. Born at Edinburgh in 1832, Sir James Fergusson succeeded to the baronetcy when seventeen years of age, and two years later entered the army, serving through the Crimean campaign, during the course of which he was elected M.P. for Ayrshire. Since then his career is too well-known to need detailed recapitulation, suffice it to say that during a long official career he held important colonial and Indian Governorships; was Under-Secretary in the Indian Office, Home Office and Foreign Office; was Postmaster-General during the concluding years of Lord Salisbury's administration, 1891-1892; and until the last General Election had represented North-East Manchester since 1885. As a Director of Railway and Shipping Companies Sir James achieved considerable prominence in the world of commerce, and his connection with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line did much to foster the interest which he took in the West Indies.

Mr. Alexander McDowell Nathan, who was paying a visit to Jamaica, with the object of furthering some of the schemes he had in hand for developing the resources of the island, when he met with his death through the earthquake, was born at Falmouth, Jamaica, on June 25th, 1852. He was educated on the north side of the island, but subsequently came to Kingston, where he worked strenuously for many years. He was married in 1884 and lived for seven years in the parish of St. Andrew's, at the end of which time he returned with his family to England, where his home was Clumber House, Enfield, and for the last seven years Little Heath Wood, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. Mr. A. McDowell Nathan was a member of the committee of the West Indian Club from the foundation of that organisation, and was always glad to identify himself with West Indian affairs. Besides being on various occasions a benefactor to Jamaica, he was always glad to lend his help when required in the cause of charity in the neighbourhood in which he resided. At the time of his untimely death there were many proposals on foot with which his name was prominently connected, in connection more especially with the sugar industry and hotel enterprise in Jamaica. The loss of a man so useful to the community will be felt by the colony, as it will by his friends at home, and with his wife and family deep sympathy will be felt.

Amongst the many casualties of the recent disaster has to be included the death of Captain Constantine, who, as the representative of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, had made so many friends in Jamaica. Born in 1859, Captain Constantine entered the service of the Royal Mail Company as fifth officer when twenty years of age. In 1894 he received his first command on the "Derwent," and later had charge of the "Trent" and the "Nile." In 1900 he was appointed to the important post of Superintendent for the Royal Mail Company at Jamaica, which responsible position he held at the time of his decease. Although meeting his death through a land disaster Captain Constantine was appropriately buried in the sea whose dangers he had so often faced.

The Jamaica Earthquake Fund.

Up to the time of going to press the Mansion House Fund amounts to £38,000. Towards this total the West India Committee has received £3,059 3s. 1d., made up by the following contributions, which are gratefully acknowledged:—

£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.					
Booker Bros., McCon-	250	0	0	Thomson, Hankey & Co.	105	0	0	C. M. & C. Woodhouse	52	10	0
nell & Co., Ltd. ...	250	0	0	Viscount Brackley ...	100	0	0	Boddington & Co. ...	50	0	0
Curtis, Campbell & Co.	250	0	0	Sir Cuthbert Quilter,				"The Family of the late			
Halifax and Bermudas				Bart.	100	0	0	Thomas Daniel "	50	0	0
Cable Co., Ltd.				Brandon & Co.	52	10	0	Belize Estate & Produce			
The Direct West India	250	0	0	Messrs. Frame & Co. ...	52	10	0	Co., Ltd.	26	5	0
Cable Co., Ltd.				Henckell, Du Buisson				August Faber & Co. ...	26	5	0
Samuel Dobree & Sons	105	0	0	and Co.	52	10	0	Henry Head & Co. ...	26	5	0
Gillespie, Bros. & Co. ...	105	0	0	E. D. & F. Man	52	10	0	C. E. Heath	26	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Excess Insurance Co. ...	26	5	0
Alfred Lamb & Son ...	26	5	0
James Nourse, Ltd. ...	26	5	0
Portal, Dingwall & Norris	26	5	0
Trower & Sons ...	26	5	0
Henry White & Co. ...	26	5	0
Wilson, Smittbett & Co.	26	5	0
Alston, Arbuthnot & Co.	25	0	0
Anglo Continental Guano Works... ..	25	0	0
W. F. Lawrence ...	21	0	0
Wilkinson & Gaviller ...	21	0	0
Previté & Co. ...	21	0	0
Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. ...	21	0	0
West's Our Navy, Ltd.	20	15	0
Col. Henry John Blagrove	20	0	0
Daniel de Pass & Co. ...	20	0	0
D. Q. Henriques ...	20	0	0
A. M. Lee ...	20	0	0
Mrs. Senhouse ...	20	0	0
"Sympathy" ...	20	0	0
Brace, Windle, Blyth & Co., Ltd. ...	20	0	0
Alsing & Co. ...	10	10	0
Messrs. Dawson Bros. ...	10	10	0
Alfred Field & Co. ...	10	10	0
F. R. Leistikow ...	10	10	0
Burrell & Co. ...	10	10	0
Mrs. Alice Lewis ...	10	10	0
Harvey, Lockie & Co. ...	10	10	0
Scholefield, Goodman & Sons ...	10	10	0
Smith, Bros. & Co. ...	10	10	0
Weber, Smith & Hoare	10	10	0
E. E. Adamson ...	10	0	0
"C. W. C." ...	10	0	0
John Leckie & Co. ...	10	0	0
Henry Kinneir ...	10	0	0
Robert Mole & Sons ...	10	0	0
"A New Zealander" ...	10	0	0
George E. Price ...	10	0	0
A. K. & A. T. ...	7	0	0
Algernon E. Aspinall ...	5	5	0
Cyril A. Beldam ...	5	5	0
A. Bovell ...	5	5	0
Halford & Co. ...	5	5	0
W. Ambrose Harding ...	5	5	0
Hawkins & Tipson ...	5	5	0
Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G. ...	5	5	0
Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G. ...	5	5	0
Lady Peile ...	5	5	0
H. F. Previté ...	5	5	0
Engineer Comr. V. E. Snook, R.N. ...	5	5	0
Mrs. Trent Stoughton ...	5	5	0
Delbanco & Co. ...	5	5	0
E. Norton ...	5	5	0
Gavin F. James and Fullarton James ...	5	5	0
Sir Henry Bulwer ...	5	5	0
Edmund Byron, J.P. ...	5	0	0
"An Englishwoman" ...	5	0	0
Lady Dunsany ...	5	0	0
The Misses Eversley ...	5	0	0
Major General John M. C. Galloway ...	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Edwyn Henderson ...	5	0	0
Lt.-Col. Johnstone ...	5	0	0
John Locke ...	5	0	0
William Paton ...	5	0	0
R. Hannay Tahourdin ...	5	0	0
Lady Wade ...	5	0	0
Philip S. Watson ...	5	0	0
Sir Edward Wingfield, K.C.B. ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Christy ...	4	0	0
R. Knight ...	3	3	0
Alex. G. Low ...	3	3	0
Sir C. James Tarring ...	3	3	0
F. Upcott ...	3	3	0
Mayson M. Beeton ...	2	2	0
A. M. Bulloch ...	2	2	0
The Misses Delgado ...	2	2	0
Wm. H. Emery ...	2	2	0
Lady Hamilton Gordon	2	2	0
William W. Hewitt ...	2	2	0
Wm. Chas. Anderson & Co. ...	2	2	0
Miss Martineau ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Cumming ...	2	2	0
Arthur R. Kelly ...	2	2	0
W. P. Eversley ...	2	2	0
William Pink & Sons ...	2	2	0
John W. A. Maginley ...	2	2	0
Miss Renira Martin ...	2	2	0
Reginald Porter ...	2	2	0
Capt. L. Gartside Tipplinge, R.N. ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Charles J. Leslie ...	2	0	0
Miss Rix ...	2	0	0
Col. William Tolson and Mrs. Tolson ...	2	0	0
"A. J. C." ...	1	1	0
Miss Bryden ...	1	1	0
Lewis Davis ...	1	1	0
Cyril W. Davson ...	1	1	0
Percival M. Davson ...	1	1	0
M. W. Grogan ...	1	1	0
John T. Haynes ...	1	1	0
Elliot G. Louis ...	1	1	0
George Martineau C.B. Willoughby Maycock, C.M.G. ...	1	1	0
Joseph Moore ...	1	1	0
E. S. Morant-Gale ...	1	1	0
Rev. C. A. Raymond ...	1	1	0
W. Rowstone ...	1	1	0
W. H. S. Shears ...	1	1	0
T. H. Skinner ...	1	1	0
R. Bird & Co. ...	1	1	0
Dr. Ernest Sturridge ...	1	1	0
"A Friend" ...	1	0	0
Anon ...	1	0	0
Monsieur Marcel Capdefere ...	1	0	0
Henry Savile ...	1	0	0
Miss Andrews ...	1	0	0
"T. R." ...	1	0	0
Anonymous ...	1	0	0
J. T. Critchell ...	0	10	6
F. O. Roach ...	0	10	6
Anon ...	0	10	0
"Clevedon" ...	0	10	0

	£	s.	d.
Miss Kate St. C. Ford and Sister ...	0	10	0
Miss Harding ...	0	10	0
Miss Rutherford ...	0	10	0
From the Household at "Hilbre" ...	0	10	0
"J. R." ...	0	10	0
W. D. Dade ...	0	10	0
Anon ...	0	5	0
C. Davy ...	0	5	0
Miss Innes ...	0	5	0
"An Imperialist" ...	0	5	0
"One who approves of Sir J. A. Swettenham's action" ...	0	5	0
Anon ...	0	4	0
Miss C. Parry ...	0	3	6
C. J. Jones ...	0	2	6
Henry D. Richards ...	0	2	6
Miss Marjorie Rutherford ...	0	2	6
Anon ...	0	2	6
Albert Home ...	0	2	0
"C. A." ...	0	1	1
Anon ...	0	1	0

Per Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co. —

E. A. de Pass & Co. ...	105	0	0
Charles de Pass ...	50	0	0
John de Pass ...	26	5	0
Richard Hudson & Sons, Ltd. ...	26	5	0
Mrs. David de Pass ...	20	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. de Pass ...	10	10	0
Mrs. Alfred H. de Pass	10	10	0
R. O. Yeats ...	10	10	0
W. H. Eustace & Co. ...	10	10	0
The Misses de Pass ...	5	5	0
Miss M. de Pass ...	5	5	0
Cannon Iron Foundries, Ltd. ...	5	5	0
Edenborough & Richardson ...	5	5	0
J. H. Butler ...	2	2	0
The Birmingham Patent Spoon Co. ...	1	1	0
D. Clark & Sons ...	1	1	0
E. M. Dickinson, Ltd. ...	1	1	0

Per F. N. Martinez —

Sir Thomas R. Dewar, J.P., D.L. ...	50	0	0
Meux's Brewery Co. Ltd.	21	0	0
The British and Benington's Tea Trading Assn., Ltd. ...	20	0	0
F. N. Martinez ...	10	10	0
Hallowes & Tosetti ...	10	10	0
Chevalier P. Teofani ...	5	5	0
M. de J. Levy & Sons ...	5	5	0

Per Col. A. R. Loscombe —

Mrs. L. W. Blackden ...	5	0	0
Col. and Mrs. Loscombe	2	2	0
Miss Isabel Mactavish ...	1	1	0
Miss R. Stable ...	0	10	0
Mrs. Hepworth A. Hill	0	5	6

The following contributions, amounting to £447 14s. od., received by Mr. A. H. Donald, Hon. Treasurer of the West India Association of Glasgow, have been handed to the Fund being raised by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, at the request of that Association:—

	£	s.	d.
West India Association of Glasgow ...	25	0	0
Jas. Ewing & Co. ...	25	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Thom & Cameron, Ltd.	25	0	0
Harvey Engineering Co., Ltd. ...	25	0	0

	£	s.	d.
John Jeffrey and Co. (Edinburgh) ...	25	0	0
Prentice, Service and Henderson ...	25	0	0

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
D. McCalman & Co. ...	25	0	0	Mr. & Mrs. H. Crum Ewing	10	10	0	J. Leitch, Greenock ...	5	0	0
J. McNeil & Co. ...	25	0	0	D. Stewart & Co. (1902),				James R. Greig ...	5	0	0
John Poynter, Son &				Ltd. ...	10	10	0	Wm. N. Armour ...	5	0	0
Macdonalds ...	25	0	0	A. & P. W. McOnie ...	10	10	0	Wallace, Wilkie & Co. ...	5	0	0
The Mirrlees Watson				J. B. Sherriff & Co., Ltd.	10	0	0	Alex. Kay & Co. ...	5	0	0
Co., Ltd. ...	25	0	0	A. & J. Main, Ltd. ...	10	0	0	Whimster & Co. ...	5	0	0
T. H. Gallie & Co. ...	25	0	0	Jas. Lyon, Greenock ...	5	5	0	Murray T. Gow ...	5	0	0
J. & K. Tennent, Ltd. ...	25	0	0	F. W. Allan & Co. ...	5	5	0	Mrs. Craig Sellar, Ard-			
Blair, Campbell &				Col. and Mrs. Spencer	5	5	0	tornish, Argyllshire ...	5	0	0
McLean ...	20	0	0	William Connal & Co. ...	5	5	0	John Stewart & Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Wilson's (Glasgow and				Fraser, Gordon & Co. ...	5	0	0	J. W. Bailey, Greenock	1	1	0
Trinidad), Ltd. ...	10	10	0	Czarnikow & Co. ...	5	0	0	Alexander Ogilvie & Co.	1	1	0
Pott, Cassels & William-				J. Walker & Co., Gree-				J. P. Laidlaw ...	1	1	0
son, Motherwell ...	10	10	0	nock ...	5	0	0	John Ewing ...	1	1	0

The West Indian Club has collected and remitted £143 6s. 6d. to the Mansion House, from the following subscribers:—

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Rt. Hon. Lord Stan-				General Dickinson ...	2	2	0	D. Laurie Fife ...	1	0	0
more, G.C.M.G. ...	20	0	0	Miss H. Marian Bridge	2	0	0	Mrs. du Moulin ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Moody ...	15	0	0	J. H. Greenhill ...	2	0	0	Miss M. K. Warry ...	1	0	0
Allan E. Messer ...	10	10	0	Elizabeth F. Philpott ...	2	0	0	The Rev. C. Knight ...	0	12	0
J. B. Parish ...	10	0	0	Henry Kirke ...	2	0	0	A. T. Bucknill ...	0	10	6
Hon. W. H. Strachan,				N. E. Jauralde ...	1	1	0	R. P. Goffe ...	0	10	6
C.M.G. ...	10	0	0	Edgar Penman ...	1	1	0	Mrs. Thomas Howard ...	0	10	0
Miss Violet Wilson ...	10	0	0	P. Baumberg ...	1	1	0	George Egerton ...	0	10	0
A. F. Hirsch ...	5	5	0	F. M. Lee ...	1	1	0	Miss L. A. Roff ...	0	10	0
Miss Helen Fullerton ...	5	5	0	S. Salberg ...	1	1	0	K. M. ...	0	5	0
E. B. ...	5	0	0	Frank Westley ...	1	1	0	Anonymous ...	0	5	0
Mrs. Rippon ...	5	0	0	F. E. Speranza ...	1	1	0	A Soldier ...	0	5	0
Mrs. Edward Temple ...	5	0	0	G. Koenigsfeld ...	1	1	0	Anonymous ...	0	2	6
W. H. Newnham ...	5	0	0	L. Hermes ...	1	1	0	Anonymous ...	0	2	6
A. N. Lubbock ...	3	3	0	Miss E. Messer ...	1	1	0	Anonymous ...	0	2	6
Capt. Joseph A. Moffatt	2	2	0	Neil Mackinnon, K.C. ...	1	1	0	Norah K. O'Maley ...	0	2	6
A. R. Bosman ...	2	2	0	Col. A. W. Colville ...	1	1	0				

They have since received the following donations:—

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Major W. H. Mitchell ...	10	0	0	J. M. de Moraes Barros,				C. G. Estenos ...	1	1	0
Miss S. E. Smith ...	3	0	0	M.D. ...	1	1	0	Jaime Gutierrez ...	1	1	0
Colonel F. C. Briggs ...	1	1	0	W. J. Baker ...	1	1	0	Ignacio C. Belvis ...	1	1	0
Howard Marsh ...	1	1	0	A. C. Dunlop ...	1	1	0	T. W. Fladgate ...	1	1	0
W. P. Simon ...	1	1	0	George Tilling, Junr. ...	1	1	0	John de Grouby ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Roffey ...	1	1	0	C. F. Keller ...	1	1	0	A. van Santen ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Oakes ...	1	1	0	C. Stagg ...	1	1	0	R. Jones ...	1	1	0
Mrs. A. M. Routh ...	1	1	0	G. G. Bovill ...	1	1	0	R. M. Johnson ...	0	10	0
Per W. J. Baker, Southampton:—				G. Carigetti ...	1	1	0	James Kennedy ...	0	10	0
J. G. Boyes ...	5	5	0	A. W. Swain ...	1	1	0	L. E. Cooke ...	0	4	0

FORMER RELIEF FUNDS.

The Jamaica Earthquake Fund is the fourth Mansion House Fund in connection with the West Indies which has been opened since 1898. The following particulars of previous funds, including one raised by the West India Committee in 1903, and of the Government assistance which was forthcoming, will be of interest at the present juncture:—

Date of Disaster.	Nature of Disaster.	Date of Opening Fund.	Duration of Fund.	Total raised.	Government Assistance.
Sept. 10th 1898	Hurricane, Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.	Sept. 17th	8 weeks.	£46,121 3 5	Free grant £65,000 and loan of £120,000.
Aug. 7th 1899	Hurricane Leeward Islands ...	Aug. 15th	10 weeks.	£7,329 6 3	Free grant of £6,000.
May 8th 1902	Eruption of the Soufriere, St. Vincent ...	May 14th	12 weeks.	£65,769 10 10	
Aug. 11th 1903	Cyclone in Jamaica ...	Aug. 18th	6 weeks.	£6,397 16 6	
Jan. 14th 1907	Earthquake in Jamaica ...	Jan. 17th	12 days.	£30,000 0 0	

MANY YEARS AGO.

A historic parallel.

The great earthquake of 1692, which destroyed Port Royal, happened on the 7th, but it was not till the 20th¹ of June that the President and Council found time to write to the Lords of Trade and Plantations to convey the disastrous tidings and appeal for help to the mother country. They speak

See the Calendar of State Papers. Colonial Series, 1652.

in their letter of "a dreadful earthquake, which in ten minutes threw down all the churches, dwelling houses, and sugar works in the island. Two-thirds of Port Royal was swallowed up by the sea, all forts and fortifications demolished, and great part of its inhabitants miserably knocked on the head or drowned. As we are become by this an instance of God Almighty's severe judgment, so we hope we shall be of their Majesties' compassion." But they did not fold their hands and wait for help. In the midst of the terrible confusion of those first days of terror and disaster, they applied themselves, as they said, "to restoring things." They took a merchantman that happened to be lying in the harbour into the King's service. They date their letter from on board, and there they sat from day to day in Council "protecting property, preventing robbery, deciding disputes, preventing quarrels too often arising from the uncertain right of things, in sinking floating carcasses, taking care of the sick and wounded, and supporting the necessitous. All this must now be done out of the country stock, all kinds of stores being lost in the ruin of Port Royal." And not only stores were lost. H.M.S. "Swan," which was lying at the careening wharf, was sucked among the ruins of Port Royal. . . Many of the guns of the forts, too, were submerged; the stock of small arms was mostly damaged by the fall of houses. And in the midst of all these dangers there was not wanting a human enemy to add to the horrors of the warfare with nature. A French force landed in the north of the island, "but though we have sent a proportionate force against it by land and sea, yet heavy rains, earthquakes and gales, have prevented us from giving a good account of it." To that letter of January 20th a postscript was added a few days later. "June 23rd, H.M.S. 'Guernsey' and the sloop have returned, having burnt the French ships, and taken or destroyed the whole party except eighteen." Our forefathers were not lacking in grit or courage to face their difficulties in the days of old Benbow!

THE WORLD'S SUGAR.

The study of the development of the production of beet and cane sugar, says M. Dureau in the *Journal des Fabricant de Sucre*, as well as of that of the movement of consumption of sugar in general, presents at the present moment greater interest than ever. In the case of beet sugar the total output, which was only 3,565,000 tons in 1889-90, reached in 1905-06, including the crop of the United States of America, 7,240,000 tons, or an increase of 103% in sixteen years. The production of cane sugar on the other hand has, for the same period, increased from 2,138,000 tons to 4,772,000, or an increase of 123%. Taken together, the joint production of cane and beet sugar has during the last sixteen years increased from 5,703,000 tons to 12,012,000 tons, an increase of 6,309,000 tons, or 110%. The following figures show in what proportion the sugar supply of the world has been contributed to by the two sugars:—

	Beet Sugar.	Cane Sugar.		Beet Sugar.	Cane Sugar.
1893-94	52.1%	47.9%	1900-01	62.9%	37.1%
1894-95	57.8%	42.2%	1901-02	63.9%	36.1%
1895-96	59.6%	40.4%	1902-03	58.2%	41.8%
1896-97	63.4%	36.6%	1903-04	59.4%	40.6%
1897-98	62.6%	37.4%	1904-05	52.2%	47.8%
1898-99	62.3%	37.7%	1905-06	60.3%	39.9%
1899-00	65.0%	35.0%	1906-07	59.1%	40.9%

The above show that cane sugar during the period from 1896 to 1901 felt seriously the competition with beet to such a point that in 1899-00 the proportion of cane sugar to the total sugar production had sunk to 35%. At this time the Cuban sugar industry had hardly begun to recover from the effect of the Spanish-American War, while the beet sugar industry, stimulated by cartels and State bounties, had increased enormously. The abuse of the bounty system having led to the suppression of this system, confidence was at once restored among cane planters, and the tropical sugar industry rapidly regained lost ground. In 1904-5, the year of the shortage of beet, the production, indeed, reached 47.8% of the total.

Under the influence, however, of the high price of sugar due to the short European crop and to increase in consumption, beet production again went ahead, and in 1905-6 furnished 60.3% of the total production. The present crop—that of 1906-7—seems in this respect to be rather more favourable for cane than for beet, the proportions, from actual estimates, being 59.1% and 40.9% respectively for beet and cane sugar.

The figures showing the world's consumption of sugar from the year 1893 to 1905 illustrate the progress in the use of this commodity:—

	Consumption.	Difference.		Consumption.	Difference.
1893-94	7,230,000 tons	—	1900-01	9,263,000 tons.	+ 643,000
1894-95	7,283,000 "	+ 53,000	1901-02	9,629,000 "	+ 366,000
1895-96	7,431,000 "	+ 148,000	1902-03	9,512,000 "	— 177,000
1896-97	7,672,000 "	+ 241,000	1903-04	10,286,000 "	+ 774,000
1897-98	7,666,000 "	— 6,000	1904-05	9,678,000 "	— 608,000
1898-99	7,796,000 "	+ 130,000	1905-06	11,976,000 "	+ 2,298,000
1899-00	8,620,000 "	+ 824,000			

The world's consumption has, therefore, during the last thirteen years, increased from 7,230,000 to 11,976,000 tons, a total increase of 4,746,000, or 65 %, representing a mean increase of 395,000 tons. It will be seen that this increase is very irregular. The fluctuations are due to the invisible stocks, the amount of which depends upon the retailers, who vary their stocks according to the price of sugar and the prospects of the market.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE CHRISTALL.

By the death of Mr. George Christall, which took place on January 16th, after a long illness, the West Indies and Trinidad in particular have lost a true friend, and the West India Committee a loyal and zealous supporter. He 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. He first became connected with the West Indies in 1872, when he entered the office of Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull and Co. in Glasgow. 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 and Co. In 1895 he founded the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, Limited, and in 1903 the Trinidad Estates Company, Limited, which owns several large estates in the island. He became a member of the Executive of the West India Committee in 1905. In the future of the West Indian sugar industry he was a firm believer, and he personally superintended the conduct of many important experiments in sugar manufacture. It is not too much to say that his premature decease is a calamity to the colonies with which he has been so honorably connected.

STOCK RAISING IN TOBAGO.

The development which has taken place in the agriculture of Tobago since its amalgamation with Trinidad has been of an extremely satisfactory nature. Apart from the agricultural industries pure and simple, such as cacao, tannias, &c., there is another to which Mr. C. W. Meaden, the Superintendent of the Government farm at Trinidad, draws attention, that is cattle breeding. Mr. Meaden tells us in a report just republished by the Trinidad Government, that there is a large amount of land in Tobago eminently suited for grazing purposes and where stock can be advantageously bred. He believes that cattle thus raised would readily displace in the Trinidad market those at present imported from Venezuela. Good bulls are now located in different parts of the island from the Government farm, while horse breeding also has made a good start. Mr. Meaden suggests that stock raising and coconut farming would go well together, and he sums up by saying that Tobago is, undoubtedly, for its size, an excellent stock country. There is abundant supply of good grass, ample water supply, low land charges, good roads, cheap labour, and moderate cost of living. What appears to be required to enable the colony to come to the front in this business in a commercial way appears to be more frequent and cheaper means of transit to Trinidad, and a sure and reliable market on arrival.

THE TROPICAL DISEASES FUND.

The report of the Advisory Committee for the Tropical Diseases Research Fund for the year 1906, which has been presented to Parliament, states that the Revenue amounted to £3,000, made up of contributions from the Imperial Government, the Government of India, from the funds at the disposal of the Rhodes' trustees, and from various colonial governments, including British Guiana, Trinidad and Grenada. The expenditure for the year consisted of grants to the Liverpool and London School of Tropical Medicine, to the Royal Society, and to the University of London. The grant to the Liverpool School was employed by the school for the payment of a lecturer on economic entomology and parasitology, and of a lecturer on tropical medicine. Both these lecturers are required to devote their spare time to research. The grant to the London School was devoted to the payment of the salaries of a combined teacher and investigator of protozoology, and a combined teacher and investigator of helminthology. By means of the grant to the University of London there has been established a Professorship of Protozoology, while the contribution to the Royal Society was employed in the research into sleeping sickness. In an appendix the reports on the work done in the various schools on subjects of special interest in tropical medicine are given. Sir J. West Ridgway is chairman of the Advisory Committee, of which the other members are Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir M. Foster, Sir P. Manson, Sir R. Moor, Surgeon-General A. M. Branfoot, Mr. T. W. Holderness, Mr. C. P. Lucas, and Mr. H. J. Read.

THE "WORLD" AND THE WEST INDIES.

There is quite a West Indian flavour about the issue of the *World*, which was published on January 22nd. To begin with, Sir Henry K. Davson, the Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee is the "Celebrity at Home." Then there is a leading article devoted to the "Earthquake and After," and an eight-page supplement dealing with the West Indies in winter. The latter is profusely illustrated with reproductions of photographs, and some admirable sketches by Mr. Walton Corbould.

Speaking of Sir Henry Davson, the *World* says that he is descended from one of those unfortunate gentlemen of Courland, who, because they refused to take the oath of allegiance to Russia, were driven into exile and had their estates confiscated in 1795. It was his father who first embarked in West Indian enterprise and invested his patrimony in sugar estates. After recording his valuable services it goes on to mention that his long and varied career is an example of the truism that hard work never kills. He still visits the City daily, and while he takes as great an interest as ever in all the details of a large business, he finds time also to devote to the social pleasures of life.

Speaking of the West Indies as a tourist resort, a leading article says: "There is no reason whatever why the events of January 14th should deter visitors from going to the other West India islands and British Guiana, or even to Jamaica itself. Jamaica is a large island, over 4,000 square miles in extent, and the recent disturbance appears to have been purely local and confined to Kingston and its immediate neighbourhood But even if intending visitors might have some hesitation about selecting Jamaica in view of the natural feeling of depression which must naturally prevail there for a short time, they have still Barbados, Trinidad, Tobago, and the Windward and Leeward Islands from which to make their choice. Each of these places is approximately 1,000 miles from the seat of trouble, or further than from London to Lisbon. When it is realised that it takes a steamer more than three days to get from Barbados to Jamaica, it will be understood that there can be no danger whatever to visitors



A Bandsman of the West India Regiment.

to Barbados and the other places mentioned above on the score of their proximity to Kingston. They are far removed from it.

According to a statement attributed to Professor Omri, the eminent seismologist, records have shown that earthquakes rarely visit the same place more than once except after the lapse of very many years, and this again is a point which should be borne in mind. Over two hundred years have elapsed since Jamaica was visited by such a serious earthquake as that of January 14th last, and the island should now enjoy a further long period of immunity. Moreover, if the theory of the learned Professor is correct—and it must be remembered that Japan, on which his experience is based, is peculiarly subject to earthquakes—it will surely be the turn of Lisbon, Genoa, Casamicciola, and many other towns before Kingston is again shaken. Each of those places has suffered in the past, and yet they are visited by a continually increasing number of visitors. So it will be with the West Indies as tourist resorts; they are becoming better known very rapidly, and as Sir Alfred Jones has authoritatively assured us, 'the calamity will not interfere with the prosperity and progress of the island. Only the depôt has been injured; the produce and products of the country have not been interfered with in the slightest degree.' This, coming by cable from the island itself, is distinctly reassuring, and we hope that our supplement may tend in some degree to call attention to the merits of our beautiful West Indian colonies, whose reputation as a winter resort should in no way be prejudiced."



A Negro Servant.

NATURE NOTES.

ST. LUCIA LIMES. Considerable attention is being paid in St. Lucia to the planting of limes. There are at present seven plantations which are being set out in this fruit. One of them, started in 1902, is now shipping green limes. It is estimated that 54,600 lime plants have been planted out in the past five years.

SEEDLING B. 376. In Barbados fifty-eight acres in Seedling B. 376, have given an average yield of 29½ tons of canes, and 2.95 tons of sugar per acre. The crushing plant used was a five-roll mill. The juice was good. The cane was stated to germinate well, and grow not only a good first crop, but also a good second one.

PAPER FROM BAMBOO. There is every prospect of a new industry for Burma in the form of paper from bamboo, especially in view of the large demand for paper in the populous towns of that province. The samples of wood tried for pulp were found wanting, as the products were not good enough to enter into serious competition with the high class wood-pulps obtainable in England with any chance of success.

RAMIE CULTIVATION. The December number of the *Bulletin* of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture, contains an exhaustive and useful *resumé* of the cultivation, decortication, etc., of ramie fibre, which is worthy of the notice of those of our readers who are interested in the subject. Now that the mechanical difficulties connected with decortication and weaving appear to be overcome, there should be a future for the cultivation of ramie in the West Indies, especially in the more southern colonies.

A NEW COTTON. According to the report of the United States Secretary of Agriculture for 1906, an agent of the Department of Agriculture, working in co-operation with the Texas Agricultural Experimental Station, has produced a new early defoliate variety of cotton, which, it is claimed, will meet the need so very strongly felt in boll-weevil infested regions for a kind of cotton which will mature its entire product very early in the season, in order to permit the crop to be harvested and the stalks destroyed early in the autumn. The new variety, which is of a productive sort, having fairly large bolls, ripened its fruit and matured earlier than any other of the varieties tested in comparison with it. The report adds that several other varieties of cotton selected to secure earliness and productivity, fitting them for boll-weevil conditions, have been experimented with, and that select seed of these sorts will be distributed this winter.

COLONIAL REPORT.

Late information from British Honduras.

The report on British Honduras has just been published. It refers, as far as the financial returns are concerned, to the twelve months ending March 31st, 1905, while the other returns given are for the calendar year 1905. This system of closing the year at different periods deprives the report of much of its value. In any case the report is tardy, and the position is aggravated by the information as to the finances, referring to a much earlier date than that dealing with imports, exports, and other statistics.

The general revenue of the colony for the year 1904-5 was \$309,790, as compared with \$301,194 for the year 1903-4, while the local revenues for the same periods were \$40,415 and \$34,913 respectively. The expenditure for the year 1904-5 amounted to \$282,258, as against \$266,039 for the year 1903-4. At the end of the calendar year 1905 the surplus on general revenue account stood at \$186,265, of which \$65,209 was invested. The surplus included \$75,000 paid on account of the Chipley contract for the sale of pine woods. The imports for the last five years ending 1905 were:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1901	\$1,227,202	\$1,387,598	1904	\$1,757,319	\$1,863,871
1902	1,227,803	1,362,210	1905	1,876,560	1,835,250
1903	1,772,976	1,853,181			

The principal sources of supply were the United Kingdom, the United States and Mexico, and it is interesting to notice, in view of the frontier railway scheme which has been so warmly advocated, not only the large proportion coming from Mexico, but also the considerable increase in the supply from the latter country in 1905 as compared with 1904:—

	IMPORTS.			
	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...
United States	...	...	...	...
Mexico	...	...	...	...
	\$467,449	\$495,873	\$28,424	—
	991,613	957,481	—	\$34,132
	174,892	264,999	90,107	—

The principal items in the exports were mahogany, logwood, bananas, chicle, and coconuts, and the following table gives the value of these exports for the five years 1901-05.—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Mahogany	\$359,220	\$326,658	\$492,554	\$574,548	\$549,099
Logwood	376,569	302,366	274,303	205,515	184,229
Bananas... ..	152,514	107,805	158,913	127,450	149,225
Chicle	24,342	38,185	74,951	171,806	299,009
Coconuts	41,114	36,865	47,822	48,074	74,804

The export of bananas was the largest on record, notwithstanding the difficulties attending the fruit trade during the latter part of the year. More land is being taken up for the purpose of this cultivation. A still more satisfactory feature is the increase in the production of coconuts. The average exports for the years 1896-1900 was 2,133,841; for the five years ending 1905, 3,818,349, and the cultivation is still increasing. Serious attention was being given to the establishment of rubber plantations. These were not yet sufficiently advanced to affect the total of the exports, but most of the trees were doing well. Speaking of cacao, the report states that although little has been done, the attempts seem to have been successful, the exports having risen from nothing in 1899 to 18,998 lbs. in 1905.

In summing up the prospects of the colony it is stated that there is a considerable acreage of undeveloped land, somewhat difficult of access. In the northern half of the colony, which probably possesses less first class land than in the south, it is possible, by moderate expenditure, to improve the navigation of the rivers so as to make them available for small steamers or motor boats. In the south half excellent lands can be made available by the construction of light tramways. These statements, we may point out, do not altogether voice the views of the colonists, who are in favour of the opening up of the timber country by the Guatemalan frontier line in addition to the minor lines above mentioned.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Owing to the accident to the "Orinoco" and the consequent dislocation of the mail arrangements, the R.M.S.P. "Magdalena" sailed from Barbados a week later than usual. Consequently we are without the usual letters from our Hon. Correspondents. The R.M.S. "Port Royal" reached Avonmouth on January 16th.

The St. Kitts Cotton Crop.

Writing on December 31st, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson stated that the weather since last mail had been characterised by a prevalence of high winds with flying scuds of rain generally, though in places the rainfall had been heavy, varying from 1.50 to 4.50 inches since the 20th of the month. Cotton the rainfall had been heavy, varying from 1.50 to 4.50 inches since the 20th of the month. Cotton picking was going on vigorously, though it had been very difficult to induce people to work at all during Christmas week. It was feared that the returns per acre would not come up to earlier expectations, and it seemed to be the general opinion that the high northerly winds had done more harm to the crop than all the caterpillar attacks put together.

The R.M.S. "Eden" left St. Kitts on December 29th with Mr. Shepherd, of the Department of Agriculture, who was going to attend the Agricultural Conference in Jamaica. Owing to the near approach of sugar making it was not found possible to send any lay representatives from the island.

A "cold snap" in Jamaica.

When Mr. J. L. Ashenheim wrote on January 3rd he did not report the existence of atmospheric or other conditions which might presage the disaster which has since befallen Kingston. The Hon. T. Capper, however, had called attention to the abnormally low temperature prevailing. At Cassia Grove, near King's House, the thermometer fell to 54.5 Fahr., which was lower than it had been for twenty-five years. At the Jamaica College, on December 26th, it fell still lower, the thermometer registering 52° Fahr. Tourists were pouring into Jamaica, and an exceptionally busy tourist season was anticipated.

Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., who was visiting the island, had expressed his views to a representative of the *Gleaner* newspaper on the subject of the Sugar Convention, and the *Gleaner*, with characteristic enterprise, was securing the voice of the leading sugar proprietors in the island on the subject, and they were strongly of the opinion that the island generally, and the sugar industry in particular, was benefiting from the abolition of bounties.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The West Indies and the Sugar-Cane.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—As you are asking for some information about the Bourbon cane, I send you some notes left by my grandfather, who was born in 1769 and died in 1851. To replace what was called the native cane in Barbados, a cane

about seven-eighths of an inch in diameter, and giving a very small return per acre, not more than 1,500 lbs. to 2,000 lbs. of sugar. The first Bourbon canes were brought to Barbados by a Mr. William Firebrace, who imported them from Martinique in 1796. My grandfather bought 1,300 of them, for which he paid £32 10s., or sixpence each, and each plant had only one eye. The history of them is that they were sent by order of Louis 16th from Isle de Bourbon (Mauritius) to the Cape of Good Hope, and from thence to Cayenne, and eventually found their way to Martinique. Until the capture of Martinique by Sir John Jarvis, but little was known of the Bourbon cane. My first recollection of the purple cane, or so-called Transparent, was in 1850. It was brought from Grenada by a Mr. Heath, but quite failed at that time to supplant that magnificent cane, the Bourbon, which did so well for Barbados until the fungus destroyed its wonderful powers for producing sugar.

I remain yours, &c.,

J. H.

[We thank J. H. for throwing more light on this interesting subject. The native, or Creole cane, was probably the one referred to in the article by Dr. Moseley in our last issue, as having come from the Brazils.—ED.]

The Women's Self-Help Association.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Amidst the ruins of Kingston a poor little industry has received a crushing blow. Ample funds will doubtless be forthcoming to alleviate the distress of the negroes, who will soon be as well off as ever. A much more difficult problem will be to meet the needs of the poorer white population of Jamaica, whose condition has always been an anxiety.

There has been working for some time a scheme called "The Women's Self-Help Society," whose members have been encouraged to do handy work of every description, such as making baskets, carved wood work, needle-work, lace and other special industries of the islands. Their shop in Kingston, which is now destroyed, has been well-known to tourists, on whose custom they were chiefly dependent. The society has received great impetus lately by the increase of visitors to the island; also by the very deep interest taken in it by Lady Swettenham, the energetic wife of the Governor, who, as the telegrams show, is doing splendid work in assisting her husband.

Lady Swettenham inherits the talents of the Copelands and Wedgwoods, and has greatly improved the designs and raised the artistic standard of the work.

The object of the society is to be self-supporting, but, hitherto, assistance has been needed. The present catastrophe and the consequent diminution of visitors that, for a time at least, may be expected in the island, will make further help still more necessary.

We are writing without the knowledge of Lady Swettenham, as it seems important to make this appeal without delay. We think that some of those who have enjoyed the beauties of Jamaica may be inclined to contribute to a small specific object of this kind, which they may be confident will be well-administered under Lady Swettenham.

Donations will be received by Mrs. Parker Smith, Jordanhill, Glasgow, or may be paid to account of Jamaica Women's Self-Help Society, at the Union Bank of Scotland, 62, Cornhill, London, E.C.

We remain, yours faithfully,

C. A. LUBBOCK.

ANNE H. DAVSON.

MARGARET OLIVIER.

M. L. PARKER SMITH.

[We have frequently called attention to the excellent work being done in Jamaica by the Women's Self-Help Association, and feel sure that this appeal will not be made in vain. We shall be very glad to receive and forward to the proper quarter any subscriptions which may be forwarded to us towards so laudable an object. Already a donation of £100 from the Jamaica Earthquake Fund has been sent to us by the Lord Mayor for this deserving charity.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest. We have received for review the following:—

Poems by the late William Morrison, M.A. Jamaica: Sollas & Cocking.

From West to East. By Sir Hubert Jerningham, K.C.M.G., sometime Governor of Mauritius, of Trinidad and Tobago. With maps and illustrations. London: John Murray.

Lady Nugent's Journal. Jamaica 100 years ago. Reprinted from a Journal kept by Maria, Lady Nugent, from 1801 to 1815, issued for private circulation in 1839. Edited by Frank Cundall, F.S.A., secretary and librarian of the Institute of Jamaica. With illustrations and maps. London: A. & C. Black.

The Economics of Coloured Labour. Under this title the National Liberal Club has published in pamphlet form a paper read by Mr. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., in November last. Mr. Olivier denotes considerable space to the problem of coloured labour in the West Indian colonies, but other portions of the Empire are also dealt with, notably South and West Africa, in a manner which shows extensive knowledge of the subject in hand.

Jamaica. Painted by A. S. Forrest, described by John Henderson. With 24 full-page illustrations in colour. London: Adam & Charles Black. 6s. net. In this volume, the appearance of which is opportune, we recognise many of the striking illustrations, admirably reproduced in colour process, which adorned the pages of "The West Indies" published in 1905. Like the illustrations, the letterpress is, on this occasion, entirely devoted to Jamaica. The collaboration of writer and artist has been in every way satisfactory. The pen picture of Kingston will be read with particular interest at the present juncture, and the work as a whole will doubtless receive the attention from intending visitors, as well as those who prefer to tour our colonies seated in their arm chairs, which it thoroughly deserves.

The British Colonial Empire. By W. H. Mercer, C.M.G. and A. J. Harding. London: Waterlow & Sons, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net. This is a handbook containing valuable information regarding our colonies and dependencies. The first part of the work is devoted to a series of short treatises on the general matters pertaining to Empire and the constitutions, administration, legislation and trade of the colonies. The accounts of our various possessions are founded on those of the annual Colonial Office list, of which Mr. Mercer is one of the compilers. The handbook is intended to be used for educational purposes, the intention being that teachers and examiners shall make it their aim to encourage broad views of

the history, character, and condition of a place, and reflection on matters of general interest rather than the mechanical reproduction of particulars. It will undoubtedly serve a useful purpose, and it is worthy of being produced in a somewhat bolder type.

"**Empire.**" By Basil Ewes. Stirling: Eneas Mackay, 43, Murray Place. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co. Mr. Ewes has written this work with a purpose, one which should attract the interest of all in the colonies and at home who are working in any way to promote the progress of the Empire. "If this book," he says, "with all its imperfections, assists our working classes (I use the word in its broadest sense) to think Imperially, instead of parochially, it will not have been written in vain." Lord Falkirk, destined for a Parliamentary career, refuses to adhere to the political opinions of his father, who believes that any man of birth, education and wealth will be received by the Liberals with open arms, stating that "electors don't think, they go like a flock of sheep!" The book is really an account of the experiences of this nobleman's son who acts upon his desire to go into the world depending neither upon hereditary rights nor upon social position, and who subsequently returns to take an active part in politics. But because the book is interesting from a political point of view, it does not mean that the story is dull—it is a good one, and holds the attention of the reader. The work is essentially topical, and the opinions expressed on many subjects in it will be interesting to our colonial friends, while we do not think there will be much difficulty in recognising the well-known characters who are portrayed. Referring to permanent officialdom, "Sir Thomas Morton" says, "I have always been struck by the extraordinary ignorance of colonial affairs exhibited by these permanent officials. Few, if any, of them have visited our colonies"; and again, Lord Bannockburn dealing with Imperial Federation, an Imperial Council, and the reconstruction or reformation of the House of Lords, says, "Unless this country wakes up to the fact that there is an enemy now at the door, it may some day have to realise that it is too late. We have seen great nations rise and fall. Their glories departed, never to return. The fate of the Empire is now in the balance. This is no mere party cry. . . . Let me implore you to study this question wisely, soberly, earnestly. Let the passion of party prejudice and the indolence of indifference alike forsake you, and let us step forward together, united with our brethren across the seas, and attain that ideal of national unity, without which we shall be amongst other nations of the earth as a dream and as an extinct volcano, signifying nothing."

NOTES OF INTEREST.

- BANK RATE.** The Bank Rate stands at 5 per cent., and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) are quoted 86 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- SEISMOLOGY.** In connection with the Jamaica earthquake it is of interest to note that the International Seismological Association is to meet at the Hague next September.
- A GOOD PRICE.** The first consignment of cotton from Mr. Adamson's "Brighton" Estate in St. Kitts was reported upon as being exceedingly fine, and valued at the exceptionally high price of 24d. per lb.
- NO COMPARISON.** For loss of life the earthquake which has caused the destruction of Kingston is not to be compared with that which wrecked Port Royal on June 7th, 1692. In the Port Royal earthquake 3,000 persons perished.
- A TOY RAILWAY.** Acting on the advice of the Crown Agents, it has been decided that the gauge of the Stann Creek Railway in British Honduras should be 20 inches, instead of 3 feet, which was the gauge advocated by the Colonists.
- H. E. HESKETH BELL.** It is understood that Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, formerly Administrator of Dominica, and now Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief of Uganda, has started upon an expedition to Ruwenzori, the mountain recently explored by the Duke of the Abruzzi.
- ALL THE DIFFERENCE.** In a note in our last issue the writer dealing with the cotton industry in Barbados, was made responsible for the statement that the shallow nature of the soil on most parts of the island necessitates heavy *farming and manuring* to keep it going. It should be heavy *farmyard manuring*.
- RAMIE SEED.** A correspondent writes to say that last year he sent some ramie seeds to Barbados with a view of experimenting in the cultivation of this fibrous plant, but unfortunately the seed was fumigated by the postal authorities to such an extent that its germinating power was destroyed. This is a matter to which the Commissioner of Agriculture will doubtless direct his attention.
- THE SUGAR TAX.** At the annual meeting of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, held in Manchester, on Tuesday, January 22nd, a resolution was moved by Mr. S. Machin, and carried unanimously, expressing the hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would provide in his next budget for the relief of sugar users and consumers by the total repeal of the sugar duties.
- COTTON PRICES.** Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that since their last report, West Indian Sea Islands have been in good demand, and prices have been firm. All arrivals have been freely taken at advancing rates. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.85d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; medium fine, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; fine, 21d. per lb. Prices paid, 4d. to 24d.
- CANADIAN PREFERENCE.** The Canadian importers, says the *Maritime Merchant*, have notified West India shippers that in consequence of the change in the tariff, they are unable to allow West India sugars any of the preference, but will buy at New York prices. They offer, however, to allow the half-preference on any back shipments, should the Dominion government re-consider its attitude on the sugar duties.
- JAMAICA'S DEBT.** In connection with the earthquake it is interesting to note that the present funded indebtedness of Jamaica is £2,751,807 made up as follows: (1) Four per Cents., redeemable 1934, £1,098,907; (2) Three-and-a-Half per Cents., redeemable 1919-1949, £1,452,900; and (3) Three per Cents., redeemable 1922-1924, £200,000. The stocks are at present quoted as follows: (1) 106-108xd; (2) 97-99; and (3) 84-85.

THE CABLES.

Up to the time of going to press cable communication with Jamaica by the Direct West India Cable Company, which was interrupted by the earthquake, for the first time since its establishment, has not been restored. In a letter to the press Mr. R. T. Brown, of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, has called attention to the pluck and endurance displayed by his staff during this trying time.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Minna, the wife of the Hon. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad, which occurred on the 14th January. The deceased lady was very popular with all classes of the community. She was very charitable and highly accomplished. She was the only daughter of the late Gilbert à Beckett, B.A., of Christ Church, Oxford, a popular journalist and for many years a prominent contributor to *Punch*, of which her grandfather, the late Gilbert Abbott à Beckett, Metropolitan Police Magistrate and man of letters was a founder. She was also the niece of the late Sir Albert à Beckett, Assistant Accountant-General of the Army, and of Mr. Arthur à Beckett, who last year visited Jamaica, and lectured recently on "The Colonial Press" at the Royal Colonial Institute. She was also a grand niece of the late Sir William à Beckett, the first Chief Justice of Victoria, and cousin of the present Mr. Justice Thomas à Beckett, of the Melbourne High Court. She was very sweet tempered and took the deepest interest in her distinguished husband's literary pursuits. She leaves a son and two daughters to mourn her loss. Her place knows her not, but her memory will be tenderly cherished.

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., Jan. 15.—News of an earthquake at Kingston, Jamaica, reached the Colonial Office.—88% Beet, 8s. 11d., steady.
 Wed., Jan. 16.—Mr. Haldane officially notified his dissent from the Channel Tunnel Bill.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent," outward, left Southampton 12.15 p.m.—The R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived Avonmouth, 4.15 p.m.—Beet 8s. 9½d., flat.
 Thur., Jan. 17.—Jamaica Earthquake Fund opened at the Mansion House.—Mr. George Christall died.—The death of Mr. Alfred Shaw, the Notts cricketer, announced.—Beet 8s. 9½d., quiet.
 Fri., Jan. 18.—The Ameer of Afghanistan appointed G.C.O.—Beet 8s. 9½d., steady.
 Sat., Jan. 19.—The Tariff Commission publishes a memorandum analysing the returns as to the overseas trade of the United Kingdom.—Beet (morning call) 8s. 9½d., quiet.
 Mon., Jan. 21.—Correspondence between Admiral Davis and Governor Sir A. Swettenham published.—Beet 8s. 9½d., quiet.
 Tues., Jan. 22.—The *World* published a West India supplement.—The Tariff Commission issued a Memorandum dealing with the new Canadian Tariff and preferential trading with the Empire.—Earthquake almost destroying Island of Simalu, near Sumatra.—Article on "Our humiliation in Jamaica" in the *Morning Post*.—Beet, 8s. 10d., quiet.
 Wed., Jan. 23.—London shipowners passed a resolution in favour of the London Port and Docks Bill, 1907.—Beet, 8s. 10d., steady.
 Thur., Jan. 24.—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—The appointments of Mr. Birrell to be Chief Secretary for Ireland and Mr. R. McKenna to be President of the Board of Education announced officially.—Mr. William Whiteley shot dead.—Beet, 8s. 10d., steady.
 Fri., Jan. 25.—The United States naval appropriations (*The Times*, page 3).—Beet, 8s. 9½d., easier.
 Sat., Jan. 26.—German elections; defeat of Social Democratic party.—Beet (morning call) 8s. 9½d., quiet.
 Mon., Jan. 28.—The Emperor of Japan sends a message of heartfelt sympathy with the King and the nation in the calamity in Jamaica.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., 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.

- Feb. 3.—Grand evening concert at Covent Garden Theatre by members of the German Opera Company in aid of Jamaica Earthquake Fund.
 Feb. 15.—Special matinée (Théâtre Français) at the Royalty Theatre, under the immediate patronage of H.R.H. Princess Christian and His Excellency the French Ambassador. Proceeds to be equally divided between the Jamaica Earthquake Fund and French charities.
 Mar. 5 to 19 (inclusive)—Colonial Products Exhibition, St. George's Hall, Liverpool.

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. B. (York).—If you wish to learn Spanish rapidly, you will do well to communicate with the Berlitz School of Languages, 321, Oxford Street, London, or Hugo's Institute for Teaching Foreign Languages, 233, Regent Street, London, whose systems are admirable.

Lex.—We are afraid that your client could hardly hope to receive a subsidy for starting cotton growing in the West Indies if he has a capital of £1,000. On the other hand it is usual for pupils to pay a small premium to planters for the instruction which is given them. The fee is, generally, £100 per annum, which includes full instruction and also board and lodging. If you decide to proceed further in the matter we shall be pleased to see your client if you will make an appointment over the telephone.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Jan. 17th. "Very dry, rain wanted." Jan. 25th. "A few light showers have fallen but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Jan. 14th. "Finer weather since last message." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), January 21st. "Moderate rains have fallen generally since last message." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended January 9th. KINGSTON: "fine." PORT ANTONIO: "fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. W. H. B. Triggs), January 30th:—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hornsby, Miss Briscoe, Mr. Hughes Martin, Capt. and Mrs. Power, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. A. Herbert Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. C. Storey, Mr. Noel G. Hackney, Mr. Jules Dormeuil, Mr. Eugene Gallois, Miss D. Hutson, Hon. Archibald G. Bell, Mrs. and Miss M. Bell, Mr. Franz Wegener, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Master d'Albuquerque, Mr. J. H. Laing, Col. and Mrs. Gascoigne, Mr. Geo. Williams, Mr. Friedrich Flemming, Mr. Albert S. Gaminara, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. Dolphin, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Dean, Capt. and Mrs. Boas, Mr. W. H. Carey, Mr. K. Mouarri, Mr. Cecil Norman, Mr. Hans Beinsch, Mr. John T. Greg, Mr. William Dearling, Mrs. Bossamaier, Miss L. Corney, Lord Fred Hamilton, Lord John Hamilton, Rev. and Mrs. P. G. Bruce Austin, Mr. G. E. Linnell, Mr. H. J. Trinnery, Mr. Hugo Tietz, Mr. W. H. Leach, Mr. G. de Courcy Hamilton, Mrs. and Misses Jardine, Mr. Thos. Duberry, Mr. A. Emerson, Mr. H. A. McNaught, Mrs. N. Risien and four children, Mr. P. D. Williams, Mr. Ekstrand, Mr. Bjerke, Mrs. Davidson and Child, Mr. Hugh Parsons, Commander Geo. Ellis, R.N., Mr. David Baird.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), February 13th:—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Baird, Mr. Jno. Buchanan, Mr. Wm. Archibald, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Maclay, Mr. Herbert B. Buchanan, Miss M. Matthews, Mr. H. H. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Carr, Miss Carr, Miss Helen Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Thom. Robertson, Mr. Maurice Pollack, Mr. Francis C. Clayton, Miss Pollack, Miss C. Marriage, Miss Lucy Ure, Miss E. M. Coullhard, Sir James Whitehead, Bart., F.S.A., D.L., J.P., Miss Whitehead, Miss F. Whitehead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell, Mr. J. A. Aikman, Miss Sanford, Mr. N. A. Pretty, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Broadwood, Mr. J. R. Rose, Mr. Neil R. MacKinnon, Dr. Walter Ball, Mr. John MacLennan.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. O. Jones), January 16th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. C. Van den Bissen, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Dobbie, Capt. Hingley, Admiral Hulton, R.N., Mrs. Hulton, Mr. A. E. G. Hulton, Mr. E. Kromer, Mrs. D. Low, Rev. W. Martin, Mrs. E. C. Morrill, Mr. R. B. Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Potter, Mrs. W. M. Parker, Miss R. Parker, Mr. E. C. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Syer, Miss Teichman, three Misses Tate, Mr. N. Joseph, Mr. S. Pitts.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. O. Jones), January 26th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. W. Bellows, Mr. G. Bemand, Master N. Brandon, Master O. S. Brandon, Mr. A. C. D. Campbell, Mr. J. Carter, Lieut. J. S. Egerton, Lieut. P. Farrant, Miss E. B. Grabham, Mr. R. Johnston, Miss G. Morris, Mrs. Noble and two Misses Noble, Mr. W. Owen, Mrs. Ker Seymour, Mr. W. Vincent-Townend, Dr. R. C. Verley, Mr. A. Raper, Mr. A. Alex. Nathan.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Jan. 30	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"	Jan. 29, mdu't.
" 31	Demerara and West Indian Islands (Jamaica excepted)	*Glasgow	"Direct" Line	"Yanariva"	" 30, 6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"Nicaraguan"	Feb. 1, 6 p.m.
" 5	Demerara	Liverpool	The "Liverpool" Line	"Bryssel"	" 4, 6 p.m.
" 8	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica	†Dartmouth	"Direct" Line	"Serrana"	" 8, noon.
" 9	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	" 8, 16 p.m.
" 13	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"	" 12, mdu't.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Jan. 31 or Feb. 1	Jamaica and Barbados	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"
" 4	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"
" 13	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"

* Letters to be addressed per private S.S. "Yanariva."

† Letters to be addressed per private S.S. "Serrana," via Dartmouth.

‡ In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/December, 4 months.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	Tons.
Convention Europe	1,462,000	1,478,000	1,390,000	..
America	638,000	602,000	650,000	..
	2,100,000	2,080,000	2,040,000	..

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

	1907.	1906.	1905.	Tons.
	3,740,000	4,120,000	2,870,000	

The Market remains fairly steady with the usual daily farthing fluctuations in 88% paper beet, and there is a good consumption going on. Refiners and the Trade continue their hand to mouth policy in buying, which is only natural in a season when, if all goes well in Cuba, the supplies available for the world's requirements are fully ample. At present and for some time past speculation, except from hour to hour, is dormant, and as things now stand there appears to be no inducement for any one to take a lead towards an upward movement. The persistent quotation of about 9s. for next year's beet crop is scarcely likely to lead to any curtailment in sowings, and therefore enhanced values are entirely contingent on Cuba's out-put, other cane crops being normal. Licht's figures for the first four months of the campaign, given above, are so far satisfactory.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 28th January (yesterday), were:—Jan., 8s. 8½d.; May, 8s. 11½d.; Aug., 9s. 1½d., and October/December, 8s. 11½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	Tons
Europe	3,510,000	3,850,000	2,730,000	3,610,000	3,370,000	..
United States	140,000	140,000	80,000	80,000	130,000	..
Cuba... ..	100,000	30,000	70,000	100,000	100,000	..
Afloat	10,000	—	30,000	50,000	50,000	..
Total	3,760,000	4,020,000	2,910,000	3,840,000	3,650,000	..

Quotations of 88% Beet, 28th Jan.:— 8s. 8½d. 8s. 1½d. 15s. 11½d. 7s. 9½d. 7s. 10½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The highly satisfactory quality of the Demerara crystallised that has reached this Market during the last three months has proved very attractive to the Trade, and the prices of 16s. 6d. to 18s, which it has commanded must have been very encouraging to the shippers. The demand is fully equal to the supply, and average qualities remain 16s. 9d. against 15s. 3d. for Refiner's imitations. The nominal value of 96 test to Refiners remains 10s. 1½d. on floating conditions.

Molasses Sugar is in good demand and scarce from 11s. 6d. upwards, 89 test being worth 8s. in bond, to arrive.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds from 14s. to 15s. are wanted. To Refiners 89 test is worth 9s. in bond, on floating terms.

West India Figures for 12 months:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons.
Imports	3300	4700	2300	4300	400	..
Deliveries	2800	2200	2400	2800	2800	..
Stocks, 21st Jan.	11,000	11,000	9000	14,000	26,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, 28th Jan.: ...	16s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	24s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	14s. 6d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London, 21st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	Puns.
Jamaica	6400	6400	7700	...	8600
Demerara	6600	6800	5900	...	9700
Total of all kinds	20,000	20,300	20,800	...	27,100

The position of Demerara is unchanged. The Trade do not make any offers and Importers, so far, hold for last prices, viz., 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3½d. proof. The distressing earthquake in Jamaica has stiffened this Market and the value of Standard Home Trade Marks is somewhere about 2s. 8d. Leewards and Foreign kinds are quoted 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—21st January:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	Bags.
Trinidad	5600	11,400	21,300	10,500	..
Grenada	2900	8500	12,500	11,300	..
Total of all kinds	40,900	69,500	85,400	53,800	..

A distinct pause in the late upward movement of prices has set in, to the surprise of no one, and the tone of the Market has been very unsettled, accompanied by a general set back of 2s. to 3s. per cwt. Had our manufacturers not been compelled to buy the small available lots of British West India on the Market, the reaction could well have been more marked. It is beyond the power of any one to say what course prices will now take, nor is it worth while to discuss the statistical position which presents many different features. It is better to quote the nominal values of the day and leave the future to develop itself as time goes on. These nominal quotations are as follows: Trinidad fair collected, 88s., Estate fermented, 80s. to 83s.

Sundries.—COFFEE: irregular, Santos for January delivery, 30s. od.; Jamaica, good to fine ordinary, 40s. to 44s., 83's at 9d., 92's at 7d., smalls 6d. to 6½d., and rough 4½d. to 5d. MACIS: dearer, fair pale sold at 1s. 6d., 66's at 1s., 72's at 10d., pale red 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. PIMENTO: steady at 2½d. for fair. ARROWROOT: moderate sales of manufacturing St. Vincent quoted £26 12s. 6d. to £27. LIME JUICE: firmer, value 11d. to 1s. 3d.; Concentrated, steady, at £21 12s. 6d.; Distilled Oil, steady, at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 7d.; Hand Pressed, value 3s. to 3s. 4d.

Colonial Office immediately after the disaster, and it was the subject of a resolution passed by the Executive of the West India Committee at a specially convened meeting on Monday, February 4th. SIR ALFRED L. JONES—who with the members of his party we most cordially welcome back and congratulate upon a providential escape—is equally emphatic on the subject. In a telegram to the Mansion House Committee ARCHBISHOP NUTTALL, the Chairman of the Relief Committee has stated that a committee of business men after careful computation have decided that the loss on private buildings alone, exclusive of government, municipal, and ecclesiastical buildings, amounts to £1,600,000. We earnestly hope that on the present occasion there will be no such delay in granting Imperial assistance as there was in 1898 when Barbados and the Windward islands were swept by a hurricane. Unless Imperial assistance is forthcoming on a liberal scale Kingston must be ruined, and we shall be much disappointed if the King's speech at the opening of Parliament to-day, does not contain some reference to this matter. Assuming that a grant and a loan on easy terms are forthcoming the rebuilding of the city will proceed rapidly. To-day the new Building Ordinance is to be introduced into the Legislature of Jamaica, and it will doubtless be found to contain such provisions as will enable operations to be conducted on a systematic basis, and that it will be no patchwork city which springs up. The rectangular arrangement of Kingston could hardly, we imagine, be improved upon, though some streets, and notably Harbour Street, will require to be widened, and an opportunity will be afforded for at last carrying out the much discussed scheme of extending the railway along the whole line of wharves and piers. Mr. LINLEY SAMBOURNE, in a cartoon in *Punch*, which we reproduce on another page, represents Kingston as having a substantial sea wall. We should like to see it existing in reality, and not merely in the imagination of the artist. Another matter for consideration is the question as to whether it might not be possible to seek the assistance of a prominent expert in seismology. It would be folly to ignore the possibility of a recurrence of earthquakes, and as was done in the case of the Antigua Cathedral after the great earthquake of 1843, and as is always done in Japan, the new buildings should be erected as far as possible earthquake proof, as well as hurricane and fire proof. On February 21st, PROF. MILNE, who is an eminent authority on seismology, is to deliver an address on construction in Earthquake Countries at the West India Committee Rooms, and his remarks on the subject will be eagerly awaited. Jamaica has tough work to perform; there is much to be done; but the Jamaicans have emerged triumphantly from serious troubles before, and if they continue to show the spirit of self-help and to work together as they are now doing, and if the Imperial Government will come liberally to the assistance the difficulties before them are not insuperable.

THE failure of any British warship to arrive at Kingston until seven days after the recent disaster was the subject of a resolution passed at a specially convened meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, over which SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK presided, on Monday, February 4th. It was decided to urge the Government to take steps to prevent the recurrence of such a regrettable state of affairs, which it was felt might involve serious danger to life and property, and to make such arrangements as in the event of future trouble or disaster will prevent the Caribbean from being deprived of British assistance. The people of Jamaica appear to be behaving in their usual exemplary manner during the crisis caused by the earthquake, and though this was not unexpected, it stands out in such marked contrast to what has taken place when similar disasters have visited other parts of the world that the fact has also been the subject of a resolution—a resolution of sympathetic appreciation. But, at the same time, the withdrawal of the British fleet, like that of the white troops, is to be deprecated, and the recent events in the Caribbean Sea have proved that our warnings as to the inevitable result of such a policy were not unnecessary. The position is now more clearly realised by the press, and also the public at home, and we are greatly pleased to see that it is appreciated by Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, who, in a statesmanlike speech at Leeds, said that the policy of naval concentration left certain services undischarged which the Navy used to discharge,

and that there were needs for which we did not require first-class battleships and cruisers, but for which we needed urgently a squadron of ships of some sort or other. He then went on to make the announcement that he hoped that the Government might be able to effect the institution of a squadron of vessels that would discharge all these patrol and other functions absolutely necessary to the efficiency and dignified conduct of the administration of an empire so wide as ours. Coming as it does from the mouth of the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, this statement is of very great importance, and we may confidently expect that it will be acted upon. MR. CHURCHILL referred to the importance which would accrue to Kingston from the Panama Canal. The opening of that waterway might make it a far more splendid, and a far more wealthy state than anything which had ever been known in the West India Islands. Is it too much to hope that a consideration of this very significant utterance may lead to the re-establishment of moderate garrisons in Barbados, St. Lucia, and Jamaica; to an adjustment of the mail troubles; to a settlement of the long-pending question of cable communication; and, lastly, what is of paramount importance, a sympathetic attitude towards the Sugar Convention?

WITH the reassembling of Parliament sugar will again become a word frequently in the mouths and minds of politicians. There are two distinct matters in connection with that commodity which must come forward, namely, the sugar tax and the renewal of the Brussels Convention. We are afraid that many who freely vent their views on these subjects do so without having studied them so closely as they might do, and we need, therefore, make no excuse for again reminding them that the tax and the Convention have nothing whatever to do with one another. The tax was imposed purely for revenue purposes in 1901. The Convention was agreed to with the object of securing free trade in sugar in the markets of this country. Both objects have been achieved, the sugar tax has brought in annually a substantial sum to the Treasury, and the Sugar Convention has given equality of opportunity for British producers as with foreigners in the markets of this country without, be it noted, raising the cost of sugar to the British consumer. In the matter of the sugar tax we feel that the confectioners and sugar consumers in calling for its abolition or reduction, have a good case. It was imposed as a war levy to meet temporary and special conditions, and is certainly a hardship to consumers, while producers would, we imagine, equally welcome its abolition. As far back as 1903 Mr. Ritchie, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that sugar had undoubted claims for a remission of taxation. The Convention, however, is a different matter altogether, and it is hardly credible that any Government, let alone a free trade Government, after the experience which it has gained as to the working of this measure, could wish to put an end to it. In the first place, the Convention is, as far as we know, the only case in which all the European powers, Russia excepted, have agreed upon a free trade policy in regard to the export of a staple article of consumption. No one, and not even the most rabid opponent of the Convention, has ventured to say a word in favour of the bounty system on the Continent, which it has effectively crushed. The main objection to the Convention appears to have been the penal clause, which after all was only insisted upon in order that the foreign governments might have fair play for their own industries, and we have pointed out that as regards the imports in this country the penal clause is of little importance, inasmuch as any quantity of sugar shut out from British markets by it is not only small but merely diverted elsewhere, while an equal quantity of sugar is set free and available for this country. It is stated that even in the case of the withdrawal of Great Britain from the Convention, and its abandonment by the foreign powers, export bounties are not likely to be re-established on the Continent. The export bounties, however, were but a small part of the load upon British sugar producers which the Brussels Convention relieved. It also took the sting out of the cartels by rendering a reduction of the difference between the excise and customs duties upon which these trusts depended, compulsory. It is generally recognised that the abandonment of the Convention would mean the re-establishment of the high protective tariff, the

machinery for which already exists on the Continent, and which, in the case of Germany—the sugar exporting country *par excellence*—can come into force *ipso facto* on the day the Convention ceases. The result would be that cane sugar producing countries not in receipt of artificial assistance would be crushed practically out of existence, and consumers would ultimately have, instead of the abundant supply of sugar now available, a considerable reduction, with the inevitable rise in price which would seriously affect sugar consuming industries, while coming too late to restore the ruined sugar estates in British colonies. We have already shown on various occasions that consumers have more to gain than to lose by the continuance of the Convention, and we most earnestly hope that they will realise this aspect of the case, and while concentrating their efforts on securing the abolition of the sugar tax, also support our endeavour to secure the continuance of the Convention.

THE untimely interruption of the West Indian Agricultural Conference on the day of its opening—January 14th—has very naturally caused acute disappointment to those who, like ourselves, were watching its proceedings with interest. Through the courtesy of the Commissioner of Agriculture, a special reporter was placed at our disposal, and on another page we are able to give his account of the proceedings. It whets the appetite in a tantalising manner, and engenders poignant regret that the Conference which opened under such very favourable auspices was brought to such an abrupt termination. But the delegates did not lose heart, and several of the papers were subsequently read in the *Port Kingston* on her return voyage to Barbados, and we may feel certain that they will eventually be circulated in the Bulletin of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The preliminary excursions made by the delegates to the Conference appear to have been eminently successful, and it will be surprising if the visit to DR. TILLMAN'S citrus grove at Camden Town—how homelike this sounds—and MR. MURRAY'S banana plantation does not lead to a development of the fruit industry in neighbouring colonies, while it is possible that the new sugar factories at Parnassus and at Amity Hall, and the improvements at Money Musk, will be a subject for reflection in some islands where the manufacture of sugar has not yet reached such an advanced stage of perfection as it has on those estates. In Jamaica itself it is probable that further efforts will be made to establish a cotton industry, as the Sea Island cotton grown by MR. CHARLES DE MERCADO, in Vere, was very favourably reported upon, while it is an open secret that a company is to be formed to grow cotton on LORD DUDLEY'S estate Whitney, in Clarendon. This was planned on the outward voyage of the *Port Kingston*, and it is understood that many of the distinguished guests whom SIR ALFRED JONES took out in her will be among the shareholders. Anything which tends to widen the circle of those directly interested in the West Indies must be advantageous, and from this point of view, if from no other, the visit of the influential party in the *Port Kingston* must be productive of good. But already those who have returned are beginning to extol the praises of the island, and with such important missionaries among them the public will not be slow to realise that though Kingston has practically been demolished, the fair face of Jamaica has only received a mere scratch, and that her agricultural industries have not suffered. The friends of the visitors will learn about the scenic beauties of the island, and many will, undoubtedly decide to see them for themselves in future years. Certainly luck has been against the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the matter of these Conferences. They have been interfered with by quarantine, the absence of an adequate mail service, and now by an earthquake. In spite, however, of the latter untoward event, some benefit has, we are convinced, already been derived by the bringing together of so many prominent men, distinguished in science, no less than in agriculture, and the aftermath to be reaped when the papers are published, should, indeed, be still greater.

SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER, BART.

The subject of our portrait in this issue was born in 1851 and created first Baronet in 1897. Sir Cuthbert Quilter has taken a prominent part in public affairs and undertakings of many different



A SEARCH PARTY ARRIVING.

A clean breach has been made through this house as if by a cannon.



A WRECKED RESIDENCE.

The walls having collapsed, the roof has fallen bodily among the ruins.



WRECKAGE IN EAST STREET.

A man is seen on the right searching among the débris.



A SCENE IN RUM STREET.

It seems remarkable that any people managed to escape.



A WING OF THE MYRTLE BANK HOTEL.

The mosquito curtains can be seen hanging in the rooms. It is interesting to note that, as is usually the case, the arches have withstood the shock.



VERANDAH AT THE MYRTLE BANK HOTEL.

Where Sir A. L. Jones and many of his party lunched on January 14th.

KINGSTON AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.

From Photographs taken by the Rt. Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P.

kinds. From 1885 to 1900 he represented South Suffolk in Parliament; he is a Director and one of the founders of the National Telephone Company, and as a Suffolk Magistrate and County Council Alderman takes a great interest in the administration of that county. His keenness in agricultural matters is evidenced by his holding the Presidency of the Suffolk Horse Society, and the Vice-Presidency of the Suffolk Sheep Society. Sir Cuthbert is interested in British Guiana and Trinidad, and it will be remembered that in 1898 he accompanied Sir Nevile Lubbock to the West Indies, the object of their journey being to ascertain the possibility of organising some scheme for the erection of central factories in the islands. He is a prominent member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club.

THE RT. HON. JESSE COLLINGS' PHOTOGRAPHS.

The small pictures of Kingston, after the earthquake, which take the place of the usual full-page illustration in our present issue should prove of unique interest, as they are from photographs taken by the Right Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P., with the camera of Mrs. Hutton, the wife of Mr. J. A. Hutton, the chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association. Though Mr. Hutton left the *Port Kingston* at Barbados, Mrs. Hutton proceeded to Jamaica. After the disaster the ladies were advised to remain on board ship, where they performed a good work in tending the wounded, and Mrs. Hutton therefore lent her camera to Mr. Jesse Collings, with the admirable results as shown in the illustrations.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE LECTURES.

The lectures under the auspices of the West India Committee which have proved so successful in the past few years are about to be resumed. We are glad to be able to announce that Professor John Milne, the eminent seismologist, has consented to deliver the inaugural lecture of the season at the West India Committee Rooms on Thursday, February 21st, at 3.45 p.m., on the subject of "Construction in Earthquake Countries." Professor Milne, who was for twenty years in the employment of the Japanese Government, established the seismic survey of Japan, embracing 968 stations, and is now engaged in establishing a seismic survey of the world. In view of recent events, the lecture is likely to attract an unusually large audience, and, as space is limited, those members of the West India Committee desiring to attend should make an early application for tickets, which will be issued in order of application to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

CONFECTIONERS AND THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

The great complaint of the Confectioners against the Brussels Convention has been that, by raising the price of sugar, it is bringing about the ruin of the confectionery and mineral water industries of this country. The Board of Trade returns for 1906, afford a striking refutation of these statements. The value quantities and values of biscuits exported for the last four years have been:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Quantity (cwt.)	263,904	262,900	323,674	312,185
Value	£848,296	£858,162	£956,938	£1,005,073

Although there was a slight decline in quantity in 1906, the extra value more than compensated for it. With jams, confectionery and preserved fruits the improvement is still more noticeable:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Quantity (cwt.)	319,736	314,879	345,530	425,806
Value	£801,087	£812,213	£894,242	£1,036,460

Where are the signs of decay and ruin about which so much has been said? As a matter of fact, not only has the confectionery industry, but also the aerated water industry expanded. The exports of aerated waters have been:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Quantity	869,174 doz.	925,321 doz.	1,108,997 doz.	1,290,874 doz.
Value	£137,331	£150,384	£180,736	£210,614

So far from the Brussels Convention having injured those industries, the figures which are for the years during which the Brussels Convention has been in force, show conclusively that it has been quite the other way, and that trade in their commodities has materially improved since its operation.

THE WESTMORELAND PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The following resolutions passed at a meeting of the Westmoreland (Jamaica) Planter's Association, were received by the West India Committee by a recent mail:—

Whereas the likelihood of His Majesty's Government giving twelve months' notice to denounce the Brussels Convention has lately been forcibly brought before this Association.

Whilst this may be part of the Imperial policy of the Government, it will, if carried into effect, cause the ultimate ruin of the sugar industry in this island.

This Association would respectfully ask His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in such an event, the British Government would permit the Government of this Colony to endeavour to negotiate with the United States a reciprocal agreement, which would admit into the United States the sugar of this Colony on favourable terms, though such a preference was only obtainable if it placed at a tariff disadvantage the imports of all other countries into this island.

That whilst this Association is fully alive to the fact that it is impossible that any Colonial dependency can be allowed to interfere with the Imperial policy of His Majesty's government, this Association relying on the fair play which it believes it will receive at the hands of the Government, expects that no obstacles will be put in the way of the Jamaica Government in its attempt to save an important industry, which gives employment to thousands of the population, but that the Home Government will do all in its power to further the object in view.

That the above resolution be sent to His Excellency the Governor, and he be requested to forward it to the Right Honourable the Earl of Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

The sixth West Indian Agricultural Conference was opened at the Old Mico Training School, Hanover Street, Kingston, Jamaica, under the most favourable auspices on January 14th, last. Sir Daniel Morris, his staff of assistants and the delegates from the several colonies arrived at Jamaica in the *Port Kingston*, which also carried a distinguished party of visitors, the guests of Sir Alfred Jones, on January 11th. The reception accorded the delegates on their arrival at Jamaica was of a public character, the Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham, came on board to welcome the visitors to the islands and the band of the Kingston Militia was in attendance. The next few days were spent by the delegates in seeing the country, the excursions having been so arranged that whilst enjoying the hospitality for which Jamaica is so famed, they might pay visits to the principal centres of industry, and obtain a clear idea of the agricultural resources and conditions of the island. In this way the several sugar factories in Vere, one of the chief cane growing districts, were visited, and the delegates from other sugar growing colonies were cheered at the signs of confidence noticed on every side in the erection of new factories at Parnassus and at Amity Hall, and the extensions being made at Money Musk and other places. It was evident that in Jamaica faith in the future of the sugar industry had revived since the Brussels Convention, and that that faith was being shown by works. The citrus grove at Camden Town, belonging to Dr. Tillman, was also an object of interest. The grove is only forty acres in size, but it has cost nearly £6,000 to establish it in oranges and grape fruit and to bring it to its present state of perfection. It was a striking object lesson of what a fruit farm should be, and it is to be hoped that its enterprising owner will reap the reward of his devotion to scientific agriculture. Mr. Murray's banana plantation, one of the best kept in the irrigated district, was also inspected, and planters from Trinidad and Barbados who are thinking of going in for banana growing, were much interested in what they saw and heard. The cacao cultivation did not appear to impress the critics from the cacao growing colonies particularly, although great advance is being made in this industry. The cotton experts were much taken with a field of thirty acres on Mr. de Mercado's estate in Vere. This had been cleared and put in cotton without much preparation, large numbers of roots yet remaining to be removed by the steam plough it is proposed to employ later on. Yet the trees were of uniform height, practically free from disease, and the bolls, although somewhat small, gave promise of a good yield of lint. There was no doubt, after seeing this field and ascertaining the conditions under which it was planted, that with careful attention to the seasons cotton could be grown to advantage and with a minimum of difficulty on similar lands in Jamaica.

The excursions included a trip to Port Antonio, the proprietors of the Hotel Titchfield (probably one of the best in the West Indies and one difficult to beat at any winter resort in the new world), having sent an invitation to all the delegates to be their guests at the opening of the tourist season by a ball, on Saturday the 12th inst. On the outward journey the route to Annotto Bay and thence along the coast to Port Antonio was taken, affording a view of St. Mary's, one of the principal banana growing districts, and taking in also the area which was most affected by the disastrous hurricane of 1903. Traces of that calamity were still to be seen in the decaying trunks of cocoa-nut trees. But the agricultural development of the district had only been temporarily checked, and the country had almost recovered from what was now only an unhappy recollection. On Saturday a reception was given at King's House by Lady Swettenham, and on the following day the delegates were present at an "At Home" given by Mrs. Clarence Bourne. Both were very largely attended.

On Monday, January 14th, the Conference was opened by the Governor who in a brief speech, welcomed the influential company and expressed the hope that the deliberations of men who carried so much weight in the Empire would be of benefit to the colony. The assemblage was certainly a notable one. The several colonies had sent their leading men to represent them, and all the most prominent men in Jamaica were present. But in addition to these there were men whose presence would

make any company distinguished, an ex-Viceroy of Ireland, an ex-Governor of Indian Provinces, ex-Colonial Governors, ex-Cabinet Ministers, Privy Councillors, Members of the House of Lords and Members of both parties of the House of Commons. Among them the parliamentary veteran, Mr. Jesse Collings, who completed his 76th birthday on board the *Port Kingston* on the voyage between Barbados and Jamaica, and Mr. Henniker Heaton, whose services in connection with post office reforms have made his name as familiar in the West Indies as it is in England. Then there were great captains of industry like Sir Alfred Jones, representatives of London banking houses, and representatives of England's greatest industry, the Lancashire cotton trade. Such was the gathering which listened with marked attention and growing interest to the President's address. The address took up the tale of West Indian progress and development from the point where it had been broken off at the 1905 conference at Trinidad, and brought it down to date. Hopeful throughout, it gave figures and facts for the reasons for its cheerfulness. Steady advance had been made along the line of producing seedling varieties of disease resistant character, whilst yielding a larger percentage of sugar than the old canes. The new factories erected in the Leeward Islands had given good returns, and an extension of the factory system to other similarly situated islands was advocated. Reference was made to the Brussels Convention and the hope expressed that it would not be denounced. Canada last year had taken four-fifths of the total West Indian sugar output, and with the rapid growth of the population of the Dominion there was a prospect that it would take the whole of the West Indian sugars in the near future. The necessity of improving business relations between the Dominion and these colonies was accordingly advocated, and the opinion expressed that the visit of a delegation of Canadian business men to the West Indies in March next would tend to promote this. The rapid progress made in cotton growing was next touched on, and it was mentioned that in the three years since its start it had now reached 15,000 acres and the annual value was £200,000. The present season in Barbados had not been a good one owing to unfavourable weather, and the yield from an increased acreage might be below that of last year; as a compensation, however, prices had greatly advanced. One bale from Barbados had recently fetched as high as 2s. 4d. per lb. For his part, the President expressed the opinion that it would be better if the price were slightly lower and a larger yield of lint obtained from the same acreage. On this point it may be mentioned that the Lancashire cotton buying experts are solidly of opinion that the price will not fall much below 1s. 6d. per lb. for Sea Island cotton, even if there is a very considerable increase in the production.

Coming to the subject of agricultural teaching the President announced amidst cheers, that local funds might now be available for the support of agricultural schools, and that agricultural education was no longer regarded as the fad of a few. The address concluded with a reference to the future of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the necessity of a clearly defined central authority for the whole of the West Indies.

The value of the Sugar Convention.

A cordial vote of thanks to Sir Daniel Morris for his address was moved by the Archbishop of the West Indies and seconded by Mr. Howell Jones. His Grace paid a warm compliment to Sir Daniel Morris on the work which his department had so far achieved, and on the power to influence men and to bring about that identity of feeling with regard to the value of improved methods and the necessity of promoting the agricultural interests of the colonies. The old spirit that there was nothing to learn was dying out, if it was not already dead, and in its place had come a growing desire to fit and interest the people in the agriculture of the country, not so much to turn out trained agriculturists, but to surround their lives with an agricultural atmosphere and to promote an actual love for the plant as a living thing which God had made and man must take care of. Referring to the Sugar Convention His Grace said that one of the difficulties of colonial life was that there was danger of their being twisted by a change of policy at home. He maintained that questions affecting the army, the navy and the colonies should not be questions for debate on party lines. The chief value of the Brussels Convention was that it tended to give stability to the sugar industry in the West Indies, but what stability could there be if every few years there was an upsetting of everything. The natural outcome of the Convention could not be seen in less than eight or ten years. He hoped, therefore, that Convention would not be denounced. As regards the Imperial Department of Agriculture he hoped it would be continued on its present lines and extended to all the colonies.

After Mr. Howell Jones had seconded the motion in a brief speech, in which he included Mr. Bovell and other assistants of the Commissioner, Sir Daniel Morris replied, acknowledging the assistance he had received not only from the members of his department, but also from the agricultural societies and the leading planters in the various colonies. The following were then elected honorary members of the Conference: The Earl of Dudley, Viscount Mountmorres, Rt. Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Arnold Foster, M.P., Rt. Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P., Mr. Howell Davies, M.P., Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., Mr. Murray Hutton, Mr. C. Lawrence, Mr. Lancaster, Vice-President of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Sir Alfred Jones, Sir Ralph Moor, Sir Thomas Hughes,

Hon. Alex. Macdonald, Mr. Alexander Crum-Ewing, Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., Mr. Gerald Loder, M.P., and Mr. John Taylor. After reviewing the Agenda paper and appointing Committees the Conference adjourned for luncheon.

Re-assembling at 2.45 p.m., an address of loyalty to the King and Throne was moved by Mr. F. J. Clarke, speaker of the Barbados House of Assembly, and seconded by Mr. Howell Jones, of the Legislative Council of British Guiana. An address to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, thanking the Imperial Government for the proposal to continue the Imperial Department of Agriculture for a further term of years after the period first fixed by Mr. Chamberlain was moved by Mr. Craig, member of the Jamaica Legislative Council, and seconded by Mr. Carl de Verteuil, of the Trinidad Legislative Council. The addresses were forwarded to the Governor for transmission in due course.

Papers on sugar cane industry were then read by Mr. Cousins, Government Chemist, Jamaica, Dr. Francis Watts, of Antigua, and Mr. Bovell, of Barbados. Mr. Cousins said that seedlings D. 95, had been found of great value on light soils in Jamaica, where irrigation was employed, B. 147, had proved an excellent drought resisting cane in Trelawney, but was not in favour in other parts of Jamaica. Dr. Watts said that thanks to the introduction of seedling varieties, cane diseases in the Leeward Islands had ceased to cause anxiety to planters. The interest in varieties now gravitated towards the production of the richest sugar yielding plant. The Bourbon cane had practically disappeared from cultivation, there being only 190 acres out of 9,000 in other canes. White Transparent which had been regarded as a new variety, had given place to others and with the continued improvement in the production of new varieties, those at present cultivated would probably give place to richer canes. The substitution of new canes was not recommended however, until the planters were satisfied that they were entirely suited to the conditions of the soil in which they were to be grown. The idea was to get planters to take up varieties, not in a spasmodic effort, or in a panic when disease appeared, but as an integral part of their work.

Earthquake causes an interruption.

Mr. Bovell was in the middle of an interesting statement as to experiments in cross fertilisation being carried on in Barbados, when, to use the words of our special representative, there came a rushing sound as of a troop of horse passing the neighbouring street at a gallop. Then the building began to shake, the floors heaved, the roof swayed to and fro and the walls rocked in and out. The gyrating motion increased in violence, and the delegates began to realise that they were experiencing an earthquake of unusual violence. It lasted for about fifteen seconds but it seemed a life time. When the motion had ceased, the Governor, Sir Daniel Morris, the Archbishop and the delegates left the building without disorder, grateful for their merciful preservation. His Excellency proceeded at once to take up the direction of affairs, and to give the necessary instructions for preserving order, whilst the delegates endeavoured as far as possible to assist in the work of succour. In fifteen seconds the whole of Kingston had been more or less shaken into ruins, and the fire that followed immediately on the collapse of the buildings destroyed the commercial part of the city.

The Conference thus rudely interrupted was resumed on the *Port Kingston* on Saturday, January 19th, when papers on cotton growing were read by Dr. Watts and Mr. Bovell, describing the progress that had been made in the Leeward Islands and Barbados, which was very satisfactory, although the seasons had been very adverse. Mr. Bovell referring to cost of cultivation at Barbados said he had lost his records on Monday last, but he was still able to give the figures for one estate on which careful accounts had been given for three consecutive years. Beginning with 34 acres the first year, and rising to 56 and 69 acres the two following, the cost was just over £8. per acre, including labour, supervision, taxes, insurance, upkeep, &c., interest on capital being alone excepted. The clearance was over £9 per acre. On another estate, on which 34 acres of cotton was grown, the clearance was £11. Mr. Bovell desired it to be clearly understood, however, that the three years to which he referred were good years for cotton. The cotton crop of 1906, owing to unfavourable weather conditions, was likely to be short. Taking the average over a number of years he placed the clearance at between £5 to £6 per acre. As instancing the increase in acreage put under cotton in the three years since the industry had been started, he mentioned that the first year 16 acres were planted. The next year 1,600 acres were put in; the third year 2,000 acres, and for 1906 between 5,000 and 6,000 acres were planted.

Dr. Watts dealt with the conditions of the cotton crop of 1906 and the prospect of 1907 in the various Leeward Islands. He stated that the crop in Antigua in 1906 was nearly double that of 1905, and that there will be a still greater increase of output in 1907. In St. Kitts also there was a large increase in 1906, and would be greater in 1907. In Nevis, owing to severe drought, the crop of 1906 was somewhat smaller than that of 1905, although the acreage was greater. In Anguilla the crop of 1906 was very much greater than in 1905, and in 1907 there was likely to be a still further considerable increase. The same remarks applied to Montserrat, the total output for 1906 was 383,000 lbs. of lint at about 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. per lb. In Antigua and Nevis considerable areas of land that had been for

many years out of cultivation were now being planted in cotton, which would have great effect on the future of those islands. In St. Kitts cotton was chiefly grown as an interim crop with sugar cane, with very satisfactory results. In Montserrat cotton had now become practically the principal item of export, and the quantity produced was likely to be extended. The conditions of life at Anguilla had been entirely changed, whereas formerly the inhabitants eked out a precarious existence, depending on a few food crops and the raising of a small quantity of stock, there was now a well-established and well-developed cotton industry, providing an export trade having a value of about £6,000, and rapidly increasing.

Sir Alfred Jones, who was present, declared his intention of continuing his efforts on behalf of the West Indies. The company to be formed to work Earl Dudley's estates would be carried on, and everything done to promote cotton growing and other industries in Jamaica and elsewhere. The delegates arrived at Barbados on Monday, January 21st, and left for their several destinations by the steamers awaiting them.

WEST INDIAN COTTON.

A large and influential meeting was held at Barbados on January 8th, to welcome Sir Alfred Jones and the other members of the British Cotton Growing Association who accompanied him, and in the course of the proceedings some excellent speeches were made. Mr. Arnold Foster, M.P., dwelt at considerable length on the importance of personal knowledge of the various parts of the Empire being possessed by those who took part in its administration. The cotton growing industry seemed to him to have a highly prosperous future in sight. The assistance which the Imperial Government was giving to the industry was justified from beginning to end, and this fact was recognised in England which was co-operating with Barbados in a way which might well be imitated in the case of other colonies and the mother country. Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, paid a high tribute to the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and their work, in combatting the various diseases and pests which attack the cotton plant. Sir Daniel Morris warned the cotton growers of Barbados not to be carried away by the high prices ruling at present. Cotton from Barbados had just fetched 28d. a pound. Less than half this price would still leave the cotton growers a profit. Shortly afterwards the proceedings closed, and the visitors left to inspect the new cotton factory.

A public meeting of cotton growers was held in Barbados on January 18th, for the purpose of meeting Mr. J. A. Hutton, Vice-President of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, and Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, a Lancashire spinner, both of whom had arranged to speak on matters in connection with the cotton industry. In the course of a very able speech, Mr. Hutton pointed out that the interests of the British Cotton Growing Association and the planters were identical. The one required cotton and the others produced it. During the past three or four years about 15,000 bales of Sea Island cotton had been produced in the West Indies, and but for this fact many Lancashire mills would be idle at the present time. The Barbados cotton impressed the speaker as being extremely well cultivated. It seemed to him that the fields were far cleaner than those in St. Vincent, and that more care was taken of them than in other places. The prices ruling at the present time for Sea Island cotton were almost the highest known for half a century—a state of affairs brought about by the unfavourable conditions that had prevailed not only in the West Indies but in the United States. It could not be too strongly impressed on the planters that every single bit of cotton should be gathered; much was now thrown away in stalks and brushwood which would fetch a fair price in the market. Mr. Hutton spoke in high terms of the work done by Mr. Wolstenholme, in connection with the industry, and concluded by exhorting the planters not to be discouraged by the present bad season, nor to be deterred from planting cotton next year. Mr. Oliver said that although the crop both in the West Indies and the United States had been of small dimensions, the quality had been excellent. It was very probable that the West Indies would ultimately benefit by the present bad crop, as many who were accustomed to purchase American cotton would be compelled to try West Indian cotton, and once having tried it they would want it again. The lustre of the West Indian cotton was far superior to that of American cotton, and in many cases enabled it to be used as a substitute for silk. There was an increasing demand for West Indian cotton, and the future prospects of the industry were most encouraging.

THE TOUR OF THE COTTON DELEGATES.

Mr. E. Lomas Oliver and Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, who recently visited the West Indies, as representatives of the British Cotton Growing Association, on arrival at Barbados on January 8th, transhipped to the Pickford and Black *s.s. Ocamo* for St. Vincent. They spent nearly a week in the island, visiting all the cotton estates, and Mr. Oliver has been kind enough to favour us with his views regarding the condition of the industry there and in Barbados. In St. Vincent he found it being con-

ducted on the most intelligent and thorough manner. Indeed, says Mr. Oliver, agriculture seems to be conducted in the West Indies on much more thorough and scientific lines than in England, thanks to the assistance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and also to the intelligence of the planters. There is a large tract of land in St. Vincent, in the Carib country, on the windward side, running northwards, which used to be the most fertile in the island before the eruption, but owing to the eruption the course of one of the rivers has been changed, and the volcanic sand still lies inches deep on the land. If only the Colonial Office would sanction the use of part of the unused portion of the Eruption Fund for the purpose of clearing the bed of the river and for the purchase of a steam-plough to plough up the land to a sufficient depth to thoroughly mix up the volcanic sand with the soil, then this fertile region would be available as a large cotton growing area, and the prosperity of St. Vincent hastened by many years.

The party returned to Barbados on the 14th, and with the aid of a motor car (placed at their disposal by Mr. C. Thorne) and buggies, explored nearly all the cotton districts of the island. The weather has been unfavourable, and the returns per acre in most districts are below the average, but as prices are high this will compensate planters to some extent. Labour in Barbados will soon be a problem owing to the exodus to Panama, but this may prove to be a blessing in disguise if it induces the sugar planters to adopt central factories similar to the one in Antigua, and to co-operate more. Mr. G. Laurie Pile is erecting a plant on modern lines for triple extraction which is expected to start operations this month. It remains to be seen if the cane planters in his district will avail themselves of his new machinery. In conclusion, Mr. Oliver adds that their stay in both islands was most enjoyable, and the reception committees inaugurated by Sir Daniel Morris enabled them to explore the islands most thoroughly. It was impossible adequately to acknowledge the kindnesses shown them by all. At St. Vincent Mr. and Mrs. Oliver were most hospitably entertained at Park Villa by Mr. and Mrs. Conrad, J. Simmons, Mr. Hutton and Mr. Shelmerdine being guests of the Administrator at Government House. The Hon. J. G. W. Hazell entertained all the visitors at his house at Grand Sable. At Barbados the party received much hospitality from the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, the Hon. W. K. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thorne, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Thorne, Mr. and Mrs. C. Thorne, Dr. Gooding, Mr. Sam Browne, the Hons. Edwin Clarke, G. Laurie Pile, Mr. Shephard, and Sir D. Morris, as well as at Government House.

THE JAMAICA EARTHQUAKE.

From the many accounts of the Kingston disaster which have reached us we have selected the following letter received from Mr. George Carrington, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, who joined the *Port Kingston* at Barbados on her outward voyage to Jamaica, and returned in her to that island. It gives an account of events preceding the earthquake, which will make it particularly interesting to our readers. Writing on board on January 20th, Mr. Carrington said:—

Here I am returning safe to Barbados, which we ought to reach about 4 p.m. to-morrow. Our escape from the earthquake at Kingston was simply miraculous. We all started from Barbados on the 8th at 1 p.m. in high spirits, expecting to have a great time with some useful business thrown in. We arrived at Kingston on the 11th, and had a great reception—the Governor, Guard of Honour, band playing, &c. We were at once taken in hand by the Jamaica stewards, and at 9 a.m. went by train to Vere, and then by buggy to visit various places, such as Money Musk and Amity Hall, sugar factories, a small farm of citrus fruits in a flourishing condition, a logwood factory, &c. Altogether we did 80 miles by train, and 45 miles by buggy, through the dryer part of the island, the vast pen country, chiefly under guinea grass, with logwood and other small scrubby trees, and many mimosas. One felt there was considerable depression, except in the citrus plantations and on a wonderfully irrigated banana plantation, where the growth was superb, and cultivation very fine, the banana trees reaching 20 feet in height. Everywhere the fatted calf was killed, and people could not do too much for us. All broke out into festivity. At one place, Money Musk, the Speaker of the Barbados House of Assembly, Elliot Sealy and I, all went off to go through the sugar works of Colonel Ward, with the Engineer We got back to Constant Spring Hotel, six miles out of Kingston, soon after 8 p.m., going up to a height of some 600 feet from the town by electric cars, of which there is a very fine service.

Next morning at 8 we went by train to Port Antonio by a circuitous route through a break in the Blue Mountains, and across the island from south to north, and then along the coast, about 54 miles. We stopped at Bog Walk (lovely) at a packing-house for oranges, a walk of some distance along the top of the ridge through the great banana country, very broken and hilly, and stretching away for miles, with banana trees covering the whole surface even to the tops of the hills, 1,000 feet high. At another stoppage we walked through cocoa and rubber plantations, with annatto trees as well. Annatto Bay is very pretty, with its deep blue sea against green headlands, altogether a rich country with well-kept bungalows, and this is accounted for by a rainfall of from 100 to 130 inches a year.

Our party included Mr. Jesse Collings, Mr. Henniker Heaton, Mr. Howell Davies, Lord Mountmorres, Sir Thomas Hughes, ex-Mayor of Liverpool, and we reached Port Antonio, where the United Fruit Co., of U.S.A., have a sumptuous hotel, about 6 p.m., and were entertained at a fine dinner and a glorious ball. Then followed a magnificent supper which had been sent down from New York. It could not have been finer anywhere in the world. While we were having dinner on the verandah, there were fireworks on the island just across the bay, and processions of boats with coloured lights. The hotel, built of wood on concrete foundations, and coloured a dark olive green with white windows, is very fine. Next morning off we went by train at 8, stopping at

Burlington, to see cocoa and large rubber-trees, and visit a planter's bungalow perched up 200 feet high, from which we could look down at the Rio Grande and see the fish and the stones on the bottom, below us a fertile valley through which the river runs, behind us splendid hills stretching away to the peak (7,000 feet), which was wrapped in cloud. In front, lay a blue sea breaking in white foam against the cliffs, or over the sandy bay, which was quite lovely. I forgot to mention that Mr. Pearson, of the Colonial Office, and his wife, were with us. We then went on to Annotto Bay, where twelve of us left the others and drove through the most splendid scenery, rocky precipices, steep mountain sides, rushing streams, tropical growth to Castleton Gardens, the old Botanical Station. The Jamaica ponies are wonderful little beasts, trotting 40 miles a day, and being just turned out to graze when done with for the day. They trot down the steepest hills, and one felt there was a poor chance if a pony fell or a strap broke, but all went well.

We got in about 6.45 p.m. to Constant Spring Hotel. On Monday all was excitement about the Conference. Electric tramcars were waiting at the Hotel entrance. We, in the best of spirits, though a bit tired, went down to Kingston intending to purchase gloves, &c., for the ball that night. There was to have been a great Conference dinner on Tuesday night, and a ball at Government House on Wednesday, we to sail on Thursday. On Sunday there was a special Conference service at the Cathedral. Well, the Conference was opened with éclat by the Governor, at the Old Mico College rooms, the Archbishop of the West Indies, Lord and Lady Dudley, and other notables, including Mr. Arnold Foster and his wife, and Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P. All Jamaica was there. Sir A. Swettenham opened with a speech; Sir D. Morris made a long speech saying what the Imperial Department had done, and he was followed by the Archbishop. We adjourned for lunch to the Myrtle Bank Hotel in the town . . . and afterwards all sat out in the hotel gardens close under the colonnades for lunch, a merry party. We drove back again to the Conference room, and at about 2.30 began work. First of all, Mr. Cousins, Jamaica, read a paper, and then followed Dr. Watts, Leeward Islands. After that there was some discussion. Then Mr. J. R. Bovell read his paper. I was to follow with a few words. Only ten minutes was to be taken for each paper, and Stockdale, the Secretary, was looking up to Bovell to tell him he had had his full time, when a rumbling began. I thought, "Well, these people might have kept their trollies off the street while we were sitting," but the rumbling grew and grew till it was a roar, and someone called out, "My God!" and I, in a dazed way, appreciated what was happening, and debated within myself what I should do. Should I run to the door as some were doing, or should I sit on. The rumbling became the most appalling series of bangs, while on all sides was the sound of falling walls and shrieks. The whole room was shaking up and down and about, distinct sharp waves passing rapidly across the room from south to north and seeming to raise the floor quite a foot at the crest. Windows began to fall out, pictures and the clock tumbled down, the ceiling was on the point of falling and gaped from the walls, which themselves bulged and bent. The room was filled with dust and falling plaster, and men's faces blanched with terror. I thought it time to quit, and as best I could I scrambled along the heaving floor to the entrance. There was no great bustle, and I recollect standing back while a girl in a green dress scrambled out. We rushed down the steps into the yard. The earthquake was over. I went back to fetch my hat and asked Sir Daniel Morris if he would formally adjourn the meeting (being dazed). He said it was sufficiently adjourned. A policeman came to the entrance and called that the building was falling. We all cleared out into the road. There were shrieks on all sides, the next house was wrecked and a poor girl's leg cut off, and on all sides falling houses and the groans of the crushed. We saw Mr. and Miss Crum-Ewing into a buggy and then started to walk into the town. Another shock was distinctly felt. We found telegraph and tram wires all down across the roads and many dangerous walls, &c., so started for home. Men seemed galloping hither and thither, a coloured man cried to us for help, and we lifted his wife, in a critical condition, into a cart. On all sides were men and women praying aloud and calling that the end of the world had come. We walked four miles and then got a lift to the Constant Spring hotel. Here we found all in dismay, two of the three stone towers badly cracked and in one a crack a yard wide, passages and halls strewn with stone and plaster, gaping holes in the walls. Fortunately most of the hotel was of wood, and this was all right. Directly we left the Conference room we saw two columns of smoke arise, and now there was a raging fire. The camp had been destroyed and forty-five soldiers burnt in the military hospital. The servants of the hotel behaved admirably, and gradually mattresses, chairs and couches were brought out of the hotel and we all camped on the lawn. It was very weird there in the starlight, with the ground constantly trembling, and every now and then a rumble and another shake and pieces of masonry falling. Of course, throughout the night buggies drove up from town and country and we rushed to hear rumours of disaster or of the safety of lost ones. Towards evening some of us went through the streets and down to the ship which had been used as a hospital. Almost every house in the town is a wreck, except the Conference Hall in which we sat. The Collegiate Hall, a finer building, which we were to have sat in, is quite flat. It is only a miracle that saved us. The town is gone, it has ceased to exist—not a house practically is habitable, and a great district is burned. It has been a terrible sight from the deck to see the vast columns of smoke rising from the town, lit up by the glare of the great fire. Of course, the water mains are broken, and all the streets blocked up with wreckage, so that the firemen could do little to cope with the conflagration. You can hardly imagine the awful desolation wrought.

The Mansion House Committee.

Subsequent to the publication of our last issue, the names of the Mansion House Committee formed by the Lord Mayor for the administration of the Jamaica Earthquake Fund were announced, namely:—the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Revelstoke, Lord Rothschild, the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. D. Q. Henriques, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, and Sir William Soulsby. A meeting was held at the Mansion House on January 28th, when Sir William Treloar, the Lord Mayor, stated that he had received a telegram from Sir Alexander Swettenham to the effect that supplies in kind were no longer needed, but that relief could best be given in contributions of money. It was pointed out that the money already subscribed would go but a little way towards assisting the necessities of those whose houses and stock-in-trade had been destroyed. It was decided to send a telegram to the Governor expressing the desire that the fund should be administered by a local relief committee, in accordance with principles to be approved by his Excellency, and that the fund should be applied as far as possible to assist in rebuilding. It was agreed

to contribute £100 from the Earthquake Fund towards the Women's Self-Help Society of Jamaica. A further meeting was held at the Mansion House on February 4th, when the Lord Mayor was able to announce that the fund amounted to nearly £48,000, of which £15,000 had been remitted to Kingston for the relief of the sufferers. He had received an urgent appeal from the Archbishop of the West Indies for further funds, especially to rebuild the houses of the poorer classes, which had been demolished in the earthquake, and to help the widows and orphans of those who had been killed, and the families of persons thrown out of employment by the calamity. On the motion of the Duke of Abercorn the committee decided to remit £25,000 more, making, so far, £40,000, to Kingston for these and other purposes of relief.

The committee met again on Monday, February 11th, when the Lord Mayor announced that the Fund amounted to £50,100, and reported the receipt of the following cable message from the Archbishop of the West Indies:—

Warm thanks for telegram and notice of money available. Not drawing immediately. Using local gifts first. Relief proceeding, indiscriminate food gifts to sufferers at first necessary now stopped. City divided into ten districts, fifty members of Committee aided by others making house to house visitation recording needs of inmates so in each case can be carefully met. Provisions for sufficient temporary shelter of homeless complete to-day, poorer people gradually getting back into houses being restored at small cost, work on damaged buildings of middle classes waiting for material and passing of new Building Law regulating construction, legislature dealing with this on February 12th. Larger work of Kingston now occupying careful attention, for this Imperial aid will be needed. Careful computation by separate committee of business men shows loss on private buildings £1,600,000, exclusive of Government, municipal, and ecclesiastical buildings. Inform West India Committee.

An Appeal for a Loan.

Sir Nevile Lubbock presided over a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, specially convened on February 4th, to consider certain representations received from the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange. Those present were Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. S. H. Curtis, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. G. M. Frame, Mr. M. Garnett, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Col. F. C. Trollope, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary. It was resolved:—

"That the West India Committee desires to place on record its most sympathetic appreciation of the exemplary behaviour of all classes of the community in Kingston, Jamaica, on the occasion of the recent earthquake, and their plucky and energetic efforts to cope with the situation arising therefrom.

"That the West India Committee deeply deplores the policy which has led to the withdrawal of the white troops from the West Indies and the fleet from West Indian waters. The failure of any British warship to arrive until seven days after a disaster involves serious danger to life and property, and the Committee urges therefore that His Majesty's present advisers will take steps to obviate a recurrence of such a regrettable state of affairs, and will make such arrangements as will, in the event of future trouble or disaster, prevent the Caribbean being deprived of British assistance.

"That the West India Committee appeals to His Majesty's Government, following the precedent of 1898, when the island of Barbados was devastated by a hurricane, to afford to the people of Jamaica such Imperial assistance in the form of an Imperial grant and a loan at a low rate of interest of such an amount as will enable them to rebuild the City of Kingston on scientific lines as speedily as possible, and to re-establish the businesses of the store and shopkeepers, many of whom have lost all they possessed, and consequently their means of obtaining a livelihood."

The Jamaica Earthquake Fund.

During the past fortnight the West India Committee has received donations amounting to £1,293 18s. 9d. towards the Jamaica Earthquake Fund, making, with the donations already received, a total of £4,353 1s. 10d., while the total amount received towards the Mansion House Fund from all sources is £50,100.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged...3059	3 1	Thomas Lowndes & Co.	10 10 0	Anon.	5 0 0
Daily Mirror (Jamaica		Paines & Reid	10 10 0	Lieut.-Col. F. Galloway	5 0 0
Earthquake Fund) ...	153 19 8	Preece & Cardew... ..	10 10 0	"Anon."	5 0 0
Kleinwort, Sons & Co. .	105 0 0	Lord George Fitzgerald	10 0 0	Miss K. M. Bullen ...	5 0 0
Atlas Assurance Co. ...	105 0 0	Miss Thomas... ..	10 0 0	Claud Neilson & Sons...	5 0 0
Indemnity Mutual		Miss Romilly... ..	10 0 0	William H. Lascelles ...	5 0 0
Marine Assurance Co.	52 10 0	Offertory St. Peters,		Edgar Gorer	3 3 0
Boosey & Co.	26 5 0	Petersfield	7 15 3	Geo. A. Porter	3 3 0
Mrs. Shotton... ..	25 0 0	G. L. Graves... ..	5 5 0	Rex. H. Hoare	3 0 0
H. Vigne & Sons	21 0 0	Mrs. Tothill Massy ...	5 5 0	Major C. M. Barlow ...	3 0 0
Mrs. Waller	20 0 0	Sir Henry K. Davson ...	5 5 0	S. Baker-Penoyre... ..	3 0 0
Lt. Col. Windsor Clive	20 0 0	Floating Dock Co. of St.		A. B. R. Wallis	3 0 0
Commander M. H. H.		Thomas, Ltd.	5 5 0	Rev. W. H. Arkwright	
Nelson, R.N.	20 0 0	Major L. F. Knollys,		(Offertory Highclere	
J. Whittall	10 10 0	C.M.G.	5 5 0	Church)	3 0 0
Mrs. Whittall	10 10 0	A. Gaviller	5 0 0	John M. Lennie	2 2 0
G. E. Henderson... ..	10 10 0	Arthur T. Osborne ...	5 0 0	"A. M. Z."	2 2 0
Burton, Son & Sanders,		Mrs. Eden	5 0 0	Ernest O. Hanbury ...	2 2 0
Ltd.	10 10 0	"K. K."	5 0 0	John Scratton	2 2 0

£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.					
"T. F."... ..	2	2	0	"H.W." Bournemouth	1	0	0	H. & J. Jones & Co.,	2	2	0
David Baird	2	2	0	Mrs. Stirling... ..	1	0	0	Ltd.	2	2	0
Hon. Cecil Cadogan ...	2	2	0	"H. W. H."	1	0	0	William & Keith Jopp...	2	2	0
W. Kent Capper	2	2	0	A. N. Gibbs	0	10	6	Loewe & Co.... ..	2	2	0
F. J. Constable Curtis ..	2	2	0	Mrs. C. J. Hunt	0	10	6	W. Lovegrove	2	2	0
Miss Lily de Mercado... ..	2	2	0	Mrs. Villiers Taylor ...	0	10	6	Smith & Hoey	2	2	0
Miss Henderson	2	2	0	J. F. Middleton	0	10	0	Wm. Mitchell (Pens),			
Miss F. Henderson	2	2	0	"A. T. S."	0	10	0	Ltd.	1	1	0
"S. R. F."	2	2	0	Anon.	0	10	0	Miss Florence de Pass ..	1	1	0
Colonel Storer, R.E. ...	2	2	0	"J. B. M."	0	10	0	J. Wheway & Son	1	1	0
Miss A. Fanshawe	2	0	0	Miss Bull	0	10	0	Charles Wincer & Co....	1	0	0
Mrs. E. C. Laard... ..	2	0	0	Miss F. A. Fraser	0	5	0	William Corry & Co.			
Miss Isabel M. Harvey	2	0	0	Rev. D. G. Lysons				Ltd.	1	0	0
Major Bogle	2	0	0	Children's Service) ...	0	2	9	Taylor Bros.... ..	0	10	6
Rev. C. H. Binstead				"A. M. W."	0	2	0	Per F. N. Martinez:—			
(Offertory Whit-				Per Messrs. E. A. de Pass				Messrs. G. B. Kent &			
bourne Church)	1	14	7	& Co.:—				Sons, Ltd.	5	5	0
Miss Gould	1	10	0	Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss				Munzer et Fils	5	0	0
Mrs. John Hinkson	1	1	0	Condensed Milk Co... ..	105	0	0	L. Guggenheim	3	0	0
The Misses Brewster ...	1	1	0	Pilkington Bros. Ltd. ...	100	0	0	Niepoort & Co.	3	0	0
Miss Gower	1	1	0	Simon May & Co... ..	52	10	0	John Walker & Co. ...	2	2	0
Mrs. W. H. Newton	1	1	0	Wolverhampton Corru-				Raoul Maurin & Co. and			
A. J. Hall	1	1	0	gated Iron Co. Ltd....	25	0	0	Jacob Stuber	2	0	0
Mrs. C. Grove	1	1	0	Vanner & Prest	21	0	0	Eaeven Lucas Bols ...	1	1	0
Fred Fuller	1	1	0	John Fowler & Co.				Per Edward Easton:—			
Miss A. Carrington	1	1	0	(Leeds), Ltd.	10	10	0	Minet, Pering, Smith			
R. B.	1	1	0	Nobles & Hoare	10	10	0	& Co.	5	5	0
"Thank Offering S." ...	1	1	0	Sina Oppenheimer				Edward Easton	3	3	0
Rev. J. Langton Clarke	1	1	0	Seckel & Co.	10	10	0	Vacher & Sons	3	3	0
Captain E. M. Hicks ...	1	1	0	Howards & Sons, Ltd... ..	10	10	0	Mrs. Edward Easton ...	2	2	0
Shadworth H. Hodgson	1	1	0	English & Co.	5	5	0	Miller & Smiths	2	2	0
Lady Sendall	1	1	0	W. C. C. Park	5	5	0	A. B. Simpson	1	1	0
Miss Augusta Spottis-				James Pascall, Ltd. ...	5	5	0	Lady Emily Lutyens ...	1	1	0
woode... ..	1	1	0	John F. Sherriss	5	0	0	J. C. Dalton	0	10	6
"V. N. P."	1	1	0	Johann Maria Farina ...	3	3	0	Per The West Indian Pro-			
Lt.-Col. F. Rowan				D. Haes & Co.	3	3	0	duce Assoc., Ltd.:—			
Hamilton	1	0	0	F. Kendall & Sons, Ltd.				The West Indian Pro-			
Mrs. Ames	1	0	0	Levi & Salaman	3	3	0	duce Assoc., Ltd. ...	5	5	0
Henry Johnstone	1	0	0	Wm. Wigfall & Sons ...	2	2	0	Mrs. Stubbs	1	1	0
Mrs. J. Rawley	1	0	0	Frank Abraham & Co.				J. Sword & Son	1	1	0
Theodore Nash	1	0	0	Brown & Son (Welling-				C. A. Philip	1	1	0
"C. I. M."	1	0	0	borough), Ltd.	2	2	0	Per Colonel A. R. Los-			
Miss E. M. Lyon... ..	1	0	0	Jno. Donnison & Sons... ..	2	2	0	combe:—			
H. Groves	1	0	0	William Gilbert	2	2	0	Mrs. A. M. Blackden ...	3	0	0
Miss Beckford	1	0	0	Alfred J. Isaacs & Sons				E. R. Stable... ..	0	10	0
D. C. MacCurrach	1	0	0	J. & S. Powell, Ltd. ...	2	2	0				

Since the issue of our last Circular the following donations amounting to £99 14s. 6d., have been collected by the West Indian Club:—

£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.					
Collected by Miss Moles-				J. Gortz	1	10	0	Small sundry amounts	0	19	0
worth	35	0	0	H. O. Carter	1	1	0	"E. A."; "S. A.";			
Rugby School Offertory,				J. S. de la Mothe	1	1	0	"T. A."	0	10	6
etc.	20	0	0	Miss Emma Douglas ...	1	1	0	Mrs. D. Gurdalla	0	10	0
Capt. G. Beaumont	10	0	0	Messrs. Bance, Hunt &				The Misses Goldsmith...	0	10	0
Mrs. B. G. Armstrong... ..	5	5	0	Giller	1	1	0	The Misses Alberga ...	0	10	0
The Marquis de Villalo-				Mr. & Mrs. E. Alberga	1	1	0	H. H. Roose... ..	0	10	0
bar, K.C.V.O.	5	0	0	John Nash	1	1	0	W. F. C. Holland... ..	0	10	0
A. H. Saunders, M.A.				Mrs. W. Lyster	1	0	0	J. Wilson	0	10	0
Miss Bryan Smith	2	2	0	Mr. & Mrs. Leigh King	1	0	0	Rev. R. E. Baynes	0	5	0
Mr. A. Robinson	2	2	0	Mrs. Macalister	1	0	0				
Sundry small amounts				Mrs. Berners... ..	1	0	0				
per E. Alberga	1	13	0								

Insurance Companies and the Earthquake.

It is interesting at the present time to note the bases of settlement adopted in the case of the San Francisco earthquake by the principal insurance companies doing business in Jamaica. The particulars have been extracted from a return issued by the special committee of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Commercial Union.—Policy contains earthquake clause. Settled its claims at 50 and 75 per cent., according to location. Paid claims of \$500 or less in full, and at least \$500 on claims of \$500 or more.

Liverpool and London and Globe.—Settled its claims at 100 per cent.

London and Lancashire.—Began by paying its small claims in full, less 2 per cent. for cash; in June dropped to payments of largely about 90 per cent., coming back finally to 98 and 100 per cent. The Company states that its payments have averaged about 93 per cent. of the amount of its claims.

London Assurance Corporation.—Settled its claims in full, less 2 per cent. for cash.

North British and Mercantile.— " " "

Northern.—Settled its claims in full, less 1 per cent. for cash.

Norwich Union.—Policy contains earthquake clause. Settled its claims at 50 and 75 per cent., according to location. Claims of \$500 or less paid in full, and at least \$500 on claims of \$500 or more.

Palatine.— " " "

Phoenix.—Settled its claims in full, less 2 per cent. for cash.

Queen (Royal).—Settled its claims at 100 per cent.

Royal.— " " "

Royal Exchange.—Settled its claims at from 75 per cent. up, but largely at 85 to 95 per cent.

Scottish Union and National.—Settled its claims in full, less 2 per cent. in cash.

State.—Settled its claims mostly in full, less from 2 to 5 per cent. for cash.

Sun.—Settled its claims in full, less 2 per cent. for cash.

Jamaica Women's Self-Help Society.

The appeal signed by Lady Lubbock, Lady Davson, Mrs. Olivier, and Mrs. Parker Smith, which we published in our last issue, has met with a favourable response, and Mrs. Parker Smith and the West India Committee have already received donations amounting to £238 14s. 6d. towards it. A list of the subscribers is given below. Like the similar body in Trinidad the Women's Self Help Society in Jamaica has been doing a really good work since its inauguration by Lady Musgrave in 1879. The society is intended to be self-supporting, but its small store of the very useful little articles made by its members has been destroyed and funds are, therefore, urgently needed to re-establish the charity. Subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged by Mrs. Parker Smith, Jordan Hill, Glasgow, and Algernon E. Aspinall, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

List of Subscribers.

£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.					
Jamaica Earthquake Fund	100	0	0	Mrs. E. A. de Pass	2	2	0	Mrs. Fitzmaurice Pratt...	1	0	0
C. G. Montefiore	25	0	0	The Viscountess Falmouth	2	2	0	Mrs. Mitchell	1	0	0
Lady Musgrave	10	0	0	The Misses Hutton	2	2	0	Miss A. Sidney	1	0	0
Mrs. Rathbone	10	0	0	Anon (Edinburgh)	2	0	0	Miss Stewart	1	0	0
Commander M. H. H.				A Friend in Dundee	2	0	0	Miss E. Welsh	1	0	0
Nelson, R.N.	6	0	0	Miss Beckford	2	0	0	Mrs. Wilkinson	1	0	0
Mrs. Mills	5	5	0	Miss M.S.	2	0	0	Mrs. Villiers Taylor	0	10	6
Mrs. Cyril Gurney	5	0	0	Mrs. Archibald Smith	2	0	0	"Banana"	0	10	0
F. C. Pawle	5	0	0	Miss de Mercado	1	10	0	Miss Mary Maxwell	0	10	0
Mrs. Chamberlain	3	3	0	Mrs. John de Pass	1	1	0	Miss Emily Smith	0	10	0
Miss Alice Hughes	3	3	0	Miss de Pass	1	1	0	Mrs. Stocker	0	10	0
Miss Newman	3	3	0	Mrs. Johnson	1	1	0	Miss Teacher	0	10	0
Lady Rankin	3	3	0	Miss Ellen C. Barker	1	0	0	Anon	0	5	0
Mrs. Parker Smith	3	3	0	Mrs. Berthon	1	0	0	Mrs. Bull...	0	5	0
Miss Louisa Turner	3	0	0	J. W. Dennistoun	1	0	0	Mrs. Church and Mrs.			
Miss Vincent	3	0	0	Harry Dunlop	1	0	0	Holmes...	0	5	0
Algernon E. Aspinall	2	2	0	Mrs. Findlay	1	0	0	Rev. W. F. Dashwood Lang	0	5	0
Slayde Baker-Penoyre	2	2	0	Mrs. Gillespie	1	0	0	Anon	0	2	6
Lady Lubbock	2	2	0	Miss McCall	1	0	0	"Joppa"	0	2	6
Col. and Mrs. Copeland	2	2	0	Col. Richard Owen	1	0	0				
Mrs. Constable Curtis	2	2	0	C. J. Parker	1	0	0				

CONSTRUCTION IN EARTHQUAKE COUNTRIES.

By PROFESSOR JOHN MILNE, F.R.S., D.C.L.

Almost everybody realises that earthquakes can neither be predicted nor prevented, but there are a certain number of people who know that their effects may be mitigated. The mitigation of earthquake effects is an extensive subject, and for years past in the Imperial University of Tokio, some twenty lectures have been given annually to students of engineering and of architecture as to how to bring this about. That the subject is very important may be judged of by the attention which the Japanese Government give to it. Whenever a large earthquake occurs in any part of the world—as, for example, in Manila, in Assam, or, as quite recently, in San Francisco—amongst those who are making notes in connection with the disaster, you find present the Japanese engineer, architect and seismologist. They go to these places at the instigation of their government to find out what fell and what stood, and the reasons why it fell or stood, and to report on the same to their government. No doubt they also collect many notes of scientific importance; but their chief object is to discover that which may be of immediate importance to their own country. Years and years ago they collected

from every country where earthquakes were frequent all the information they could get with regard to forms of construction which might palliate seismic effects. This they have supplemented by observations made in their own country, where earthquakes are so very frequent, together with elaborate experiments on the stability of various types of buildings. The general result is that in Japan we find certain styles of construction for ordinary dwelling-houses, for warehouses, for large buildings, for bridge piers, and for other structures which differ widely from corresponding structures the outcome of ordinary engineering and architectural practice. The new types of construction have been standing for years and shaken frequently, but they have not been shattered, whilst old types have been more or less ruined. Many countries have made laws or regulations in respect to building in earthquake districts. From the laws of Ischia we learn that the government has pointed out certain districts which are more or less immune from earthquake effects, and other districts or plots of ground where buildings should not be placed. Many countries other than Japan have also designed buildings which should be able to withstand earthquake effects. Models of many of these are to be seen in Japan, but although Britain has interests in so many earthquake-shaken districts, I am not aware that they are to be found in this country. When constructing in earthquake-shaken districts the sites for buildings have to be most carefully chosen. Experience has shown that you can get two patches of ground, within 100 yards of each other, one of which is dangerous, and the other comparatively immune. Very much relating to foundations may be found in the building regulations of various countries. The roofs of buildings, walls, chimneys and piers, are also matters which have received considerable attention. Tall chimneys are elements of danger unless constructed so that they have considerable elasticity. The form of piers for bridges as now constructed in Japan would probably excite the curiosity of the engineer from Europe. At the time of earthquakes, retaining walls of reservoirs and water towers have given way; the forms of these have in certain earthquake countries been greatly modified. Several capitals of large countries—as for example the old capital of Japan—San Salvador, and Guatemala, like Port Royal, have been moved to a new place. If we except the effects due to wind pressure and sea waves, ordinary engineering practice usually looks to effects due to vertical pressures rather than to horizontal accelerations applied at the base of a structure. These accelerations have been measured, with the result that the engineer or builder has to deal with forces which can be expressed in mechanical units, and which act in known directions. The idea that to withstand earthquake effects buildings should have "weight and great inertia" is one, which in the past, has led to mischief. If a building has "weight" it certainly has "inertia," and it is "inertia" which makes buildings self-destructive. The new knowledge about the nature of earthquake motion has already led to the saving of life and property, particularly in Japan, and it is to be hoped that Jamaica will take advantage of experiences in other countries.

OUR NAVAL POLICY.

Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., speaking at the annual dinner of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce at Leeds on February 5th, referring to the disaster at Kingston, said that he ventured to hope, that within the lapse of a few months—he would not call it years—Kingston might rise from its ruins, improved, beautiful, enlarged, and that the importance which that town would receive from the opening of the Panama Canal might make Jamaica a far more splendid and far more wealthy state than anything that had ever been known in the West India islands (cheers). Many of those whom he was addressing must have regarded with some uneasiness the prolonged absence of British ships from the scene of the disaster (hear, hear). The late Government inaugurated and the present Government had pursued the wise policy of naval concentration in order to guard us from vital dangers, but this policy led to certain other services being left undischarged which the Navy used to discharge. These latter services had got to be met from some quarter or another (cheers). There were pirates in the Persian Gulf. There were lonely islands in the sea never visited from year's end to year's end. There were governors or agents who had spent long and weary years without the advantage of seeing the white ensign near their shores. There were disputes about fish in Newfoundland and about seals in other quarters. There were earthquakes and possibilities of riots, and a score of needs for the meeting of which we did not require the first-class battleships and cruisers that were needed to lie in the European line of battle, but for which, nevertheless, we needed urgently a squadron of ships of some sort or other (cheers). What he hoped the Government might be able to effect was the institution of a squadron of vessels that would discharge all these patrol and other duties absolutely necessary to the efficiency and dignified conduct of the administration of an Empire so wide as ours (cheers).

The special correspondent to the *Times* in a message dated January 19th, said: "It is difficult to describe the sense of humiliation with which an Englishman surveys Kingston Harbour this evening two American battleships, three German steamers, a Cuban steamer, and one

British ship; she leaves to-night, and the White Ensign and the Red Ensign will be as absent from Kingston Harbour as from the military basins of Kiel and Cherbourg." We give without comment a few extracts from the press on this same subject. They speak for themselves:—

Both military and naval protection has been denied our West Indian possessions through a foolhardy policy initiated by the late Government on the score of economy, which the present politicians in power have been only too pleased to continue.—*Broad Arrow*.

The pity is that the recent denuding of the Jamaica harbours of any British naval force should have left the greatest sea power of the world dependent on American friendship to meet an unforeseen crisis like this. It may have been necessary; but it is, none the less, somewhat humiliating.—*Bristol Times*.

It is humiliating to the last degree to reflect that, with the greatest navy in the world at our disposal, one ship was not available at the critical moment.—*Globe*.

It may be said we cannot keep a navy to deal with earthquakes. But we must keep a navy to protect our colonies and dependencies.—*Evening Standard*.

If no British vessel was at hand, or within reach, to perform the duties of common humanity, what kind of provision had been made against the surprises of war—or the treacheries of peace?—*Standard*.

The real truth is, that to save a few thousands, ships have been recalled from stations where they are needed, with the result that British prestige has been endangered.—*Daily Mail*.

Unless the West Indian section of the British Empire is speedily set in order, it will become the laughing stock, not merely of North America, but of the rest of the civilised world. We dare not relinquish it if we would. Strategic and other considerations may one day make these possessions among the most valuable we hold.—*The Outlook*.

THE MAIL CONTRACT.

As the question of the West Indian mail service has again come prominently to the front we have drawn up for our readers the following table showing the amounts paid under former and the existing contracts. It is recognised that no general West Indian mail service can be satisfactory which does not provide for regular fortnightly communication between each of the West Indian colonies and the mother country. It would appear that this can only be brought about by the use of two intercolonial steamers instead of one as at present. Under the old contract the home Government used to contribute £60,400 to the cost of the mail service, and had it not been for the unfortunate muddle in 1905 they would still be paying the same amount. Now, however, their contribution is only £8,750, with the result that there is only one intercolonial steamer and an utterly inadequate service for many of the islands, while all is uncertainty as to what will happen in March next, when the present contract expires.

Company.	Years.	Service.	Annual Amount.	Speed in knots transatlantically.	
R.M.S.P. Co.	1842 to 1845	West Indies generally every fortnight.	4	£240,000	8 to 8½
" " " " " "	1846 .. 1850	" "	5	240,000	9
" " " " " "	1851 .. 1863	" "	13	240,000	9 & 10
" " " " " "	1864 .. 1874	" "	11	173,000	10½
" " " " " "	1875 .. 1879	" "	5	87,000	10½
" " " " " "	1880 .. 1885 (July)	" "	5½	80,000	11½
" " " " " "	1885 .. 1890	" "	5	90,000	12
" " " " " "	1890 .. 1895	" "	5	85,000	13
" " " " " "	1895 .. 1900	" "	5	80,000	13
" " " " " "	1900 .. 1902	" "	2	80,000	13
Imperial Direct W.I. Mail Service	1901 .. 1910	Jamaica and Turks Island.	10	40,000*	15
R.M.S.P. Co.	1903 .. 1905	West Indies generally.	3	85,000	13†
" " " " " "	1906 .. 1907 (Mar.)	Intercolonial service.‡	7 mths.	17,500	—

Under the old 1900-5 contract the colonies contributed £19,600, and the mother country £60,400 (during the last three years Trinidad paid an extra amount of £5,000 in consideration of being put on the main line). At the present time the colonies pay £8,750 and the mother country £8,750, the actual figures being:—

	1900-2.	1906-7.		1900-2.	1906-7.
Antigua	£1,000	Nil.	Nevis... ..	£100	£200
Barbados... ..	4,000	£3,200	St. Kitts	450	
British Guiana	4,200	3,650	St. Lucia	1,000	400
Dominica... ..	450	200	St. Vincent	450	300
Grenada	1,000	700	Tortola	50	Nil.
Jamaica	2,100	Nil.*	Trinidad	4,600||	Nil.
Montserrat	200	100			

* Paid half by the Government and half by Jamaica.

† 13 knots to Barbados and 14 thence to Jamaica.

‡ Fortnightly between Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara, and monthly to the Northern islands.

|| During 1903-5 Trinidad paid an extra £5,000 in consideration of being put on the main line.



OVERDUE.

Britannia (on quay at Kingston) "Anybody seen my white ensign? I've been waiting a week for it."
Mr. Punch. "You've got to wait, Ma'am: that's the new system."

(Earthquake at Kingston, January 14th: arrival of first British warship, January 22)

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WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.

The Marquis de Villalobar, Minister of Spain at the Spanish Embassy in London, was entertained at dinner on Wednesday, February 6th, at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand. There was a large attendance, and amongst those present were: The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. Owen Phillips, M.P., Senor Peña, of the Spanish Embassy, Senor Don J. Tarroga, Spanish Consul-General, Sir Thomas Lipton, Bart., K.C.V.O., Mr. J. W. M. Jarrett, Mr. R. P. Williams, Mr. H. S. Wilson, Mr. H. F. Previte, Captain A. P. Dix, Sir William Russell, Bart., Mr. Edward Chambers, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. J. S. Morris, His Honour Judge Beaufort, Mr. R. A. J. Goode, Mr. N. E. Jauralde, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Neil MacKinnon, K.C., Mr. H. W. Brooke, Mr. T. B. Gray, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. L. F. MacKinnon, Mr. C. Scott, Mr. H. Kemble, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. Charles Wilson, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. D. G. Garraway, I.S.O., Mr. J. Huett, Mr. Arthur a'Beckett, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. C. W. Anderson, and Mr. H. E. Anderson.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, who presided, after alluding to the fact that seven or eight, if not more, members of the club had lost their lives in the Kingston Earthquake, including Mr. Nathan, who was a member of the club committee, and stating that the club had so far collected about £300 towards the Mansion House Relief Fund, and had already shipped to Jamaica more than a ton of clothing for the distressed inhabitants, proposed the health of the Spanish Minister, who, in replying, expressed the sympathy of Spain with the British Empire in the deplorable disaster in Jamaica, and mentioned the interesting fact that his uncle, Don Christobal Colon, still held with pride his title of Admiral of the Indies and Marquis of Jamaica.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Two of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamers have arrived at Southampton from the West Indies during the past fortnight—the *Magdalena* on January 28th, and the *Tagus* on February 4th. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Services *Port Kingston* reached Avonmouth with her distinguished party of passengers on Friday, February 1st. We extract the following notes from the letters of our hon. correspondents:—

Plentiful Rain in Antigua.

Writing January 11th, Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that the present mail service was regarded generally as requiring immediate amendment; the service was a waste of money, as no one sent mails by it. The rains had kept up much longer than was customary, and the wind had not been as high as was usual at this time of year, so that the canes were still quite green and growthy, pointing to a late start with reaping. Cotton was beginning to be picked in small quantities, but it would not come in heavily until sun and wind checked the growth of the plants. The writer had noticed a great number of half-grown bolls which had fallen from the plants before they were at the stage of producing cotton; the reason for this was not known, but it certainly seemed to be producing a somewhat serious loss. The cotton worm now seemed vanquished for the time, no doubt by the cloud of Paris Green dust which formed a part of the atmosphere of those estates growing cotton some time ago. The cane crop on the whole looked well, but would have looked better if the wet season had been one of less continuous rains. In many places the canes, especially the ratoons, had suffered from weeds and waterlogging of the soil. The rainfall for 1906 was exceptionally heavy, varying from 40 inches to 65 inches. The weather was still more showery than was usual at the time of year, and they could only hope that this unsettled weather would not continue into the reaping months.

Cotton Matters in Barbados.

Writing on January 13th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that the weather had been very curious. In some parts, as in St. John's which had been the highly favoured parish this year, nice showers had fallen, totalling some 1.50 to 2 inches for the month. At Porters, and in St. George's, Christ Church and St. Phillip's, little more than half an inch had fallen, and that only in slight scuds. On Porters' estate it could be truly said that no respectable shower had fallen since December 1st, when they had a heavy rain. On the island, as a whole, a good rain was wanted before crop began on March 1st, but it did not seem likely, judging from recent years, that they would get more than light showers. The "in and out" running of the weather had not been favourable to the cotton crop, and the yield per acre would not, except in a very few cases, be what it ought to be. The persistent worm, fungi and other pests had also wrought their work, and the planters in general deserved the greatest credit for the perseverance with which they fought all obstacles and obtained the crop they were gathering. Good showers would be welcome for the old canes, but they were not suffering as yet, except in a few places. The young canes had sprung well when planted in good time, but those who had held off were anxiously looking for showers, and were apprehensive of losing

the spring. Offal crops, such as yams, eddoes, &c., seemed to have inherited the disease from the cotton, and made but a poor show. There had been a number of pleasant visitors from England—people who had not merely passed through and glanced and scoffed at Bridgetown, but who had stayed there for a fortnight at least, and had taken pains to get to know the island, and make themselves known to the inhabitants. These would always be welcome, but they had no use for the people who rushed ashore only to go to the curiosity shops, or to the Post Office to buy the newest stamp.

In a further letter on January 20th, Mr. Alleyne said that the thoughts of everyone had been fixed on Jamaica and the terrible earthquake. The first alarming news came by telegram on the evening of the 15th, and as many Barbadians, besides the delegates, Sir Daniel Morris and his staff, the Bishop and Mrs. Swaby, had taken advantage of the trip and gone to Jamaica at the same time in the *Port Kingston*, great anxiety was felt. Happily, the next day came the news that all who went from Barbados were safe, as well as the friends and guests of Sir Alfred Jones, who were so recently welcomed by the House of Assembly. The Governor at once summoned a meeting of the Executive Council, and no doubt a substantial sum would be remitted for the sufferers as soon as possible. He had also called a public meeting for January 22nd.

The writer was chairman of a committee to show the delegates of the British Cotton Growing Association the cotton fields of the island. Various expeditions were planned and carried out, and by the end of the week, after very hard work, they had visited almost every cotton district. Though the past year had been far from favourable to the cultivation of cotton, the delegates, Messrs. A. Hutton and E. Lomas Oliver, expressed themselves well satisfied with the progress that had been made, and thought the results very encouraging. Mr. Oliver, in particular, noticed a marked improvement in the quality of the cotton since he was at Barbados two and a half years ago. The Governor and a large number of planters attended the public meeting at the Planters' Hall to hear addresses from Mr. Hutton and Mr. Oliver, and many ladies also showed a great interest in the proceedings, especially in the lace, gloves and dresses, &c., which were displayed, all of which had been manufactured from cotton grown in Barbados.

The British Guiana Sugar Crop.

The rice crop, according to Mr. J. C. McCowan, who wrote on January 11th, was estimated at 500,000 bags paddy, which would give about 240,000 bags cleaned rice, and this was valued at \$1,200,000. It was a difficult matter to get reliable information respecting this, owing to the number of small holders who were growing rice all over the colony. The sugar exports for the year ending December 31st, 1906, were 119,760 tons, and there was about 11,000 tons stored in town at that date. There was nothing doing in refining crystals. The applications for immigrants for season 1907-8 up to the present time amounted to 1,500.

Since last mail there had been rains all over the colony. In Demerara and Essequibo it was reported as being rather too much on the heavy side. It was then showery and favourable for all agricultural work generally; but in the following week Mr. McCowan reported that the weather was showery, dull, and bleak, and hot suns were required to bring out young cultivation, which was not growing as fast as could be desired.

The Combined Court, at an informal meeting, sanctioned a vote of \$10,000 in aid of the sufferers in Jamaica. The Hon. B. Howell Jones, Mr. Sconce, Inspector of Schools, and Mr. Ward, Agricultural Instructor to the Board of Agriculture, were the delegates from British Guiana at the Conference, and it was a relief to hear by cable that they had escaped injury.

Dominica's Green Lime Trade.

When Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on January 12th inquiries were already being made as to the green lime trade with London this season. What were they to say about it with the steamship service in its present condition? The Jamaica earthquake was, naturally, the all-absorbing topic when Mr. Agar's second letter was sent on January 20th, but no anxiety was felt in Dominica as to the possibility of a similar occurrence. As in the case of Martinique, it was most unfortunate that the chief town should have been the centre of the disaster. Had the comparatively small area seriously affected been in an unpopulated district, little damage would have been done. The delegates from Dominica who went to the Conference were Mr. G. W. Penrice, from the Agricultural Society, the Hon. J. C. Macintyre, and Mr. J. Cox Fillan, from the Planters' Association.

Grenada Cocoa Booming.

Cocoa was still booming when Mr. P. J. Dean wrote on January 12th, and whereas they were short in shipments to the end of 1906, they had now picked up, and stood 2,450 bags higher than at the same date last year. They would, no doubt, hold their own until February, although shipments must fall off in that month; from then on, much depended on the weather for January and February; if it were good, there seemed no reason why they should not exceed last year's crop.

Writing on January 21st, Mr. Dean reported that the new Governor, Mr. Ralph Champneys Williams, C.M.G., arrived at Grenada by mail on the 16th, accompanied by Mrs. Williams, Miss Dean, Mr. T. C. Fitzgerald, and Mr. P. Hamilton Dean. On the following day he was sworn in as Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands. The largest gathering that had ever met together at the Court House on such an occasion witnessed the ceremony, and included all classes of the community, anxious to welcome the Governor and his wife. The Governor subsequently addressed the meeting on points of interest to Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent, and spoke warmly of his desire to administrate the government without "fear or favour," and for the advancement of the general welfare of the islands. His speech created a very favourable impression.

The news of the appalling visitation which had overtaken Jamaica had cast a gloom over the whole island; one could hardly realise that Kingston had been so entirely destroyed, and the consequent loss of life and property. The warmest sympathy was felt in Grenada, not only with those who had suffered in the island, but with those who at home and elsewhere had either family, friendly or business ties with Jamaica. The Government of Grenada would no doubt vote a sum of money to aid the sufferers, and public subscriptions would be started as well.

Seedlings in St. Lucia.

We are informed by Mr. George S. Hudson that the weather for the fortnight ended January 21st had been cool and windy, with a moderate rainfall favourable to both sugar and cocoa crops. The prospect of the sugar crop continued good, and grinding would commence within the next month. The area under seedling plant canes was being extended this year by all the Usines. The damage to canes by rats had been quite unusually severe. There was an improved prospect for "small crop" cocoa pickings in April to May. The main crop was practically over on most estates. It had generally been a poor one as regarded quantity, though high prices had compensated for this.

The earthquake which wrecked Jamaica was not appreciably felt at St. Lucia. The annual races on January 16th and 17th passed off successfully, Mr. Gregor Peter's Mollie Bawn winning the President's Cup.

Cotton in St. Vincent.

Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co. state in a letter dated January 14th that they quite agreed with Mr. Vicker's idea to secure the co-operation of the West Indies in inviting the Government to allow a reciprocity treaty to be negotiated with the United States, in view of the possibility of the non-continuance of the Brussels Convention.

The three delegates from the British Cotton Growing Association then in the island had been shown about the country, and had visited the cotton-growing estates in the colony, and, to judge by the expressions of opinion of the three gentlemen, the outlook for Sea Island cotton grown in St. Vincent was a very promising one, and they seemed highly pleased with the island and its adaptability for producing a high class of cotton.

The Trinidad Immigration Agency.

Writing on January 14th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick stated that there had been submitted to the Immigration Committee in Trinidad a proposal by the Colonial Office to amalgamate the various emigration agencies in Calcutta. This had been unanimously disapproved of, and a resolution adopted, also unanimously, that Trinidad should again have its own agency independent of any other colonies. Notwithstanding large sums saved in salaries of agent and staff, rent of depôt and offices, and considerable reduction in the rate of passage-money, Trinidad had been paying for the four years since their amalgamation with Mauritius, Fiji, and Jamaica, about £3,000 per annum more for an equal number of immigrants than they paid for the last four years when they had their own separate agency, and they had, moreover, received a very inferior class of immigrants.

Only two of the Government's representatives, Professor Carmody and Mr. Hart, with Mr. C. de Verteuil, representing the Agricultural Society, proceeded to Jamaica by the s.s. *Ocamo*, Messrs. Clifford and Henderson being unable, for private reasons, to get away at the time. An exchange of letters between the Governor and the writer, with a subsequent letter from Mr. Teele, had been published in the local papers of December 27th and 28th on the subject of the rejection of the Electric Company's petition to be allowed to extend their tram line to St. Joseph.

Since last report rains had continued, and had been heavy enough to prevent any of the sugar factories making a start. As there was no appearance of any change yet—and several days of dry weather after it did change would be necessary before the estates' roads would be fit for cart traffic, it was impossible to predict when a start would be made. The crop would be considerably short of that of last year, but probably not far short of an average crop. Cocoa was benefiting by the rains, and a bumper picking was expected in May and June. The figures at the close of the year showed a shortage in the shipments of Trinidad of over 100,000 bags. Such a phenomenal decrease in the

crop had not taken place within the present decade, and although the prospects for the coming crop were exceedingly good, it was too much to hope that the present year would compensate for this large shortage.

SHIPMENTS TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1906.

Totals at last report	...	...	...	139,233	Trinidad.	34,904	Venezuela.
Dec. 25th.—S.S. <i>Orinoco</i>	...	...	...	—	"	5	.. Canada.
" 25th.—S.S. <i>Trent</i>	...	...	...	135	"	—	.. Europe.
" 25th.— <i>Prins Maurits</i>	...	...	...	210	"	—	" ..
" 30th.—S.S. <i>Maracas</i>	...	...	...	3,927	"	15	.. New York.
" 31st.—S.S. <i>Martinique</i>	...	...	...	1,000	"	134	.. Europe.
" 31st.—S.S. <i>Cherushia</i>	...	...	...	1,750	"	450	" ..
Total to date	...	...	...	146,255	"	34,698	Venezuela.

Totals at December 31st, 1905, were: 248,746 Trinidad; 36,732 Venezuelan.

Writing again on January 21st, Mr. Fenwick said that an emergency meeting of the Legislative Council was held on January 16th, at which the sum of £1,500 was voted to be applied to immediate relief of the sufferers in Jamaica. Should it be necessary, further sums would be readily voted. H.M.S. *Indefatigable* left Port of Spain on the 17th with a quantity of useful supplies, and the R.M. coastal steamer *Kennet* following on the 18th similarly laden.

The weather, although so beneficial to the growing crop, had somewhat retarded the harvesting of the produce at present ripe, and deliveries had not been on such a large scale as anticipated. Prices in consequence had remained somewhat firm, in sympathy with a further rise in the London market, which had for the time being been starved of supplies. This opportunity was taking considerable consignments to that market, which would no doubt tend to relieve the anxiety of the smaller manufacturers, who were dependent on the auctions for their supplies. Venezuelan quantities had arrived on a somewhat large scale, but prices had been maintained, owing to strong and complete short sales.

SHIPMENTS FROM JANUARY 1ST, 1907.

Jan. 2th.—S.S. <i>Atrato</i>	...	...	...	107	Trinidad.	—	Venezuelan.	New York.
" 4th.—S.S. <i>Saba</i>	...	...	...	149	"	100	"	Europe.
" 5th.— <i>Ocama</i>	...	...	...	105	"	5	"	Canada.
" 9th.— <i>Maraval</i>	...	...	...	2,679	"	464	"	New York.
Totals to January 15th	...	...	...	3,043	"	569		

There was to be a meeting of the Agricultural Society on the 22nd to pass the new rules and regulations, after which the society would be in full working order. During the past week they had only had light showers, and few of them, and the roads and traces were fast drying up. Most of the sugar factories were to begin grinding that week, the Usine Ste. Madeline starting on the 23rd. No information as to cocoa crops or prices had come to hand.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

- BANK RATE.** The Bank Rate stands at 5 per cent., and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86½.
- ACKNOWLEDGED.** We have received from the Anglo-Continental Guano Works some very handy little blotting books, which include a diary for the year 1907.
- PLEASE NOTE.** Forms of application and particulars regarding membership of the West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.
- EARTHQUAKE FUND.** The first list of subscribers to the Mansion House Jamaica Earthquake Fund was advertised in the press on January 22nd, the second on January 28th, the third on February 4th, and the fourth on February 11th.
- OBITUARY.** Our readers will sympathise with Sir Henry Davson, on the death of his sister Mrs. Hunter, the wife of the late W. Andrew Hunter, formerly of Berbice, British Guiana, which took place at Southsea on the 5th instant.
- CREDITABLE.** The West India and Panama Telegraph Company are to be congratulated on the fact that throughout the recent trouble in Jamaica, telegraphic communication has been maintained without interruption by means of their land lines and cables.
- GOLD MEDAL.** The Barbados Official Gazette publishes the awards of Sir H. Jones' Gold Medals in connection with cotton growing in that Island. The recipients were Dr. C. E. Gooding of Stirling and Shepherd's Cot Plantations, and Capt. G. A. O. Lane, the proprietor of Seawell, of whom Mr. Jos. Briggs of Searles, Christchurch, is their representative in that Island.
- VISITORS.** Among the visitors to the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been the Hon. Acton Don Lockhart, of Dominica, who arrived with Mrs. Lockhart in England on January 29th, and intends to make a stay of about four months. Mr. Edward Chambers has also

returned from British Guiana, where, owing to the state of his health he has been compelled to resign the Secretaryship of the British Guiana Mutual Fire Insurance Company to the general regret of all concerned.

COTTON PRICES. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that since their last report, West Indian Sea Islands have been in good request, but the arrivals have been very limited. The American planters are still holding for firm prices the majority of their stock in Charleston, but occasional lots are sold at a decline of 2½d. per lb. from asking prices. During the fortnight ended February 7th, 286 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Good medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 7.00d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 18½d. per lb.; medium fine, 19½d. per lb.; fine, 21d. per lb.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Jan. 29.—Mr. W. Runciman, M.P., appointed Financial Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. C. E. Hobbouse, M.P., Under-Secretary for India; and Dr. T. J. Macnamara, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board.—Mr. Bonar Law spoke at Dundee on Fiscal Reform.—The growing of sugar beet in the United Kingdom discussed at a meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Wed., Jan. 30.—The R.M.S.P. *La Plata* sailed for the West Indies with the *Tribune's* relief stores for Jamaica.—Beet, 8s. 7d., quiet.
- Thur., Jan. 31.—Mr. Alfred Lyttelton spoke at Cambridge in defence of preferential trade with the colonies.—Beet, 8s. 7½d., steady.
- Fri., Feb. 1.—The R.M.S. *Port Kingston* arrived at Avonmouth with Sir Alfred Jones' party from Jamaica and Barbados.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., steady.
- Sat., Feb. 2.—The King and Queen left London for a private visit to Paris.—Beet (opening call) 8s. 8d., quiet.
- Sun., Feb. 3.—Death of Lady Victoria Grenfell, elder daughter of Lord Grey, Canadian Viceroy, at Government House, Ottawa, from typhoid fever.
- Mon., Feb. 4.—Mansion House Relief Committee met.—Special meeting of Executive of the West India Committee.—Mr. Churchill makes a strong attack on the House of Lords, at Manchester.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., steady.
- Tues., Feb. 5.—Death of Lord Thring.—Kingston City Council passed a resolution expressing unabated confidence in the Governor.—Beet, 8s. 7½d., quiet.
- Wed., Feb. 6.—West Indian Club Dinner.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Thur., Feb. 7.—Death of Lord Goschen.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Fri., Feb. 8.—The King and the Franco-British Exhibition (*Times*, page 11).—Beet, 8s. 9d., quiet.
- Sat., Feb. 9.—The King and Queen returned from Paris.—Beet (opening call) 8s. 9d., steady.
- Sun., Feb. 10.—Sir William Howard Russell died.
- Mon., Feb. 11.—Mansion House Relief Committee met.—Beet, 8s. 9½d., quiet.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Feb. 11th. "Some rain would be acceptable."
British Guiana (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) Feb. 8th. "Weather continues favourable for the growing crops." The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Jan. 31. "Rain has fallen heavily." Feb. 5th. "Too much rain." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Feb. 4th. "Heavy rains; cultivation beginning to suffer." Feb. 6th. "Finer weather since last message generally acceptable."
Trinidad (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) "Weather continues favourable."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena* (Capt. C. E. Down), January 29th:—Mr. De Wind, Miss R. Sturman, Mr. and Mrs. Tracey, Mr. and Mrs. Matos Ybarra, Mr. Pierre Balmana, Miss Page, Mr. V. H. Miller, Mr. W. C. Kenny, Major J. R. King, Miss S. Rust, Miss Bushe, Mr. Eric L. Streatfield, Mr. T. S. Warner, Mr. J. G. Millar, Mr. L. Anderson, Mr. E. Nash, Mr. Eugene Garnier, Mr. Edward Rowe, Mr. James Wilson, Mr. Lanis Lindgren, Mr. Charles Smith, Mr. Nils Salamdel, Mr. Robert Marshall, Mr. Patrick Keenan, Mr. William Brooks.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* Capt. R. H. Stranger:—Mrs. R. L. Raymond, Miss M. Parrot, Mr. John Heaton, Mrs. Heaton, Miss Heaton, Mr. O. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Alec Ferguson, Mr. H. H. Higgins, Mr. Luis Garcia, Mr. Manuel Ancizar, Mrs. Ancizar, Miss Ines Ancizar, Master C. Ancizar, Mr. Emile Gauguin, Mrs. M. Gauguin, Dr. Felipe Augulo, Mr. Angel Giacobbi, Mr. M. Marti, Mr. Kenric Hardman, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Pelham Young, Mr. E. Chambers, Dr. C. E. Conran, Mr. G. Catto, Mr. G. Vogel, Mr. J. Ferreira, Mr. J. R. Dasent, C.B., Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Frampton, Mrs. M. E. Haddock, Sir Kenneth Wm. Cumming, Bart., Mrs. Seabrook, Captain C. Haynes, Mrs. C. Haynes, Mr. Hermann Drescher, Mr. Bryant, Miss G. Bateman, Mr. Mowla Bux, Mr. Abdul Jobbah, Mr. E. G. Hawken, Mr. H. G. Meik, Mr. W. Davies, Mr. E. Gray, Mr. D. C. Boyes, Mr. J. Mulvaney, Mr. M. G. Morton.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. R. H. Stranger), February 13th:—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bairstow, Mr. J. Buchanan, Mr. Wm. Archibald, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Maclay, Mr. H. B. Buchanan, Miss M. Mathews, Mr. H. H. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Carr, Miss Carr, Miss H. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Robertson, Mr. Maurice Pollack, Mr. Francis C. Clayton, Miss Pollack, Miss C. Marriage, Miss L. Ure, Miss E. M. Coulthard, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Campbell, Mr. Jas. A. Aikman, Miss Sanford, Mr. R. N. Pretty, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Broadwood, Mrs. J. R. Rose, Mr. Neil R. MacKinnon, Dr. Walter Ball, Mr. Jno. MacLennan, Mr. Victor Huckin, Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo Marques, Colonel Sharman Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sharman Crawford, Miss J. Slimon, Mr. David Baird, Mrs. Sicard, Miss Agarar, Countess Schwerin and five children, Mr. Fred W. Hutson, Miss Bolster, two Misses Veacock, Col. Middleton M.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—The Market remains steady, but the tone is quiet, Refiners and the Trade only buying from day to day to meet immediate requirements, and speculators seem unable to find any inducement to extend their operations. The progress making with the Cuba crop has so far been without a check, and if conditions in that Island remain unchanged doubtless a large output will have to be dealt with. Beet sowings on the Continent are likely to be maintained with anything like 9s. for next crop, which is about the present price. A further influence tending to keep the Market from expanding at the present time is the uncertainty of what action the Government will take at the coming Budget with relation to the duty question. All these circumstances, taken in conjunction, may well account for the caution displayed by the Trade generally. As a set off against all this, Consumption appears to be well maintained, which is indeed a necessary feature with a prospective supply of sugar for this season of equal magnitude to the last one, which was only dissipated by the filling up of empty stores created by the high prices of the season 1904/1905.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 11th inst., were:—February, 8s. 9½d.; May, 8s. 11½d.; August, 9s. 1½d., and October/December, 9s. 0½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	Tons
Europe	3,490,000	3,860,000	2,720,000	3,590,000	3,360,000	
United States	140,000	130,000	100,000	110,000	120,000	..
Cuba... ..	170,000	50,000	110,000	110,000	140,000	..
Afloat	—	—	50,000	50,000	50,000	..
Total	3,800,000	4,040,000	2,980,000	3,860,000	3,670,000	..

Quotations of 88% Beet, 11th Feb.:— 8s. 9½d. 8s. 0½d. 15s. 0d. 7s. 9½d. 8s. 0d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Properly made yellow crystallised continues to meet a ready demand, but prices have slightly receded, the value of average qualities being now 16s. 6d. The general range is: low to good yellow, 15s. 6d. to 16s. 9d.; good to fine sugar, 17s. to 17s. 6d. Inferior grades at 15s. to 15s. 3d. are difficult to sell. The nominal value of a 96 test cargo to Refiners is about 10s. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Low qualities testing 76 are in good demand at 11s. 6d. to 12s., duty paid. To arrive, 89 test is quoted 8s. in bond, on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—Unchanged. Grocery kinds on the spot 14s. to 15s., duty paid. For 89 test to Refiners about 9s. is the value on floating terms, in bond.

West India Figures since 1st Jan:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons.
Imports	3600	7400	4800	4900	2000	
Deliveries	4200	3700	4400	4200	4300	..
Stocks, 4th Feb.	9800	12,400	9800	13,000	26,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, 11th Feb.: ...	16s. 6d.	14s. 6d.	23s. 0d.	14s. 6d.	14s. 3d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 1 month:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Galls.
Home Consumption ... ..	...	522,000	376,000	427,000	427,000	
Stocks 31st Jan. ... ..	...	6,660,000	7,555,000	8,560,000	8,560,000	..
Stocks in London, 4th Feb.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	5900	6200	7300	8100	8100	Pans.
Demerara	6500	8600	6200	11,000	11,000	..
Total of all kinds	19,200	21,900	28,900	29,600	29,600	..

A good business has been done in Demerara at last prices, viz., 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3½d., according to quality, and the Importers' stocks are slowly being absorbed. Jamaica is scarce and values are uncertain. A fair quotation for Standard Home Trade Marks would be 2s. 9d. Leewards and Foreign kinds unchanged from 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 1 month:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons.
Home Consumption ... ..	...	1563	2276	1829	1829	
Stocks 31st Jan. ... ..	...	3210	4859	6213	6213	..
Stocks in London:—4th February:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	4900	14,100	21,600	10,500	10,500	Flags.
Grenada	3600	9300	13,600	9500	9500	..
Total of all kinds	41,800	73,600	86,300	55,700	55,700	..

Supplies of British West India, other than Trinidad, are now coming forward more freely, and the late extravagant prices are experiencing a reaction. Still many of our buyers being short of stock have been compelled to buy, and often difficult as it has been to sell, a fair trade has been done, the moment's values being as follows: Trinidad fair collected, 88s., Estate Marks, 90s. to 95s.; Grenada fair, 76s., fermented, 78s. to 82s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 74s., and fermented, 78s. to 83s.

Sundries.—**COFFEE:** fluctuating, Santos for February delivery, 31s. od.; Jamaica, good to fine ordinary, 43s. to 47s., greenish to fine, 51s. to 123s. **NUTMEGS:** steady, recent sales include 76's at 9d., 109's at 6d. and 141's at 4½d. firm, at last mail's quotations. **PIMENTO:** about steady; fair sold at 2½d. to 2¾d. **ARROWROOT:** small sales of manufacturing St. Vincent at 2½d. **GINGER:** quiet; Jamaica common, 58s. to 60s., medium to fine, 62s. to 85s. **COPRA:** East India quoted £27. **LIME JUICE:** firm at 1s. to 1s. 4d.; Concentrated, dearer, value £22; Distilled Oil, steady, at 2s. 8d. to 2s. 9d.; Hand Pressed, unchanged, value 3s. to 3s. 4d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXXVII.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Feb. 25th, 1907

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



Professor John Milne, F.R.S., F.G.S.

greater evil than even the bounties. Mr. LOBJOIT said that "it would be easy to argue that

THE recent meeting of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture was of interest to sugar producers on account of the discussion which took place on the motion to approach the Government with reference to the establishment of a beet sugar industry in this country. What, however, appeared most remarkable in the debate was the misconception which existed in the minds of some of the speakers as to the Brussels Convention and the sugar tax. In the first place, no reference was made to the cartel trusts which the Convention had the effect of putting an end to. These cartels were a far greater menace to any possible beet industry in Great Britain than the bounties themselves. MR. PRETYMAN stated that if the Brussels Convention were renounced to-morrow, it would be extremely doubtful if any foreign government would resume the system of bounties. This might be so, but the renunciation of the Brussels Convention would at once mean the raising of the Customs duties which enabled the formation of the cartels which proved a

the harm done by that Convention was as great as the good that would be done by the growth of the sugar beet, and again, that a great rise in the price of sugar was a serious obstacle to the manufacture of jam when we got a crop of fruit in this country." It would appear that there was not any one at the meeting able to put him right as to the facts. The Brussels Convention has not raised, and would not be likely to raise, the price of sugar, the bond price of which is, at the present day, practically the same as it was for the average of ten years prior to the Convention. What *has* raised the price of sugar is the sugar-tax of this country. Again, even as to the latter, misconception was apparent. COLONEL LE ROY-LEWIS was credited with saying that "he should like it to be remembered why the tax was originally imposed, for that was an important point to be considered. It was to knock out hopelessly the sugar-grower in this country for the benefit of the colonies"! The tax was imposed for the benefit of the Treasury, depleted by the Boer War, and it is clearly against the interests of the colonial sugar maker, inasmuch as it tends to reduce consumption without any of it going into his pocket. MR. PARNELL said that the Convention had done a great deal of harm to this country. "They knew how important it was to have cheap sugar when they had a very large crop of fruit." As we have said above, if sugar is dearer to the consumer now than it was before the Convention, it is entirely due to the sugar-tax. We must say that we have read with considerable disappointment the report of the proceedings of the meeting. We had thought that by this time the facts of the sugar question had been brought home to the minds of the general public, and that those giving their views on such an important matter as the establishment of another and promising agricultural industry in this country, would have especially acquainted themselves with the true position of the case. Producing as they do cane-sugar—a commodity which, by the way, is as much more wholesome as it is more palatable than beet—West Indians would have nothing to fear from the formation of a beet sugar industry in this country, but unless that equality of opportunity ensured by the Brussels Convention is maintained, it would be more than unwise to start it. With the price of sugar under the control of a foreign rival, the duration of a beet sugar industry in this country would be short-lived.

THE rum surtax grievance has been so long in evidence and its points have been so often dealt with in these columns, that there is no necessity, in bringing the matter again before our readers, to go into the circumstances which surround, or the facts which underlie the case. It was hoped that with the advent of the present Government, complaints of the existence of a specially protected industry which the spirit surtax provides, would have received attention, but this has not been so. The Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in July last passed a resolution calling the attention of the Government to the hardship the spirit surtax inflicted upon Colonial distillers, and requested "that the necessary steps be taken to bring about an impartial enquiry into the cost of excise restrictions of the home distiller, with a view to the proper adjustment of the surtax in question." This resolution, however, the Government have failed to recognise in any way. The industrial use of alcohol is increasing every day, and the West Indian distiller at the present moment has to face not only what he justifiably claims to be an actual protection to the home distiller in the case of potable spirits, but also unfair competition in the growing field of industrial alcohol, which, as things are now, is practically closed to him. What the West Indian distiller asks for is not necessarily the removal of the surtax, but an impartial enquiry into its merits, with the view of removal or amendment according to the true circumstances of the case. He merely wants justice, nothing more. If the surtax does not constitute a protection to the home spirit producer, but a fit and proper compensation for definite Excise disabilities, the Government should not have the slightest objection to the enquiry asked for. Hitherto, the only response made to the West India Committee's representations has been a purely *ex parte* report on the disabilities of the West Indian distiller by an official acting under the instructions

tions of the Treasury. The disabilities weighing on the home distiller may be, and, we frankly admit, in some cases are, more to his disadvantage than to the West Indian distiller. This, however, is not the question. What we claim is that the amount of the surtax is out of all proportion to the loss to the home distiller arising from the special restrictions under the regulations. What we ask for is a thoroughly unbiassed enquiry into the claims of the latter on which the amount of the surtax is based. This, however, is not the place to discuss the matter at its present stage. More than sufficient evidence is adducible to justify an enquiry being instituted by the Government. It is essential, however, that such an enquiry should be conducted thoroughly and by such an authority as would ensure an unbiassed and at the same time a conclusive report. It should have the effect of putting an end, one way or the other, to this continuous grievance. Either the surtax is justifiable or it is not. If it is not, then it should go; if it is, then West Indian distillers will be satisfied to drop the question. We have, however, definite and good reason for saying that, as it now stands, it is not justifiable. On such a basis then, it is difficult to see how a non-protectionist Government can fail to grant an enquiry, and put an end, one way or another, to this standing reproach to so many successive administrations.

A FREE grant of £150,000 and a loan of £1,000,000 on easy terms are what the Imperial Government has been asked to contribute towards the re-building of Kingston, Jamaica. According to the latest advices received from the stricken city, these figures rather under than over estimate the actual requirements of the case. However, they are the amounts which have now been made the basis of the representations to the Colonial Office, and which have been put forward by the people of Jamaica by the recent parliamentary deputation to LORD ELGIN, and by the Jamaica Relief Committee at home. Any financial assistance much short of it must necessarily give rise to acute disappointment and retard considerably the work of rehabilitation upon which attention is now being concentrated. A petition to the House of Commons asking for a loan and grant is being very widely signed in Jamaica, and it is pointed out that thousands of bread-winners, widows and orphans, and ladies of gentle birth hitherto dependent upon the rents of houses, have been plunged into a state of destitution, and it must be evident that the best form of affording them relief is to rebuild their homes and re-establish their businesses. Unfortunately, the amount of the Mansion House fund has fallen far short of expectations and Imperial assistance is thus rendered more than ever imperative. When once that is forthcoming, the work of re-building can be begun. In that connection it is earnestly to be hoped that the warnings given by PROF. JOHN MILNE in his interesting lecture, delivered to the members of the West India Committee, on Thursday last, will not be lost sight of, and that such suggestions for the improvement of Kingston as those contained in MR. ARTHUR A. PEARSON'S letter, will be favourably entertained. We could fain have wished that PROFESSOR MILNE'S address had been delivered amid the ruins of Kingston itself instead of in London. Perhaps it may yet be possible for this distinguished seismologist to pay a visit to Jamaica, and give a practical demonstration to the inhabitants of the manner in which the work of construction should be undertaken. We again commend this suggestion to the Colonial Office and to the people of Jamaica as being one worthy of their most serious consideration. Meanwhile the Governor's report is anxiously awaited. He has already recommended a free grant of £150,000, and we confidently hope that the proposed loan of £1,000,000 will also receive his full support.

PROFESSOR JOHN MILNE, F.R.S., F.G.S.

Professor John Milne, who was born at Liverpool in 1850, received his education at King's College and the Royal School of Mines, London. His early professional days were spent as a mining engineer in Newfoundland and Labrador, while later he was geologist to Dr. Beck's expedition into

northwest Arabia. Professor Milne's great work, however, has been under the Japanese Government, whom he served for twenty years, identifying himself with the study of earthquakes and the means of minimising their effects on buildings. In this capacity he established the seismic survey of Japan, and he is now engaged on a similar survey of the world. He married Tone, daughter of Horikawa Noritsune, abbot of Gango-ji, Hakodate. Professor Milne is a Fellow of the Royal and Geological Societies and an honorary D.C.L. of Oxford. He is the author of many learned works on the subject which he has at heart.

THE WESLEY PULPIT.

The pulpit in Wesley Church in the city of Kingston, Jamaica, is one of the most unique pulpits in the Empire. It is built around the mast of a ship sunk in the ground and encased in copper, and stands twenty-four feet high. It is encircled by a spiral stair case entirely of wood. The whole is constructed of beautifully grained Jamaica mahogany, and the workmanship is of the highest order. The pulpit was the work and the gift of a black man who had been a slave, and has been valued at £400. The earthquake of the 14th inst. has very seriously damaged the Wesley Church and rendered it unsafe for use. The pulpit depicted in our illustration, which is reproduced from a photograph taken by the Rev. W. Baillie, is, however, uninjured.

"CONSTRUCTION IN EARTHQUAKE COUNTRIES."

The number of applications for tickets for Professor Milne's lecture on "Construction in Earthquake Countries" was so large, that it became necessary to engage a special room for the meeting which was accordingly held at the Commercial Sale Rooms, Room 10, at 3.45 p.m. on Thursday, February 21st. The room was gaily decorated with flags, prominent among which was that of Japan as a compliment to the lecturer.

The Right Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P., presided, and among those present were: Sir E. Noël Walker, Sir Charles J. Tarring, Mr. Arthur A. Pearson, C.M.G., Mr. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., Colonel S. Cargill, Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, M.P., Major Craven, Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Lady Lubbock, the Dowager Lady Lyveden, Mr. L. Abbott, Mr. C. W. Anderson, Mr. C. J. Bates, Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Mrs. and Miss Berthon, Miss H. Black, Miss V. Borton, Miss Buckmaster, Mrs. Scott Bushe, the Misses Caird, Miss Carew, Miss Carrington, Mr. S. N. Carvalho, Mr. Edward Chambers, Mr. Byron Clark, Miss Mary Clarke, Mr. P. O. Cornwell, Mr. H. R. Cowell, Mr. F. C. Crawford, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mrs. John de Pass, Miss de Pass, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. A. K. F. Duncan, Mr. C. M. Edsall, Mr. A. Elder, Miss Elliott, Mrs. Martin Elliott, Mr. W. H. Emery, Mr. Aston W. Gardner, Mr. D. G. Garraway, Mrs. W. Gill, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. R. P. Goffe, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. George Graham, Mr. Matthew H. Gray, Mr. C. W. Greenidge, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. J. W. Hargreaves, Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Miss Harrison, Mr. D. M. Harvey, Major R. Harvey, Mr. M. P. Hart, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. Harold Haynes, Mr. John T. Haynes, Mrs. Haynes, Mr. Christopher Head, Dr. Hewkley, Mr. J. W. Jackson, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. C. J. Johnson, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. Leonard W. Just, Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, Mr. John Kirkham, Mr. Charles Kolle, Mr. Ernest Latham, Mr. Alex. G. Low, Miss S. Lubbock, Mr. L. F. Mackinnon, Mr. Duncan Mackintosh, Mrs. Mackintosh, Mr. Y. MacLeod, Mr. R. D. Douglas McLean, Hon. Sydney Marsham, Mr. Hugh Martin, Mr. C. W. Merrion, Miss A. G. Morris, Miss M. E. Morris, Miss Nathan, Mr. Harold Neill, Mr. Boyd A. Neilson, Miss Nightingale, Miss J. C. Niven, Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, Mrs. Prendergast, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. Quelch, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mrs. Rippon, Miss M. Robinson, Mr. Otto Rochs, Mr. F. W. Rudler, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mrs. Rutherford, Mr. John Rymer-Jones, Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., Mr. H. W. Scott, Miss R. C. Scott, Mrs. Senhouse, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, Miss Smith, Mr. W. J. Stokes, Miss M. Topping, Miss J. Weston, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. Leslie Williams, Mr. A. Wilson, Mr. Alex. Wood, Mr. S. G. Woods, Mrs. Woods, Mr. T. C. Yeates, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Sir Neville Lubbock who introduced Mr. Jesse Collings to the meeting, congratulated him, Sir Alfred Jones, and the other members of their party on their providential escape from the earthquake at Kingston. He said that Mr. Collings was a lifelong friend of Mr. Chamberlain, and that reason alone if no other would always ensure him a hearty welcome from West Indians.

Mr. Jesse Collings expressed the great pleasure it gave him to take the chair, as he particularly wished the general public to understand the importance of our splendid possessions in the West Indies. Many knew but little about them, and he was ashamed to admit that during his recent trip he might say practically that he had "discovered" from his own point of view the West Indies as a valuable asset of our Empire. It was with great pleasure that he introduced to the meeting



Photograph by]

[REV. W. BAILLIE.

THE WESLEY PULPIT,
IN THE WESLEY CHURCH, KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

Professor John Milne, who was perhaps the highest authority on the question on which he was about to speak, a subject which came most opportunely when the question of re-building and re-establishing the city of Kingston was before them. Mr. Collings wished to point out that the earthquake had not touched in any way the resources of Jamaica. He and his friends had spent three whole days going over the island before the earthquake took place, and were amazed at the resources of the colony. Coffee, sugar, cocoa, tobacco, and a variety of things were all successfully produced, and there was a great future for cotton and rubber. Great things were being done already, but he ventured to say that, judging by the possibilities, they were merely scratching on the surface of the country. His eyes were opened to the outlet which the island afforded to capitalists great and small, and especially for young men who had a few hundred pounds at their command and were ready to work. If they would go there and for a year or so look about them, they would find an opening such as few countries offered. Though the lamentable loss of life was to be deplored, he believed that the earthquake and its results would give a new impetus to Jamaica, and what was more, would open the eyes of the British public to what their West Indian Islands meant. The members of Parliament who had just returned from the scene of the disaster had formed a deputation on February 15th to Lord Elgin, and urged several points before him. The first was that the Government should be liberal, by grant and by loan at low rates, for three objects; first, to plan out a new city worthy of Jamaica and save it from being restored at the hands of land speculators; next to advance loans at a low rate of interest for building; and the third, to advance money by some means to those proprietors big and small who had been reduced to poverty, to enable them to begin again. If temporary help were given them, which should be done on sound economic principles, they would be able to begin their career as business men again, not only for the good of themselves but for the good of our own country. Lord Elgin had listened with a great amount of interest and evident personal sympathy. The deputation was about divided between the two sides of the House, so that it was no Party question, and it was hoped that some practical force would be given to the suggestions made.

He wished also to mention the increased importance which Jamaica was likely to have in our Imperial economy through its nearness to Panama. It was one of the best positions for a naval station, for instance, the West Indian Islands covered one and a half million square miles, and the Admiralty put only one vessel to patrol that vast area. The speaker felt a great deal of shame and humiliation when the morning after the earthquake they saw an American gunboat followed by two ironclads steam into the harbour, while, with the exception of that on the *Port Kingston*, there was

Not a British flag to be seen anywhere.

If our colonies were worth keeping, it behoved the Admiralty and the War Office to take ordinary steps to give help in any emergency that might arise. They had recently withdrawn all the soldiers from the West Indies, except Jamaica, which was a wicked policy. There ought to be some white troops in all the islands, and with regard to the ships, with our immense marine we ought to have cruisers sufficient in number to be within reasonable call should an emergency occur. This question was not one of Jamaica only, but a national one, in which British people were concerned as much as those in the West Indies, as these great possessions were one of the most valuable assets in the economy of the British Empire. (Cheers.)

He then referred to the splendid work done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the islands and also paid a warm tribute to the capabilities of Sir Alfred Jones and to what he had done to increase the prosperity of Jamaica. With regard to the Governor, during the terrible night after the catastrophe, Mr. Collings saw Sir Alexander Swettenham at his work; he did that work well, was cool-headed and confident in himself, inspiring confidence in others. He acted as a British Governor should act, and it was to be hoped that no matter what little defects might be brought forward, this would be remembered. He would now call upon Professor Milne to give his lecture.

Professor John Milne, who on rising was greeted with cheers, said that he did not intend to give a lecture about the great disaster in Jamaica, nor about any earthquake in particular. Everyone would agree that earthquakes could not be prevented, but there were very many who knew that a great deal could be done to mitigate their effects. This has been particularly well illustrated by the work which has been carried out during the last twenty-five years in Japan, to which country he went in 1875. There many people paid more attention to earthquakes than to their own businesses, which was not surprising, quite as many as 80 a year were large enough to be felt. In 1880, in that country, they established a seismological society which has published twenty volumes. The work was considered so far good that it is now continued under the auspices of the Japanese Government by a committee, who receive every year a subsidy of from £1,000 to £5,000. They have published sixty or seventy volumes. For the most part these are written in idiographs, and, therefore, are not readily clear to the European reader. Many of these volumes relate to construction in earthquake countries. Whenever a big earthquake occurs, in India, the Philippines, or, as lately, in San Francisco, we find on the scene the Japanese engineer, architect and seismologist. Their object is to make notes of that which fell and that which

stood, and why it fell or stood. The first work of this seismological society was to invent instruments, which have now been adopted the world over. These do not simply record the fact that an earthquake has occurred, but they measure the same. As far as building is concerned, what they measure is the rate at which earthquake motion is applied at the base of the structures. The result of this has been that engineers have now forces, which are expressed in mechanical units, which they have to withstand. They know what these forces are for large earthquakes and for small ones. If we had an earthquake in London and the suddenness of the back and forth motion was only one foot per second, the probability is that there would be six million chimney-pots in the streets. At Kingston the rate at which the motion began and ended was probably about ten times this quantity. Having given the suddenness of movements, the builder can put up structures to withstand them, and these structures are totally different to those we find in Europe. He makes his designs and then tests models of them on a shaking table, the movement of which reproduce those which can be expected at the time of severe earthquakes. From these experiments he determines the extent to which his calculations have been correct. He does, in fact, that which is done at a dock-yard. Drawings are made for the battleship, then comes the model. This is put into a tank and towed back and forth, and then modified until its resistance in the passage through the water is as small as possible as is required to obtain certain speeds for the expenditure of a definite horse-power. These experiments on seismic stability still go on, and buildings, tall chimneys, piers for bridges and other structures have been put into a practical form. The new types of dwelling-houses have been put in districts where earthquakes are very frequent.

After twenty-five years of experiments

we find that the new structures stand, whereas those of the old types have been shattered. Prof. Milne spoke of the ill-effects of top weight, as for example, heavy roofs, piers carrying heavy girders, &c., heavy ornamental work like the copings we see on many buildings. Incidentally he mentioned that in Great Britain there was a village which, at least so far as lightness of construction is concerned, might be considered earthquake-proof; he referred to the buildings which had been erected at Osborne for the accommodation of our naval cadets. Professor Milne laid great stress upon the nature of building materials, and pointed out that in many countries where regulations have been promulgated to palliate seismic disturbances, great stress had been laid upon the qualities of timber and masonry work. He also stated that a great deal could be done even in a small area by selecting proper sites for buildings. In the building regulations issued for the reconstruction of Manila and the rebuilding of Casamicciola certain sites had been entirely tabooed by the Government. The lecture was illustrated by a large series of lantern slides, many of them were of a technical character, others had been taken in places where the effects of earthquake disturbance have been severe. These showed the effects of this disturbance on old types of buildings as compared with the effects on the new types of buildings. Many of the illustrations referred to the destruction and reconstruction of railway bridges, while disturbances due to sea waves were not neglected. While showing the numerous slides, which were supplemented by Mr. Jesse Collings' admirable views of Kingston after the earthquake which have already appeared in the *West India Committee Circular*, Professor Milne explained that most of the earthquakes in the West Indies are submarine, and therefore though they may do damage to cables they do not affect buildings. The earthquake in Jamaica was probably due to a fault or breakage in the earth's crust, which cut the cables in the affected area. Until this year a volcanic eruption and a serious earthquake in the West Indies have always gone together. That this was not the case on the recent occasion was probably due to the fact that Mont Pelé and Soufrière are exhausted by their eruptions of a few years ago.

Mr. Jesse Collings said that the lecturer's remarks were of great interest and importance in connection with the rebuilding of Kingston which should be proceeded with as soon as possible. He was glad to learn that day that the Governor had endorsed the request of the Jamaica Relief Committee for a grant of £150,000 and a loan of £1,000,000, and he begged to move the following resolution:—

That this general meeting assembled, under the chairmanship of the Right Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P., to hear Professor Milne's lecture on "The Construction of Buildings in Earthquake Countries," wishes to impress upon the Government the desirability of rebuilding the city of Kingston, Jamaica, on such scientific lines as will render it as far as possible immune from earthquakes, hurricanes and fire; and cordially supports, therefore, the appeal of the Jamaica Relief Committee in Kingston, for a substantial grant and an adequate loan on easy terms in order that operations may be conducted on such lines without delay.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, formally put to the meeting and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the lecturer, proposed by Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., and seconded by Professor J. B. Harrison, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. R. Rutherford and seconded by Sir Charles J. Tarring, brought proceedings to a close, when many of those present adjourned to the West India Committee Rooms, where tea was served.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN JAMAICA.

Lord Elgin received at the Colonial Office on February 15th a small deputation of survivors of the recent earthquake in Jamaica. Among those present were Mr. Jesse Collings, M.P., Sir Alfred Jones, Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., Sir Ralph Moor, Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., Mr. W. Howell Davies, M.P., with Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., and Mr. J. Rippon.

Mr. Jesse Collings having introduced the deputation, Sir Alfred Jones said they recognised the useful nature of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, but Sir Daniel Morris was too far away from Jamaica and might not be able to do his best for the island. He hoped Lord Elgin would strengthen the arrangements made and have an inspector appointed, as the time had arrived when it would be useful if a department of agriculture could be established, directed by a man at home.

Mr. Jesse Collings said he had been struck with the enormous resources of the island, with regard more particularly to cotton and rubber. Jamaica, being much larger than the other islands and so far distant, ought to be treated with a separate body, with a Commissioner, or Assistant Commissioner, in touch with the Colonial Office. He urged that the Government should continue the existing grant to the West Indies, and, indeed, very largely increase it. The islands needed experimental advice and capital for the development of the country. He suggested that a grant of £20,000 should be given to the islands generally, and an additional £10,000 for Jamaica. Mr. Howell Davies asked that Kingston should be established on the lines of developing British commerce. Mr. Hamar Greenwood urged the promotion of a generous scheme that would relieve the frightful pressure of helplessness which at present weighed down the mercantile and other classes.

Mr. Henniker Heaton having spoken, Lord Elgin, in reply, said the deputation were better able than any one else in this country to realise what a blow had befallen Kingston, and he was glad that they accepted the passage in the King's speech as adequately meeting the situation. He desired to express on his own behalf and on behalf of the Government to Sir Alfred Jones the sense of gratitude to him and his officers for the services which they had rendered. They always expected prompt and generous action from Sir Alfred Jones, and they certainly had not been disappointed on the present occasion. He (Lord Elgin) fully recognised that it was a matter of great importance that they should have a second string to their bow in the matter of sources of supply of cotton; and in that as well as in other parts of the world they had been endeavouring to pursue the policy to which he referred last Session in the House of Lords when he took occasion to state that the Colonial Office had been informed of the excellence of the samples which had been produced in the country. In regard to the suggested agricultural department, he might point out that Sir Daniel Morris was really not intended to deal with Jamaica. Personally he, Lord Elgin, claimed a sort of hereditary interest in the promotion of agricultural interests in Jamaica, as he had in his possession a medal which was given to his father when Governor of Jamaica in 1842 by the different agricultural societies in the island. Jamaica was certainly quite large enough to stand by itself in the matter. In conclusion Lord Elgin said that he had telegraphed to the Governor of Jamaica asking him to inform the Colonial Office what scheme had been considered for improving the destroyed area. In regard to the question of grants or loans, he could only say that that was a matter that would have to be seriously considered by the Colonial Office before it went any further. He understood that the Colonial Government had funds in their possession to deal with public buildings, but he thought it was rather an extension of the general practice that assistance should be found from public funds for the purpose of restocking, and he suggested that someone might ask the Lord Mayor to do something in this direction from the funds at his disposal.

The Jamaica Relief Committee.

Since our last issue was published frequent meetings of the Jamaica Relief Committee have been held at the West India Committee Rooms. On February 18th the receipt of the following telegram from Archbishop Nuttall, the Chairman of the local relief committee was reported:—

"A synopsis of careful approximate reports made to me by experienced business men, from which I have deducted 15 per cent., shows total loss of buildings in burnt area, £500,000; loss on private buildings in the city of Kingston and the suburbs, which are in the parish of St. Andrew, £900,000; ecclesiastical buildings in Kingston, £60,000; Government and municipal buildings, £10,000; merchandise and personal property in burnt area, £500,000; ecclesiastical buildings out of Kingston, £30,000; other large buildings in other parishes, £20,000; total, £2,070,000. We are urging an Imperial grant of £150,000 to supplement charitable funds received for restoring buildings of destitute, and also an Imperial loan of £1,000,000 for restoring larger buildings, to be managed on business principles, providing for interest and redemption fund. Particulars follow. Relief progressing on lines already reported."

This telegram was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the West India Committee, and it was pointed out that the total sum did not agree with the items, and that probably this mistake arose from the sum for "Government and municipal buildings" being wrongly stated.

On February 21st the satisfactory intimation reached the Committee that in the Legislature on the preceding day the Governor announced that he had made representations to the home Government

as to the necessity of making a grant of £150,000, but with regard to the proposed loan of £1,000,000, the Colonial Office is still awaiting the recommendation from the Governor. A press message has however stated that he favoured a loan but not a colonial guarantee. The cabled message added that the Governor proposed to utilise the loan by lending the money to holders of property in the affected area for rebuilding purposes at 6 per cent., 2 per cent. being for a sinking fund. The announcement was received with much satisfaction. All the members of the Council and the general community hail with great delight a definite prospect of the rebuilding of the city.

The Jamaica Earthquake Fund.

The Mansion House Fund now amount to £53,170; while £6,293 and £3,000 have been collected by the Lord Mayors of Liverpool and Manchester respectively. The Lord Provost of Glasgow's Fund has reached £2,783; and the West India Committee has now forwarded the following subscriptions to the Mansion House, making, with the amounts already acknowledged, a total to date of £4,551 17s. 4d.:—

The Daily Mirror (2nd Amount)	£100 0 0	W. A. Sturdy	£5 0 0	Sydney G. Woods	£1 1 0
McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh & Co.	26 5 0	James Inniss	5 0 0	Mrs. Lingard Monk	1 1 0
Etridge Estate, St. Kitts	10 10 0	Lady Norman	3 3 0	Miss C. M. Hudson	1 0 0
Major & Mrs. H. A. S. Backworth (late 1st W.I. Regiment	10 0 0	W. Mitchell Thomson, M.P.	2 10 0	Miss Robinson	1 0 0
Capt. G. A. O. Lane	5 0 0	Miss Gandar	2 2 0	Miss Annie G. Barrow	1 0 0
L. Rose & Co., Ltd.	5 0 0	Mr. & Mrs. Storr	2 2 0	"I. M. B."	1 0 0
C. L. R.	5 0 0	T. Musgrave Francis	2 2 0	Alms: All Saints' Ch., Pen-y-lan	0 16 0
		W. S. Thomson	2 2 0	Col. A. H. Nourse	0 10 6
		Mrs. Forster Barrow	2 0 0	H. Preedy	0 10 0
		Henry Boase	2 0 0		
		Hugh A. MacCormack	1 1 0		

Since the issue of our last *Circular* the following donations amounting to £15 15s. od., have been collected by the West Indian Club, bringing the total received by them up to £301 2s. od.

Sydney Shorter	£10 10 0	A friend, per Mrs. M. Joseph	£1 1 0	J. W. Clark	£1 1 0
W. A. M. Goode	2 2 0			G. Hudson Pile	1 1 0

Contributions are still urgently needed, and it is hoped that Members of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club will collect subscriptions from their friends. Any amounts, however small, will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The Jamaica Women's Self-Help Society.

Mrs. Parker Smith, who originated the fund which is being raised to re-establish the small store of the above Society, is very anxious that the total should be at least £500. It is hoped that those ladies who are members of the West India Committee will help by collecting small amounts towards it, and the support of the wives of members generally is invited. Subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged by Mrs. Parker Smith, Jordanhill, Glasgow, or the Secretary, the West India Committee 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The total received so far is £289 4s. 6d., including:—

Mrs. L. Lucas	£20 0 0	The Misses Henderson	£2 0 0	Mrs. Paisley	£1 0 0
Rev. H. M. Brown (Torquay)	9 11 0	Lady Carrick Buchanan	2 0 0	Col. Mount Steven	1 0 0
W. Mitchell Thomson, M.P.	2 10 0	Anon	2 0 0	Mrs. A. Tarratt	1 0 0
Lady Davson	2 2 0	Collected by Mrs. H. A. Kemp	1 5 0	Miss Agnes Watson	1 0 0
Lady Norman	2 2 0	Miss Yates	1 1 0	Anon	0 10 0
		Mrs. T. D. Miller	1 0 0	Mrs. Leslie	0 5 0
				Anon	0 4 0

Former Relief Funds.

The Mansion House Jamaica Earthquake Fund still falls far short of the fund raised in 1903. The following corrected particulars regarding former funds will be found useful for purpose of reference:—

Date of Disaster.	Nature of Disaster.	Date of Opening Fund	Duration of Fund.	Total raised.	Government Assistance.
Sept. 10th 1898	Hurricane, Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.	Sept. 17th	8 weeks.	£46,121 3 5	Free grant £65,000 and loan of £100,000.
Aug. 7th 1899	Hurricane Leeward Islands	Aug. 15th	10 weeks.	£7,329 6 3	Free grant of £6,000.
May 8th 1902	Eruption of the Soufriere, St. Vincent	May 14th	12 weeks.	£65,769 10 10	—
Aug. 11th 1903	Cyclone in Jamaica (coll. by W.I. Committee)	Aug. 18th	8 weeks.	£6,597 16 6	—
Jan. 14th 1907	Earthquake in Jamaica	Jan. 17th	—	£53,170 to date.	—

PROPOSED EAST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The attention of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce having been drawn to the articles in the *Statesman*, which were quoted in our issue of January 1st (page 10), urging the formation of an East India Committee in London, on a somewhat similar basis to that of the old established West India Committee, the matter was discussed at the meeting of the Chamber held on December 4th. The

Chamber considered that the suggestion was one worthy of consideration, as it appeared desirable that there should be in London a body of representatives of commercial and industrial interests in India in full touch with the Indian Chambers of Commerce. It was decided to write to the Secretary to the West India Committee, London, asking for particulars of their constitution, rules and regulations, finance, &c. In the meantime the Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Indian Chambers and ask for their views on the proposal.

MANY YEARS AGO.

The Antigua Earthquake.

On February 18th, 1843, a severe earthquake occurred in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat. It took place after service on a Sunday morning, and great damage was done, especially in Antigua, where the old cathedral was completely wrecked. The news of the disaster arrived in England early in April. There were no Mansion House Funds in those days, but a special meeting of the West India Committee was at once summoned, and the following on the subject appears in the minutes:—

“It was on the motion of Mr. Colquhoun, seconded by Mr. Burge, RESOLVED that the sum of £200 be granted out of the Funds of the Standing Committee towards the relief of the poorer class of Sufferers by the late Earthquake in Antigua, St. Christopher’s, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat.”

News travelled slowly in the forties, and the length of time which elapsed between the earthquake and the arrival of the intelligence would render relief funds inoperative for immediate purposes. Cable communication and Lord Mayor’s funds go together.

THE LATE SIR HENRY NORMAN.

The bronze tablet to the memory of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wylie Norman, was unveiled at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on February 13th, by Field-Marshal Sir George White, V.C. The tablet, which forms part of the memorial which is being established by friends and comrades to commemorate the field-marshal, is affixed to a marble slab on the cloister wall, and bears the inscription:—
“Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Born 1826; died 1904. This tablet to the memory of a distinguished soldier and administrator, is placed here by his friends and comrades.” After the unveiling and a dedicatory prayer by the Rev. R. Moseley, the Chaplain, Sir George White delivered a stirring address, in which he referred to the brave and faithful manner in which Sir Henry Norman served his sovereign as a soldier and a statesman in many lands.

BARBADOS SUGAR BANK.

The Barbados Official Gazette of January 10th gave the text of the bill, which on that date had been read the first time in the House of Assembly, to establish a Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank in that island. It will be remembered that the £80,000 which formed the Barbados share of the £250,000 Imperial Grant-in-aid of the sugar industry of the British West Indian Colonies and British Guiana, in 1902, was not, as in British Guiana and Trinidad, distributed among the planters, but established as a fund under various Plantations-in-Aid Acts, by which annual advances were made to the owners of sugar estates at 6 per cent. interest, to enable them to continue cultivation. These Acts have been renewed from year to year, and the object of the present Bill is to make a permanent establishment in the form of an Agricultural Bank for sugar estates. After providing for the directorate and staff of the bank, the former consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and one person elected by the Legislative Council, three persons to be elected by the House of Assembly, and one by the Agricultural Society, the Bill lays down the conditions under which the loans shall be made. The main features of these are that the consent of mortgagees must be given in writing, or else that notice of the intended loan advertised in the Official Gazette and one daily newspaper; that a certificate of loan must be made out by the owner or receiver and handed over to the Bank, transferable either absolutely or as collateral security; that any loan must be used for the general cultivation and management of the estate only, the cost of renewals and alterations to machinery and buildings, and of additional live stock not being paid from the loan except with the sanction of the bank; that every loan made under the act constitutes a first charge on the plantation and on the crop for the year of the loan, and has priority of all other liens whatever, with the exception of those under the Agricultural Aids and Plantations-in-Aid Acts and the Hurricane Act of 1899; and that the proceeds of the sale of other crops than those of sugar and cotton, of rents, and of the sale of live and dead

stock, must go towards carrying on the cultivation of the estate, or to reducing the amount of the loan. Sugar, molasses and cotton crops of any plantation to which a loan has been made, must be sold in the island, an account of such sale given to the bank and the necessary payments against the loan made. The bank has also powers to make the necessary insurances, and charge them against the estate under the conditions on the loan. Due provision is made for inspection of estates and severe penalties provided for violation of the conditions on the part of the estate owner or representative. As will be noticed, the bill sanctions the expenditure of the loan on any other agricultural industry, so long as this is part and parcel of a sugar estate, but no definition of what is a sugar estate occurs in the bill. In this way it seems to us that an estate may grow a few acres in canes and cultivate a large acreage of, say, cotton, in which case the object of the Grant-in-aid, the maintenance of sugar estates, would be completely lost sight of. Would not a definition of a sugar estate be desirable? The Grant-in-aid was originally intended to enable sugar estates in Barbados to tide over the period until the Sugar Convention became effective, namely, 1903.

CARTELS AND THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

The following figures given by M. Dureau in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* show the effect of the cartels on the price of sugar in Germany prior to the coming into force of the Brussels Convention:—

Crop.	Raw 88% Marks.	Refined. Marks.	Difference, Marks.	Crop.	Raw 88% Marks.	Refined. Marks.	Difference, Marks.
1896-7 ...	19.60	27.10	7.50	1901-2 ...	15.76	37.46	21.70
1897-8 ...	19.90	26.70	6.80	1902-3 ...	17.54	38.38	20.84
1898-9 ...	21.56	21.18	6.62	1903-4 ...	16.72	24.32	7.60
1899-0 ...	21.10	28.36	7.36	1904-5 ...	25.60	31.66	6.06
1900-1 ...	20.68	37.06	16.36	1905-6 ...	16.64	22.20	5.56

The cartels were instituted in 1900-1 and came into full operation the following year. When the difference in price of raw and refined sugars rose from 7.50 marks per 100 kilos, the highest figure of the first four years, to 21.70 marks. In 1903-4 the Brussels Convention came into force, and the difference between raw and refined sunk at once to 7.60 marks, the compulsory lowering of the surtax difference between the Customs and excise duties naturally rendering the cartels inoperative. Practically the increased price of sugar consumed in Germany gave the manufacturers 14 marks per 100 kilos more profit, a profit which was utilised by them in cheapening their manufacture by further development of the industry, and thus, aided also by the direct bounties, they were able to dump sugar in Great Britain at a long way below the natural cost of production. As will be seen by the figures given above, the Brussels Convention at once reduced the difference between raw and refined values and put an end to the cartel trusts.

THE LIVERPOOL COLONIAL EXHIBITION.

The West India Committee have been entrusted with the arrangements for exhibits from the islands of Grenada and Antigua at the above exhibition, which is to be held in the St. George's Hall, Liverpool, from March 5th to the 19th next. At the present time there are some 1,900 acres in cotton cultivation in Antigua, and the prospects of the industry are excellent, and the decision of Antigua to be represented on this occasion will doubtless lead to still more young settlers visiting and taking up land in the island. In the case of Grenada, the result of the exhibition will doubtless be an increasing number of tourists, and the development of the island as a tourist resort. British Guiana will also be represented, some exhibits from that colony having been forwarded to Mr. John E. Tinne of Liverpool. We are informed by the Joint Managers of the exhibition that Sir Alfred Jones has made arrangements regarding a Barbados exhibit, and that Montserrat is making a small display, which is being dealt with by Mr. Charlton.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The King's Speech.

The King's Speech contained the following reference to the disaster in Jamaica:—

"The earthquake at Kingston adds one more to the series of calamities which Jamaica and my other colonies in the West Indies have experienced. I regret the deplorable loss of life and destruction of property in an important city, and I have seen with satisfaction that the emergency has been met by the Governor and his officers with courage and devotion, and by the people with self-control. The occasion has called forth many proofs of practical goodwill from all parts of my Empire; and I recognise with sincere gratitude the sympathy shown by the people of the United States of America, and the assistance promptly offered by their naval authorities."

A Convention White Paper.

The report of proceedings at the autumn session of the International Sugar Commission at

Brussels has been published as a Parliamentary Paper.* The Commission resumed sitting on December 10th. The principal matter dealt with was the adhesion of Switzerland to the Sugar Union under special conditions laid down in the protocol of June 26th, 1906, which, while exempting that country from Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention so long as she does not export sugar, entitles her to send a delegate to the Commission in a consultative capacity, only without the right to vote. A statement of accounts was presented, showing that the contributions of contracting states amply met all requirements, the total amount subscribed being 31,000 fcs., and a contribution to the sinking fund for general expenses of 5,294.45 fcs., there being a surplus available of 4,154.05 fcs. On the following day the Director of the Permanent Bureau read a report on the present position of the sugar industry with Brazil, which is published as an appendix. After some discussion the Commission accepted the conclusion of the Permanent Bureau to the effect that no changes had been made in the legislation of Brazil which called for a modification of the decision to withdraw the countervailing duties from Brazilian sugars. The question of the Government assistance to a group of capitalists for producing beet sugar in Mexico was under consideration, and it was recognised that as the contract could not become effective for some years, it was only necessary for the Permanent Bureau to keep itself fully informed on the subject. The question of the duty on Costa Rican sugars was deferred for further consideration, and Sir Henry Bergne points out that as Great Britain receives no sugar from Costa Rica, the issue of a prohibitive order in regard to her sugars has not been found necessary in the United Kingdom. The President promised that the Permanent Bureau would endeavour to produce a complete statement of the world's sugar production with the object of showing the accumulation or diminution of production with various countries, such statement to begin five years before the Commission, and embrace, as far as possible, the figures of consumption and exportation.

NATURE NOTES.

RUBBER IN CEYLON. Some important experiments were carried out in Ceylon shortly after the recent exhibition with a view to proving the value of moisture to rubber prepared for the home market. These have turned out to be, commercially and industrially, of the highest importance to the rubber-planting industry of Ceylon. Undried block rubber containing 9 per cent. of moisture has fetched 3d. per lb. more in the London market than the ordinary desiccated product. Other experiments are in progress.

BERMUDA COTTON. A small consignment of Sea Island seed cotton received from Bermuda has been examined by the scientific and technical department of the Imperial Institute. The report of the commercial experts was to the effect that the cotton was fine and long, but would suffer some waste in manufacture, and was worth 14d. per lb., "fine" Sea Island being quoted at 14d. per lb. and "extra fine" at 21d. per lb. Some stained cotton occurred in the sample pointing to the existence of insect pests.

HINTS FOR FEBRUARY. Keep clofe to making Sugar, notwithstanding the great Variety you'll meet with; which you muft expect according to the Age of the Canes, and the Soil they grow upon. If you have Showers, be fure to fupply your young Canes with Tops, and fill up your Still Pond with all you defign to put in it: And prepare as much Fewel as you can poffibly; and charge round all your Dung Pits, that you may have nothing to interfere with making of Sugar the whole enfuing Month. By no Means neglect to weed the young Canes.—*Belgrove's Treatise upon Hafbandry or Planting, 1755.*

SOILS AND LIME. The Rothamsted experiments show that in soils containing originally over 1 per cent. of carbonate of lime, the ordinary rainfall will remove about 800 to 1,000 lbs. per acre, equal to about half that quantity of freshly burnt lime. Sulphate of ammonia is an active agent in removing lime from the soil, and the continued use of ammonia salts for thirty years made the soil at Woburn so acid that barley would no longer grow and wheat was similarly affected. The removal of lime from the soil under tropical conditions of rainfall would, of course, be much greater. The soil organism (*azotobacter*) which fixes nitrogen without the aid of leguminous plants cannot develop properly unless there is a good supply of carbonate of lime. The report of the Rothamsted experiment station, from which we take the above, also states that the fertility of much of the fields in Great Britain to-day is due to the "liming" and "chalking" done by the farmers in the eighteenth and earlier centuries.

GROUND NUTS. An American farmer, says the Mexican *Investor*, thus sums up the advantage of growing ground nuts. "They have no insect enemies; you are always sure of the crop; poor, sandy land that will not grow any other crop to pay will give a fine return in earth-nuts; such lands will readily yield from 50 bushels per acre without any additional fertilisers that would not yield a low return of corn. The vines make the finest hay, the nuts always command a ready sale for oil-making; they also make the best of pig-feed, even after the oil is extracted; the residue is made into

* Commercial No. 1, 1907, in continuation of No. 5, 1906.

cakes for cattle, poultry, &c., besides which hundreds of thousands of bushels are annually used for human consumption. Horses will leave lucerne to feed on earth-nut vines; you can get two bushels of earth-nuts ready while you would get less than one bushel of corn. They will fatten hogs quicker than anything else, and keep them healthier. Some people say they are not worth the trouble. Those who have tried them in a proper way know better, for they obtain money all the year round from them. Keep them clean in the early stages of their growth, and you will never need to worry about the crop, for that will be there when you start to harvest."

"**TANGELO**" & "**POMELO**." Some American papers are responsible for the statement that Drs. H. Webber and W. T. Swingle, have succeeded in cross-breeding citrus fruits with remarkable results. The two principal results of the labours of these scientists have been the production of the "tangelo" and "citrago." The "tangelo" is a cross between the tangerine orange and the pomelo, or grape fruit, and is said to contain the best properties of each. It is, in effect, a small "kid glove" grape fruit, with a readily separable skin, a dark orange in colour, slightly acid, highly flavoured, rather sweet, attractive in appearance, and with segments that come easily apart. Of more importance, however, than the "tangelo" is the "citrago," a fruit which seems destined to revolutionise the orange industry in many parts. There seem to be two species of citrago, totally different from any citrus fruit hitherto known. These are a result of a cross with the frost-proof Japanese orange. The latter is a worthless little fruit, though pretty to look at, only an inch-and-a-half in diameter, and full of seeds. The cross is obtained with the everyday Florida orange, and the new varieties possess the frost-proof quality of the Japan with all the good features of the Florida orange.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Cacao in Ecuador.

The year 1905 gave, as mentioned in Mr. Consul Cartwright's special report on the subject, already published in the *West India Committee Circular*, a much smaller production of cacao than in 1904, the exports being fully 20% below those of 1904. The position was, however, much improved in this respect, the amount produced in Quayaquil alone being 19,700 tons up to November 30th, against 16,900 tons for the same period in 1905, and 23,112 tons in 1904.

Cacao consumption in Sweden.

The Dutch consul in Stockholm reporting on the sale of cocoa and chocolate in Sweden states that the trade in these commodities, which was formerly limited in amount, has of recent years shown a remarkable expansion. There are clear signs that the people of Sweden are becoming more and more accustomed to the enjoyment of this commodity. Whilst the average annual Swedish production of cocoa-powder and chocolate of all kinds from 1890 to 1896 only amounted to 870,000 kilogs., valued at 1,000,000 gulden, it had by the end of 1904 increased considerably, as will be seen from the following official returns of production between 1900 and 1904:—

Year.	No. of Factories.	No. of Workpeople.	Production.	
			Quantity. Kilogs.	Value. Gulden.
1900	12	626	976,590	1,131,962
1901	11	523	954,735	1,152,716
1902	11	603	990,160	1,249,220
1903	12	601	1,211,758	1,454,564
1904	14	615	1,395,466	1,644,877

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Antonio*, which left Kingston, Jamaica, on January 31st, and arrived at Avonmouth on Thursday, February 14th, had among her passengers Viscount Mountmorres, Mrs. C. E. de Mercado, and Colonel Kitchener. Owing to the R.M.S.P. *Atrato* having to wait at New York for relief stores for Jamaica, she was delayed three days, and did not leave Barbados until 10 p.m. on Friday, February 8th. She reached Southampton at 2.45 p.m. on Thursday, February 21st. Among her passengers were the Earl and Countess of Dudley, the Hon. T. Cochrane, M.P., the Right Hon. H. O. Arnold Forster, M.P., Mrs. Arnold Forster, and Mr. Edward Packard. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Cotton yields in Antigua.

Writing on January 30th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that the local fund for the relief of sufferers from the Jamaica earthquake, amounted on January 26th to £126 gs. 4d. Owing to the financial condition of Antigua, no money could be voted from the funds of the Presidency, but it was

hoped that they might be able to give something in accord with the general depth of sentiment aroused. Amongst those who lost their lives was Mr. James Wilson, who left Belmont Estate to go as manager to Caymanas Estate in Jamaica a few years ago. He had many friends in Antigua.

Cotton was the talk at the present time, and if new arrivals continued to come to the island as they had done lately, Antigua would soon have all the land available for cotton planting, rapidly changing from "cossie-bush" and wild tamarind to this crop. On the limestone lands Antigua turned out a very strong staple cotton, and the crop could be grown on these very easily worked lands without much trouble from weeds or drainage problems; in fact, the regulating factor was the cotton worm, and the best advice that could be given to a cotton planter would be, "Don't put in more land than you can keep a dust of Paris Green settling on." As regards yield, from about half a bale of 200 lbs. to three-quarters of a bale per acre, was what most people seemed to look for; there were, of course, lands that gave more than this, but the bulk of the land did not. New land just cleared out of bush did very well in cotton, and on such land practically no cultivation was needed. Land that had had several crops of cotton from it in succession did not do as well as land that had been in some other crop; rotations would be necessary, and on land with no sugar works on it, it was rather hard to know what rotation crops to put in on any scale,—everything but cotton that these lands could grow was down to bed rock prices or had only a limited local sale. There was no doubt that the present high prices for cotton would make the sugar estates, with suitable land for this crop, plant it in preference to the unfortunate staple, which was driven from market by tariff alterations, and which in its over-production nobody seemed to want. The Panama Canal might hasten this change by providing employment, at protectionist rates for labour, to their labourers, with which it was hopeless for Antigua to compete, thus making labour so scarce in Antigua that either sugar cultivation would have to be curtailed or East Indian labour introduced.

Sir Alfred Jones' gold medal was to be awarded by the Governor on February 1st to Mr. Maginley, of Gilbert's Estate, where cotton, although not grown from the famous Rivers seed introduced by the Department of Agriculture, had always been very good; in fact, so well thought of in the island that seed from this estate was in demand, and might be sent with advantage to other places where less valuable cotton was now produced. Gilbert's was a typical limestone estate with light, well-drained loam soil, neither too wet nor too dry for cotton; these sorts of lands were undoubtedly the best they had for high-class cotton. The drier limestone estates produced cotton of about equal quality, but the crop was smaller. Many estates on the limestone that were too dry for sugar at the prices of recent years, and which, in consequence, were abandoned, would find cotton the crop to suit them.

A Barbados sugar crop estimate.

In his letter dated February 3rd, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne stated that the Legislature had voted £2,000 for the relief of the people of Jamaica; and at a public meeting held on January 22nd several of the delegates to the Conference spoke, resolutions of sympathy were passed, and a subscription list opened. The Governor had also authorised their 2d. stamp to be surcharged, that is, though costing 2d. it was to be used as a penny stamp, the other penny to go to the relief fund. Some thousands had already been sold. All who went in the *Port Kingston* from Barbados had safely returned, but many of them still felt the effects of the awful experience they had been through, and it would be some time before their nerves were completely recovered.

There had never been so many nor such agreeable visitors as had come to the island this winter. They had all remained some time and explored the island, and were warm in its praises. The weather continued beautifully cool, and recent visitors were charmed with the climate. It was to be hoped that Sir Frederick Treves' report might considerably add to their number next year. They had hoped that a good January might have improved their prospects for the crop, but the showers had been very light, and only about two inches was the average fall for the whole month. February also had begun with light showers. The young crop had a fine spring and was coming on bravely; the old one was showing all the signs of ripening, and several estates were already making sugar or syrup. Owing to the wholesale emigration of their able-bodied labourers to Panama, it was feared that the labour question would become a very serious one this crop, and measures ought to be taken to prevent further evil results. Those who were left seemed to think that they could demand exorbitant wages in almost every trade, and these being refused them, had struck. On the previous Tuesday the *Trent* could not complete her coaling because the lightermen had struck; the printers had struck, and many other trades in town, while in the country many of the labourers refused to work at even a reasonable advance on current prices.* With sugar at the present low price, it was impossible to give exorbitant prices. If they did they would have to give up sugar altogether. The writer did not estimate the island crop this year above 50,000 hbd., and 35,000 puncheons of molasses.

* The chance arrival of H.M.S. *Brilliant* quickly restored a normal condition.—Ed.

Insurance in British Guiana.

The Demerara delegates returned from Jamaica on January 25th. In addition to the Government grant advised by last mail, private subscriptions were being asked for when Mr. McCowan wrote on February 2nd, and clothing forwarded to the sufferers.

The weather had been too heavy generally during the fortnight, with bleak winds. A spell of good sunshine would be beneficial to the cultivation.

From the *Daily Chronicle* we learn that the eighty-third half-yearly meeting of the members of the Hand-in-Hand Fire Insurance Company and the fifty-second of the British Guiana Fire Insurance Company had been held. In the case of the former the business had increased by 298 policies, insuring \$639,932, and an interim dividend of 3% had been declared for the half year. With the latter the increase in business had amounted to 186 policies insuring \$345,369, and a dividend on the scrip capital of 2¼% was declared for the half year.

The Railway Question in British Honduras.

Writing with regard to the Stann Creek Railway, the Hon. A. R. Usher informs us that the Colonial Office have decided to construct a line departmentally with a gauge of 20 in. and 20 lb. rails at a cost of about £40,000, and an engineer was now on his way to the colony to select the route and commence operations. Since this matter was settled however, Mr. R. W. Perks, M.P., has sent out an engineer, Mr. G. G. Eady, to go over the route and look into the other schemes for the improvement of the colony, and it is understood that the Colonial Office has been approached with the view of the works being carried out by contract, but in the meantime the colony has refused to consider the matter of the Stann Creek Railway being done by contract. Mr. G. G. Eady and others were of opinion that a line with 20 lb. rails and 20 in. gauge would be inadequate to meet the traffic on the proposed line, as a large quantity of land is being applied for in the Stann Creek Valley, which will, no doubt, be put under cultivation immediately the route of the line is decided upon, and the Secretary of State has been asked to allow the gauge of the line to be 3 ft. with 40 lb. rails. Up to the date of Mr. Usher's letter his consent had not been obtained, and some people were of opinion that the money would be wasted if the Government persisted in constructing such a narrow gauge line, which would, no doubt, have to be altered within the next year or so, and which would deter some people from going into cultivation owing to the uncertainty of the line being able to transport their produce.

Dominica and the Fleet.

As usual at this time of year, matters were very quiet when Mr. E. A. Agar sent his letter of February 2nd, both the lime and cocoa crops being over, although there was some little activity in the green lime market in New York. The weather was quite delicious—fine and beautifully cool in the mornings and evenings.

The Legislature voted £100 for the relief of the sufferers in Kingston, and a considerably larger sum than that had been subscribed privately. The fact that Jamaica would have had to depend on the U.S. squadron for assistance in case of need had, naturally, reopened the dissatisfaction felt at the withdrawal of the British ships. Without being in any way an alarmist, one could not help feeling that it would be more consonant with the dignity of the Empire if the West Indian possessions—valuable in themselves and valuable from sentiment—were considered worthy of a squadron for their safeguarding.*

Two wrecks at Jamaica.

The *Prinz Waldemar* of the Hamburg-American line, which went ashore on the Palisadoes while on her way to New York from Port Limon a few days after the earthquake, has been abandoned and her cargo of fruit dumped into the sea. It will be remembered that the tourist steamer *Prinzessin Victoria Luise* went ashore not far off in December, and became a total wreck.

Bad weather in Nevis.

Writing on January 22nd, Mr. Shand said that since his last letter they had had exceptional weather for the time of year, excessively high winds and much rain. The former had done serious damage to the cotton fields, especially in the more exposed localities, by blowing the bolls clean off the bushes, and the rains had rendered it well nigh impossible for the planters to pick the already matured cotton. At the meeting of the Executive Council on January 16th, a sum of £200 was promptly voted for the relief of the sufferers in unhappy Jamaica, and a subscription list had been opened at the Colonial Bank for private subscriptions. Their Administrator had not only spent most of his official life in Jamaica, but his sons were residents there, and so his anxiety must have been very acute. The

* We have it on good authority that Mr. Winston Churchill's proposals for the commissioning of patrol ships for the West Indies are to be given effect to.—E.D.

writer believed, however, that he had had reassuring news as to the personal safety of the members of his family.

The Agricultural Show was to take place on March 7th, and it was hoped that it would be well supported. The weather had been quite suitable for the cane crops and ground provisions. Dr. Mason had been offered promotion to Dominica, where he would act as magistrate also, vice Dr. Cookman, resigned. Cotton picking was in full swing when the Hon. C. A. Shand wrote on January 31st, but the yield was disappointing, owing to the effect of the heavy rains and high winds. Since last advices the weather had been more favourable for the growing crops. Cotton appeared to mature only under the most favourable climatic conditions, and the temperature played a prominent part in the success or otherwise of the yield. The Governor was expected at the island on the following Tuesday, and had intimated that he would spend a week there.

St. Kitts and our ignominious position.

The leading topic of conversation at the date of Mr. A. D. C. Adamson's letter, January 25th, was the Jamaica calamity, the news of which caused general dismay and apprehension on the part of those who had friends and relatives there. Everyone was agreed upon the ignominious position they were in in having foreign men-of-war and foreign bluejackets "practically" doing patrol and police work. St. Kitts had voted £200 towards the relief fund, and a collection of clothes, &c., was also being sent on.

The weather since last mail had been dry, but a lot of worrying little showers, which as rain counted for nothing, had been rather a hindrance to making sugar, and also cotton picking. Reaping had begun on a good many estates, and the juice appeared to be good, especially that of cane B 208. Cotton picking was going on in full swing, but the fact that many estates had started sugar-making had made it necessary at a good many places to pay more money for getting in the seed cotton. The first sale reported was at the wholesome figure of 1s. 10½d., which made them all hope for the same, or better.

Cacao in St. Lucia.

Mr. George S. Hudson writing on February 4th reported that the weather during the past fortnight, with light rains at night and sunny days, had been favourable to both cacao and sugar crops. The cane crop prospect continued good, and the promise of cacao pickings in April to May was much brighter. It might be interesting to note that no cacao contracts of importance had been made in St. Lucia this year, exporters preferring to take their chance of the market; the range of prices hitherto realised was from 78s. to 86s. 6d. per cwt.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on January 28th, arrangements were made to take full advantage of the impending visit of the Canadian trade delegates to endeavour to stimulate a cold storage fruit trade and business generally between Canada and St. Lucia. Out of a shipment of 7,000 Para rubber seeds from Ceylon in Wardian cases, only 400 live plants had resulted; these were being taken up by planters. Messrs. W. and F. Barnard had decided to import a modern plant for concentrating lime juice for their estate "Fonds" in preference to citrate of lime machinery.

Volcanic ash in St. Vincent.

Arrowroot digging and cotton picking were progressing when Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. closed their letter on February 4th, and considerable exports of both had been made to the United Kingdom. The little sugar and molasses made up to that time had gone to Halifax, N.S.

Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on February 4th, stated that to reach Barbados and connect with the *Port Kingston* on the way to the Agricultural Conference in Jamaica, he had to leave St. Vincent on January 1st, and it was necessary to go *via* Demerara. He returned *via* Barbados on the 29th, safe. From an agricultural point of view he had gained much information, both at Jamaica and Barbados, which would be useful to them in St. Vincent.

In reply to an enquiry from the West India Committee, Mr. Sands stated that the effect of the volcanic ash will be prejudicial to cultivation for a number of years, unless a system of deep cultivation, manuring, and the growing of crops for green dressing purposes is adopted on those lands with a large deposit of it. The visit of Mr. E. L. Oliver and Mr. J. A. Hutton to the island was a great success, and the writer felt certain that much good had been done for the cotton industry. Favourable weather continued, and there were good prospects of a paying crop. The quality of the lint had kept up remarkably well, and top prices were sure to be realised. Mr. Oliver was delighted with the samples shown him on his visit, and also with the work being done at the Central Cotton Factory.

Professor H. E. Annett had left by the previous mail for England, after having gone thoroughly into the anthrax question and given advice to the Government and Imperial Department of Agriculture as to the methods to be adopted to keep the disease under. He also addressed a large meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the subject before leaving.

Opening of Trinidad's new "Red House."

Writing on February 6th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick reported that the Legislative Council held its first sitting for the year in its new quarters in the rebuilt Red House.* There was an opening function at 10.30 a.m. on February 4th, at which were present, besides the Members of Council, the Judges in their robes, the Members of the Chamber of Commerce, many heads of Departments, prominent citizens, tourists and others. The Governor delivered an address, declared the building opened, and then adjourned the meeting of the Members until noon for the transaction of business. A full report of the address would be found in the local papers of the 6th.

From a letter which Mr. Fenwick had received from the Secretary of the Cocoa Planters Association, it would seem that some planters considered his report of December 24th last, on the prospects of the cocoa crop misleading, while others found amusement in it. Experts in all professions or trades differed widely at times, and experts in cocoa were no exception to the rule. The conditions also varied widely in the different districts, and Mr. Fenwick thought that his informant in this case, who, by the way, was the only person interested in cocoa who had troubled to afford information to the West India Committee, notwithstanding that special committees of cocoa planters had been appointed in Trinidad for the purpose, was quite justified by the appearance of the trees and by the weather conditions at the time in expecting heavy pickings later on "with the continuance of the present good weather." The sudden cessation of the rains and the setting in of cold northerly winds had literally nipped in the bud (and in the flower) these pleasing expectations and had seriously jeopardised, if not entirely destroyed, the prospects of a good crop which were generally held in the month of December. Small fruit and flowers had alike suffered, and with no indication of rain the outlook was far from promising. Deliveries for the month of January had been exceedingly disappointing, the total shipped being only 50 per cent. of that during the same period last year. Prices in these circumstances had again hardened, and whilst a duller tone was reported both from London and New York, the local market was active and firm. Estate qualities had ranged from \$18.50 to \$19.00, the latter price being paid for a choice lot. Venezuelan descriptions continued to arrive in good quantities, but met with ready sale at advancing prices, a very choice shipment amounting to 800 bags having changed hands at \$19.40.

				SHIPMENTS.				
Totals at last report	3,040	Trinidad.	569	Venezuela.	
Jan. 14.— <i>Pr. der Nederlanden</i>	1,200	"	600	"	Europe.
" 15.— <i>Magdalena</i>	2,371	"	—	"	"
" 16.— <i>Thames</i>	50	"	—	"	New York.
" 18.— <i>Olenda</i>	55	"	15	"	Canada.
" 19.— <i>Grenada</i>	1,752	"	1,102	"	New York.
" 21.— <i>Tagus</i>	342	"	—	"	Europe.
" 23.— <i>Prins Willem II.</i>	350	"	93	"	New York.
" 25.— <i>Prins Willem IV.</i>	1,432	"	—	"	Europe.
" 26.— <i>Calabria</i>	750	"	—	"	"
" 30.— <i>Trent</i>	5,280	"	307	"	New York.
Feb. 1.— <i>Ganada</i>	1,022	"	727	"	Europe.
Total to date	14,644	"	3,413	"	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Proposed East India Committee.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to your *Circular* of the 1st inst., in which appears a reprint from the *Calcutta Statesman*. The reprint deals with the undoubted advantages that must follow were East Indian traders blessed with such a Committee as supervises affairs in the West Indies.

It is not to criticise the opinions expressed that this letter is written. My object is to show that a nucleus is already in being which is well capable of indefinite expansion in the direction named.

It should not have escaped the notice of the editorial writers of the *Statesman* staff that in July last an important meeting of merchants interested in the trade of India was held at the Baltic Sales Rooms in London, under the presidency of Sir Henry Seymour King, K.C.I.E., M.P., when an East India Merchants' Association was formed. This body has gained the sympathy and support of the leading firms in Anglo-Indian trade; it is ruled by a council of fifteen merchants, and in the last days of December was duly incorporated by the authorities at Somerset House.

As defined by the Articles of Association, the objects of the East India Merchants' Association (Incorporated) are: to consider and promote and protect the interest of the members in their dealings with the East Indies; to promote or oppose legislative measures affecting the well-being of the Association, and to collect and circulate information relating to trade, commerce and shipping so far as it might be of benefit to the members.

From the foregoing it will be clear that the East Indies already have an organisation, formed under the most respectable auspices, for the purpose of doing for the Middle East exactly such work as is done so admirably for the West Indies by your Committee. The registered office of the Association is at 21, St. Helen's Place, E.C., and I shall be glad to supply from that address any information that may be sought.

* It will be remembered that the old Red House was destroyed by fire in March, 1903.—ED.

Meantime, may I ask you to do a sister organisation a favour by lending to the latter the publicity of your *Circular*?
21, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.

Yours faithfully,

25th January, 1907.

J. LOCKWOOD BARRATT, Secretary.

[We referred to the establishment of the East India Merchants' Association in our issue of September 12th, 1906, and trust that its efforts on behalf of so important a part of the Empire will prove eminently successful. We cordially welcome the establishment of such sister organisations as this and the New Zealand Association. Doubtless Mr. J. Lockwood Barratt has communicated with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, whose action in this matter is recorded on another page.—ED].

The Earthquake and After.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—You ask me to give briefly my impression of Jamaica and its present needs.

In the first place it must be borne in mind that the agriculture of the island has been quite unaffected by the earthquake; it was, indeed, curious to see houses in ruins, while the trees and plants in the gardens belonging to them showed no sign of disturbance. As regards the houses, the effect of the earthquake, as is now known, was not felt seriously all over the island, and I propose in what I say to refer mainly to Kingston and its neighbourhood, where the earthquake was most severe, and where I personally saw its effects. In this district there are firstly those houses which were seriously damaged or destroyed by the earthquake; and, secondly, there are the houses which were burnt after being first more or less destroyed.

As regards the former, so far as I could ascertain, practically none were insured against earthquakes, while as regards the latter it seems to be doubtful whether there are many house-owners who will recover their losses on their fire policies. In any case there will be many who will be in the same position as those outside the burnt area, and these latter are, moreover, by far the most numerous, the burnt area being not more than sixty acres in extent, though including the principal business portion of the town. As regards the cottages of the poorer classes, those entirely constructed of wood have, in many instances, stood, and part of the Relief Fund might be appropriately applied to giving assistance towards the repairs or reconstruction of those that are damaged. But with respect to the business houses, and to the better class of dwelling-houses, belonging in many cases to persons engaged in professions or in business, and without much private means, it is obvious that the Relief Fund must be wholly inadequate to afford the assistance required. What I would, therefore, suggest, is: (1) That a loan of probably not less than £1,000,000 (the amount to be determined according to the estimated necessities of the case) should be raised. (a) For the repair or rebuilding of public buildings, and for the clearing and laying out of the destroyed part of the town. (b) For making advances on easy terms to owners of business premises and private houses towards the cost of repairing or of rebuilding as the case might be; the money to be advanced on the security of the houses as they are repaired or rebuilt; and this charge to take priority of all other charges on the property. (2) That the capital and interest of the loan should be guaranteed by Parliament, as was done in the case of the Mauritius Hurricane Loan of 1892 by the Act 53 & 56 Vict., Cap. 49, so that the loan may be raised on favourable terms. The general conditions of the Mauritius Loan are shown in the correspondence presented to Parliament at the time. (3) That, in laying out the burnt area and such other portion of the town as may be practically destroyed, the opportunity should be taken to construct one or two wide boulevards for the double purpose of the general advantage to the town of such wide avenues, and of providing at the same time some additional safeguard against the spreading of a fire. (4) That it should be considered whether in the crowded parts of the town new buildings should not be constructed of steel and concrete, so as to be, as far as possible, secure against both fire and earthquakes, expert advice being taken on the subject; wood or brick being allowed in the suburbs where the houses are sufficiently far apart to prevent any danger of a fire spreading. I would add that for the early restoration of prosperity it would seem to be specially desirable that rebuilding should be commenced as soon as possible, both in the interest of the house-owners and of the Colony generally, and also for the sake of the labouring classes, to some of whom it would afford employment. I have not attempted to go into details, or to do more than indicate what appear to me to be the more immediately pressing requirements of the situation, and I only offer the above suggestions subject to the modifications which a fuller knowledge of the local circumstances will, no doubt, suggest later.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR A. PEARSON.

Athenæum Club,
February 8th, 1907.

P.S.—Since writing the above I see that it has been suggested that Parliament should be asked for a free grant of £150,000. This would not, of course, affect the necessity for a re-building loan, but I should be sincerely glad if such a grant could be made, and in this case I should hope that out of it some assistance might be given towards the restoration of the damaged churches and chapels of all denominations, and of school houses and other buildings of a more or less public, though unofficial character.

February 20th, 1907.

[This letter coming as it does from the pen of one who has only very recently relinquished the position of Chief Clerk of the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office, and who was in Kingston at the time of the earthquake, will be of great interest at the present time. It will be noted that Mr. Pearson is of opinion that expert advice as to rebuilding should be sought, and in this connection the suggestion made elsewhere that Professor Milne should be asked to pay a visit to Jamaica is important.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest. We have received the following:—

Recollections of a Humorist, by Arthur William à Beckett, for more than twenty years assistant editor of *Punch*, London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.

Poems by the late William Morrison, M.A. Jamaica: Sollas & Cocking. At the request of his large circle of

friends this book of poems, composed by the late Mr. William Morrison, has been published by his sons. It is dedicated to the people of Jamaica, with whom the author lived and worked for a period of forty years. Mr. R. C. Guy has contributed a biographical sketch to the volume, which will make the poems of additional interest to those who had not the privilege—and it was a privilege—to know William Morrison and will revive many happy memories in the minds of his intimate friends.

The Pocket Guide to the West Indies. London: Edward Stanford. 6s. The writer of this small work consisting of 316 pages, interspersed with numerous illustrations and coloured maps, devotes about a sixth of the space at his disposal to "General Information," and under this heading are included facts which will, it is hoped, be of use and interest to the intending tourist. The geology and climate of the West Indies are described, and details as to diet, mode of living, expenses, steamship routes, clothing, not to mention minor matters such as tips, deck chairs, cameras, luggage, and the endless *et cetera* that go to make or mar a trip, are given. These preliminaries having been disposed of a separate guide to each island follows. The points of historic interest, and there are many, are given of each colony; while the scenery, general characteristics and principal features are described in a new and taking form. Hotel charges, cab fares, railways and communications are comprehensively set forth, and the whole work concludes with tables of money values, cable rates and general statistics. The guide book is of a handy size for the pocket, neatly bound and printed in clear type.—G. T.

A Medal and two Coins. Lt.-Col. Frank C. Trollope before leaving for Barbados presented to the West India Committee a copper medal struck to commemorate the abolition of the slave trade in 1807—just one hundred years ago—and two old Barbados pennies. On the medal, the Master is shaking hands with the Man, and the inscription "We are men and brethren," appears. The pennies have on the obverse the negro chieftain's head crowned and having the Prince of Wales' feathers and the motto "I serve." On the reverse, one dated 1788 has a pineapple and the other dated 1792 the familiar



Bryan Castle.—From Lady Nugent's Journal.

emblem of Barbados—we say emblem advisedly, as Barbados has never received a grant of arms—the chariot conveying the Sovereign and drawn by sea horses. The figure in the chariot is clearly that of George III., and this seems to emphasise an apparent mistake in the present Seal of the colony. On it Queen Victoria is seated in the chariot, while the inscription round it is that of King Edward VII. Perhaps those of our readers interested in heraldry may be able to throw some light upon this subject. Another interesting point is that the old form of spelling is used, namely, Barbadoes and not Barbados.

Lady Nugent's Journal: Jamaica One Hundred Years ago. Reprinted from a journal kept by Maria, Lady Nugent, from 1801 to 1815, issued for private circulation in 1839. Edited by Frank Cundall, F.S.A. London: Adam & Charles Black. In the library of the West India Committee there is a volume of Lady Nugent's diary which was printed in London in 1839 for private circulation only. Mr. Frank Cundall, the Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica (whose treasures have, it is understood, been saved from the recent disaster), in editing a new edition of the journal has only omitted trivial entries. Otherwise, the text follows that of the original precisely. But there is a valuable addition, and that is a running fire of explanatory notes which add immensely to the value of the book, as also does Mr. Cundall's introductory remarks which occupy 38 pages. They deal with the condition of the West Indies, 1801-5, affairs in Haiti which were in a very tangled state, the civil and military administration of Jamaica, its external trade; and the parentage and life of the authoress and her distinguished husband. Major-General George Nugent was Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica from July 27th, 1801, to February 20th, 1806, and but for a brief interruption caused by domestic reasons his help-meet recorded every day their movements and her impressions of the life and climate of Jamaica, the latter being by no means favourable on the whole. In those days Jamaica was not by any means a sanatorium, and there is much record of sickness, sudden and terrible, but she took matters philosophically. "Take a delightful drive on the Kingston road.—I am determined not to lament, as I am too apt to do, for the illness and deaths I hear of daily, among various parts of our society." She found the people uncongenial, being reminded of the complaint of the poor French emigré of whom she read: "Toutes les pages du livre de ma vie semblent effacées; il faut recommencer à me faire connaître, à me faire estimer.—Je me dis souvent je n'intéresse aucun de ceux que je vois.—Je puisse vivre, souffrir, mourir, sans exciter un sentiment.—Mon cœur est surchargé de son propre poids; il voudrait se répandre, mais non, il ne peut pas ici." Lady Nugent visited

practically every part of the island, and consequently the book is full of well-known names of estates such as Caymanas, Bryan Castle (the old Bryan Hall of which we reproduce an illustration from the book on page 114), Golden Grove, Knockalva, then, as now, owned by the Malcolm family, &c., and familiar names of people including Beckford, Bligh, Hibbert (George Hibbert was Chairman of the West India Committee), Henckell, &c., &c. The book has 13 illustrations, several of which appeared in the original volume, and two maps. Not only among visitors to Jamaica but also among the residents the Journal will be widely read. The book is admirably got up. Mr. Frank Cundall has done his work with his usual ability, and has added a useful volume to West Indian literature.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

PUERTO RICO SUGAR. The shipments of sugar from Puerto Rico have grown from 71,500 tons in 1901 to 205,500 tons in 1906.

A PROPER PRICE. Eight bales of cotton from Barbados have just fetched the phenomenally high price of 25d. per lb. in the Liverpool market.

A GOOD CUSTOMER. In 1905-6 Great Britain received more than 844,000 tons of German sugar, or about 73 per cent. of the total exportation.

DOMINICA COMMITTEE. Mr. John Eaden and Mr. Frederick Gordon have been appointed members of the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica.

SWEET CATTLE FOOD. The quantity of denatured sugar used for cattle food in Germany was 1,800 tons in 1905-6, as against 642, 1,333, and 2,375 tons for the three previous years.

A RECENT WEDDING. Miss Ethel Quintin Hogg, daughter of the late Mr. Quintin Hogg, was married at St. Mark's Church, North Audley Street, to Captain H. F. Wood, 9th Lancers, on February 14th.

MR. F. N. MARTINEZ. The many friends of Mr. F. N. Martinez in the West Indies will learn with regret that he has been laid up with a severe attack of pneumonia. He is, however, now on the high road to recovery, although still confined to his bed, but is not able yet to fix a date for his trip to South America.

BRITISH BEETS. Mr. Sigmund Stein's report on the experimental work in connection with beet growing in Great Britain shows that while the degree of sweetness was quite equal to that of Continental beets, the weight of each root was greater. The average tonnage per acre for the year was 18 tons.

A LINK WITH THE PAST. An obituary notice has appeared in the *Standard* of the death of "Jessie Robina, daughter of the late Michael Scott, of Glasgow and Jamaica, in her 85th year." Can this be the daughter of the celebrated author of "Tom Cringle," who was born in 1789, married in 1818, and died in Glasgow in 1835?

JAMAICANS ALSO. Mrs. Parker Smith, who originated the appeal on behalf of the Jamaica Women's Self-Help Society, and her husband, the Right Hon. J. Parker Smith, have more than a sentimental interest in Jamaica. Their great-grandfather—they are first cousins—owned Heywood Hall and Sterboriallie, close to Port Maria.

DEATH OF MRS. PRINGLE. We regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Pringle, the wife of the Hon. J. Pringle, C.M.G., M.D., member of the Legislative Council of Jamaica, which took place on January 23rd. Mr. and Miss Pringle were on their way home to England when the sad event occurred, and received the first news of it upon their arrival.

FRENCH PROTECTION. The French agricultural and commercial associations are anticipating the denunciation of the Brussels Convention. The Agricultural Committee of Laon have passed a resolution declaring that a high protective duty will have to be imposed to protect the French sugar industry against German sugar. The Cambrai Chamber of Commerce adopted a similar resolution.

A FORMER EARTHQUAKE. The earthquake which destroyed St. John's, Antigua, on February 18th, 1843, was described by one who was there at the time as resembling "a heavy waggon-train passing rapidly by in a hollow way and the sensation that of grinding on a coral rock. . . . The sea in the harbour rose above two feet; and in several places a stinking, black, bituminous matter rose through the cracks and fissures in the earth."

SAN THOMÉ LABOUR. The *Signal de Genève* of January 26th, publishes an extract from a letter of Major Coryndon, Administrator of Barotzeland, to Captain Bertrand, the well-known Zambesi explorer, in which he speaks of the Mambaris, or half-breed Portuguese, as carrying on a slave trade, although the extent of this has been considerably limited of late. It is probably thus, says the *Signal*, that the San Thomé "free labour" is recruited.

A NEW STEAMER. A new passenger and cargo steamer for the Elder, Dempster line was launched on the 19th, at Liverpool. The *Salaga*, for so she was named, is of the most modern type, the passenger

and fruit accommodation and general arrangements being quite up to date. The length is 380 ft.; breadth, 50 ft.; depth, 25 ft.; dead weight, 6,000 tons; cubic capacity, 9,000 tons. The *Salaga* is in every respect a remarkably fine vessel.

"VIA BERMUDA." Communication with the West Indies by the Direct West India Cable Company, which was interrupted by the earthquake, was restored at seven o'clock last Saturday morning. Heavy rains and seas retarded the ship's work on the 19th. On board the cable ship *Mexican* at 1.45 p.m. (Jamaica time) on the 22nd, two severe earthquake shocks were felt. They do not, however, appear, to have done any harm, and apparently all is quiet again.

FORESTALLED. An ancient Sanskrit work compiled from one of the last Vedas, and which is supposed to be at least 1,400 and perhaps 3,000 years old, associates the cause of malarial fever with mosquitoes, of which twelve life destroying "terrific" kinds are mentioned. Their bite is accompanied by fever, pain of limbs, hair standing on end, thirst, heat, giddiness, yawning, shivering, hiccup, burning sensation, intense cold, as well as other disagreeable symptoms.

HAWAIIAN MOLASSES. It is stated that in the Hawaiian factories the waste molasses amounts to from 15 to 23 gallons per ton, averaging 55 per cent. of sucrose. The extent of the exhaustion of them has been found to depend more upon the proportion of gummy matter present than the ash. This agrees with West Indian experience. The proportion of ash may be high in badly extracted molasses, but this to a great extent is due to the extra liming required in presence of the gums.

CONGRATULATIONS. We have to congratulate Mr. W. R. Buttenshaw, upon his appointment by the Secretary of State for India, to be a Botanist in the Indian Agricultural Service. Mr. Buttenshaw, who first became a member of the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture has latterly filled the position of Scientific Assistant with considerable ability, and he will leave behind him in the West Indies many friends. He will vacate his present position as soon as his successor has been appointed.

THE BAHAMAS. The December number of the Bulletin of the Agricultural Department of the Bahamas closed the first year's recorded doings of this promising institution. Perusal of the Bulletin, which is edited by Mr. W. Munro Cunningham, the curator of the Botanic Gardens, shows the increasing interest taken in scientific agriculture in those islands. The cultivation of cotton, rubber, and vegetables is being taken up, in addition to that of fibre and fruit, and useful work done in this direction by the Board of Agriculture.

IMMIGRATION. Under the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, the Governor-General in Council has determined that the probable length of the voyage of steam emigrant ships from Calcutta to the undermentioned Colonies shall be held to be as follows: British Guiana, Dutch Guiana, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Nevis, eleven weeks; Jamaica, twelve weeks. This notice seems superfluous as far as Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Nevis, are concerned, as these islands have never seriously adopted Indian Immigration.

COTTON PRICES. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that West Indian Sea Islands, since their last report, have been in good request, and considerable sales have been made, including St. Kitts, Barbados, and Montserrat at 23d. and 26d., and some superfine St. Vincent Cotton has been sold on private terms. During the fortnight ended February 21st, 6 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool 6.95d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 19½d. per lb.; medium fine, 20½d. per lb.; fine, 22d. per lb. Prices paid 7½d. to 25d.

A VOTE OF THANKS. At a meeting of the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica, held on January 14th, 1907, it was resolved "That the thanks of the Exhibition Committee be accorded to Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq., Secretary of the West India Committee, for his able management of the exhibits sent by the Exhibition Committee to the recent Fruit Show of the Royal Horticultural Society, and for his efforts to bring the superiority of the citrus fruits of Dominica to the knowledge of the King and of the people of London." The resolution bears the signatures of the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, Chairman, and Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, acting Hon. Secretary.

A LITTLE ENGLANDER. Thus the *Mineral Water Trade Journal*, "What in the name of heaven can it matter to us as sugar-users whether the price of our raw material is below the cost of production so long as we advantage (*sic*) from that cheap price?" Just so. What does the *Journal* care if an important industry in several of our colonies is ruined so long as the mineral water manufacturers can get one of their raw materials below the cost of production! Is it possible to conceive a more utterly selfish policy? We wonder what the *Journal* would have to say if bounties and cartels gave an artificial advantage to foreign mineral waters exported to British markets, amounting to nearly 50 per cent. of their value! What a bubbling there would be! And rightly, too.

A TESTIMONIAL. Mr. H. A. Frampton, who returned to England by a recent mail from Dominica, was the bearer of a testimonial subscribed for in the island for presentation to John Pottinger Band, the late Captain of the *Yare*, in recognition of his aptitude and courtesy, and also his valuable services in the interest of the agricultural development of Dominica during his captaincy of that small coasting steamer. The testimonial took the shape of a beautiful binocular, bearing a suitable inscription and the date October 1st, 1906. The subscriptions were so liberal that the senders were able also to forward a cheque for the Captain's acceptance. The principal organisers of the movement were Mr. J. H. Steber, editor of the *Guardian*, Hon. S. R. Pemberton, Assistant Attorney-General, and Mr. Wilcoxon, Accountant of the Colonial Bank.

CANADIAN PREFERENCE. The New York sugar price being so much below that of the United Kingdom has enabled the Canadian refiners to claim that they are now giving a considerable share of the amount of the preference to British West Indian sellers. This, however, is only an apparent concession. The New York price of sugar has been lowered by the American refiners in order to deprive the Cuban sugar growers of any advantage from the preference given them by the U.S. tariff, which the large quantities of Cuban sugar coming forward, and the financial needs of the growers, have enabled them to do. The United Kingdom price and not the New York price should be at the present moment the basis of sales to Canada. The American refiners are practically doing to Cuban sugar just what the Canadian are to British West Indian, viz., taking all the advantage of the preference to themselves.

SALUBRIOUS BARBADOS. Sir Frederick Treves who has recently been in Barbados, has given his impressions of the island in an interview of some length, published in a recent issue of the *Barbados Advocate*. The distinguished surgeon gave it as his opinion that as a winter resort for visitors from colder latitudes, Barbados stands unequalled, and would prove the most serious of rivals to the sanatoria of Egypt and the Mediterranean if steps were taken to accommodate the class of visitors who patronise these places. In the course of the interview, Sir Frederick Treves was pleased to refer in most laudatory terms to the work done by the West India Committee, "a body, which," he said, "has done a great deal of good in making known the possibilities of the West Indies, and what they are capable of." Sir Frederick visited all the public institutions, including the Lazaretto and the hospital, both of which, it is pleasing to note, he declared to be in a state of the highest efficiency. This is the first visit of the famous specialist to Barbados, and he was, apparently, delighted with all he saw.

CANADA-W. INDIES. Writing from Halifax Mr. W. A. Black says that the year 1906 was one of considerable growth and development in trade between the West Indies and the Dominion of Canada. His firm, Messrs. Pickford & Black, continue to receive a number of inquiries regarding the different West India Islands as a health resort. Three steamers a month have been running on their service between Halifax and Jamaica for some time, and they will continue during 1907. Two of the steamers are under charter, and are running in conjunction with the *Beta*. There has been a great development in sugar shipments, and more fruit is being imported into Canada than ever before, the shipments of oranges being particularly heavy. It is expected that the placing of limes and oranges on the free list will, probably, divert an important portion of the British West India fruit trade from the United States to Canada. The Canada-Jamaica S.S. Co. have two steamers running between Halifax and Jamaica, and a further increase is looked for. The visit of Canadian mercantile delegates to the West Indies was eagerly looked forward to. Mr. A. E. Jones, of the firm of A. G. Jones & Co., had been appointed as the Halifax delegate. The Toronto Board was to be represented by Mr. James D. Allan, and the St. John, N.B. Board by Mr. H. B. Scovill. The Montreal delegate had not yet been selected.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Feb. 12.—The King opened Parliament.—Sir R. Pullar (L.) elected for Perth.—Memorial to the memory of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman unveiled at the hospital cloisters, Chelsea Hospital.—Beet, 8s. 9d., steady.
- Wed., Feb. 13.—Leading article on Jamaica in the *Times*, p. 11.—Woman's Suffrage demonstration at Westminster.—Beet, 8s. 9½d., quiet.
- Thur., Feb. 14.—The R.M.S. *Port Antonio* arrived at Avonmouth.—City Corporation decided to entertain the Colonial Premiers (*Times*, p. 9).—The House refused by a majority of two to issue a writ for the Worcester election on the grounds of corruption.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., steady.
- Fri., Feb. 15.—Deputation of Members of Parliament and survivors from the Jamaica earthquake to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—Deputation of confectioners to Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the sugar tax.—Debate in Parliament regarding Colonial contributions towards defence.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., steady.
- Sat., Feb. 16.—Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., "ragged" at Cambridge.—Beet, 8s. 10d., quiet.
- Mon., Feb. 18.—Capt. Waring (L.) returned for Banffshire by a majority of 2,000.—Beet, 8s. 10d., quiet.
- Tues., Feb. 19.—Debate on Canadian preference in the House of Commons.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., steady.

- Wed., Feb. 20.—Fiscal debate in House of Commons.—Mr. Hill's amendment censuring the Government for not having referred in the Speech from the Throne to the Colonial Conference, and to the policy of Colonial Preference, defeated by a majority of 255 (98 for, 353 against).—Lord Davey died.—South Aberdeen election, G. B. Esslemont (L.) returned, 3,779 votes, against Mr. R. McNeill (U.), 3,412 v. F. Bramley (Lab.) 1,740.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.
- Thur., Feb. 21.—Professor John Milne's lecture on earthquake construction.—Great Eastern Railway steamer *Berlin* wrecked at the Hook of Holland with the loss of 126 lives.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., steady.
- Fri., Feb. 22.—Deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Mineral Water Manufacturers' Association as to the Sugar Tax (*Times*, p. 7).—Beet, 9s. 0½d., steady.
- Sat., Feb. 23.—Opening of the Exhibition of South African Products at the Horticultural Hall, Westminster, by the King.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 0½d., quiet.
- Mon., Feb. 25.—Agenda of the Colonial Conference published as a Parliamentary paper.—Meeting of the Mansion House Relief Committee.—Beet, 9s., quiet.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Doctor.—The duty on furniture and household goods entering Jamaica is £16 13s. 4d. on every £100 value. A copy of "Jamaica in 1905" has been posted to you.

Bibliophile.—Père Labat's "Nouveau Voyage aux Iles de L'Amérique" was published in 1722. It is a very scarce work, but a copy of it was presented to the West India Committee by the late Sir Walter Sendall. It is kind of you to offer to look over your shelves and send us any old West Indian books which you can spare. The library at 15, Seething Lane is now being catalogued, and such gifts will be most acceptable.

Rubicon.—If you hold a valuable appointment on this side, it would, I think, be most unwise of you to go out to Jamaica at the present time, unless you are first able to get an engagement before leaving England. That there will be work to be done in the reconstruction of buildings is, of course, perfectly certain, but judging from what we know of the building trade in the West Indies already, I do not think that you would be wise to give up a good appointment on the chance.

Caravonica.—The reason why Caravonica cotton does not appeal to Lancashire is that though very good it is rough in staple, and therefore not suitable for the requirements of the spinners. It is used for mixing with wool as Peruvian cotton is, and is only suitable for Yorkshire, so far as this country is concerned. It is mixed very sparingly, in order to cheapen the cost of woollen clothing and blankets, and it is believed in Manchester that there would soon be a considerable stock on hand if Mr. Thomatis produced a large quantity.

Banancier.—Mr. W. Cradwick has given the cost of planting an acre in bananas, on land in Jamaica which would otherwise have produced nothing, as follows:—

Forking, 1st time	...	...	...	...	...	£3 0 0	per acre.
Suckers	...	...	...	...	...	0 14 0	..
Draining	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	..
Forking, 2nd time	...	...	...	...	...	2 0 0	..
Weeding, twice	...	...	...	...	...	1 0 0	..
						£11 14 0	

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 5 per cent. (changed on January 17th, 1907), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86½.

The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.

The Directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 2½ % per annum.

The Guiana Gold Mining Company.

Mr. James Peters, Secretary of this Company, announces that the production for January amounted to 187 oz.

The Demerara Electric Company.

The net earnings of the Demerara Electric Company for the month of December last were \$5,281.00, being an increase of \$977.00 over the corresponding month of last year. The total earnings of this Company for 1906 were \$50,852.31, being an increase over the total earnings of 1905 of \$11,755.06.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Feb. 21st. "Slow reaping weather." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Feb. 11th. "Fine, with occasional light showers." **Trinidad** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Feb. 15th. "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Feb. 18th. "Weather continues favourable."

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Feb. 27	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	Port Royal
Mar. 4	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	Thames

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Feb. 27	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>	Feb. 26, mdn't.
Mar. 7	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Cuban</i>	Mar. 6, 6 p.m.
" 8	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Demerara,	*Dartmouth	"Direct" Line	<i>Cromarty</i>	" 8, noon.
" 8	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Jamaica	†Dartmouth	"Direct" Line	<i>Savan</i>	" 8, noon.
" 9	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>	" 8, †6 p.m.
" 13	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>	" 12, mdn't.

* Letters to be addressed per private S.S. *Cromarty*, via Dartmouth.

† " " " " " " S.S. *Savan*, " "

‡ In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. J. Boby), February 21st:—Mr. J. V. Leon, Mr. Nillin, Mr. Pinbarand, Mr. G. W. Bird, Mr. Bell, Hon. T. Cochrane, M.P., Right Hon. the Earl of Dudley, the Countess of Dudley, Mr. J. Davis, Mr. C. Dallmeier, Right Hon. H. O. Arnold Forster, Mrs. Arnold Forster, Mr. J. Arnold Forster, Miss Garrett, Mr. Gouda, Mr. C. W. Henderson, Mrs. N. Jacob Hood, Mrs. Lennox, Dr. Leonard, Mrs. Leonard and two children, Mr. R. Moore, Mr. E. Packard, Mr. H. G. Petersen, Mr. T. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Perkins, Mr. N. Ross, Mr. H. Stanton, Mr. A. P. Somerville, Miss Whyham, Miss Wieting, Mr. J. C. Wade, Dr. Williams, Dr. S. Ali, Mr. Eric Bond, Mr. R. Prosad, Mr. J. Robb, Mr. Thatchell.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), February 27th:—Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. M. Hughes, Miss Hill, Mr. Dario Saavedra, Mr. Wm. Cuddeford, Mr. F. Hickinbotham, Mr. Harold R. Billington, Mr. Maxwell Rouse, Mr. Leopold Hanisch, Mrs. Rance, Mr. H. Lloyd Wilson, Mr. Andrew S. Howie, Mr. R. C. Foster, Captain Arthur Townshend, Mr. Jas. A. Bayley, Miss E. Stanmore, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson Aikman, Mr. J. McFarlane, Dr. J. Tullock, Dr. and Mrs. Clavier, Mr. Charubin, the Right Hon. the Earl of Buckinghamshire, Mr. and Mrs. Eccles and three children, Mr. H. Bergmann, Major G. A. Porter, Mr. T. Bevan, Mr. J. Wilson, Mrs. Scudamore, Mr. Ch. Pile, Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, Mrs. Faraday.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. J. Boby), March 13th:—Mr. J. M. Morries, Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez, Mrs. Greenall, Miss Booker.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce) March 27th:—Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker, Mrs. Goodman, Mr. P. V. C. Haldane, Mr. Geoffrey Parker and son.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), February 13th:—**Jamaica:** Mrs. Alone, Mrs. Anderson and child, Mrs. Bliss and child, Lieut. Carelon, Mrs. Corbett and child, Miss Carter, Mr. Dix, Miss Delgado, Mr. A. M. Fry, Mr. G. F. Fry, Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Hollands, Mrs. Kerr, Col. Kitchener, Miss Kitchener, Dr. Kinkhead, Mrs. Kinkhead and three children, Mr. S. R. Lysaght, Mrs. Lopez and two children, Mrs. Lawrenson and child, Miss Lumsden, Viscount Mountmorres, Hon. A. McDonnell, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. C. E. de Mercado and five children, Mr. Nield, Mrs. Nield, Miss Nowell, Mr. H. Protheroe, Mr. Phillips, Mr. M. Pawsey, Miss Pearce, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Thwaites, Hon. Mrs. Trench and child, Lieut. White, Mr. Huddle, Mrs. Grant and child, Mrs. Gillenden and child.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), February 23rd:—**Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. H. Bailey, Miss Bailey, Lieut. R. G. Collins, Mrs. Cousins, Mr. E. Edwards, Mr. O. W. Galgey, Dr. Gill, Mr. Ralph H. B. Hotchkiss, Miss Morris, Mr. MacPhail, Mr. John Rayson, Miss A. L. Southby, Rev. S. A. Swaby, Mr. W. L. Wigan, Miss Dolf Wylarde, Mr. F. J. Foord, Mr. Buteman, Mr. Salim Hamati, Mr. Nami Hamati, Mr. E. S. Plant.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31		Jan. 1 to Jan. 31.		April 1 to Dec. 30.		Jan. 1 to Feb. 5.		Oct. 1 to Feb. 4.	
	1906	1905	1907	1906	1906	1905	1907	1906	1907	1906
Sugar	49,947	41,987 Tns.	12,492	9,596 Tons.	9285	7662 Tons.	1,537	2,656 Bggs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	61,099	39,316 Pns.	64	66 Puns.	...	...	94	119 Puns.	...	...
Rum	1,930	1,866 Puns.	1,053,149	791,283 Galls.	150	— Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	812	1,354 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cacao	12,492	3,300 lbs.	41,369	29,536 Cwts.	1,928,140	4,843,980 lbs.	27,181	27,706 Bags.
Coffee	30,348	35,917 "	560	— "	...	...
Coconuts	600	8,200	6,881,487	4,768,444	318,300	1,142,800	...	...
Copra	3226	537 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	16,882	43,307 lbs.	...	...	...	...
Asphalt	7586	10,658 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	40,244,394	68,309,288	...	...	...	...
Bananas	13,216,348	12,237,272 Stms.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	63,144	67,817 Cwts	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	5,999	6,772 ozs.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamonds
Rice	266,520	1,800 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...

SPICE.

1203 1820 Brls.
144 209 1/2 Brls.
131 220 Cases
16 45 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/January, 5 months.

	1906/7.	1905/6.	1904/5.	
Convention Europe	1,790,000	1,810,000	1,700,000	Tons.
America	760,000	720,000	770,000	..
	2,550,000	2,530,000	2,470,000	..

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

	1907.	1906.	1905.	
	3,700,000	4,080,000	2,840,000	Tons.

The Market remains steady, being assisted by the late severe frost on the Continent preventing the sugar coming down the rivers to the shipping ports. The Trade still continue to buy sparingly and their demand is just about sufficient to maintain an even balance of prices. The duty question in the coming Budget is already exerting its influence on the Market, and all classes of buyers are limiting their operations as much as possible. In the meantime, by the figures given above, Consumption is maintained, and the future of the Market seems entirely at the mercy of the Cuba crop and the extent of next year's sowings of beet. As no one can give these results so far ahead it will be wise not to venture on a prophecy and to hope for the best.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 25th February, were:—February, 9s. od.; May, 9s. 0½d.; August, 9s. 2½d., and October/December, 9s. 0½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	3,330,000	3,760,000	2,560,000	3,450,000	3,210,000	Tons.
United States	180,000	180,000	150,000	100,000	150,000	..
Cuba... ..	200,000	90,000	180,000	150,000	200,000	..
Afloat	—	—	50,000	50,000	50,000	..
Total	3,710,000	4,030,000	2,940,000	3,750,000	3,610,000	..

Quotations of 88% Beet, 25th Feb.:—

	9s. 0d.	8s. 2½d.	15s. 4d.	7s. 11½d.	8s. 3½d.
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Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The near approach of the Budget, when all is uncertainty as to what will be done with the sugar duties, is causing the retailer to limit his purchases to his immediate requirements, and the expected early arrivals of the new West India Island crops assist in creating caution in buying. All the same, consumers' stocks being known to be small, a certain amount of buying of properly made sugar may be observed, Importers, where necessary, making concessions in price. The closing values are: low to good yellow, 15s. 3d. to 16s. 6d., fine sugar in small quantities, 17s. to 17s. 3d. The value of average qualities is now 16s. 3d. Imitations are quoted 15s. 3d. The value of a cargo of 96 centrifugals remains about 10s. on floating conditions.

Molasses Sugar is quieter, but quotations at present remain unchanged. For 89 test to arrive, 8s. in bond remains the quotation.

Muscovado.—Little offering and little doing. Grocery kinds are worth about 14s. to 14s. 6d., and 89 test to Refiners about 9s. on floating terms, in bond.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	5600	9200	5300	5400	2200	Tons.
Deliveries	6100	5600	5800	6200	6100	..
Stocks, 18th Feb.	9900	13,000	9000	12,000	25,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, 25th Feb.:

	16s. 3d.	14s. 9d.	22s. 9d.	14s. 6d.	14s. 3d.
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Rum.—Stocks in London, 18th Feb.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Jamaica	5300	5800	6900	7900	Puns.
Demerara	7800	9400	5700	11,700	..
Total of all kinds	30,200	22,000	20,000	29,000	..

For the present the demand for Demerara has slackened, but as Importers show no inclination for the time being to submit to any reduction in prices, quotations of 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3½d. remain unaltered, but with sales only in retail. Jamaica is nominally 2s. 9d. for Home Trade Marks. Leewards and Foreign kinds range from 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—18th February:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Trinidad	5400	13,900	20,100	11,400	Bags.
Grenada	7600	9100	14,100	12,900	..
Total of all kinds	46,800	73,400	84,500	61,900	..

A further decline in prices has again taken place, but still our larger manufacturers have continued to buy with caution, and a fair business has been done in all grades except Trinidad, which is held far above buyers' views. The Market is very sensitive and a forecast of the future is not possible. The closing values are: Trinidad fair collected (nominal) 85s., Estate Marks, 87s. to 92s.; Grenada fair, 73s., fermented, 76s. to 78s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 71s., and fermented, 75s. to 80s.

Sundries.—COFFEE: weak, Santos for February delivery, 30s. 9d.; Jamaica, good to fine ordinary, 43s. to 47s. greenish to fine, 51s. to 120s. NUTMEGS: steady, recent sales of West India include 62's at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d., 66's at 1s. 3d., 70's at 10½d., 80's at 10d., 93's at 8d., 106's at 6½d., 112's at 6d., and small, 4½d. to 5½d. MACE: dearer, pale realised doing in St. Vincent, chiefly at 2½d., for manufacturing. GINGER: dull; Jamaica common, 58s. to 60s., medium to fine, 62s. to 85s. COPRA: East India firmer at £27 5s. to £28 5s. LIME JUICE: firm at 1s. to 1s. 5d.; Concentrated, steady at £23; Distilled Oil, firm at 2s. 10d. to 2s. 11d.; Hand Pressed, firm at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXXVIII.



Elliott & Fry.

Copyright.

Mr. Charles Wilgress Anderson.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Mar. 12th, 1907.

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

THE announcement of the resignation of SIR ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM, which was made in the House of Commons by MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL on March 5th, was not unexpected. To those who have closely followed the course of events in Jamaica subsequent to the earthquake, the retirement of the Governor seemed inevitable; but we are heartily glad that it was not based on the so-called "Swettenham Davis incident," believing, as we do, that the Governor had good grounds for the action which he took, though it must be admitted that the terms in which his letter to Admiral Davis was couched, like that of the gallant Admiral himself, were open to criticism. We have constantly dealt in our columns with the question of the increase of American influence in the Caribbean, and it is a fact which we have not before publicly stated, that several very influential readers have written to find fault with us on this score, and they pertinently ask, Why should you deprecate the increase of American influence? Are not Cuba and Puerto Rico more

prosperous than Jamaica and the other British islands? Our reply is that that undoubtedly is the

case; but given liberal administration and a more enlightened policy generally towards them, the British colonies may be trusted to come out on the top in the long run. For many years past we are bound to admit that the attitude of Great Britain towards her West Indian possessions has been the reverse of satisfactory, though with the advent of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN to the Colonial Office, matters for a time assumed a very different complexion. There has been too great a tendency to treat them as naughty children. For example, they refused to have a mail service foisted upon them which they did not want, and so Mr. LYTTELTON practically told them that they must have no mail contract. A provisional intercolonial contract was arranged, and the contribution of the Home Government reduced from £59,900 to £8,750. Feeling that they were not deriving the same benefits from the provisional contract which they did from the old, Barbados has refused to vote the subsidy, with the result that after March 31st the intercolonial service must, as at present arranged, cease altogether. This will be badly felt in British Guiana and the Windward and Leeward Islands, and it will be generally agreed that things have come to a pretty pass when the Governor of a British colony is compelled to announce as SIR FREDERIC HODGSON did at the opening of the Legislative Council in British Guiana, that negotiations are being conducted with a Dutch steamship line for the conveyance of British mails. It will be some satisfaction to our readers, however, to know that negotiations are also proceeding at home, and if only the Home Government will favourably consider an increase in their share of the subsidy of £10,000, making it £18,750—a figure still far short of the £59,900 which they used to contribute, it will still be possible to arrange for those two intercolonial steamers which are absolutely necessary for a regular and reliable fortnightly mail service. Another question of paramount importance is that of cable communication. This has been dragging on now for many years, and it cannot be said that any definite settlement has as yet been brought appreciably nearer in spite of constant representations from the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire and the various commercial organisations in the West Indies—when the mail left the question was again about to come under the consideration of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. Another matter closely connected with this subject is that of the withdrawal of troops and our ships from the West Indies. Recent events have served to demonstrate the correctness of our assertion that a single cruiser is absolutely insufficient to safeguard our possessions in the Caribbean. We believe that we are right in saying that those Members of Parliament who formed part of SIR ALFRED JONES' party, have come back from Jamaica and Barbados convinced of this point. MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, on the part of the Government, has recognised the need of a squadron of vessels to patrol our colonies, and MR. ARTHUR J. BALFOUR, in a speech in the House of Commons, from which we give an extract in another column, has voiced the same sentiment on behalf of the Opposition. We are glad to know that something is to be done to render the recurrence of such a lamentable state of affairs as prevailed immediately after the earthquake, impossible. But what we must hope is that something will be done soon, and that not only will more ships be given to the West Indies, but also that the Government will take in hand promptly such questions as the mail service, which is now unfortunately worse than it was in 1897, when the Commission, of which Sir Edward Grey was a member, pointed to the great need of improvement and also British cable communication. Our West Indian colonies are now rapidly being developed, but it is tempting Providence to cut off supplies at this critical time and to treat them with parsimony, especially just as they are going ahead. Everything tending to loosen the bonds between the mother country and the West Indian colonies leads to a further increase in American influence. Already trade is being diverted to the United States, and the situation must be faced by the Government.

A LITTLE more than a year ago the British Guiana Immigration system was made the subject of all sorts of calumnies; opprobrious epithets were freely applied to it, not only by mistaken

humanitarians but also by interested politicians. If anything, however, were wanted to demonstrate not only the industrial value of East Indian immigration to the West Indies, but also the thoroughly equitable manner in which it is carried out, the report of the HON. ROBERT DUFF, the Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana, for the year 1905-6, supplies it. We see by it that the money savings of the coolies—and it must be remembered that this is quite apart from the favourite investments in cattle, jewellery, &c.,—are represented by an amount standing to their credit at the Government Savings Bank and Post Office on December 21st, 1905, of no less than \$417,819 at the former establishment, and \$133,711 on March 31st, 1906, at the latter—substantial items, and proofs in themselves not only of confidence in the Government, but of the prosperous conditions under which they live. Under the Excise regulations again, as many as 8,500 licenses were issued during the year, 577 of which were for shops of various descriptions—spirit stores, provision, butcher, druggist, and cook shops, and 1,258 for hucksters. During the year, transfers of property to the value of \$46,394 were passed in favour of 387 East Indians, and the assessment of land owned by East Indians in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, and the villages throughout the colony, was \$614,260; this apart from their agricultural holdings. Grants of 1,717 acres of Crown Land were also issued to coolies during the year. The excellent health which they enjoy, and the satisfactory sanitary conditions of their surroundings is shown by the mortality on estates among the East Indian population amounting, including children, to 23.7 per 1,000 only. The 1,852 coolies who availed themselves of their right to a return passage took with them \$12,000 in jewellery, and remitted money to await their arrival to the extent of \$79,597. Rice was being cultivated for their own purposes on sugar estates by coolies to the extent of 6,014 acres, and the greater proportion of the rest of the rice cultivation of the colony, which amounted to 23,853 acres for the year, was being carried on by East Indians. The value of East Indian immigration to the colony, quite apart from the question of the maintenance of the sugar industry, is shown clearly by these figures, which indicate what an important factor it is in the well-being of the colony as a whole. Happily the days when the system was anathematised as another form of slavery are past, but when we see how the East Indian has identified himself with his surroundings, and what a prominent part he plays in its general agricultural and industrial development, we are led to wonder where the colony would have been without his presence. In the letter from the HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER, our correspondent in Antigua, which was reproduced in our last issue, reference was made to the probable need of East Indian immigration in view of the exodus of the labouring population, attracted by the high wages obtaining in connection with the Panama Canal. There is every chance of the other and less densely populated islands having their agricultural development retarded in the same way—and seeing the excellent results of the East Indian immigration in British Guiana and Trinidad, the extension of the system to the smaller islands seems an excellent method of coping with the difficulty.

WE regret having to find fault with our contemporary, the *Statesman*, of Calcutta, which has recently referred in such generous terms to the work of the West India Committee, but certain statements in their issue of February 1st relative to the position of the West Indian sugar industry, cannot be allowed to pass without contradiction. The remarks are primarily based on a lecture given before the East India Association in London, in which the West Indies were recommended as a field for East Indian emigration. They then deal with an article in one of the current monthlies, in which the misleading statement is made that cane sugar cannot meet the competition of the beet sugar coming in ever-increasing quantities from France and Germany. The *Statesman* considers that West Indian planters, like other British producers in similar circumstances, would be better employed if they turned their energies to improving their methods, so as to meet their foreign rivals on fairer terms, instead of wasting their breath on pathetic appeals to the compassion of their

fellow subjects. Our contemporary is evidently not aware that upwards of 60 per cent. of the British West Indian sugar is produced in factories capable of turning out from 250 to 1,000 tons of sugar per week, and well to the front as regards modern appliances, that in British Guiana and Trinidad centralisation has been carried to an economic limit, that in Jamaica central factories are being erected, and that Antigua is now dealing with a considerable proportion of its crop on these lines, and further, that in Barbados, where the bulk of the small estates to which the *Statesman* refers lie, it is, on account of the high value of its muscovado molasses and other special conditions associated with the industry, a moot point whether advantage would be gained by centralisation and modern factories. But apart from this want of realisation of the actual conditions of the West Indian sugar industry, our contemporary makes the astounding statement that "their (the West Indian planters) defeat is the inevitable consequence of Free Trade." It is Free Trade that the West Indian planter wants, the Free trade which was given by the Brussels Convention, whereby the British market was placed upon the basis of equal opportunity and fair competition, and which prevented the cane sugar industries of the world, which were receiving no artificial stimulus, from being wiped out. All that the West Indian planters require is to be safeguarded from the unfairly subsidised attacks of foreign countries, and with the position which natural advantages and the strength of their case give them, are far from making an appeal, *ad misericordiam*, to their fellow subjects. We would ask our contemporary to disabuse his mind of any idea that the sugar industry of the British West Indian Colonies is in the backward state which he has been led to believe, and further that the West Indian sugar producers ask for anything else than Free Trade. They know that on Free Trade conditions cane sugar can compete with beet, and since the Brussels Convention came into force they have shown their confidence by constant expenditure in the direction of improvement, and we are more than sorry to see that an important and appreciated organ like the *Statesman* should have, through misapprehension, given publicity to such *ex parte* and individual views as those on which the leading article appears to be based.

THE Canadian refiners have had a sop thrown to them by the Government. We learn by cable that on the 5th inst. MR. FIELDING announced that a concession would be made to Canadian refiners, who would be given permission to import for three years raw beet sugar under the British preference in the proportion of two pounds for each pound of sugar produced from Canadian beet. It is true that at the present this would only amount to 20,000 tons per annum, the Canadian output of beet being about 10,000 tons, but seeing that the consumption of Canada is not yet equal to the supply of the West Indian cane sugar, we are at a loss to see how the Government can reconcile this action with the professed object of the preference—the encouragement of intercolonial trade in general, and closer commercial relations with the West Indies in particular. No matter from what point of view it is looked at, the action is inexplicable. As matters now stand, the Government have put into the hands of the refiners an additional means of depriving the West Indian producer of his share in the benefit of the preference, and this concession to an individual interest leads us to doubt whether Canada has true Imperial trade relations really at heart. We shall await advices on the subject before saying more on this apparent breach of faith with British colonial sugar producers. In connection with the preference the decision that it shall apply only to goods imported into Canada through a Canadian port is to take effect on and after a date to be fixed by the Governor-in-Council. For the present, therefore, sugar sent from the West Indies to Canada, *via* New York, is still entitled to the preferential tariff.

MR. CHARLES WILGRESS ANDERSON.

Mr. Charles Wilgress Anderson was born in Georgetown, Demerara, in 1867. He was educated at the Queen's College, and received his technical training at the Public Works Department of that colony. Mr. Anderson, who is in the Survey Department of British Guiana, was attached to the British Guiana and Venezuela Boundary Commission in 1901 and 1903, assisted



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Professor Harrison, C.M.G., in his Geological Survey of the colony, and served as Boundary Commissioner to carry out the demarcation of the British Guiana-Brazilian Boundary. Mr. Anderson is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical and Geological Societies.

A MODERN BISHOP'S PALACE.

The subject of our full page illustration is Dr. Enos Nuttall, Archbishop of the West Indies, with his Chaplain, Secretary and Clerk, and servants, taken at the door of the coach house which now serves as his bedroom, dining room, reception room and working room. Bishop's Lodge, where the Archbishop usually resides, was rendered uninhabitable by the earthquake. The Archbishop, who as Chairman of the Local Relief Committee, has been indefatigable in his efforts to cope with the distress resulting from the disaster, is expected to leave Jamaica in the *Port Antonio* on March 14th, in order to confer with the Relief Committee at home, and to present a petition to the Government regarding the proposed grant and loan, which it is understood is likely to be afforded to Jamaica.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, February 28th, Sir Henry K. Davson, presiding, Mr. J. E. Tinne and Mr. G. R. Sandbach were elected members of the Executive during their term of office as Chairman and Deputy-Chairman respectively of the West India Association of Liverpool. At the same meeting the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
SIR ROBERT B. LLEWELYN, K.C.M.G.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
PERCY A. ABRAHAMS.	Peter Abel.	E. A. de Pass.
JOHN EVANS.	E. L. Marshall.	C. A. Campbell.
THE BRITISH AND BENINGTON'S TEA TRADING ASSOCIATION, Ltd.	F. N. Martinez.	Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.
ALFREDO G. SIEGERT (Trinidad).	Alfredo Siegert.	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.
J. ARTHUR HUTTON.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
MACDONALD BROTHERS (St. Vincent).	Boyd A. Neilson.	C. Henry Paine.
C. R. KENNAWAY (St. Lucia).	C. Kenrick Gibbons.	Major M. Montgomerie.
CHARLES PARKE (St. Lucia).	C. Kenrick Gibbons.	Major M. Montgomerie.
LADY BRIGGS.	John T. Haynes.	Sir Nevile 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.

TRINIDAD CACAO.

We are indebted to our Hon. Correspondent, the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, for the following statement showing the number of bags of cacao shipped from Trinidad by the different lines of steamers from January 1st, 1906, to December 31st, 1906:—

Month.	Royal Mail.	French Mail.	German Line.	Dutch Mail.	Serrotion's Line.	La Veloce Line.	Trinidad Line. New York.	Dutch Mail. New York.	Royal Mail. New York.	Canadian Line. Canada.	TOTAL
January ...	4,463	...	2,400	3,706	2,615	75	9,043	8,345	796	640	33,075
February ...	2,999	2,559	2,403	3,073	130	59	9,803	4,794	420	30	26,651
March ...	1,698	3,897	1,224	3,354	343	...	3,336	195	...	40	14,017
April ...	1,040	...	3,614	3,614	52	50	4,955	977	...	21	13,450
May ...	2,122	2,020	3,104	4,560	685	75	5,153	344	135	...	19,098
June ...	2,350	764	1,973	3,392	83	25	9,692	401	250	...	17,959
July ...	5,114	412	1,912	553	100	...	9,583	800	...	...	17,977
August ...	1,115	782	3,250	679	299	30	3,647	460	266	15	10,521
September ...	758	588	150	101	...	...	2,338	300	149	...	4,321
October ...	914	588	600	370	...	...	2,807	...	...	15	4,624
November ...	914	547	200	247	2,020	50	4,104	...	50	5	7,321
December ...	261	1,134	2,200	429	2,025	...	10,697	...	...	105	16,831
	22,652	13,698	22,355	24,275	8,347	375	75,160	16,116	2,066	891	185,930

RECAPITULATION.

Total Shipment for 1905	...	...	...	287,272	Bags.
" " 1906	...	...	...	185,930	"
Difference	...	...	...	101,342	"

91,697	Bags Shipped to Europe.
93,342	" " New York.
891	" " Canada.
185,930	Total Bags.

A FLOURISHING BEET FACTORY.

In the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* for January 16th an account of the work of the Kruschwitz factory in Pisanian is given. This factory was originally constructed in 1881-2 by a company composed of a number of beet growers. The first campaigns were not profitable. At the outset the factory had a capacity of 500 tons of beet per day. Improved in 1894 and in 1903, it was destroyed by fire in February 1906, but it has since been entirely reconstructed for working 2,000 tons of beet per day. The processes of manufacture now employed comprise defecation by lime, carbonatation, sulphuring, filtration by presses, evaporation by quadruple effect, crystallisers, the working up of the lower products by the Clausen process, and the desiccation of the diffusion pulps by the Büttner and Meyer drying method. For the crop prior to the fire—viz. 1905-6—the factory worked for 110 days, and treated 196,012 tons of beet, of an average richness of 15.54% of sugar. A comparison of the cost of this crop with that of previous years is interesting, as showing the enormous diminution effected in the cost of production. The value of the items for the crop of 1881-2 as compared with those for the 1905-6 crop are as follows, expressed in francs per 1,000 kilos of beet:—

	1881-2. francs.	1905-6. francs.
Coal ...	10'1100	1'8575
Labour ...	6.3200	1'5000
General Expenses ...	2'2675	0'2375
Sundries ...	2'3825	0'6400
Lighting ...	0'2750	—
Alcohol ...	0'0325	—
Animal Charcoal ...	0'4350	—
Maintenance ...	—	0'4125
Lime ...	—	0'7450
Salaries ...	—	0'2700
Workmen's Insurance ...	—	0'1400
Cost of Fabrication ...	21'8225	5'8025
Taxes and Insurance ...	2'5175	0'2800
Total cost ...	21'3400	6'0825

The diminution in the cost of production is very great. The economy has been effected by increase in the day's work on the one hand, and by improved machinery and processes on the other. The great point about them is that a reduction of not less than 73% has been made in the cost of manufacture in twenty-five years. As the result of this the cost of production of the sugar came out for the crop 1905-6 at 20.425 fr. per 100 kilos, or slightly over £8 per ton. The cost of the beet was 23.64 fr.—rather over 19s. per ton—the mean price of the latter for 25 years being 24 fr. per ton. On those figures the company were enabled to pay a dividend of 12%. The cost of production given above is, of course, at the factory, and under the most favourable conditions of beets and manufacture, the former containing 15.54% of sugar, of which 15.02 was extracted in the form of raw sugar.

AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA.

The report of the Jamaica Board of Agriculture for the year ending March 31st, 1906, in speaking of the tobacco industry, states that the want of uniformity of quality which is objected to is due to the trade being at present of comparatively small dimensions, and that as the acreage under cultivation increases this objection will disappear. Although the cigars are not equal to the finest Havana they are a good second. The Admiralty had obtained a supply of 1,508 lbs. of leaf tobacco for pipe purposes, but as it was not suitable for pipe smoking without blending, arrangements were made for its admixture with Virginia tobacco—no British colonial tobacco being available for the purpose. At the Hope Experiment Station, Sumatra wrapper tobacco, grown both under shade and in the open, had been experimented with, and been reported on by the London experts as being "of very handsome appearance . . . We feel sure that the soil and climate which have produced this tobacco are suitable for growing 'wrapper' tobacco equal to most in the world, and if labour is plentiful and cheap, and the area of suitable ground large enough, there is a chance in time of Jamaica becoming a serious competitor of Borneo, Sumatra and Java." The exports of cigars and tobacco given for the year 1905-6, as compared with 1904-5 were:—

	CIGARS.		CIGARETTES.		LEAF.	
	1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.
United Kingdom ...	8,654 lbs.	5,022 lbs.	114 lbs.	—	—	—
United States ...	348 "	938 "	20 "	—	2,394 lbs.	4,323 lbs.
Canada ...	797 "	1,416 "	—	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	39,211 "	25,768 "	10,736 "	90 lbs.	—	—
Total ...	39,010 "	33,144 "	10,870 "	21,381 "	4,974 "	2,155 "
				21,471 "	7,368 "	6,478 lbs.

As regards seedling canes, the cultivation of several varieties was being carried on at the Experiment Station, and likely specimens supplied to estates for further observation. The total number of cuttings thus sent out was 113,089.

Under the head of cotton the report states that the cotton worm had been most destructive during the year, chiefly from weather conditions and lack of experience in dealing with it. Cottonseed had been procured from Barbados and St. Vincent, and a small supply of the Caravonica variety from Queensland. Cassava appeared to be the best rotation crop for cotton. The total exports amounted to 75,307 lbs. of lint as against 14,210 lbs. for the previous year. Some attention had been paid to rubber, and seeds of *Hevea brasiliensis* had been imported from Singapore. Castilleja and Para plants to the number of 4,359 and 5,642 respectively had been distributed to planters during the year.

Old cacao trees which had been blown down or injured by the hurricane of 1903 have been mostly budded with Criollo buds. This system of budding is recommended when trees are not bearing well, bearing inferior cacao, or having their main trunks injured. Scarcely any canker disease was reported as existing in the island. The exports of cacao and coffee for 1905-6, as compared with 1904-5 were:—

	CACAO.		COFFEE.	
	1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.
United Kingdom	12,681 cwt.	6,309 cwt.	12,085 cwt.	9,749 cwt.
United States	4,797 ..	5,852 ..	16,967 ..	10,902 ..
Canada	2,694 ..	5,078 ..	1,711 ..	1,079 ..
Other Countries	12,415 ..	4,998 ..	53,147 ..	28,994 ..
Total	32,587 ..	22,237 ..	83,920 ..	50,724 ..

The attention of planters is drawn to the high rate of exchange with Brazil, meaning a high price for coffee, and planters were recommended to increase their area under cultivation.

In the direction of fruit the shipments of bananas have been largely in excess of the previous year, amounting to 14,748,642 bunches in 1905-6, as against 8,982,040 bunches in 1904-5. Planters, the report states, have, since the hurricane had to alter their practice in some respects as to leaving suckers to fruit during the time of high prices, and Mr. Cradwick is quoted as recommending planters "to note when a piece is planted and when the fruit is ripe to cut, and base the time of planting the next year's crop on the result of these observations." The export of oranges had not shown an increase on the preceding year, although the shipments of grape fruit were higher.

	ORANGES.		GRAPE FRUIT.	
	1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.
United Kingdom	20,796,330	20,000,970	7,857 barrels.	4,669 barrels.
United States	43,908,613	50,697,541	16,400 ..	10,144 ..
Canada	7,421,350	5,160,300	2,941 ..	1,030 ..
Other Countries	565,200	711,400	258 ..	145 ..
Total	72,691,463	76,570,211	27,456 ..	15,988 ..

With the pine-apple industry experiments had been carried on with the object of improving the fruit by cross fertilisation, and successful results were anticipated. The shipments amounted to 4,705 dozens in 1905-6 as against 4,462 dozens in 1904-5. Coconuts were exported to the extent of 7,101,054 and 4,065,443 for the same years. The second part of the report deals with agricultural educational work, including the work carried on at the Hope Experiment Station in connection with boys and apprentices and laboratory students, and the agricultural instruction at the Mico College, with the report of the travelling instructors, and a large amount of useful instruction seems to have been imparted.

LIME CULTIVATION.

The cultivation of limes as a merchantable product was, says the *Leeward Islands Free Press*, commenced in Dominica pretty nigh upon 40 years now by the late Doctor Imray; and besides enriching him it has brought wealth to a few others who had the good sense to follow his lead. Doctor Imray himself had followed the lead of the Sturges of Birmingham, who had previously established plantations in Montserrat. The prices in those days were almost fabulous, a 52-gallon cask of concentrated juice yielding as much as £30 to £40 net. Proceeds have since gone as low as £8 and £7. At the present moment a combine among producers in Sicily, strongly supported in London, is holding up the market, with happy results to planters here, who have been able to realise an average of £18 per hhd. for their last crop. But this condition of things must not be counted upon to last very much longer. As soon as the syndicate which is now manipulating the citric acid market has made its coup things will be allowed to fall to the natural level, and prices will settle down to a basis on which

planters will be able to make both ends meet only by skilful attention to their cultivation, incessant improvements in manufacture and the practice of the most rigid economy everywhere. Further, there is always the possibility of over production and new plantations—particularly in Puerto Rico—ultimately bringing prices down to a point that will in time make the case of the lime planter as desperate as is that of the sugar planter at present.

THE GREEN FRUIT TRADE.

In an article dealing with the green fruit trade, the *Produce Markets Review* of March 2nd refers to the fact that leading grocers are already in many cases leading fruiterers as well, and indicates that those of them who have not studied the subject will find a profitable field open to them in this direction. Modern methods have made the trade a comparatively safe one for the grocer, the danger of losses by waste being reduced to a minimum, while the old rate of profit still happily remains. There can be no doubt that the trade in fine imported fresh fruits, large as it has become, is still in its infancy, and that it is the grocers alone who can really tackle it, leaving the greengrocer his humbler function of supplying cabbages, cauliflower, spinach or our own soft fruit in its season. The *Review* refers to the rapid development in the taste for fruit at home, and points out that whereas the total importation of bananas in 1902 was 1,423,351 bunches, it has now grown in four years to 6,425,704 bunches, at which rate of progress it appears probable that the huge total of 30 million bunches yearly imported into the United States will soon be reached. With regard to oranges, the St. Michael, the orange of a generation back, has almost entirely disappeared, and such countries as Palestine, Italy, Jamaica, California and the Canary Islands, now send regularly of their best. Among the imports of green fruit into the United Kingdom during the last three years were:

	1904.	1905.	1906.
Bananas, raw ... (bunches)	3,910,511	5,737,914	6,425,704
Oranges	5,853,254	5,068,526	5,231,264
Lemons	989,296	837,028	849,935

The same journal mentions that vague rumours have been current as to a surprise in the lemon crop in Sicily, and now that some estimate of the size of the crop can be formed, it is stated that a considerable shortage must be faced. Rates have advanced fully 2s. per case, and as consignments afloat are by no means heavy, the market is expected to remain firm. This should be good news for Dominica, Montserrat, and other lime-producing colonies, but it will profit them little if the question of a regular and efficient mail service is not taken firmly in hand and definitely settled. By making representations regarding the inconvenience which they are experiencing to the proper quarter through the West India Committee, our readers can do much to hasten a final adjustment of arrangements.

MANY YEARS AGO.

Earl Grey and the West Indies.

The report of the West India Committee at the half-yearly meeting held on January 26th, 1848, deals, among other things, with two statements of Earl Grey in connection with the West Indian sugar industry, which have a particular bearing on present conditions. The first occurs in a dispatch to the Government of Jamaica, and Earl Grey, speaking of the necessity of absolute Free Trade in sugar, says:—

“There is no application of the principle of Free Trade which is entitled to more anxious attention on the part of Her Majesty’s Government with a view to promote its success, because of all commercial measures it is that which involves the most momentous consequences, moral and political, as well as commercial.”

At the present moment when we have before us the prospect of the possible abolition of Free Trade in sugar by Great Britain’s denunciation of the Brussels Convention, this remark is particularly apropos. The other extract is from a speech in the House of Lords, in which Earl Grey gave his views upon sugar cultivation in the following terms:—

“He had no doubt that in a few years the cultivation of estates would be leased to farmers as in this country—that the farmers would raise the cane in Jamaica as farmers raise corn in England—that they would hand the cane over to manufacturers as the farmer handed over the corn to the miller in this country.”

We may say that the speaker was in advance of the West India Committee on this matter, the latter not realising in those days the important position that the central factory system would eventually hold in the West Indies.

THE JAMAICA EARTHQUAKE.

A further meeting of the Mansion House Relief Committee was held on Monday, March 4th, under the presidency of the Earl of Harewood. Those present were Sir Nevile Lubbock, Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Sydney Olivier, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. D. Q. Henriques, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, and Sir William Soulsby. Letters from the Governor of Jamaica and Archbishop Nuttall, Chairman of the Relief Committee, which appeared in the newspapers on March 2nd, were read, and Sir William Soulsby announced that the Jamaica Earthquake Fund amounted to £53,835, of which £40,000 has been transferred to the Crown Agents for transmission to the Colony. Mr. Olivier said that as the accounts of the colony were kept with the Crown Agents, there was no need actually to remit the money, as the matter could be adjusted by the colony holding back from the sums to be forwarded to the Crown Agents a similar amount of money. Sir Nevile Lubbock pointed out that by this means some cost of remittance would be saved, and it was agreed to remind the Government that the money thus saved should be credited to the Earthquake Fund. Some discussion took place as to the proposed grant and loan, and it was shown that while the Governor had recommended a grant, he was not in favour of the colony assuming the responsibility for a loan. The feeling that Imperial aid would soon be forthcoming was general, but inasmuch as a telegram had been received by the West India Committee from the Archbishop of Jamaica, asking that decision in the matter might be delayed pending the arrival of His Grace in this country by an early mail, it was decided not to press Lord Elgin to receive a deputation at that time, but to await the Archbishop's arrival. It was subsequently announced that the Archbishop with Mr. A. W. Farquharson would leave Jamaica on March 14th in the *Port Antonio* which should arrive in Bristol on Wednesday, March 27th, with a largely signed petition.

The Jamaica Earthquake Fund.

Since we last went to press we have received the following amounts towards the Jamaica Earthquake Fund, making a total to date of £4,619 3s. 10d. :—

Mrs. and Miss McDowell		J. W. M. Jarrett	£2 2 0	Dr. and Mrs. G. Edgelow	
Nathan...	£50 0 0	James Crease & Son (per		(per Col. Loscombe)	£1 1 0
H. Beerboom Tree	5 5 0	de Pass & Co.)	2 2 0	Lionel Blanckensee (per	
E. Steiner & Co. (per de		Lieut. and Mrs. Hughes		de Pass & Co.)	0 10 6
Pass & Co.)	5 5 0	(per Mr. Jarrett)	1 1 0		

We also have to acknowledge several donations to the fund being raised by Mrs. Parker Smith for rebuilding the premises of the Jamaica Women's Self-Help Society. Mrs. Joseph Rippon has kindly been collecting subscriptions for this good cause, and has forwarded us the following :—

Per Mrs. Rippon—		Mrs. Rippon	£2 7 6	Mrs. A. Dearlove	£0 10 0
Mrs. Nathan...	£5 0 0	Mrs. T. G. H. Glynn	1 0 0	Miss Jackson	0 5 0
Thomas Taylor	3 3 0	Miscellaneous	1 4 6		

A forthcoming Matinee.

The West India Committee and the Press Club are arranging a special benefit matinee in aid of the Lord Mayor's Jamaica Fund, which will be held by kind permission of Mr. J. Grant Allen at the Criterion Theatre on March 15th. A programme of exceptional interest and importance has been arranged for this occasion, and seats can now be booked at the box office or at the West India Committee Rooms. The generous action of the Press Club in helping to arrange this matinee will be greatly appreciated, and our readers cannot show their appreciation in a more satisfactory manner than by doing all in their power to make the matinee a success.

EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

At a time such as this, when the eyes of the world are turned towards Jamaica, it may be interesting to look back into the past history of the island and recall some of its former disasters. First in order comes the terrible earthquake at Port Royal in 1692. The general impression seems to be that the town was swallowed up by the sea, but Bryan Edwards in his admirable history of the West Indies would appear to give the true explanation, viz., that there was a land-slide, and that a portion of the town slipped into the sea. Curiously enough he states that Savanna-la-Mar, when it was destroyed in 1780, was overwhelmed not by an earthquake, but by a hurricane, which appears to have been blowing at the time—an interesting coincidence, as there are frequent reports of earthquake shocks occurring during a hurricane, although scientifically the one has nothing to do with the other. The year 1780 and the next six years were most disastrous to the unfortunate inhabitants of the island.

A hurricane of more or less severity seems to have devastated the island every year except in 1782 and 1783 when it escaped, and the remarkable thing about this long series of storms is that those parts of the island which in recent years had been practically immune from the ravages of hurricane, were most damaged. "The sphere of their activity," says Bryan Edwards, "is chiefly confined to the western parts of the island. The large and opulent districts of Westmoreland and Hanover presented, however, such extent and variety of desolation from their effects, as are scarcely to be equalled in the records of human calamity. Westmoreland alone sustained damage to the amount of £700,000 sterling, and Hanover nearly as much." After 1786 there appears to have been a cessation until 1812, when these storms began again with all their old violence, and Jamaica suffered in 1812, 1813 and 1815. Since then the island had a long period of rest, which was, however, broken by the cyclone of 1903.

These calamities of earthquakes and hurricanes give food for much reflection. It is pleasant to read in the latest telegrams in the newspapers that the inhabitants of Kingston are busy dealing with the re-building of the town, and it is to be hoped they will take some steps to minimise damage in the future and take advantage of the experience gained from other countries.

It is undoubtedly possible to erect buildings of such enormous strength as to withstand the strongest hurricane. Evidence may be seen of this in nearly all the islands, where the massive stone boiling houses of the old sugar factories have stood the buffeting of many a storm. The expense, however, would be almost prohibitive in the present day, and it is doubtful whether the necessary skilled labour could be found. The modern idea is to put up a steel construction with cement flooring and galvanised iron to keep out the weather, and probably this is not only more economical, but more practical, for if the building is struck by a hurricane a good deal of damage would be done, it is true, but the cost of repairs would not be ruinous. It is here that the value of insurance comes in, for buildings of this nature can be insured at a premium of from $\frac{1}{2}$ % to 1%. The problem of the best type of building for dwelling houses is a more difficult one. Probably the old system of a good stone foundation and light upper works of timber is the most satisfactory one, as the top may go but the rest will remain. Of course, in towns the fire risk would be a serious one, and in such cases, one would imagine, even if he were not an expert, that steel construction might be more extensively used than it is. Nothing is worse than the light brick-work so frequently found, which experience has proved is not calculated to withstand the violence of a really strong hurricane or the strain of an earthquake.

There is, however, another aspect of the question, and that is, that in these days the field of insurance has enormously developed. Attention has been, from time to time, called to the scheme of insurance arranged by Messrs. Henry Head & Co., Ltd., at Lloyd's, at the suggestion of the Hon. Hesketh Bell, the late Administrator of Dominica, which was warmly taken up by the Colonial Office, and it is understood that the same firm not only have made arrangements for the insurance of buildings against earthquakes for all the West Indian islands, but also offered to insure buildings in Jamaica at 10s. % shortly before the disaster. There are some in Kingston who, doubtless, are now regretting that they did not avail themselves of this offer, but they can hardly be blamed as such a long period had elapsed since a shock of any importance had been experienced. What it all comes to is, that in these parts of the world a considerable sum must be put aside each year to meet these possible contingencies. Whether this should be done by insuring or by spending money for building, it is, of course, for those who live there to decide.

THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding at the annual meeting of Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute on Tuesday, February 16th last, announced that the loan of £35,020, raised in 1886, for the acquirement of the freehold of the Institute premises had been paid off in full. A saving of more than £15,000 in interest had thus been effected. When the Admiralty lease expired it was proposed to occupy the upper floors as well as the Craven Street premises after the necessary reconstruction. This would widely extend the usefulness of the Institute. By the proposed acquisition of the remainder of the premises their present accommodation would be about doubled. He expressed the hope that the coming Colonial Conference would not only strengthen but make permanent the bonds of Empire. He hoped the Home Government would recognise its responsibilities in regard to the position of Jamaica consequent on the earthquake, and would do something on a large scale towards meeting them. He deprecated the recent withdrawal of our troops from the West Indies and the provision of only one cruiser for their protection. Sir Charles Bruce having seconded the motion, the report was adopted. Sir Montagu Ommanney, the Hon. Treasurer, said he believed that the grant of Responsible Government to the Transvaal, which was very soon to be followed by the grant of a similar Constitution to the Orange River Colony, would most certainly have the effect of pushing to the front in the near future the great question of the Federation of South Africa.

THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

In view of the approaching termination of the West Indian intercolonial mail contract on the 31st inst., the West India Association of Glasgow addressed a letter to Lord Elgin on February 19th in the following terms:—

We beg leave to approach you with regard to the postal arrangements between this country and British Guiana and the Leeward Islands of the West Indies. The whole mercantile system of the present day depends on speedy and regular postal and telegraphic communication, the absence of which hampers trade and causes inestimable loss. The merchants of this city having business relations with these colonies look with dismay on the forthcoming cessation of the intercolonial service announced by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

We beg respectfully to draw your Lordship's attention to the recommendations contained on page 21 of the report of the West India Royal Commission, and to state that the inter-communication between the different colonies is now infinitely worse than it was in 1897, the year of that Royal Commission. We venture to bring to your Lordship's notice the urgent necessity of the case, in the hope that your Lordship may be able to make such arrangements as will provide for the colonies in question a regular and efficient postal service. A letter in similar terms has been addressed to the Right Hon. Sydney Buxton, Postmaster-General, and we beg to enclose copy of a letter to the Right Hon. Sir Edward Grey, a member of the West India Royal Commission.

The letter was signed by Mr. H. Crum Ewing, the Vice-Chairman, and Mr. John Ewing, the Secretary of the West India Association. In their letter to Sir Edward Grey they remind him of the reference to the question of intercolonial communication on page 21 of the report of the Royal Commission of 1897, of which he was a member. "It is of great importance that there should be cheap, regular and frequent means of communication between the different islands. The want of such facilities was specially brought to our notice in many of the colonies. Such means of communication will assist, or even create, trade in local products . . ." and they point out that not only has inter-communication been less efficient for some time past than in 1897, but the service will cease to run after the end of March—thus leaving British Guiana and the Leeward Islands without any regular postal or passenger service.

OUR POLICY IN THE WEST INDIES.

In the *West India Committee Circular* of February 12th we gave some extracts from the English press regarding our naval policy in the West Indies, based upon recent events in Jamaica. We now give a similar symposium from the West Indian press. The unanimity of feeling shown is very striking:—

In the "good time gone," the expected arrival of "the fleet" gave zest to every section of the community.

To-day we expect but one ship.—*Antigua Standard*.

The landing of American marines . . . however well meant, was a mistake. It was a reflection on the troops in garrison, as if they could not afford adequate protection to the inhabitants. It showed, too, how predominant was the idea that the policing of these waters is an American duty.—*Barbados Advocate*.

The denuding of the West Indies of their natural guardians when most needed, was lamented by one journal; while another regretted that an island inseparably associated with England's greatest Admirals looked vainly in the hour of distress for the white ensign upon the horizon. If the result of this sudden awakening of the English conscience should be the taking of a deep and genuine interest in these British colonies, then there will be something to be thankful for.—*Barbados Agricultural Reporter*.

Undoubtedly this incident will have its full significance to the English public; and it will recognise that the feeling which prompts the American press and the American people to shout their love for the English as a nation is only skin deep, and if they could acquire the West Indian islands for themselves by any act of diplomacy or otherwise, they would do so; especially now, since cotton growing has been established and they are becoming of more value as cotton producing countries.—*The Barbados Illustrated*.

Some day the mother country will wake up to the folly of the policy in relation to America and the affairs of the western world which she has pursued for some decades past.—*Demerara Daily Chronicle*.

The disaster has brought out in strong relief the deplorable effect of the policy of withdrawing the white troops from the islands and the naval squadron from the Caribbean. The irony of a great nation being dependent upon the charity of the United States for first aid in a crisis could hardly further go. The first naval Power in the world finds herself unable to land a single sailor or marine to stop looting and to protect lives and property. She depends upon a rival to "police the Caribbean!"—*Demerara Argosy*.

If anybody is to blame it is the Home Government, who left the Governor of Jamaica (by their recently developed policy of denuding the West Indies of Imperial resources in the shape of ship, garrison, and men) practically alone to meet such an emergency.—*Port of Spain Gazette*.

Most of these, we are glad to note, however, recognise the folly of England's naval desertion of the West Indies, and the incident is useful as having drawn greater attention in the old country to the abandonment of these loyal colonies in their hour of greatest need.—*Trinidad Mirror*.

The entire incident suggests a valuable lesson. It points to the decay of British influence in the West Indies and shows a British Governor resolute, when the occasion offered, to attempt to arrest that decay and maintaining British supremacy unchallenged and unimpaired. With squadrons of first-class cruisers, the swiftest and most formidable in the world, why should England wait on the navy of a kindred, but still foreign nation—for the British and American empires though in process of fusion have not yet become one—why should she depend on a foreign navy to render assistance and afford relief to one of her stricken colonies? Where is her navy? Where are her ships of war, that at least should police the West Indian waters? Is Great Britain allowing her dominion in the West Indies to slip through her hands; to pass from her?—*Grenada Federalist*.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The earthquake grant and loan.

Mr. Churchill informed Mr. Gibbs on March 4th, that the question whether the Government could give financial assistance to Jamaica for the relief of sufferers by the earthquake was still under consideration, and that no definite reply could yet be given.

Sir Alexander Swettenham's retirement.

In reply to Mr. H. H. Marks, Mr. Churchill announced in the House of Commons on March 4th, that on January 23rd Sir A. Swettenham applied for permission to retire from duty on the ground of age. The Governor was given an opportunity of continuing to hold office, but informed the Colonial Secretary in a telegram just received that he had decided not to do so. Mr. Churchill added that when the papers were complete the Secretary of State would determine what, in the interests of the public service, should be published.

Beet sugar in Ireland.

Mr. Birrell, in reply to Mr. O'Dowd, said, on February 27th: I am informed that the Department are aware that experiments in the cultivation of beet have been made on small plots of land in Ireland and that in some cases the beet has been found to be rich in sugar. The Department state that they have satisfied themselves by careful inquiry that it is not possible to guarantee that beet would be cultivated in any one district in Ireland over a sufficiently large area to warrant the expenditure of the large capital sums necessary for the building and equipment of a sugar factory. They believe also that beet could not be made as remunerative a crop as other root crops now grown in Ireland, and on these grounds do not think they would be justified in encouraging the growing of beet in that country or in undertaking an experiment of the nature suggested.

The West Indian Mail service.

On the vote of £32,470 for sundry colonial services, including £5,000 for the West Indian islands steamer subsidies, Mr. Churchill said, on Feb. 26th: That until June, 1905, there was a steamer service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies and also an intercolonial service, which were maintained by a contribution of £24,000 a year from all the colonies, including Trinidad and Jamaica, and a grant of £59,900 from the Imperial Exchequer. After that arrangement lapsed, a period ensued when no subsidy was paid. The Royal Mail Company protested and threatened to withdraw their boats, and on August 16th last year, therefore, a very modest new arrangement was entered into. That arrangement was a great gain to the British Exchequer.* It was arranged that the Royal Mail Company should maintain their transatlantic service without any subsidy, but they should be paid for one colonial boat moving up and down the islands for intercolonial trade at the rate of £17,500 annually. Of that annual subsidy, £8,750 was to be contributed, under their arrangement, by the colonies, exclusive of Trinidad and Jamaica, who had other arrangements. The remaining £8,750 had to be paid by the British Government. The Committee would thus see that they had really made a very thrifty arrangement compared with what had formerly obtained. He hoped the vote might now be taken. The vote was agreed to by a majority of 242 (for 303, against 61). The vote also included a sum of £4,070 for starting a flax industry in St Helena. Mr. Churchill said that the sudden withdrawal of the garrison from that island was followed by grave shrinkage in the means of livelihood of the people there, and he asked whether there was not an Imperial obligation to do something to sustain them. We had often used St. Helena for various causes, and if the Government were to leave those islanders wholly to their fate, they would be justly blameable.

Our Naval Policy in the West Indies.

In the course of the debate on the motion to go into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates on March 5th, Mr. A. J. Balfour said: I am a believer in that policy of concentration which began in 1904, which was continued in 1905, and which the present Government have themselves rightly still carried further. I am a believer in that policy of concentration from the point of view of naval efficiency in case of war. I do not believe there is any real case to be made against it. I do not blame the Government at all. But I think it is a fact, that one of the consequences of this has been that it is not so easy now as it used to be in olden times to show the flag where, for diplomatic reasons, it is in the highest degree desirable that our flag should be shown. There were an immense number of vessels scattered all over the great ocean highway which we have deliberately reduced because they could neither fight well nor fly well. They have been, colloquially speaking, scrapped, and they have been rightly scrapped; but the pure military problem—the argument based on naval strategy—points in one direction alone. We cannot forget that while we are, thank Heaven, rarely at war, there are duties to

* And a serious loss to British Colonies!—ED.

be done in time of peace; and the problem must be faced how these duties are to be carried out, if the process of concentration is carried to its extreme and logical conclusion. I remember receiving a private deputation—I do not think there was any report in the newspapers—of gentlemen interested in the West Indies*, who expressed strongly the belief that their interests were somewhat imperilled by the concentration both of the Fleet and of the Army. They were more exercised at the moment with the removal of a regiment from the West Indies than in the concentration of the ships; but the problem is fundamentally the same in both cases, and the reasons for concentration are exactly the same, really, in the case of the Army as they are in the case of the Navy. I talked the matter over with them, and what I said I have no doubt has been reported to the department concerned. What I suggested to them was that a possible method of dealing with this matter was for the Government of the day frankly to admit that a new situation had arisen, a situation entirely different from that which existed when the ship that was best qualified to carry large bodies of Marines, and to do police work, was also a very good fighting vessel and not a very expensive vessel. Now the changes in naval architecture have had this result, that if you are going to have a large ship which is also to be a first-class fighting ship, its production will be expensive, and much of the expense will be wasted if she is to do police duty. If, on the other hand, you are going to have a small fighting ship and are going to do police duty with her—a torpedo vessel or a small cruiser, a third-class cruiser—then you will find that she is unfitted for that sort of duty, that she does not hold a sufficient number of men, is not sufficiently comfortable, and that she has not the conveniences and mechanical arrangements fitting her for police work; and I believe the Government will have to face the problem of differentiating between the fighting and non-fighting part of the Navy. The Admiralty have, rightly, the strongest objection to that ship which, professing to be a fighting ship, cannot fight efficiently—a ship which can be picked up by any effective foreign cruiser or battleship of the most modern type. I think this argument is unanswerable, and that the only way out of the difficulty is by building special ships, which are not fighting ships, but which can do police duty, can carry bodies of Marines and Bluejackets, can show the flag, and can be adequately armed for all the fighting that can be required except when we are engaged in serious naval warfare. The point was not raised by the hon. gentleman who opened the debate, but I think it must have been present to the mind of the Board of Admiralty, because recent events have brought the difficulty before the public eye. I am not criticising the Admiralty for anything that happened in the West Indies; I do not think they are in the smallest degree responsible for the action of the Fleet on the occasion of the calamity there. I am not at all sure that even under the old system there would have been a ship present; therefore, I hope the House will understand that I have not the smallest desire to make any criticism, however faint, upon the policy which the Admiralty have pursued. But I think that the Government whom they serve will have to face the problem of this policing of waters as distinct from the problem of dealing with great naval operations. They will have to do it I am sure by differentiating the ships which have to do police duty from ships which are to do fighting work. It must cost some money—I do not know how much; it depends upon the scale upon which it is done; but that that is the only issue out of the present difficulty I am almost assured. As the Government have much greater advantages than I possess, and if they have been devoting their minds to this particular problem I hope before this debate ends they will tell us at what stage they have arrived in their deliberations; at this point in the debate that is the only technical issue I desire to raise. The House—or some hon. members—seemed to think that I was unduly controversial—though I do not agree to that—in the earlier part of my speech; but however that may be, I think at all events with regard to this small but not unimportant matter, I have endeavoured to raise it in a manner which will cause no embarrassment to the Government, and I certainly intended in no sense to reflect upon the present Board of Admiralty. For the rest I desire to reserve further comment upon Admiralty policy until we have Vote A under consideration, and until we shall have had answers from the Government upon the points raised; by which time forces will have been deployed more than at present, and we shall see exactly where they stand in regard to the naval policy of the country. (Cheers.)

NATURE NOTES.

INDIAN COTTON. According to the Annual Report of the Bombay Department of Agriculture, cotton cultivation is becoming very popular in Sind. In the last five years it has increased from 34,000 acres to 112,000 acres, and there appears to be no reason why one-third of the whole of the annual cultivation of 600,000 acres available in the district should not be put under cotton in rotation every year. It had been decided, however, that it was advisable to restrict the cultivation to such area as could be effectively supervised, in order to introduce a knowledge of the Egyptian methods of cultivation which

* Mr. Balfour referred to the deputation from the West India Committee which waited on him at Downing Street on November 28th, 1905.

was considered essential to success, irrigation being a most important factor in the agriculture of the Sind district. This is at present carried out by the Jámrao and Fuleti canals.

RUBBER AND CACAO. The most successful combination of intercrops, says Mr. Herbert Wright in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, is cacao and rubber. An estate planted with rubber, 20 ft. by 20 ft., and cacao 20 ft. by 20 ft., possesses approximately 100 trees per acre of each kind. The interplanted cacao trees will probably give $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to 1 lb. of dried cacao each during the fifth or sixth year, which, valued at an average price of about 60s. per cwt., means that each tree only gives, in gross returns, about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of produce per year; whereas each rubber tree may, at present prices, be expected to yield about 4 or 5 shillings worth of produce at the same period. The fact that approximately ten cacao trees will be required to produce the equivalent of a single rubber tree, leads one to question whether it is financially sound to give up such a large area of soil to such an intercrop, and many have decided, on this ground alone, to plant their rubber trees closer and eliminate all intercrops.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Royal*, which left Kingston, Jamaica, on February 14th, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, February 27th, with a very heavy mail. The R.M.S.P. *Thames*, which sailed from Barbados on Tuesday, February 19th, reached Southampton at 7 a.m. on March 4th, and her mails were delivered in London soon after midday on March 4th. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Mr. West's visit to Barbados.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne wrote on February 17th that he had just been devoting the best part of a week to taking Mr. A. J. West to every corner of the island. Mr. West had taken hundreds of photographs of sizes varying from postcards to large animated pictures. He had visited sugar and cotton estates and taken groups of labourers and scenes in gullies, old houses such as Porters, St. Nicholas Abbey, &c., the views over Scotland from Mt. Misery and Cherry Tree Hill, on the road to Speightstown and the old fort there. He had been all along the railway and expended many hundreds of feet of film in making animated pictures of Bathsheba and the whole of the windward coast, and also of Codrington College. In Bridgetown he had done scenes from the tramcar in Broad Street and in the market, and, of course, the Public Buildings, the Savannah and Hastings, as well as some of the churches. Such a variety of photographs of Barbados could not be got elsewhere, and Mr. West would begin his exhibition and lectures at the Polytechnic in September.

It was a matter for satisfaction that the moral that it was impossible for one cruiser adequately to safeguard the West Indies was being pressed home, and the writer was sure that most of the passengers by the *Port Kingston* would support these representations. The prospects of a favourable adjustment of mail arrangements seemed very uncertain.

The weather during the fortnight had been characterised by high winds and was very cool, probably on account of the cold which had recently prevailed in America. Some light showers had fallen, but few estates had marked more than 1.50 inches for the month. Many estates had begun crop, and the canes were reported to be juicy. A meeting of the leading planters had been held, and the following estimates were thought likely: molasses, 27,000 puns; sugar, 34,000 tons; syrup, 26,000 puns. Should the price of sugar advance there would be more sugar made and less syrup. The price of molasses had risen to 17 cents per gallon, having opened at 16 cents. Very little sugar had been sold as yet.

Lady Carter opened her Art Exhibition in the House of Assembly on February 7th, and it proved very attractive. The writer regretted to say that Archdeacon Bindley was in bad health, and had been ordered rest. He might probably proceed either to Canada or to England. Particulars of a scheme to make the £80,000 the nucleus of an agricultural bank, also a proposal to give the Speaker an allowance of £200 per annum, are given in the local papers.

An important discussion took place at a meeting of the Agricultural Society on February 16th, with regard to the Brussels Convention, and on the motion of the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, seconded by the Hon. G. L. Pile, a committee was appointed to prepare resolutions on the subject.

Sir Frederick and Lady Treves were entertained at a banquet of the Barbados branch of the British Medical Association during their stay in the island.

British Guiana and the Cable Question.

Writing on February 16th, Mr. J. C. McCowan stated that the subject of cable communication had been engaging the attention of the Chamber of Commerce, and that they purposed sending in a letter to the Government. The sugar market was at a standstill, there being nothing to sell. The weather during the early part of the fortnight continued too heavy, but since then it had been fine and bright with occasional showers suitable generally for the estates.

We learn by the *Daily Chronicle* that the opening of the annual session of the Combined Court took place on February 7th, with the usual ceremony. The Governor in his opening speech stated that the revenue of the Colony for the year ending March 31st promised to be \$2,572,000, or \$50,000 above the estimate, and as the expenditure to the same period would probably not exceed \$2,485,000, at the close of the year there should be a balance in hand of \$87,000. The floating debt of the Colony, which in 1889 reached the enormous total of \$819,370 has been reduced to \$73,000, and it was anticipated would at the end of the financial year have ceased to exist. The sinking fund for the redemption of the funded debt of \$3,781,000 would stand at \$956,270 at the same period. Speaking of the position of sugar, Sir F. M. Hodgson said that the owners of estates, fearful that the Brussels Convention, which places the competition of sugar derived from the cane and beetroot upon an equality, may not be renewed, were naturally curtailing expenditure on improvements. At the present time the state of things was that any serious disturbance in the conditions under which the industry was conducted would result in the closing of many sugar estates, thereby throwing a large number of agricultural labourers and others out of employment and causing such widespread as the Government would find it difficult to cope with.

We have received from Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, a return of the mining and forest exports of the Colony for the month of January, and for the purpose of comparison reproduce the figures for November 1906, being the latest which we have received:

	January, 1907.	November, 1906.
Gold	5,099 ozs.	7,625 ozs.
Diamonds	205 carats	1,048 carats.
Timber	20,968 cub. ft.	21,352 cub. ft.
Lumber, greenheart, &c.	2,808 „ „	141 „ „
Charcoal	4,748 bags.	5,533 bags.
Shingles	35,000	198,000
Wallaba and hardwood posts	139	50
Woods, Firewood	335 tons.	413 tons.
Gums, locust, &c.	310 lbs.	236 lbs.
Balata	42,095 „	41,654 „
Railway sleepers	1,000	2,000
Rubber	611 „	— „
Fish-glue	400 „	— „

Dominica and our false economy.

In his letter of February 16th, Mr. E. A. Agar said that the mails had arrived that morning, in time for those living quite near Roseau to answer them by this opportunity. The leading article in *West India Committee Circular* of Jan. 29th, touched strongly on the Imperial aspect of the Government's present policy towards the West Indies; the commercial aspect was no less important. The announcement that the R.M.S.P. Co.'s intercolonial steamers were to be withdrawn directly, would mean that all the islands north of them would have to depend entirely on stray steamers for communication with home. Dominica and St. Lucia were more fortunate, as the *Yare* would at present continue to run, and it would require three months' notice to take her off. Did it not occur to those at home—or did they not care—that this state of things was forcing the islands to give their trade to the United States? They could reckon within a few days when goods would arrive from New York (and that service was far from satisfactory), but they could not get within a few weeks with regard to London. Were it not for the tact and good sense of Mr. Frampton, the local R.M. agent, things would be far worse than they were. This question of trade was really very serious, and while the finest brains of the Empire were still considering tariff reform, it was apparently not worth while to spare a thought as to whether a group of old and loyal colonies could trade with England at all! Apart from sentimental reasons, and they were important, did it pay to economise a few thousands and lose a trade worth hundreds of thousands?

Ample showers continued to fall, but Dominica was having more wind than was wanted. Planters generally spoke well of the prospects for this year's lime crop, and trees were flowering heavily.

St. Kitts cotton fetches 26d.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported on February 6th that since last advices the weather had continued dry with a prevalence of blustering winds. Sugar making was beginning generally, though on some estates there was a little trouble with labour, and one or two cane fires (doubtless incendiary) had taken places. Cotton picking was beginning to come to an end. Up to the end of January about 250 bales (400 lbs.) had been ginned, and it was doubted whether the total would go much over 300. The first lot shipped by the writer fetched the respectable price of 2s. 2d. per lb., which would somewhat compensate for the small yield per acre.

Opening up St. Lucia.

The sugar factories were all at work when Mr. George Hudson wrote on February 18th, and

a fair crop was anticipated. The weather had been dry during the fortnight, but occasional light showers had fallen, which were very useful.

The vote of £5,000 for new roads from the credit surplus of the colony had now received official sanction, and the Assistant Colonial Engineer was expected to be employed for the next five months in tracing roads through the most fertile cacao valleys in the interior of the island. It was probable that some twenty to twenty-five miles of new roads would be opened by this means, and many square miles of land admirably suited to rubber, cacao and lime cultivation rendered easily accessible. With Crown lands at £1 per acre, payable in easy instalments, no land tax or export duties, and labour at 1s. per day, St. Lucia should offer to settlers advantages well worth enquiring into and comparing with those of other colonies.

The St. Vincent Cotton Factory.

Writing on February 18th, Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. reported that the weather for the time of year had been unusually favourable, both for reaping present crops and preparing and planting for the next, showers falling on an average every night, with bright sunshine during the day.

In his letter of the same date, Mr. W. N. Sands stated that over 400 bales of Sea Island cotton of 360 lbs. each had been ginned to date, and favourable weather for the crop continued. In the previous week over an inch of rain was recorded in two days, which for February was unusual, but it had helped on growth for second pickings a good deal; where the leaf-blister mite was prevalent, of course, only small second pickings would be obtained. Sir Daniel Morris was expected to call at the island that day on his way back to Barbados from Grenada.

It was proposed to sell, to a local co-operative company, the central cotton factory which had now been run for four seasons by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. It was hoped that the company, if formed, would be able to take over the factory before the next ginning season. It would be remembered that this factory was built under the direction of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture from a sum placed aside from the Eruption Fund for the establishment of the cotton industry.

The prospects for Trinidad cacao.

In a letter dated February 18th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick informed us that the strong north winds reported in his last letter had ceased, and a few welcome showers had refreshed the vegetation in the country, thus improving the outlook, which when last writing was somewhat gloomy for cacao. The sugar planters found the weather very favourable for sugar manufacture, the occasional showers doing this no harm, while freshening up the young cultivation. The deliveries of cacao for the first fortnight in February had been pretty considerable. The shipments had mostly been in the direction of the United States. With the decline in the London market, prices in Trinidad had eased off, and less anxiety was exhibited to buy. Good estate qualities would be purchased at that moment at \$18.50, but ordinary was comparatively dear at \$18.15. The arrivals from Venezuela still continued on a good scale, and prices, whilst not advancing, had kept very firm.

				SHIPMENTS.			
Totals at last report	...	...	...	14,644	Trinidad.	3,413	Venezuela.
Feb. 6.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem V.</i>	...	...	...	361	"	73	" New York.
" 7.—S.S. <i>Atrato</i>	...	...	...	890	"	—	" Europe.
" 9.—S.S. <i>Maraval</i>	...	...	...	5,934	"	2,625	" New York.
" 11.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem III.</i>	...	...	...	1,461	"	50	" Europe.
" 11.—S.S. <i>Oriñoco</i>	...	...	...	10	"	10	" Canada.
" 13.—S.S. <i>Patagonia</i>	...	...	...	469	"	500	" Europe.
" 13.—S.S. <i>La Plata</i>	...	...	...	50	"	—	" New York.
Total to date	...	...	...	23,819	"	6,471	"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The West Indies and Canada.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I gather from a recent report on this subject that there is considerable misapprehension as to the true nature of the situation. It is quite a mistake to suppose that participation by our West Indian colonies in the profit to be derived from Canadian preference depends in any way on the goodwill or generosity of the Canadian refiners. As long as they can buy West Indian sugar at the world's price they will enjoy the preference themselves, in silent gratitude for our generosity. If all our sugar planters would agree to follow the example of their Cuban neighbours and add to the price of their sugar the amount of the preference, they would secure the extra profit for themselves. They would not get quite the whole of it, as the Cubans do, because, unfortunately, Canada consumes less sugar than we produce. They must leave a little inducement to the Canadian refiners to buy their sugar in preference to other kinds which pay full duty; but a very small portion of the preference would be sufficient to secure the market. The difficulty, of course, is to make a universal agreement and stick to it. That it can be done the recent German cartel is sufficient proof, but it requires careful organization. I know it is supposed by some that the Cubans do not always get their preference. This, I venture to think, is an error. It is true that during the first four months of the year there is such a pressure to sell Cuban sugar that the

world's price no longer remains uniform; the American market falls below European parity. So far the Cuban planter—and, alas! also our own West Indian producers—is at a disadvantage as compared with the European sugar producer. But the Cuban still continues to enjoy his preference. The price of Cuban sugar duty-paid in New York is still identical with the duty-paid price of sugar which pays the full duty. The difference, therefore, still goes into the pocket of the Cuban planter.

Gomshall,

February 12th, 1907.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE MARTINEAU.

[Is our esteemed correspondent quite correct in his view of the situation? The difference between the bond parity of New York and the United Kingdom prices is so great at the present moment that the latter is above the former, even with the whole of the amount of the Cuban preference—34 cents per 100 lbs.—added. The Cuban gets the amount of the preference nominally in selling to the United States, but not when the world's price of sugar—that based on 88 % beet—is used as a basis. The financial grip of the American buyer on the Cuban planter practically prevents the latter selling his sugar elsewhere, especially at the beginning of crop.—ED.]

A Family Record.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—I have been reading the paper on the West Indies in the *World*, where I see St. Kitts is mentioned as the earliest of our colonies there. I think you may be interested in the following account of my estate (Estridge's) in that island, which has been in our family since 1670. I wonder if there is any other estate in those islands that has belonged to one family for so many years.

Col. John Estridge	Born 1640	Died 1701.
Benjamin Estridge	" 1672	" 1750.
John Estridge	" 1702	" 1763.
John Estridge, Gen. Commoner of C.C.C., Oxford	" 1732	" 1778.
Joseph Estridge, 1st Dragoons	" 1777	" 1814.
Rev. Henry Estridge, M.A., Oxford	" 1812	" 1852.
Edward Estridge, M.A., Trinity, Oxford	" 1843	
Lorraine Estridge, East Yorks Regiment	" 1877	

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD ESTRIDGE.

[The record of Estridge's Estate is one of which Mr. Edward Estridge should be proud. We imagine that in Barbados there are estates which have been similarly kept in one family since the seventeenth century, and shall be glad if our readers will enlighten us on the subject.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

The International Sugar Journal. In the February number of this publication there is a forcible article on the attitude of the Government towards the Sugar Convention. The evil effects of the retirement of Great Britain from it is clearly and well expressed, and the fallacious nature of the arguments of the opponents of the Convention are demonstrated. Dr. Wiechmann contributes an article on the "Determination of sucrose and of reducing sugar in fluid saccharine products." Mr. Sigmund Stein gives the twelfth report of his experimental work in sugar-beet growing in Great Britain. An instalment of M. Aulard's paper on "Recent improvements in beet diffusion" is also given among other interesting matters.

The Economic Ruin of the World, by Ch. W. Smith. P. S. King & Son. 5s. Mr. Smith has undertaken a big task. Attributing the causes of the ruin of the world's agriculture, trade and finance to the international gambling systems in trade and finance, he enumerates the trade and agricultural crises which have agitated the world since 1862. Stock Exchange speculation, trusts, and every form of dealings whereby natural causes are utilised for gambling purposes are inveighed against in strong language, and the economic ruin of the world predicted as the result. The subject is one which Mr. Smith has thoroughly at heart, and if it is dealt with in perhaps an exaggerated manner, this is due to the strength of the writer's convictions. Apart from other considerations, the work is an interesting history of the commercial storms of recent years, and a faithful account of their effects upon the industries affected.

Lectures to Sugar Planters. Issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, and obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, London, 1s. The lectures, summarised into 171 pages of this book, were delivered by the officers of the Department of Agriculture about three years ago, and will, doubtless, be found useful for reference. The subjects dealt with include "The Natural History of the Sugar Cane," by the Commissioner; "Soils and Manures in relation to the cultivation of the Sugar Cane," by Professor J. P. D'Albuquerque; "Hints on the Planting and Cultivation of the Sugar Cane and Intermediate Crops," by Mr. John R. Bovell; "The Insect Pests of Sugar-Cane and Associated Crops," by Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy, and "The Fungoid Disease of the Sugar-Cane," by Mr. Albert Howard. In his lecture Sir Daniel Morris does not support the contention of Dr. Moseley as to the sugar cane being indigenous to the West Indies, but says that it was brought to them by Columbus in or about 1520. Now as Columbus died at Valladolid in Spain on May 20th, 1506, and was laid to his rest in the cathedral at Havana before that date, it must be assumed that it was very much "about," and not "in," unless the introducer was the Lesser Columbus. But letting that pass, the book, which is well indexed, and has abundant skilfully etched illustrations and diagrams, is well calculated to serve an extremely useful purpose.

The Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street. In the volume recently published it contains a Review of the Legislation of the United Kingdom and the British Colonies, and of Egypt, France and Germany for the year 1905. The Acts and Ordinances of the several legislative bodies in the British West Indies and Guiana have been reviewed by the following members of the Bar: Sir Crossley Rayner, K.C., A.G., British Guiana, Albert Gray, K.C., Sir Charles J. Tarring, ex-Chief Justice of Grenada, Alexander Manson, Harcourt

Malcolm, and Wallwyn P. B. Shephard. In his review of the Barbados legislation of 1905 Mr. Shephard gives the following abstract of the Act declaring the 30th November, 1905, a public holiday: "This Act, after reciting that in July, 1605, the crew of the English ship *Olive Blossom* landed and took possession of the island for their Sovereign by erecting a cross and cutting on the bark of a tree the letters and words 'James K. of E. and this island,' and although such persons made no settlement on the island, yet such act of possession was never challenged by any other Power, and so Barbados remained in the constructive possession of the Crown until actual possession was taken by Englishmen who arrived in the ship *William and John* some twenty years afterwards, and further that the island for three hundred years had never been out of possession of the Crown of England or subject to foreign rule, and that it was fit and proper to mark the accomplishment of the said tercentenary period, declared November 30th, 1905, as a public holiday." He adds a note as follows: "This Act is of historic interest and may be deemed evidence of the fact that Barbados is a Colony acquired by settlement and possessed of all the legal and constitutional incidents thereto pertaining. Its inhabitants are, and have always been, British subjects possessed of English common law rights and, as British subjects, under the direct protection of the Sovereign as correlative to their primary allegiance expressed in the reservation in the Latin charter of Charles the First to Lord Carlisle by the following words: 'Salva semper fide et ligeantia, ac dominio directo, nobis hæredibus et successoribus debitis.' The land tenure is feudal and according to English common law and subject to the English Statute of Uses and to the Conveyancing Act of the Colony. At the present date all conveyances and mortgages are subject to the requirements of registration in the Colony. The personal liberties and rights of every inhabitant are the same as in England, without distinction of colour."

From West to East; Notes by the Way. By Sir Hubert Jerningham, sometime Governor of Mauritius, of Trinidad and Tobago. With maps and illustrations. London: John Murray. Those of our readers who recollect Sir Hubert Jerningham's Governorship of Trinidad, will be specially interested in his travel book. For our part, seeing how interesting a volume he has made of what may be termed his travels in Japan, we could wish he had seen fit to put together some "Notes" on those of our West Indian possessions, which he knows so well, and in which he spent much more than the eight weeks which qualify "an intelligent man to write about Japan." But be that as it may, we have in Sir Hubert's volume an interesting record of travel through a land of peculiar fascination to Englishmen, written with a degree of culture which imparts a special pleasure to the perusal of his notes. Paris, India, China, the Yellow Peril, Hawaii, and the United States,—these diverse plans and subjects give rise to various reflections, some of which are by no means devoid of stimulating suggestion. Of the Hindoo practices which prevail in Benares, Sir Hubert speaks strongly in condemnation. These "disgusting and revolting rites" do not accord with the teaching of the Vedas, and should, he affirms, be put down firmly, thus replacing a dread of unknown spirits of evil by "confidence in a God of mercy before whom princes and coolies are equal." Speaking of the greatness of our Empire, Sir Hubert waxes enthusiastic. As he truly observes, "It is a remarkable fact that the administrative ability of British-born subjects, and the colonising power of the British race, are so readily admitted by ourselves that we do not stop to inquire into its meaning." Outlining the vast extent of our Empire he remarks: "It may be comparatively easy to acquire such vast territories; it is another matter to preserve them; and it speaks much for the ability of our pro-consuls, and the wisdom of colonial secretaries at home that throughout this vast dominion there should be so little discontent, indeed, so much peace and quiet." This is spoken by one who knows, and his testimony is true. With it we may quote a Japanese boy's essay (in English), giving his view of the character of an Englishman: "The Englishman works with a very powerful hands, and the long legs, and even the emminced mind . . . Being spread, his dominion is dreadfully extensive, so that his countryman boastfully says the sun are never set on our dominions. The English are cumming institutional to establish a great empire of the Paradise." So much depends on the point of view in these matters. Sir Hubert is interesting and informing in his descriptions of Japan, and of scenes and localities which are rendered famous in the recent war. But we have not space to quote them. Coming to the United States from Japan, and stopping in those islands of perpetual spring, Hawaii, Sir Hubert finds them disagreeably Americanised, the native "ways, manners, and customs being gone for evermore." "The strong stamp of American influence has so pressed down the Hawaiian peculiarities that the place has lost its individuality." This is so. And if the Kanakas do not quite see the force of keeping Washington's birthday or "Labour Day," their American masters are not a little disgusted with them! Visiting San Francisco after the earthquake—"the one trouble that staggers man the most, and from the stunning effects of which he takes longest to recover"—Sir Hubert is amazed at the greatness of the American courage in face of the calamity. But, he wisely adds, seeing the peculiar geological position of San Francisco, "the hasty desire to rebuild should be moderated according to scientific advice." This point of view may well be regarded by our friends in Kingston. Altogether Sir Hubert has written a thoughtful and suggestive volume, the publication of which has been worthily effected by Mr. John Murray.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE CONFERENCE. The agenda of the Colonial Conference will be dealt with in our next issue.

FRENCH SUGAR. By Article 26 of the French Budget Law for 1907, the "refining tax" on sugar is raised from 1 franc to 2 francs per 100 kilos. of refined sugar. This tax is levied on all refined sugar imported into or refined in France.

SMUGGLED SACCHARIN. The saccharin smuggling case, the arrests in which were recorded in the *West India Committee Circular* of July 4th last, was concluded on the 22nd February. Judgment was given against the Defendants for £1,200, treble the value of the saccharin. Judgment was given

A STAUNCH SUPPORTER. Sir Berkeley Sheffield, the new member of Parliament for the Brigg division, has stated that he would not be in favour of the denunciation of the Sugar Convention unless some alternative safeguard were provided against the revival of foreign bounties.

IMPERIALISM! The Governor of British Guiana stated at the opening of the Combined Court, that negotiations were in progress for Dutch mail steamers to carry the mails to meet the Royal Mail Steamers at Trinidad, and thus get over the impending difficulty. Has it come to this!

BEHIND AGAIN. Immediately after the earthquake, two distinguished American scientists, who are authorities on earthquakes, visited Jamaica with the object of investigating the nature, causes and

extent of the recent catastrophe. Why do not the British Government send an English seismologist to Jamaica?

AN ADMISSION. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking at the annual banquet of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce on March 1st, while referring to the trade of the United Kingdom, said that there had been since the year 1900 a general rise in the wholesale price of almost all commodities, with the notable exception of sugar.

SUGAR CONTRACTS. A sub-committee consisting of Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. Cyril Gurney, and Mr. E. L. Marshall has been sitting at the West India Committee Rooms with the object of amending the Clyde sugar contract in such a manner as to bring it into lines with those of Java and the United States.

PATROL SHIPS. Though, in his statement on the Navy Estimates which was issued on February 28th, Lord Tweedmouth made no reference to the patrolling of our West Indian Colonies, we understand that the matter is engaging attention, and that steps are to be taken to safeguard our colonies by the provision of an extra number of vessels.

OBITUARY. We regret to have to record the death of Sir Francis Plunkett, which occurred in Paris on February 28th. Sir Francis Plunkett was formerly British Ambassador in Vienna, and Minister at Brussels, in which capacity he took a prominent part in the Sugar Bounty Conference which resulted in the Convention, which came into force on September 1st, 1903.

BRITISH IN AMERICA. At a meeting at Birmingham, Alabama, of the Southern Cotton Association, the president urged growers to continue to restrict the cotton crop. He expressed his unalterable opposition to the purchase of large areas of cotton lands in the South to be worked by British landlords, and advocated legislation by the Southern States to prevent further development in this direction.

SPRINGBOX ORANGES. The Durban correspondent of the *Standard* states that Natal fruit growers will, aided by the Government, make a serious attempt during the ensuing season to exploit the London fruit market. An export scheme, on a co-operative basis, has been formulated, as a result of which the first shipment of half a million Mandarin oranges will be sent to England about the middle of May.

SUGAR PRICES. The Retailers Sugar Association have fixed the following minimum prices at which sugar is to be sold by its members: lump, 2½d. per lb.; castor, 2½d. per lb.; Demerara, 2d. per lb.; granulated, 2d. per lb.; yellow crystals, 2d. per lb.; pieces, 1½d. per lb. These prices refer to quantities up to 28 lbs. The minimum price for preserved sugar crushed is fixed at 2½d. per lb., 12 lbs., 2s. 1d.

FRENCH COTTON. Following the example of Great Britain in the attempt to become more or less independent of America for the supply of cotton, a French Colonial Cotton Association has been formed. A subscription list has been opened to provide funds for cotton growing in French colonies. It is understood that only a few thousands of pounds have so far been subscribed, and the support received has been the reverse of encouraging.

COTTON IN AMERICA. *Cotton* says that advices from reliable sources state that it is very doubtful whether there will be any increase in the acreage devoted to the growth of Sea Island cotton in the United States next season. The reason for this is said to be the shortage of labour. Reports further state that the sales of fertilisers do not exceed those of last year at this time, and the outlook is anything but promising for increased activity of operations in the cotton fields.

FOR PHILATELISTS. It is not generally known that Sir Francis Fleming has probably one of the finest collections of West Indian postage-stamps ever brought together. At a sale of postage-stamps at the Arbitration Room, 64, Chancery Lane, on January 31st and February 1st, Barbados, 1873, 5d. rose, fetched £2 10s. 0d.; Canada, two 1867, laid paper, 6d., purple-black, £2; Nevis 1878, 6d., grey, £4 7s. 6d.; St. Vincent, 1881, 4d. on 1s. vermilion, £7 10s. 0d.; Trinidad, 1855-6, lithograph, 1s., pale blue, £2 17s. 6d.

A FREE LIBRARY. Mr. J. Elliott Sprott, of the Kingstown Town Board, while writing to thank the West India Committee for their services in connection with the establishment of a Free Public Library in St. Vincent, has informed them that Lord Elgin has approved of the proposal of the local government to guarantee an annual contribution of £75 towards the upkeep of the library. Mr. Andrew Carnegie has now given instructions for payments to be made on the library building as work progresses to the extent of £2,000. The thanks of the community have been conveyed to the generous donor.

HINTS FOR MARCH. This is a Good Month for making of Sugar, therefore do nothing else whilst you can keep at work. You'll discover very little Variation in the yielding, for the Canes are now in Perfection. If you should have Rain, open all the Land you design for Indian Corn, Guinea Corn, Yams, and every other sort of Provisions, as, not the least opportunity ought to be lost, considering the great Advantage of moulder'd Land, for all Things; and especially Grain, as the Vermine will deftroy it, if

the Land is not mouldered to give it an immediate Spring.—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting, by William Belgrave, 1755.*

BANANA DEVELOPMENT. No one can visit Covent Garden, says the *Agricultural Economist*, without being struck by the wondrous development of the trade in bananas. All the streets leading to the famed market are filled with stores of wholesale fruit merchants. One in every three or four of these now make bananas their chief article of trade. At the doors are hung notices briefly marked "Ripes," or perhaps "Ripe and Turning." Great railway vans bring hourly loads of the luscious fruit in long festoon-like clusters. The bargains obtainable are beyond belief. Costermongers could resell six bananas for a penny and make a profit out of some of their great bargains.

CUBAN TOBACCO. During the year 1906 Cuba exported to the United States, Germany, Canada, Argentine Republic, France, Austria, England, Chili, Holland, Uruguay and Australia, 277,426 bales of leaf tobacco, with a total weight of 14,776,139 kilos exported in 1895, the year being behind its predecessor in the matter of tobacco exports by just 89,661 bales, with a weight of 2,139,303 kilos. The British Antilles imported no Cuban tobacco for the year, Jamaica cigars having gradually displaced the Cuban product. According to *El Economista* the crop this year will be of fair quantity thanks to the rains which fell when badly wanted in Pinar del Rio and other districts.

COTTON REPORT. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that during the past fortnight, a fair business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton, and prices are steady, but the American planters have been accepting rather easier prices, with the result that there has been rather less eagerness to purchase. The sales have been of a general character, ranging from 22d. to 25d. During the fortnight ended March 7th, 314 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool 7.10d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 19½d. per lb.; medium fine, 20½d. per lb.; fine, 22d. per lb. Prices paid 7d. to 24½d.

A COLONIAL VETERAN. It is intended to present a testimonial to Sir Frederick Young upon his 90th birthday in June next, in recognition of his eminent services to the Royal Colonial Institute, extending over a period of 37 years. A Committee consisting of the Hon. T. A. Brassey, Lt.-Gen. Sir Bevan Edwards and Sir Nevile Lubbock, representing the Council, and Sir Francis Lovell, Mr. R. D. Douglas McLean and Sir E. Noel Walker, representing the Fellows, with Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall as Hon. Secretary, has been formed to undertake the necessary arrangements. Sir Frederick Young became a Fellow of the Institute as far back as 1869, a Councillor on June 5th, 1871, and he acted as Honorary Secretary from November 24th, 1874, to July 27th, 1886, on which date he was elected to his present position of Vice-President.

WELSH BEET. Montgomeryshire farmers are considering the possibility of introducing the beet sugar industry into the county. The scheme is a sequel to a lecture on root crops which was delivered at Montgomery by Mr. D. D. Williams. Councillor T. Howard, in the course of the discussion, stated that Montgomeryshire soil was suitable for growing sugar beet, and pointed out that local flour mills, which were now practically disused, would be available for manufacturing purposes. Alderman Arthur Vaughan, another farmer, supported the proposal, and recommended that experimental trials should be made. The lecturer intimated that the Aberystwyth College authorities would be willing to co-operate in experiments, but to do anything this year they must commence within the next two months. It was thereupon decided to ask the Montgomery Town Council to consider the matter immediately.

IMPROVED COTTON BALING. The necessity for improved baling of raw cotton, and the closer alliance between grower and user has often, says *Cotton*, been commented upon by the press in America during the last few months, in consequence, to a great extent, of the activity of the members of the Private Cotton Commission, which has twice visited the States during the last twelve months. The first commercial bale of cotton in the style suggested has met with general approval. The bale is much more densely compressed than the old bale, and much more perfectly covered and boarded, so that the loss from bagging and bands comes below 8 lbs. per bale. The cotton comes direct from the gin, the laps are put through rollers, all the air being forced out in the process, and then compressed sufficiently to be pressed anywhere. The bale weighs 488 lbs. The only difficulty that experts find with regard to the new system of baling is that it is difficult to sample.

COFFEE TRADE. Several German papers have stated that the National Bank of Belgium has agreed to make a considerable loan to the coffee-producing States of Brazil, to be secured on a stock of from half a million to one million bags of coffee, in order to enable the planters to keep this quantity of coffee artificially out of the market. The *Patriote* has interviewed M. de Lantsheere, the Governor of the Bank, and has ascertained the following facts: A group of prominent business men at Antwerp, about forty in number, desiring to bring back the coffee trade to Antwerp—a trade which has deserted that port for the benefit of Liverpool and Lisbon—opened communication with the Governments of the coffee-growing States of Brazil, and offered to warehouse considerable stocks of coffee in bond at Antwerp. The negotiations having been successfully concluded, the Antwerp group applied to the

National Bank of Belgium to ascertain whether it would accept this coffee as security for the money required.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Feb. 26.—United States Government abandoned the idea of the construction of the Panama Canal by private contract.—*Morning Post* announced the conclusion of the San Domingo treaty with the United States.—Annual meeting Royal Colonial Institute.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.
- Wed., Feb. 27.—Brigg bye-election: Sir Berkeley Sheffield (U), 5,389; Capt. Hon. F. Guest (L), 5,273. Majority, 116. A Tory gain.—The King opened the New Sessions House.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.
- Thur., Feb. 28.—Exeter Hall sold for £30,000 to Messrs. Lyons & Gluckstein.—Statement on the Navy Estimates issued as a Parliamentary paper (see *Times*, March 1st).—Lady Ripon died.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.
- Fri., Mar. 1.—Mr. Chamberlain arrived in London from Highbury.—Sir August Manns died.—Beet, 8s. 11d., quiet.
- Sat., Mar. 2.—London County Council election: victory for the Moderates; 79 Municipal Reformers being returned, 38 Progressives and 1 Independent.—R.M.S.P. *Avon* launched.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., steady.
- Sun., Mar. 3.—Mr. Chamberlain left for St. Raphael.
- Mon., Mar. 4.—The King left London for Biarritz.—Beet, 9s. 0½d., steady.
- Tues., Mar. 5.—Mr. Balfour criticises the Naval Policy of the Government in a debate in the House of Commons.—The New Duma opened at St Petersburg.—Beet, 9s. 0½d., quiet.
- Wed., Mar. 6.—Mr. J. H. Whiteley (L), re-elected unopposed for Halifax, on his appointment as Junior Lord of the Treasury.—Mr. Winston Churchill spoke on Colonial development at the 12th Dinner of the African Society.—Beet, 9s. 0½d., steady.
- Thur., Mar. 7.—At the meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce in London, a resolution was passed in favour of preferential trade with the Colonies.—The Dowager Empress of Russia arrived in London.—Beet, 9s. 1¼d., quiet.
- Fri., Mar. 8.—Woman's Suffrage Bill talked out at second reading in the House of Commons.—Beet, 9s. 1¼d., firm.
- Sat., Mar. 9.—Death of Dr. Dowie.—Mr. Edmund Barry, K.C. (L) returned for North Tyrone, defeating Mr. Denis Henry, K.C. (U) by a majority of 7.—Beet (morning call) 9s. 1¼d., steady.
- Mon., Mar. 11.—Lord Elgin attends the dinner of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.—Beet, 9s. 1d., quiet.

COMING EVENTS.

- Mar. 12 to 26 (inclusive)—Colonial Products Exhibition, St. George's Hall, Liverpool.
- Mar. 15.—Matinée at the Criterion theatre in aid of the Jamaica Earthquake Fund.
- April 10th.—Colonial Bank Meeting.
- June 13 & 14, Nov. 28 & 29.—Shows of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G.C.A.—Referring to my previous answer to your enquiry, I am informed that not long ago one grower obtained as much as 20s. for a bunch of red bananas grown in Barbados. Though not as yet cultivated on a commercial scale, the supply of red bananas from Barbados could be developed at any moment if suitable facilities for carrying the fruit were provided.

"Khartoum."—*Musa Sinensis* is merely another name for *Musa Cavendishii*, the Chinese or dwarf banana. It is well known in commerce, being the species grown in the Canary Islands, Barbados, and many other parts of the world. Mr. W. G. Freeman, of the Imperial Institute, informs us that it is reported to be a native of southern China. Everything in the French Guiana report enclosed by you is in accord with the known habits and characteristics of this species. Suckers would carry easily from the Canary Islands and Barbados, or probably some could be got on application to Kew.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

- MR. P. L. FRASER has been appointed Superintendent of Prisons, Trinidad.
- MR. COLIN REES DAVIES, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed Attorney-General, British Honduras.
- The appointment of MR. WALLACE C. CRAWFORD as Senior Immigration Agent, British Guiana, has been confirmed.
- MR. H. R. MARWOOD has been appointed General Manager and Chief Engineer of Railways, Trinidad, vice Mr. W. E. Smith, promoted.
- The Hon. and Rev. W. M. WEBB has been granted two months' leave of absence from his duties as a member of the Legislative Council, Jamaica.
- MAJOR C. MAY, Pay and Quartermaster of Police, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from March 15th.
- MR. J. O'DOWD EGAN, L.R.C.S., &c., Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence from March 18th next.
- HON. C. B. HAMILTON, C.M.G., Receiver-General, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for two months from April 1st next.
- MR. HENRY ARCHIBALD FRAMPTON, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Dominica, has been granted four months' leave of absence from January 20th.
- CAPT. E. L. WHEELER, Staff Officer Local Forces, and Adjutant of Constabulary, Trinidad, has been granted leave of absence, in extension, from January 1st to April 30th.
- Extension of leave of absence for three months, from March 2nd, has been granted to MR. C. J. BOSCH REITZ, First-class Clerk, Immigration Department, British Guiana.
- LIEUT.-COL. A. B. R. KAYE, Inspector-General of Police, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, has returned to Barbados and resumed the duties of his office on January 1st.
- HON. ACTON DON LOCKHART, Unofficial Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Dominica, has been granted leave of absence from December 30th, 1906, to June 15th next.
- MR. ALBERT EARNSHAW, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Police Magistrate and Coroner, Grenada, has been appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate in British Guiana, vice the late Mr. P. H. R. Hill.

Mr. LESLIE H. JARVIS, Clerk to the Administrator and to the Executive Council, Dominica, has been granted three months leave of absence from December 3rd, 1906, with extension of leave for six months.

His Hon. LIEUT.-COL. W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, Commissioner of Montserrat, and His Hon. R. S. EARL, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, have been appointed members of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands.

Rear-Admiral FREDERICK S. INGLEFIELD has been appointed to succeed Admiral Sir Day H. Bosanquet, Commander-in-Chief of the North America and West Indies Station, and Particular Service (Fourth Cruiser) Squadron, and was to take over the command on February 8th.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 5 per cent. (changed on January 17th, 1907), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 85½.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	101-103
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3½ " " 1925-42 ...	100	3½ %	97-99
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935 ...	100	4 %	104-106
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	100-102
1,098,907.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934 ...	100	4 %	106-108
85,479.	"	St. Lucia - - 4½ " " 1919-44 ...	100	4½ %	101-103
422,593.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " Inscribed Stock 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	102-104
600,000.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " " 1922-44 ...	100	3 %	85-87
100,000	20	The Colonial Bank	£6	7 %	5½-6
600,000.	Stock.	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Ord. Stock ...	100	—	48-51
900,000.	Stock.	" " " " Pref. Stock ...	100	5 %	89-92
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	—	½-½
46,874	5	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	—	—
347,500.	Stock.	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	79-81
345,000.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ...	100	6 %	96-101
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	—	18-21
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7 % Preference ...	100	4 %	101-104
31,250	10	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference...	10	4 %	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " " " 4 % Perpetual Deb. Stock ...	100	4 %	94-96
60,500.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debs. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4½ %	99-101
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
33,500.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4½ %	99-101
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	3 9/16 - 1 1/8
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	10	5 %	7½-7½
4,669	10	" " " " 2nd " " ...	10	—	5½-6½
80,000.	100	" " " " 5% Deb. ...	100	5 %	99-102

West Indian Rum Refinery.

At the ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the West Indian Rum Refinery, Ltd., at Barbados, it was reported that the business for the year had been good, and after taking up \$109 at the credit of the account at the end of 1905, and providing for expenses of management, &c., there remained \$9,845 '62, out of which a dividend of 30 cents per share was recommended, absorbing \$9,000, leaving \$845 '62 to be carried forward.

The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.

The first ordinary general meeting of this company was held at 4, Fenchurch Buildings, on Friday, March 1st. Mr. H. F. Previtte, the Chairman, when moving the adoption of the report, pointed out that while the company had made a good start, and was effecting the purpose for which it had been founded, if greater support were forthcoming much more could be done. He appealed in the first place to all the shareholders, and secondly, to all those interested in the West Indies to acquire the habit of dealing regularly with the Association. The report was adopted, and a dividend of 2½ per cent. declared.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) March 7th. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 5th. "Heavy rains, cultivation suffering." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 6th. "Weather is too wet." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 4th. "Weather continues favourable."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Thames* (Capt. H. E. Rudge), March 4th:—Mr. A. V. Windover, Mr. William L. Albert, Mr. James Young, Mr. E. Perrott, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Robinson, Mr. David Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Alberto and six children, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pryde and two children, Mr. Victor Espinosa, Mr. Hermann Fricke, Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Roggiere and family, Mr. Rogerio Alvarado, Mr. A. E. Cabezas, Mr. and Mrs. A. Benavides and Family, Miss Margaret Johnston, Mr. Leopoldo

Tanco, Miss D. M. Alexander, Mrs. Grant Blunt, Mr. Andrew Markav, Mr. A. F. Levitt, Mr. Seymour Da Costa, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. Arthur E. Lones, Mrs. P. Castillo, Mr. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., Miss Monica A. Clifford, Miss Josephine M. Nolan, Mr. W. Bell, Mr. J. Battistini, Col. A. H. Morgan, D.S.O., Capt. Charles Morgan, Mr. Wilson Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Tennant, Miss J. Tennant, Miss M. Chamberlain, Mrs. J. Nettlefold, Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., Miss M. Cadman, Miss E. C. Cadman, Miss A. M. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent C. Vickers, maid and valet, Mr. H. L. Cashmar, Mrs. J. Cruickshank, Mr. L. E. Henery, Mr. Allan E. Craig, Mr. J. E. Monro, Miss McLeod, Mrs. Spiller, Mr. John Atherton, Mr. Francis Drew Pritchard, Mr. Vernon Smith, Mr. J. Sealy, Mrs. Tredgold, Mr. W. Fogarty.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. J. Boby), March 14th:—Mr. J. M. Morries, Mr. and Mrs. Fernandes, Mr. Alex. S. Rose, Mr. Frank E. Harding, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Garraway, Mr. Owens Jones, Mr. Jas. A. Robertson, Col. J. W. Link, Mr. Julius Martin, Mr. Adolph Ewart, Dr. Reginald Y. Ackers, Mr. L. G. M. Hawke, Mr. D. A. Morley, Mr. E. G. Ashwin, Mr. V. E. Shepherd, Mr. T. H. Fairclough, Mr. A. Beecroft, Mr. E. A. Betts, Mr. R. Hirst, Miss E. Gillespie, Mr. Eugenio Jimenez, Mr. A. Watson Taylor, Mr. O. Ulrich, Mr. J. A. King, Mrs. King.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce) March 27th:—Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker, Mr. Geoffrey Parker, Mr. Parker, junr., Mrs. Goodman, Mr. P. V. C. Haldane, Mr. Fitz Weigell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Vyfhuys, Mrs. Jacomb Hood, Mr. F. L. da Lima, Mr. Federico Boccardo, Miss G. M. Hutchings.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. Owen Jones), February 27th:—Mr. Bemand, Capt. Brassey, Mr. W. Coghill, Col. Fox, Mrs. Gay, Miss Grant, Mr. H. C. Hasleton, Mr. H. T. Mackenzie, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mr. C. C. Munton, Lieut. and Mrs. A. C. Ward, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Blake, Miss Black, Miss Blackburn, Mr. Bryan, Mr. P. Cholet, Mr. W. Corder, Miss C. Grant, Mr. Jackson, Miss Loirens, Co.-Sgt. Major Levitt, wife and two children, Mr. and Miss MacCormack, Mr. Masters, Miss McDermott, Mr. Morand, Mr. Nation, Mr. Paul, Mrs. Rennalls, Mr. Scott, Miss Sutherland, Miss Welch.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. G. J. Parsons), March 9th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. F. Armstrong, Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. H. N. Bathgate, Mr. J. Collis Bird, Mr. N. Jureidini, Mr. G. Jureidini, Mrs. & Miss Knox, Mr. W. Alex. Raitlon, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Tullis, Mrs. C. Laing, Mrs. H. S. Shakeshaft, Mr. E. T. Copp, Mr. Percy Copp, Acting-Bomb. A. Whittaker.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Mar. 13	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>	Mar. 12, mdn't.
" 15	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	<i>Frednes</i>	" 14, 6 p.m.
" 16	Barbados (for Demerara and W.I. Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	<i>Logician</i>	" 15, 6 p.m.
" 22	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Demerara,	Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Catalini</i>	" 22, noon.
" 23	Jamaica and Bermuda	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>	" 22, *6 p.m.
" 27	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Trent</i>	" 26, mdn't.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Mar. 13	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>
" 18	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Trent</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31	1906 1905	Jan. 1 to Feb. 14.	1907 1906	April 1 to Dec. 30.	1906 1905	Jan. 1 to Feb. 16.	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to Feb. 18.	1907 1905
Sugar	49,947	41,987 Tns.	17,326	15,171 Tons.	9,285	7,669 Tons.	3,907	51,356 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	61,099	39,316 Pns.	64	110 Puns.	...	...	{ 94 146 Puns. } { — — Tres. } { — — Brls. }	...	...	...
Rum	2,846	4,544 Puns.	1,053,149	791,283 Galls.	150	— Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	968	1,597 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	17,661	3,300 lbs.	41,369	22,536 Cwts.	3,710,930	6,665,020 lbs.	36,265	30,385 Bags.
Coffee	30,348	35,917 "	2,420	5,600	...	...
Coconuts	2,000	15,900	6,881,427	4,768,144	865,900	1,388,300	...	...
Copra	2,886	1,070 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	16,882	43,307 lbs.	...	...	3	21 Bales.
Asphalt	8,821	16,424 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	49,244,394	68,309,288	...	...	...	...
Bananas	13,216,548	12,237,272 Stms.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	63,144	67,817 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	6,859	9,052 ozs.	...	...	...	...	1448	1945 Brs. ls.
Diamonds	529	20 carats	...	...	...	...	167	325 1/2 Brls.
Rice	464,530	1,800 lbs.	...	...	...	...	149	223 Cases

total

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar continues firm, and the fortnight indicates a fractional improvement in prices, the quotation of 88 % beet being 9s. 1d. against 9s. last mail. This is encouraging, and it is being realised that sugar is now approaching its natural value, as well as a satisfactory range. So far as one can see at present fluctuations are likely to be measured by farthings for some time to come, assuming always that the coming beet sowings are kept within moderate bounds, about which no one can speak with authority at present. The promise of a very large Cuba crop seems likely to be fulfilled, and if all goes well from now till the end of May 1,500,000 tons may possibly be reaped, against 1,180,000 and 1,160,000 tons respectively the two previous seasons. This will keep America well supplied with sugar for many months to come. As the Budget period approaches much useless discussion is taking place as to what action the Chancellor of the Exchequer will take with regard to the duties on sugar. The uncertainty does not tend to broaden Markets, and it is satisfactory to find prices maintained with such hand to mouth buying as is now going on. Although the total stocks in the known world are undoubtedly large, they are not held by actual consumers who are compelled to buy from day to day to meet actual requirements.

The quotations of 88% beet yesterday were:—March, 9s. 1d.; May, 9s. 2d.; Aug., 9s. 4d., and Oct./Dec., 9s. 1d. all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	3,340,000	3,740,000	2,560,000	3,430,000	3,210,000	Tons
United States	230,000	210,000	170,000	110,000	160,000	..
Cuba... ..	280,000	140,000	220,000	200,000	250,000	..
Afloat	10,000	—	30,000	40,000	40,000	..
Total	3,860,000	4,090,000	2,980,000	3,780,000	3,660,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 11th Mar.:—	9s. 1d.	8s. 4½d.	14s. 8d.	8s. 3d.	8s. 5½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There has been a steady demand for yellow crystallised during the fortnight, and values are well maintained, low to good yellow being worth 15s. 6d. to 16s. 6d., and fine sugar in small quantities, 17s. to 18s. The value of average qualities remains 16s. 3d. Low grades move off slowly at 15s. The value of a 96 test cargo is now about 10s. 3d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—The demand on the spot has for the moment become curtailed, and values generally range from 11s. to 14s., duty paid. For 89 test to arrive, something over 8s. in bond should be obtainable on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—Supplies of grocery are wanted and may be expected to realise 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d., duty paid. There is business doing to Clyde Refiners in 89 test West India, the present value of which sugar is 9s. in bond on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	6500	11,000	7000	7000	2400	Tons.
Deliveries	7500	7400	7300	8000	7800	..
Stocks, 4th Mar.	9400	12,000	9200	11,000	23,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, 11th Mar.:	16s. 3d.	14s. 9d.	21s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 6d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 2 months:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Home Consumption	978,000	725,000	750,000	756,000	756,000	Galls.
Stocks 1st March	6,660,000	7,750,000	8,390,000	8,390,000	8,390,000	..
Stocks in London, 4th Mar.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	5100	5800	6800	7700	7700	Puns.
Demerara	8500	9800	6200	11,500	11,500	..
Total of all kinds	20,000	22,000	20,000	29,000	29,000	..

Jamaica remains steady at 2s. 9d. for Home Trade Marks, Leewards and Foreign kinds are entirely nominal. Importers having made a concession in prices, a certain amount of business has been done in Demerara, establishing about 1s. proof as the value of fair marks.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 2 months:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Home Consumption	3045	4137	3361	3361	3361	Tons.
Stocks 1st Mar.	3403	4838	5885	5885	5885	..
Stocks in London:—4th March:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	5600	13,500	18,300	12,700	12,700	Bags.
Grenada	4500	8600	13,400	16,900	16,900	..
Total of all kinds	46,900	72,900	83,600	70,800	70,800	..

There has been a good demand for West India Cocoa, other than Trinidad which is held or prices buyers will not look at, and considerable sales have been made at full prices to 1s. advance, our chief manufacturers being compelled to buy. Quotations are: Trinidad (nominal) 85s. to 92s.; Grenada fair, 74s., fermented, 77s. to 79s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth about 72s., and fermented, 76s. to 80s.

Sundries.—**COFFEE:** unsettled owing to continued large receipts in Brazil, Santos for March delivery, 30s. 3d.; unchanged prices. **PIMENTO:** quiet, at 2½d. to 2¾d. **ARROWROOT:** small sales of St. Vincent at 2½d. to 2¾d. for manufactory. **GINGER:** dearer, but with only a retail business in Jamaica; common, 65s. to 70s., medium to fine, 72s. to 90s. **COPRA:** steady, East India £27 5s. to £28 5s. **LIME JUICE:** firm at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d.; Concentrated, steady at £23 10s.; Distilled Oil, unchanged at 2s. 10d. to 2s. 11d.; Hand Pressed, quoted 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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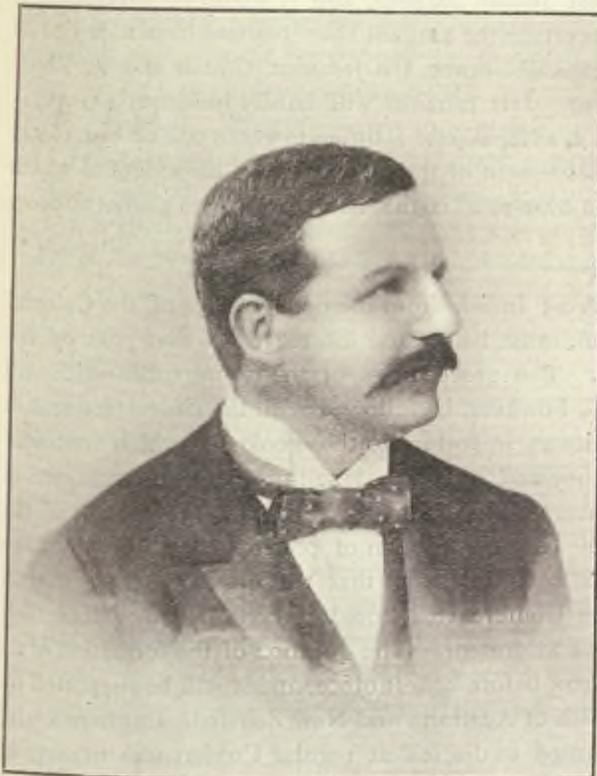
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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXXIX.



Mr. Peter Johnson Dean.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON,

Mar. 25th, 1907

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

THE letters received by every homeward mail since the earthquake took place in Jamaica, make it more clear that the effects of it far from being over-estimated have been infinitely more serious and far-reaching than was at first supposed. On Wednesday next ARCHBISHOP NUTTALL, Chairman of the Jamaica Relief Committee, and MR. A. W. FARQUHARSON, the deputation appointed to lay before Parliament and the Government the petition from the people of Kingston for Imperial assistance towards rebuilding their city, are due to arrive in this country, and it is hoped that the question of the proposed grant and loan, which at their request has been in abeyance pending their arrival, will be once more actively taken up by our contemporaries. The sympathetic attitude of the Government was indicated by LORD ELGIN at the recent dinner of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, and we have reason to believe, as has already been pointed out, that practical evidence of that sympathy was about to be afforded when they were asked to stay their hand—the people in Jamaica fearing that the gravity of the situation was not fully realised. The

actual details regarding the loss incurred by proprietors, and the suffering of the homeless and of those formerly of the well-to-do class, who have lost their occupation and indeed their all, which the deputation will submit to the Government, will further substantiate the strong case already existing for Imperial assistance on a liberal scale. Alas! Public interest soon evaporates, even in matters of Imperial moment, and the Easter holiday season being so near at hand, we have additional cause to appeal to our contemporaries, who were so actively supporting the request for a free grant and loan to renew their efforts, by which they will win for themselves the undying gratitude of the unfortunate residents of Kingston, the people of Jamaica, and of all who are possessed of the true Imperial spirit. If people cannot realise what the suffering in Jamaica is, let them imagine for a moment what their own position would be if their homes were wrecked and their means of livelihood gone. This is the position in which many hundreds of the population of a once prosperous city are placed, and if they have preferred to go slowly and steadily about the work of rebuilding and ascertaining the true extent of the loss, that should not prejudice their claim for assistance from that Government under whose flag they now live. For such questions as have recently been asked in the House of Commons by MR. HAROLD COX, we cannot feel sufficient contempt. What he asked has Jamaica contributed to the upkeep of the fleet? What has she contributed towards agricultural establishments in the mother country? It is not MR. COX's fault that Jamaica is still a colony of the British Empire; and such a question falls well from the lips of one who took such an ignoble part in the struggle which Jamaica maintained for fully thirty years against a subsidised foreign industry. MR. COX should remember that the British Government makes annually no inconsiderable sum of money through the sale of silver to our West Indian colonies, and it would be interesting if some Member of the House of Commons were to ascertain the amount thus realised over a period of years. We shall not be surprised if those two capable organs, the *Jamaica Gleaner* and the *Daily Telegraph* have not something to say to MR. COX also. His remarks will hardly influence a Government which in this case has already shown such a sympathetic attitude towards one of our oldest colonies, and we may confidently look for an early settlement of the question as to the extent to which Great Britain will bear the burden which her sons over-seas in the hour of distress cannot support alone.

THE absence of representatives of the British West Indies from the deliberations of the Colonial Conference, which is to meet on April 15th, must be a cause for regret in that part of the Empire with which we are particularly identified. The proceedings of the Conference, which are expected to last from three weeks to a month, will, however, be followed with the closest interest in the West Indies. Several questions which are quite as important to those colonies which are under the immediate control of the Colonial Office as they are to the great self-governing colonies, are to be discussed, foremost among them being the future constitution of the Conference, including the proposals for the formation of an Imperial Council and the question of preferential trade within the Empire. With regard to the first of these, it is very necessary that the question of the desirability of admitting the smaller colonies to future Conferences should be considered, so that they may not in future be ignored, as they practically are at present. The question of the formation of an Imperial Council was put forward by MR. LYTTELTON before he left office, and it will be supported by resolutions of the Governments of the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand. But here again, while the suggestion that a Council should be formed to discuss at regular Conferences matters of common Imperial interest, and to facilitate the dealing with questions which affect our over-sea dominions, would be of undoubted advantage to the Empire, it is to be regretted that the resolutions at present on the agenda suggest that such Council should be formed by representatives of Great Britain and the self-governing colonies, the other colonies of the Empire being left out in the cold. The

question of preferential trade is to be brought forward by Australia, New Zealand and the Cape, and it is in the discussion of this absorbing topic that the main interest in the Conference must lie. Australia strengthens her resolution of 1902 by adding that it is desirable that the preferential treatment accorded by the colonies to the Mother Country should be granted to the products and manufactures of other self-governing colonies, and that it is desirable that the United Kingdom should grant preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the colonies. New Zealand is equally emphatic with the request that preferential rates of duty should be conceded to colonial products now taxable in the United Kingdom, and the Cape of Good Hope desires to impress upon the Government the opinion that the continuance of such preferential treatment to the producers and manufacturers of Great Britain is largely dependent upon the granting of some reciprocal privileges to British colonies. It must be tantalising to the West Indies and other colonies in a similar position to feel that on this occasion they are not to have an opportunity of recording their vote on the subject, and they should insist on being heard in future. Passing over the question of merchant shipping and coast-wise trade, which are now engaging the attention of a Royal Commission, and such matters as the general question of judicial appeals, a uniform system of patents, stamp charges on colonial bonds, &c., we come to the profit on silver coinage, which if ventilated freely must be a source of considerable interest to the West Indies, it being a well-known fact, as pointed out elsewhere in our columns, that the British Government make no small sum annually through the sale of silver to the colonies, the total of which would go far to set off the grants and loans which have been made from time to time by them to the West Indies. Decimal currency and the metric system are brought forward by Australia, and an endeavour is to be made as far as possible to arrange for a separate discussion of these subjects at the Treasury, at which such questions as universal penny postage, proposed by New Zealand, and the Imperial cable system, proposed by Cape Colony, are to be the subject of an additional separate discussion with the Postmaster-General. The above does not by any means exhaust the list of subjects to be dealt with at the Conference; but we have touched lightly on those which are probably of the greatest significance to West Indians, several of which would have certainly been brought forward had the West Indies been represented at the meetings. We have already pointed out in the *Circular* that it is the earnest desire of the West Indies that they should take part in the deliberations, and so far no logical reasons as to why they should be precluded from doing so have been shown to exist. Considering more especially the increasing importance of the islands commercially, as well as strategically—we have in our minds the Panama Canal—their claim to be represented cannot be considered unreasonable. The meeting of so many distinguished Colonials is already having a marked effect in this country. The banquets, which are an inseparable accident on occasions such as the present, show the way the wind is blowing. Already every seat in the immense Albert Hall for the banquet to be given by the 1900 Club has been sold, the Royal Colonial Institute list is complete, and those of the Eighty Club and the luncheon to be given by Members of Parliament, over which the Prime Minister himself will preside, are in an equally satisfactory state. While we can hardly go so far as to say that the interest in our colonies has been sagging, it certainly has not advanced as rapidly as it should have done in the last two or three years, and the events of the summer of 1907, like those of 1902 when the last Conference met, will, unless the portents are misleading, give rise to an outburst of sympathy for the outlying portions of our British Empire, which will be of far-reaching consequence.

AFTER the disappointing result of last season's cacao crop, which was 24,000 bags smaller than that of 1905, it is natural that anxiety should be felt as to the pickings for the current year.

One of our members, Mr. HENRY CARACCILO, has been good enough to obtain from cacao planters in every quarter of the island expressions of opinion on the subject, a summary of which should prove of no little interest at the present juncture. Unfortunately, the consensus of opinion appears to be that the crop of 1907 will prove but slightly superior, as regards quantity, to that of 1906. It would seem that in the autumn months of last year there was prospect, with a continuance of favourable weather, of a satisfactory crop, but—and we are afraid that this “but” must be written large—the weather took a turn for the worse, and northerly winds helped to destroy this hope, while the leafing of the trees contributed further to render the outlook gloomy. After perusing the reports submitted by Mr. CARACCILO, we are left with the impression that up to June conditions will not be very satisfactory, and that no matter how favourable the weather may be for the rest of the year, it is not possible that the pickings for the second six months can make up the deficiency. From Arima Mr. C. G. SEHEULT, of Santa Rosa estate, wrote that he anticipated that about 25 per cent. of the average crop would be as much as Trinidad planters would realise for the first half of the year. Mr. E. F. STONE, dealing with Mayaro and Guayaguayare, spoke of the promise of the crop as cheering and good, but added that however good, it would be impossible to reach even an average crop this year. Mr. JOSEPH D'ABADIE, of San Pedro, Montserrat, thought that the crop would possibly be 30 per cent. short for the six months. Mr. W. GORDON GORDON said that under no circumstances was the shortage, as compared with the previous twelve months, likely to be made up. Mr. LOUIS, of Cunupia, estimated that for January and February the output in his district was short by 60 per cent. Mr. E. H. BOISSIERE said that while some planters reported fair prospects on the northern coast, others declared that the eastern and southern districts were very, bad and he did not anticipate anything like a bumper crop in May and June. Writing from Oropuche, Mr. MAURICE QUESNEL indicated that the bulk of the young fruits sprang out at the end of January and in February. They were then changing leaves, and more than three-quarters of the fruits were doomed, some of them being already dying, and he estimated that the cacao crop would be about the same as last year. Mr. J. M. BLANC, of Caura and Toco, said that while he did not doubt that the report made in the *West India Committee Circular* regarding the outlook for cacao for May and June may have been correct, the prospect had changed since the change of leaves began, with the additional dry season and northerly winds, and a failure of the crop resulted, and that unless there was a favourable change in the weather, this year's crop would not be better than the last. Mr. PETER PRADA, of Savana Grande, Moruga, and Chaguanas, believed that the present year's output would be better than last year's, but only a trifle better, and that the shortage would not be made up. Mr. R. W. GORDON said that in the Upper Cunupo and Tomano districts they had a change of leaf, and as a consequence the drying up of all chirreros. Mr. J. D. SELLIER expected that the crop for 1906-7 would be just a trifle better than for 1905-6, but that the shortage from January to March 31st could not possibly be made up between March and December. Mr. H. MONCEAUX in Upper Caroni, had picked no cacao to speak of, and though appearances were better for the next three months, cacao trees were undergoing a complete change of leaves, which would probably destroy half of the fruit on them, so that the year was likely to prove quite as bad as 1906. Mr. L. DEVENISH, of Santa Lucia, Montserrat, said that as the trees were undergoing a heavy change of leaves, it was difficult to say what planters could depend on, though it would not be a bumper crop by any means. While it must be admitted that these reports are by no means cheering, the prospects for June are said to be more promising than they were. In this connection we should like to say how glad the Hon. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, our Hon. Correspondent, will be to receive reports regarding the crops and prospects from the principal cacao producing districts in Trinidad. Hitherto he has experienced some difficulty in prevailing upon planters to take the trouble to provide information of this sort, and we shall be pleased indeed if the action of Mr. CARACCILO results in his experiencing less difficulty in this direction in future.



Photograph by

INDIANS OF THE PATAMONA TRIBE,
BRITISH GUIANA.

[H. J. FERRISS, I.S.O.]

THE visit of delegates from the Canadian Board of Trade which was arranged by the Commissioner of Agriculture during his recent visit to Canada, was in progress when the last homeward mail left the West Indies. An elaborate programme had been provided for the delegates, who arrived at St. Kitts on February 23rd, and were to visit Antigua, Barbados, St. Lucia, Trinidad, and British Guiana. Opportunities were being afforded them to inspect sugar and cacao estates and see for themselves the possibilities of development which the islands afford. Conferences with the various commercial and agricultural bodies were arranged, and it is not too much to hope that the question of the Canadian preferential tariff was fully discussed. Mail advices which we have received from Canada have supplied details regarding the extension of the benefit of the "British" preference to a certain amount of foreign beet to which we alluded in our last issue, and now that the reasons assigned for this are before us, we are more than ever at a loss to understand the vacillating policy of the Dominion Government. The reason given by Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance, for this extraordinary action, is that "Canadian beet refiners were hampered by the fact that they could not get sufficient beets to keep their mills going all the year round. They wanted employment for the refining part of the machinery at seasons when the beet supply was gone." Why should the beet refiners not make up the deficiency of beet with raw cane? The Canadian beet industry gets the benefit of a high protective tariff, and it would appear that it cannot get on without the political and commercial policy of the country being violated for it. Another change has also been made in the sugar tariff, small in itself, but favourable to West Indian sugar growers, though an index of the uncertain minds of the powers that be. The British preferential tariff now stands at 45½ cents per 100 lbs. for 89° muscovadoes, instead of 40½ cents, and 52½ cents instead of 47½ cents per 100 lbs. for 96° crystals. But the introduction of foreign beet under the preferential tariff naturally gives rise to some apprehension. If the Dominion Government can upset the principles of the British preferential trade for such very slight and inadequate reasons, they may at any time throw over their whole Imperial commercial policy. In any case the weakness of their attitude has given rise to distrust during the last few months, which must affect their commercial relations with other countries though the visit to the West Indies of the Canadian delegates should serve a useful purpose.

MR. PETER JOHNSON DEAN.

Mr. P. J. Dean of the firm of Messrs. Martin, Dean & Co., of St. George's, Grenada, began his business career with the firm of Messrs. A. M. Gillespie & Co., now Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., in London. Early in the eighties he went out to the West Indies where he joined partnership with Mr. Martin. Since 1905 he has been Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee, a position which he also holds in connection with the West Indian Club. He occupies the post of Chairman of the local Permanent Exhibition Committee. Mr. Dean is a member of the Managing Committee of the St. George's Club, and Vice-President of the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society. He holds numerous agencies, including those of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Trinidad line of steamers, the Sun fire office, the Marine Insurance Company, as well as Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., of London and New York. He is moreover Consular Agent for the United States of America, and one of the most popular members of the community in Grenada.

INDIANS OF THE PATAMONA TRIBE.

The subject of our full-page illustration is a group of British Guiana aboriginal Indians, belonging to the Patamona tribe, one of the many which still, though in diminished numbers, inhabit the interior of the "Magnificent Province." It was taken by Mr. H. I. Perkins when he was Acting Commissioner of Mines on the savannah through which the Potaro River flows, just before it pours over the rocky ledge and forms the Kaieteur Falls. Mr. Perkins on this expedition was accompanied by Professor J. B. Harrison and Mrs. Harrison. The peculiar vegetation in the background consists of *Brochinias*, which are characteristic of the district.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, March 21st, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee :—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
THE EARL OF DUDLEY, G.C.V.O.	Sir N. Lubbock.	Sir H. K. Davson.
RIGHT HON. J. PARKER-SMITH.	Sir N. Lubbock.	Sir H. K. Davson.
T. D. GRIMKE-DRAYTON.	F. J. Constable Curtis.	Spencer H. Curtis.
EDWIN FISCHER & Co.	E. D. and F. Man.	Carey and Browne.
THE AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY OF GRENADA.	P. J. Dean.	L. R. Mitchell.
JAMES DANGERFIELD.	F. J. Morris.	Sir H. K. Davson.
F. A. C. COLLYMORE (Barbados).	Sir H. K. Davson.	T. J. Wilkinson.
HON. CLEMENT P. GASKIN (B. GUIANA).	R. Rutherford.	E. L. Marshall.

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.

BRITISH GUIANA AND ITS RESOURCES.

We have pleasure in announcing that Professor J. B. Harrison, the Government Analytical Chemist of British Guiana has consented to deliver a lecture at the West India Committee Rooms towards the end of April on "British Guiana—its Agricultural, Forest, and Mineral Resources." The date of the meeting will be announced in due course.

BEFORE THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND AFTER.

By SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.

Now that the sugar market appears to be assuming a normal state, after a long period of fluctuation due to bounties and cartels, it is interesting to take a survey of the past and to see what has been the effect of European bounties on the one hand, and of United States' legislation on the other, upon the supplies of the world. From the tables given below the following conclusions as to the effect of the Brussels Convention, United States' legislation, and the market of the United Kingdom seem to be justified. First with regard to the Brussels Convention :—

1. Production of both cane and beet sugar has continued steadily to increase (Tables I. & IV.). If anything, cane more than beet (Table II.).

2. With the exception of the two cartel years 1901 and 1902, the price of sugar has not been higher since the Convention than before, except during the one year 1904, when the beet crop of Europe was a comparative failure.

3. The low prices of 1901 and 1902 could not have continued, inasmuch as the effect of them was to produce a reduction of 1,200,000 tons in the beet crop of 1902-3.

As to United States legislation :—

4. The crops of privileged sugar have rapidly increased (Table V.).

5. The increase of privileged sugar, mostly cane, has resulted in the price being reduced in the U.S., as compared with the parity of beet, to the full extent of the privilege given to Cuba.

Then as to the market of the United Kingdom :—

6. Before the Convention the import of cane sugar into the U.K. had been decreasing for some years past, but since the Convention it has considerably increased (Table IX.).

The World's Production and Consumption.

Going back for ten years the production of the world has been as follows (the production of cane and beet sugar being shown separately, together with the price of 88% beet sugar f.o.b. Hamburg) :—

Year.	LICHT.		WILLET & GRAY.		Total.	Price of Beet, f.o.b. Hamburg.	Year.
	Beet, Europe.	U.S. Beet.	World's Cane.				
1896-7	4,916,496	37,536	2,872,954	7,826,986	8/10½	1896-7	
1897-8	4,831,774	40,399	2,864,255	7,736,428	9/2	1897-8	
1898-9	4,982,101	32,471	3,095,450	8,110,022	10/1½	1898-9	
1899-0	5,518,048	72,944	3,030,303	8,621,295	10/1½	1899-0	
1900-1	5,990,080	76,859	3,650,416	9,717,355	9/5½	1900-1	
1901-2	6,750,478	163,126	4,079,742	10,993,346	6/8	1901-2	
1902-3	5,561,257	195,463	4,180,035	9,936,755	7/10½	1902-3	
1903-4	5,881,333	208,135	4,234,203	10,323,631	8/9½	1903-4	
1904-5	4,708,758	209,722	4,594,473	9,512,953	12/9½	1904-5	
1905-6	6,933,649	283,717	4,919,716	12,137,082	8/4	1905-6	

Of this production, the percentages of beet and cane sugar were as follows:—

TABLE II.*

Crops.	Beet Sugar, including U.S.	Average	Cane,	Average
1896-7	63.3 per cent.	Average, 63.1 per cent.	36.7 per cent.	Average, 36.9 per cent.
1897-8	63 ..		37 ..	
1898-9	61.8 ..		38.2 ..	
1899-0	64.8 ..		35.2 ..	
1900-1	62.4 ..		37.6 ..	
1901-2	62.9 ..	Average, 58.2 per cent.	37.1 ..	Average, 41.8 per cent. (Great drought, Europe).
1902-3	57.9 ..		42.1 ..	
1903-4	59 ..		41 ..	
1904-5	51.7 ..		48.3 ..	
1905-6	59.5 ..		40.5 ..	
Beet Crops (including beet sugar in U.S.A.)			Cane Crops.	
1896-7	4,954,032		1896-7	2,872,954
1905-6	7,217,366		1905-6	4,919,716
Increase		2,263,334	Increase	
		= 45.7 per cent.		
			= 71.2 per cent.	

The world's consumption of sugar in 1,000's of tons and the differences, plus or minus, also in 1,000's of tons, were:—

TABLE III.*

Crops.	Consumption.	Differences, plus or minus.	Net increase in 3 years.	Increase per ann.	Average, 5 years.
1896-7	7,905	— 37	+ 1,017	+ 339	Average first five years, 8,479
1897-8	7,868	+ 457			
1898-9	8,325	+ 597			
1899-0	8,922	+ 454			
1900-1	9,376	+ 701			
1901-2	10,077	— 258	+ 897	+ 299	Average second five years, 10,462
1902-3	9,819	+ 1,165			
1903-4	10,984	— 1,416			
1904-5	9,568	+ 2,295			
1905-6	11,863				
Difference, second over first 5 years, + 1,983.			Increase per annum, + 397.		

The differences above indicated are so irregular that the consumption figures for any one year are evidently no guide to the actual consumption of that year. The invisible supplies of the world are, of course, very large, and these may be drawn upon or augmented to an enormous extent whenever the sugar market is labouring under abnormal conditions. A remarkable instance of this occurred in 1904/5. Severe drought in Europe in 1904 reduced the estimated beet crop by over 1,000,000 tons. Enormous speculations in Europe were entered into about November, 1904, which reached their climax in January/February, 1905. The price of beet sugar, which averaged for crop 1903/4, 8s. 9½d. per cwt., f.o.b. Hamburg, was driven up to more than 16s. per cwt. early in 1905, and averaged for the crop year 1904/5, 12s. 9½d. per cwt. The apparent consumption of the world in these conditions fell off by 1,416,000 tons. The next crop, 1905/6, showed a very largely increased production, which was marketed at an average price of 8s. 4d. per cwt., and the apparent consumption increased by 2,295,000 tons.

It would be out of all reason to suppose that consumption could vary to this enormous extent in two successive years, and the only explanation can be that the invisible stocks were immensely drawn upon in the year of short crop and high prices, and were reconstituted in the next year of abundant crop and extremely moderate prices. It is evident, therefore, that the only way in which the increase of consumption can fairly be gauged is either to take the apparently normal years for comparison, or better still, a period of three to five years. From the foregoing figures it would seem to be a fair deduction that the increase in the consumption of the world is now about 500,000 tons annually, and that, looking back for some ten years, the annual increase in the consumption has been augmented by about 100,000 tons every three years.

In this connection it will be interesting here to compare the production and consumption of the world during the ten years under consideration.

TABLE IV.*

Crop.	Production.	Consumption.
1896-7	7,826,986	7,905,074
1897-8	7,736,428	7,868,342
1898-9	8,110,022	8,325,195
1899-0	8,621,295	8,922,716
1900-1	9,717,355	9,376,890

* Calculated from figures quoted by Willett & Gray.

TABLE IV.—Continued.*

Crop.	Production.	Consumption.	
1901-2	10,993,346	10,077,477	
1902-3	9,936,755	9,819,277	
1903-4	10,323,631	10,984,550	
1904-5	9,512,953	9,568,553	
1905-6	12,137,082	11,863,409	
Stocks on September 1st, 1896	94,915,853	94,711,483	Difference 204,370
" " " 1906	...	1,252,061	
" " " 1906	...	1,456,431	204,370

From the figures given in Table I., it will be seen that the largest crop both of beet and of cane was that of 1905-6, the third crop after the Brussels Convention came into force; and that the largest supply of cane sugar previously was in 1904-5, the second crop after the Convention. The production of beet in the same year, as already stated, showed a considerable falling off, but this was unquestionably due to the very severe drought which prevailed in Europe during the summer of 1904, and not to reduced area sown, except to a very slight extent. It may also be remarked that the largest reduction of the beet production in any one year took place in 1902-3, when the government and cartel bounties were at their maximum, and this may, without any doubt, be attributed to the low and unremunerative price of sugar during the previous year. This seems to offer conclusive evidence that in no event could the low prices of 1901-2 have continued, even if bounties and cartels had not disappeared, for it was not until after the 1902-3 crop had been marketed, that the Convention came into operation, and hence a reduction of area for that crop could not have been caused by the Convention.

The United States' Supply.

Coming now to the separate producing countries, it is worthy of remark that, as regards the crops of the Sandwich Islands, Louisiana cane and American home-grown beet, they have for many years past been, practically, in receipt of an enormous bounty from the United States. More latterly, Porto Rico (July 25th, 1901) was added to this list, and subsequently the Philippine Islands (March 8th, 1902) to the extent of 25%, and Cuba (December 28th, 1903) to the extent of 20% of the duties in the United States. It is natural that in these circumstances the crops of the Sandwich Islands, Louisiana and Porto Rico cane, as also United States' beet, have shown a considerable increase. In the case of the Sandwich Islands and Porto Rico, they could probably hold their own under free trade conditions, but it is doubtful whether either Louisiana cane or American home-grown beet, could do so. Thus, the supplies of the U.S. are made up, first of all, of the sugar from the Sandwich Islands, Louisiana cane, American home-grown beet, and Porto Rico, which pay no duty at all; secondly, Cuban sugar, which pays 20% less, and Philippine sugar, which pays 25% less than other foreign sugars, and lastly, of foreign sugar paying the full duty.

The crops of the first-named group, together with those of the Philippine Islands and Cuba, and also the consumption of the U.S. will be seen in the annexed tables.

The following table gives the crops of privileged Sugar available for U.S. from 1896-7 to 1905-6.

TABLE V.*

Crops.	Sandwich Isles.	Louisiana Cane.	U.S. Home grown Beet.	Porto Rico.	Philippine Isles.	Crops Cuba.	Total.	Crops.
1896-7	224,220	282,009	37,536	58,000	202,000	219,500	1,023,265	1896-7
1897-8	204,833	310,447	40,399	54,000	178,000	314,009	1,101,688	1897-8
1898-9	252,507	245,511	32,471	53,826	93,000	345,260	1,022,575	1898-9
1899-0	258,521	147,164	72,944	35,000	62,785	308,543	884,957	1899-0
1900-1	321,461	270,338	76,859	80,000	55,400	635,856	1,439,914	1900-1
1901-2	317,509	321,676	163,126	85,000	78,637	850,181	1,816,129	1901-2
1902-3	391,062	300,000	195,463	85,000	90,000	998,878	2,060,403	1902-3
1903-4	328,103	215,000	208,135	130,000	84,000	1,040,228	2,005,466	1903-4
1904-5	380,576	335,000	209,722	145,000	106,800	1,163,258	2,340,356	1904-5
1905-6	383,225	330,000	283,717	213,000	145,525	1,178,749	2,534,216	1905-6

The consumption of sugar in United States, and averages, have been as follows:—

Years.	Tons.	Average.	Average increase.
1896	1,940,086	2,004,655	Increase second 3 years over first 3 years, 73,000 tons.
1897	2,070,978		
1898	2,002,902		
1899	2,078,068	2,223,410	Increase third 3 years over second 3 years, 135,000 tons.
1900	2,219,847		
1901	2,372,316		
1902	2,566,108	2,627,638	Increase last 2 years, 60,239 tons.
1903	2,549,643		
1904	2,767,162		
1905	2,632,216	2,748,115	
1906	2,864,013		

* Based on Willett & Gray's figures.

† Willett & Gray, January 3rd, 1907.

It will thus be seen that with a consumption of about 2,600,000 to 2,800,000 tons annually, all but about 300,000 to 400,000 tons came from privileged sources.

In the next table are given (1) the average price for each year of 88% beet, laid down in New York; (2) the price in New York represented by this figure for 96° cane sugar; (3) the actual price of 96° cane sugar there, and (4) the difference between the two latter:—

Comparison of 88% beet, f.o.b. Hamburg, and 96° centrifugals, laid down in New York:—

Crop 1896-7.	Duty in U.S. 40%, <i>ad val.</i> at port of origin, plus one-tenth of 1 cent. per lb., against bounties.
Crop 1897-8	Duty on 88° Beet (94° out-turn) c. 1.615 per lb. = 7s. 6d. per cwt., plus countervailing duty 1s. 3d. per cwt. = c. 0.272 per lb.
to	
Crop 1902-3.	Duty on 88° Beet (94° out-turn) c. 1.615 per lb. = 7s. 6d. per cwt.
After Sept. 1903.	No countervailing duty.
" " "	
Since 1897-8.	Duty on 96° centrifugals, c. 1.685 per lb. = 7s. 10½d. per cwt.

TABLE VII. *

Crops.	88% beet f.o.b. Hamburg. Per cwt.	Equal to a price in New York for 96° centrifugals. Per 100 lbs.	Actual price in New York. Per 100 lbs.	Difference more or less, <i>ad est</i> plus or minus.	Equal to per ton at exch. 84.88 = £1 stg. plus = cane more than the equivalent price of beet, minus = less than do. do.	
1896-7	8/10½	\$3.108	\$3.320	+ .212	+ 19/5	Average, cane + 5/2 compared with beet.
1897-8	9/2	4.187	4.080	-.107	- 9/10	
1898-9	10/1½	4.403	4.430	+ .027	+ 2/5	
1899-0	10/1½	4.403	4.460	+ .057	+ 5/3	
1900-1	9/5½	4.246	4.340	+ .094	+ 8/7	
1901-2	6/8	3.634	3.560	-.074	- 6/9	Average, cane - 12/9 compared with beet.
1902-3	7/10½	3.900	3.690	-.210	- 19/3	
1903-4	8/9½	3.832	3.740	-.092	- 8/5	
1904-5	12/9½	4.711	4.550	-.161	- 14/9	
1905-6	8/4	3.740	3.580	-.160	- 14/8	

The figures in the preceding table are most interesting, as they show that cane sugar 96° centrifugals sold in New York during the two periods of five years under review as follows:—

1896-7 to 1900-1 at 5s. 2d. per ton *more* than 88% beet (94° out-turn) laid down in New York, and
1901-2 to 1905-6 at 12s. 9d. per ton *less* than beet 88%, laid down in New York.

From the same table it will also be seen that cane sugar of 96° polarisation in New York is in 1896-7 nearly £1 per ton *above* the parity of beet 88%, and in 1902-3 nearly £1 per ton *below* the parity of beet 88% laid down in New York.

Some explanation of the great difference in price between cane and beet during the two crop years just mentioned will doubtless be looked for.

CROP 1896-7.

In consequence of insurrection in Cuba, the crop (which in 1894-5 was 1,000,000 tons) fell in 1896-7 to 219,000 tons. During this crop a new tariff in U.S. was being anticipated which considerably increased the duties on all sugars, and imposed countervailing duties on bounty-fed beet, and such tariff came into force on July 24th, 1897. In anticipation of it, immense quantities of beet sugar found their way to the U.S. The following figures taken from Willett & Gray show this:—

TABLE VIII.

	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.
Total imports U.S. (4 ports)	1,488,687	1,793,922	1,131,031
Of which European beet	394,582	863,305	147,452
Stocks in U.S. end of June	228,178	664,999	316,644
" " end of August	283,555	489,735	239,192

and doubtless these large stocks of beet depressed the price of it in the U.S. below the parity of Europe. The greatest difference in price occurred in July and August, 1897, when 96° centrifugals were quoted at a price of £3 1s. 4d. above the parity of beet laid down in New York.

CROP 1902-3.

The crop of Cuba had again risen to about 1,000,000 tons, and the total privileged sugar available for the U.S. reached 2,000,000 tons out of a consumption of about 2,500,000 tons. With ample stocks of non-privileged cane sugar in sight to make up the required balance of 500,000 tons, and the prospective abolition of all bounties by the Brussels Convention, which actually came into force on September 1st, 1903, only 42,000 tons beet sugar from Europe were required in the U.S. The greatest difference in the price of the two sugars occurred in April, when 96° centrifugals sold at £1 15s. 2d. per ton below the parity of 88% beet laid down in New York.

If we now once more glance at table V., we find that the Cuban crop of 300,000 tons in 1900

* Compiled from figures of Willett & Gray.

had increased in 1901 to 600,000 tons, and between then and 1906 it again about doubled, amounting in that year to 1,175,000 tons, and this is doubtless the explanation of the altered position of the U.S. market relative to that of Europe. Although the consumption of sugar in the U.S. is considerably more than double the amount of the Cuban crop, it must be remembered that this crop comes on the top of some 1,200,000 tons of sugar imported free of duty. Moreover, the bulk of the Cuban sugar is pressed upon the U.S. market during the first six months of the year, just when all the duty-free sugar is available. During these months the supply of privileged sugar is in excess of the demand, and Cuban planters find themselves forced to give up practically the whole of the nominal reduction of duty in their favour, and thus, instead of this being a financial advantage to Cuba, as was doubtless intended, it falls to the benefit of the U.S. refiners.

In considering the effect which the Brussels Convention has had, or can have, upon the sugar industry of the world, it must be borne in mind that a considerable portion of the sugar production is unaffected by it. For instance, the beet sugar production of Europe, in so far as it is consumed at home, is absolutely unaffected, since all the European countries which produce beet sugar protect their market against foreign sugar. Then again, the enormous quantity of sugar admitted duty free, or with a reduced duty, to the United States, is also unaffected. Thus, we may take it that some 7,000,000 tons out of the total production is removed from the influence of the Convention. Again, the production of Java, being largely consumed in the East, is much less affected than the sugar, for example, of Brazil, and this accounts for another 1,000,000 tons.

If we wish to consider the effect of the Convention on British markets, we must look to the sources of supply other than those of beet, the crops of which have clearly been well maintained since the Convention came into force.

The following table shows the quantity of sugar, other than beet, imported into the United Kingdom for fifteen years before the Convention came into force, averaged in periods of three years; for the year of the Convention, and for the average of the three years since:—

TABLE IX.*

Tons ...	1888-90.			1891-3.			1894-6.			1897-9.			1900-2.			Convention year.		
	...	444,351	378,401	382,481	230,856	157,673	187,971	1903.	1904-6.									

It will be seen that the import of such sugar into the United Kingdom for the three years 1888-90 averaged 444,351 tons; for the three years 1900-2, only 157,673 tons; during 1903, the Convention year, was 187,971 tons; and for the three subsequent years averaged 265,494 tons. In other words, whilst the supply of sugar to the United Kingdom, other than European beet, was steadily diminishing up to the year of the Convention, it has, since then, steadily increased.

It is, moreover, quite safe to assert that consumers in this country have clearly not had to pay more for their sugar, and that all the sources of production have been well maintained. On the other hand it is exceedingly improbable that this would have been the case had it not been for the security which was looked for from the Brussels Convention. So short a time has, however, elapsed since it came into force that it is hardly to be expected that we should see more than indications of its probable effect, and, so far, these seem to be all to the good, whether consumers or producers are considered.

THE COTTON WORM.

With regard to the re-appearance of the cotton worm since the revival of the cotton industry, Mr. Henry A. Ballou, Entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, writes to us to say that Mr. Herbert Smith, who collected in St. Vincent, Grenada and the Grenadines in 1889-91, under the auspices of the British Association and the Royal Society, obtained specimens of the cotton worm in Grenada, which has in all probability been in all the islands ever since the time when cotton was cultivated some 50 years ago. The cotton worm has been known in the West Indies for more than 100 years. It is said to have been introduced into the United States by cotton planters from Martinique in 1801-2. In all the West Indies there has been a certain amount of cotton all the time, growing as wild or uncultivated plants, frequently in the yards of negroes, and sometimes in the uncultivated and more or less uninhabited districts. These wild plants would be sufficient to provide food for a certain number of caterpillars, but it would be a coarse food which would not encourage a rapid increase on the part of the insects, and then, too, the scattered plants would not attract the moths for egg-laying in the way that fields of cotton would. The most important feature is probably the work of parasites. There is in the West Indies the minute hymenopterous insect, *Trichogramma pretiosa*, which is a parasite of the eggs of the cotton worm. Also there is a larger one, *Chalcis ovata*, which parasitises the larvæ and pupæ, and these kept the cotton worm down to insignificant numbers during the years when no cotton was cultivated. As soon, however, as large areas of cultivated cotton,

* Board of Trade returns.

with its rich, tender leaves, offered opportunity for rapid increase on the part of the cotton worm, they got away from the parasites and became conspicuous, and the parasites have not yet caught up to them in numbers and given planters the years of comparative freedom from the worm that they may get soon, and which they hope for.

THE WEST INDIAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

The following table shows the acreage under cotton in the various West Indian islands for the last and the current crop, together with statistics as to yield, value of crop, &c., as far as are at present available:—

Island.	Year.	Acres.	Weight of lint. lb.	Yield per acre. lb.	Average price per lb. d.	Value of lint and seed.
Barbados	1905-6	2,000	479,418	239.71	15.2	£33,557
	1906-7	5,000				
St. Vincent	1905-6	790	165,124	209.00	18	13,557
	1906-7	1,533				
Grenada	1905-6	3,600	311,298	86.74	5	8,400
	1906-7	3,600				
St. Kitts... ..	1905-6	1,000	120,379	120.37	15	8,380
	1906-7	1,500				
Nevis	1905-6	1,700	120,168	70.68	13	8,364
	1906-7	1,800				
Anguilla	1905-6	1,000	80,650	80.65	15	5,280
	1906-7	1,500				
Antigua	1905-6	700	99,948	142.78	14.2	6,522
	1906-7	1,883				
Montserrat	1905-6	770	98,262	127.61	15	6,789
	1906-7	1,000				
Virgin Islands	1905-6	40	6,975	174.39	—	400
	1906-7	50				
Jamaica	1905-6	1,500	61,493	41.00	—	4,025
	1906-7	300				

It will be seen that there is a total area of 18,166 acres under cotton in the West Indies. Of these 14,566 acres are in Sea Island cotton.

THE LIVERPOOL COLONIAL EXHIBITION.

The fourth of the series of annual exhibitions of colonial products held in Liverpool was opened by Lord Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, who had been the guest of the Chamber of Commerce overnight, on Wednesday, March 13th. In introducing him to the large gathering which was present, Sir Alfred Jones referred to the many forms of development of which the colonies were capable; and expressed the hope that the present exhibition would help to bring out their possibilities in this direction to the public, the merchants, and even to the colonies themselves. Lord Elgin said he realised that the colonies of the Empire were becoming more and more convinced that in thus bringing their products before the knowledge of the people of this country, they were serving their own interests. As he understood it, the object of the exhibition was to show the community of interests within the Empire, to let the people of this country understand how much they could procure from their own colonies, and to allow the various colonies themselves, by comparing their products with those of their neighbours, to see where they could introduce improvements, and thereby give solidarity to their own position. He expressed his satisfaction that most of the Colonial Governments had taken stands and appointed representatives to take charge of them, and he referred to the fact that Permanent Exhibition Committees had been formed in most of the West Indian Colonies at the suggestion of the West India Committee, and with the assistance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. He had great pleasure in declaring the Exhibition open.

The native choir from Jamaica, in their picturesque costumes, having filed in front of the dais and sung a verse of "God Save the King," the leader of it, in a well delivered speech, thanked Lord Elgin for attending. The native workmen, specially brought over from West Africa, were introduced to the Colonial Secretary, and the opening ceremony was concluded with "God Save the King," played by the band of the 18th Hussars.

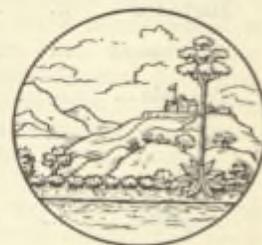
The exhibition this year, though perhaps not quite so large as that of 1906, was fully as representative, there being exhibits from New Zealand under the supervision of Mr. H. C. Cameron, the



The badge of Grenada.

Produce Commissioner for the colony; Western Australia, supervised by Mr. E. T. Scannell, Emigration Commissioner; the Gold Coast, arranged by Mr. A. M. Hull, C.M.G., the Commissioner for Native Affairs; and Northern and Southern Nigeria, set out in admirable fashion by Mr. W. G. Freeman, Superintendent of Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute. The West Indies were represented by Antigua and Grenada, the seats of government of the Leeward and Windward Islands colonies, whose exhibits, arranged and prepared by the Permanent Exhibition Committees, of which Mr. R. H. Malone and Mr. C. Falconer Anton, respectively, are the Secretaries, were set out by the West India Committee, whose Secretary visited Liverpool for this purpose, while a British Guiana stall was in the capable hands of Mr. J. E. Tinne, the Chairman of the West India Association of Liverpool. There was also a small exhibit from Barbados, including several admirable specimens of cotton put up in such a manner as to enable the length of the staple to be seen at a glance, though one referred to in the catalogue as coming from Montserrat, did not appear to be *in situ* on the opening day.

It is interesting to note that British Guiana and Antigua made their first appearance at exhibitions in this country after an interval of many years, and it is hoped that the results will prove so far favourable as to lead these colonies to take a more active interest in future exhibitions. Antigua showed magnificent specimens of Sea Island seed cotton and lint piled up in the baskets in which the cotton is gathered. It was most favourably commented upon, and attracted much attention. Fibres were also shown in various stages of manufacture, and the various curios served to attract attention to the more serious part of the exhibit. The Grenada display was to all intent and purpose the same as that which was awarded the gold medal last year, with the addition of specimens of very excellent preserves, which deserve to be better known in this country. Rice occupied a prominent position on the British Guiana stand, and the value of this industry to the colony was demonstrated. Rubber, molascuit and sugar of every grade also bulked largely, and contributed to the representative character of the exhibit. In the case of Antigua and Grenada a plentiful supply of literature was available, leaflets regarding the principal agricultural, commercial, climatic and scenic, features of the Islands having been prepared by Mr. Malone and Mr. Anton. We shall be glad to forward copies of these leaflets, in which the badges of the islands appeared as depicted in these pages, to any of our readers interested on receipt of stamps to cover postage.



Antigua's Badge.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

The publication of the accounts of the *Amazon* Trust Fund recalls a disaster unparalleled in the history of mail communication with the West Indies. The West Indian mail steamer *Amazon* left Southampton on her maiden voyage on Friday, January 2nd, 1852, and on Sunday morning, January 4th she was destroyed by fire at sea about 110 W.S.W. of Scilly. Out of 161 persons on board, 102 persons were believed to have perished by fire and drowning; 21 were saved by the life-boats of the ship; 25 more were carried into Brest harbour by a Dutch vessel which was passing, and 13 others were picked up in the Bay of Biscay. The receipts of the Fund during 1906 amounted to £103 16s. 6d., out of which £30 was expended in annuities and temporary appropriations paid to widows, and after payment of expenses there remained a balance of £56 4s. 6d. The Fund is mainly invested in Consols and Southampton Corporation stock.

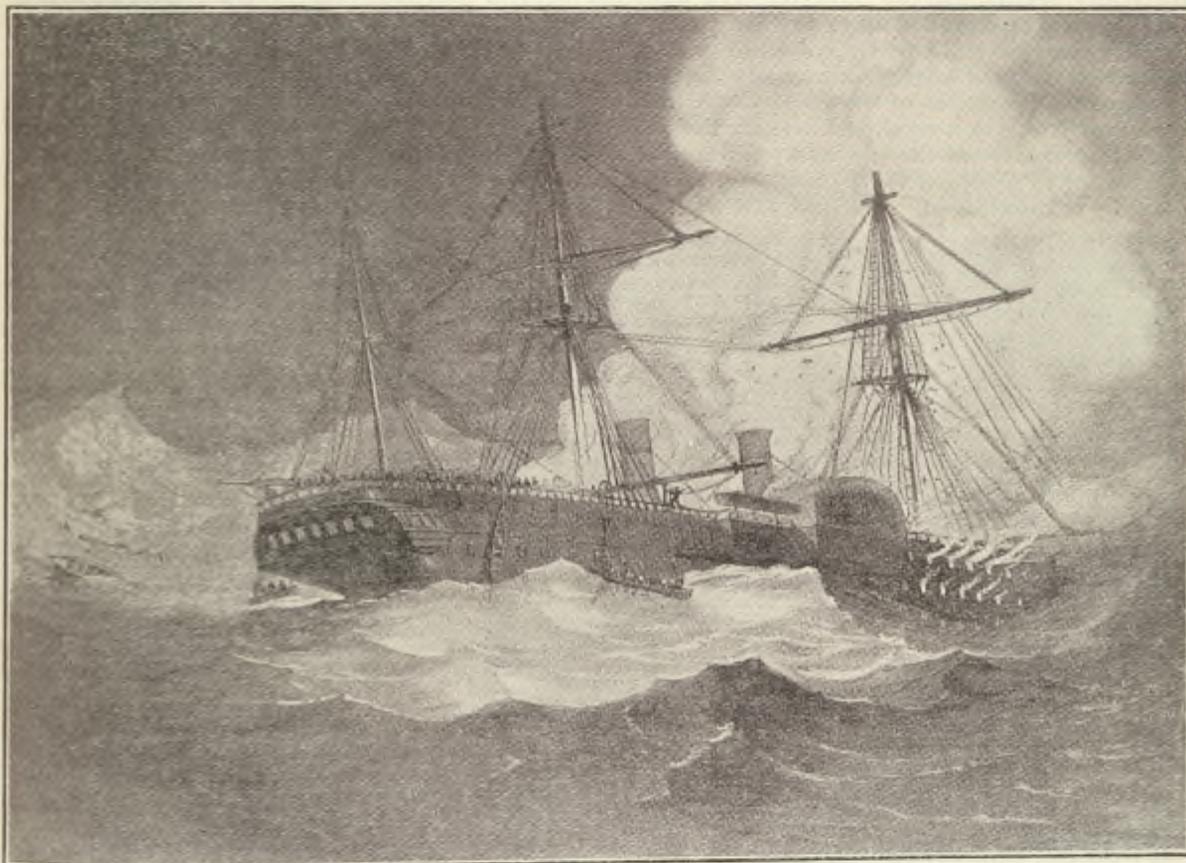
THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND.

At the time of going to press the Mansion House Earthquake Fund amounts to £54,450, the Liverpool Fund £6,314; Manchester, £3,142; Bristol, £3,130, and Glasgow, £2,995. Since we last went to press the following additional donations have been received by the West India Committee, making with the amounts already acknowledged £4,646 8s. 5d., which have been added to the Mansion House Fund, Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, £25, "H.L.P.S.G." £2 4s. 7d. Will not some of our readers endeavour to collect some further donations towards the Fund? In a matter of this kind personal help is *essentially* necessary, and contributions are still urgently needed, the fund being still far below the probable requirements. Contributions will be gratefully received by the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Lord Elgin and Imperial Assistance.

When responding to the toast of his health at a banquet given by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on March 11th, Lord Elgin referring to the attitude of the Government regarding the

question of Imperial assistance for Jamaica consequent upon the earthquake said that that calamity was met by ready sympathy in this country, led by their Majesties. I have seen it hinted that the Government itself had not been sympathetic, but that is an entire delusion. The proposition submitted to the Government was what system of aid it could give in one direction—the direction of rebuilding the city of Kingston. But there has been a strong expression in the island itself that the Government should not decide on the matter until it has received full information with regard to the wishes and views of those chiefly concerned. Therefore, far from there being any refusal, there has been no decision at all. There cannot be any decision until the Government are put in the position which the people of the country themselves desire, and are able to judge with full knowledge. I speak for my colleagues as well as for myself when I say that we have no wish to underrate the greatness of the



By permission

The burning of the "Amazon" in 1852 (see p. 156)

[The Illustrated London News.

calamity which has befallen Jamaica, and the responsibility it throws upon us to judge fairly and well between the taxpayer of this country and the inhabitants of Jamaica.

A Benefit Matinée.

Though the matinée organised by several kind friends—Mr. T. Coates, of the *Tribune*, was quite indefatigable—in aid of the sufferers from the Jamaica earthquake was quite a success, it cannot be said that the members of the West Indian body in this country did much to enhance it. The letter, which was widely circulated, asking them to take tickets, or to send their friends to it, met with a meagre response, which was disappointing in the extreme. The Lord and Lady Mayoress occupied the stage box, and among those in the audience were: Lady Dudley, Lady Llewelyn, Hon. Mrs. Ponsonby, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Lady Davson, Dr. Miller, Mrs. Hinkson, Mr. Aston W. Gardner, Mr. W. R. Spence, Mr. C. Czarnikow, and Mrs. Owen Philipps and party. Sir Edward Wingfield, Colonel Malcolm of Poltalloch, Mr. A. McConnell, and Lady Dunsany, also kindly gave their support. The chief feature of the programme was the first production of a new one-act musical play, entitled "The Wooden Shoe," which was received with every mark of approval.

The book and lyrics by Miss Rita Strauss were bright, and the music by Miss Marjorie Slaughter, charming. The first act of "Three Blind Mice," with the full Criterion company, including Miss May Palfrey and Mr. Frederick Kerr, was also included, and Miss Constance Collier, Mr. Jas. Welch, Mr. J. J. Dallas, Miss Kathleen Mayer, Chung Ling Soo, Mr. Courtice Pounds, also contributed to the enjoyment of the audience. Programmes were sold by Misses Lillian Braithwaite, Alexandra Carlisle, Kitty Mason, Lilius Waldegrave, Sadie Jerome, and many others, to whom, as well as to the organisers of the entertainment and the performers, the thanks of Jamaicans are due.

The Women's Self-Help Society.

The fund inaugurated by Mrs. Parker-Smith, in aid of the Women's Self-Help Society, now amounts to £322 9s. od. Mrs. Rippon has kindly continued her efforts to increase the fund, with satisfactory results, and we have received from her several contributions. We are most anxious to bring the total of this fund up to at least £500, and hope that the ladies of our body will emulate Mrs. Rippon's example and help by collecting subscriptions for this very good cause. Mrs. Parker-Smith received by last mail a letter from Lady Swettenham to the effect that an endeavour was being made to resume the operations of the Society. A room in a very tumble-down building had been lent, and fortunately it was in a good position near the Post Office. Meanwhile it was proposed to proceed with building a shanty on the old site. Subscriptions may be sent to Mrs. Parker-Smith, Jordanhill, Glasgow, or to Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary of the West India Committee, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged. Since we last went to press, we have received the following:

Captain L. Gartside		Per Mrs. J. Rippon—		Thomas Skinner	... £1 0 0
Tippinge	£1 1 0	Waterlow & Sons ...	£5 0 0	Mrs. Walley ...	... 0 17 6
A Holder of Jamaica		" From a Friend " ...	2 2 0	Mrs. Neighbour ...	... 0 10 0
Stock	1 0 0	H. A. Taylor ...	1 1 0	Mrs. G. Rippon ...	... 0 10 0
Major General Brownton	1 0 0	J. Jackson ...	1 1 0	Mrs. Stewart ...	... 0 10 0
Duchess of Sutherland...	1 0 0	Rafferty and Calver ...	1 1 0	Frank Ease ...	... 0 10 0
" A Canadian "	0 5 0	Gibbon, Holroyd and		Miss Nethersoll ...	... 0 5 0
		West	1 1 0	Miss Ease ...	... 0 5 0

The Unbidden Delegate.

BY E. C. JACKMAN.

During the Jamaica earthquake the old Mico College, in which the delegates to the West India Conference and many distinguished visitors from England were assembled, was one of the very few buildings in Kingston which escaped destruction. The Collegiate Hall, in which the Conference was to have sat, was completely demolished.

From far and near the looked-for guests had come,
Each Isle and Province sent some man esteemed.
And now within the grey and sturdy walls
Of Mico's College, sit the delegates.
Grave men they are, replete with useful lore,
Spending their lives in learning Nature's laws,
Trying to grow two blades where there was one,
And checking pests that ravage man's best toil.
Added to this phalanx of knowledge, came
From far-off England, men of eminence,
Taking keen interest in the Conference,
And marvelling at Nature's lavish show,
So gorgeous and bright in Tropic lands.
Fair ladies lent the presence of their charm
Fittingly to complete the pleasing scene.
And Nature smiled under an azure sky,
Without a trace of treachery or of guile.
But lo! among the savants and the fair,
Unseen of man, a grisly figure crouched,
With sightless eyes, and visage void of flesh—
It was grim Death—his drawn sword in his hand!
Unwelcome presence, unsuspected, dire,
What brings you to this temple of the wise
No quarrels here, or deadly enmities

To fill thy portals grim. Dread King begone!
But Thanatos says naught—he bides his time.
With stately speech and grave amenities.
The Conference is opened, and the crowd
Bends forward, listening as the wise words fall.
My God! what is that awful rending sound,
That thunder of a thousand rushing horse,
That shakes the solid earth and heaves the walls,
Like Neptune's billows teased by Boreas wild?
All living things wait riveted in dread.
But Death, that crouched, has sprung upon his feet!
He notes the swaying walls and bulging roof,
The group of beings, affrighted and awe-struck,
And licks his lantern jaws, and smiles apace.
But while he turns, still smiling his dread smile,
Exultant, full of triumph and success,
He sudden falls, and cringes like a cur,
Who hears his master's voice, and sees the whip.
God's potent messenger, mightier far than Death,
Upholds the tottering walls and falling roof,
And says to Death, "Get hence, begone,
This house, at least, shall live amid the wreck."
Thus those on whom Death's shadow darkly lay,
Went forth, to do God's work awhile on earth.

THE INTERCOLONIAL MAIL SERVICE.

The extracts from the West Indian press which we gave in our last issue was so much appreciated by our readers that we propose from time to time to repeat the practice of giving excerpts from the English and West Indian press on questions of burning importance. Below we give the views of some of the West Indian newspapers on the subject of the mail arrangements. While doing so, we may say that the question of the West Indian mails continues to receive the close attention of

the West India Committee, who have good reason for believing that the Government are likely to deal more liberally with the colonies, and that an early settlement of the question may now be expected.

The intercolonial contract with the Royal Mail Company will not be renewed after March, and there is much speculation as to what arrangement will take its place. But the discontinuance of the contract is not regretted, as it was satisfactory to no one.—*Barbados Advocate*.

Under the contract Barbados has been made to pay an amount of subsidy out of all proportion to the benefits derivable. It is, in fact, a distinctly unfair arrangement so far as this colony is concerned.—*Barbados Agricultural Reporter*.

Recent acts of the Home Government leave us little room for doubt as to their attitude towards these colonies. The removal of the troops, the reduction of the grant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and the undisguised anxiety to discontinue the mail subsidy are unmistakable signs of a policy of scuttle.—*St. George's Chronicle, Grenada*.

What concerns this colony, however, is the very queer position in which it will be placed; without telegraphic and regular mail communication with the outside world. St. Vincent will again be placed in the abandoned position she occupied in the middle of last year.—*St. Vincent Sentry*.

Those who should complain are the people of those islands and of St. Lucia who have to put up with a sorry gift horse, and whose trade receives a distinct set back by the one steamer arrangement. Their mails from Europe are also delayed considerably thereby.—*Trinidad Mirror*.

The present seems an unusually fine opportunity for this Colony to enter into an arrangement with the Royal Mail Company by which, in return for the payment of a reasonable annual subsidy, they shall establish their headquarters permanently here, and use their best efforts to develop the tourist trade on well-recognized lines.—*Port of Spain Gazette*.

We learn by cablegram that at a meeting of delegates of various West Indian Chambers of Commerce assembled at Barbados on March 23rd, a resolution urging the Government to ensure regular intercolonial mail communication, and calling upon the Imperial Treasury to contribute to a service, Imperial aid being necessary to the success of the scheme, was adopted unanimously. We understand that the Chambers represented were those of Demerara, Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Barbados, and that it was suggested that the contributions to the subsidy from the Colonies, exclusive of Trinidad, should amount to £11,200.

"OLD PARKER."

Yesterday was the centenary of the abolition of the slave trade of England. On March 25th in 1807 the trade was abolished by Parliament, but slavery continued for many years, and it was not until August 28th, 1833, that the memorable enactment was passed which provided for the abolition of slavery through the British colonies. On August 1st in the following year the slaves became free, but they were apprenticed to their former owners until 1838, and in the case of agricultural labourers until 1840. In connection with this interesting centenary, the portrait which we give on this page of a former slave will be of interest. When the last mail reached England she was still alive, and was believed to be the oldest black person in the West Indies. She resides in Antigua, the island in which the owners decided to give the slaves their freedom without apprenticeship, immediately after the passing of the Act. She goes by the name of "Old Parker." Our portrait is from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo, of Antigua.



Photo by

"Old Parker."

José Anjo.

NATURE NOTES.

SEEDLING CANES. M. C. Durnat, President of the Agricultural Board of Port Louis, Mauritius, in his annual report, speaks highly of the promise of the seedling canes imported from Demerara, D 109, D 95, and D 74, and expresses great hopes of their value to the sugar industry of the island. The hurricane withstanding qualities of D 74 are especially valued.

CANE FARMING. In the beet industry of the United States 10.4 tons (short) of beet per acre were grown by tenants of the factories, and comprised 9.7% of the total crop. While those grown by others than tenants of the factories yielded 8.97 tons per acre, and amounted to 82.5 per cent. of the whole crop, those grown directly by the factories yielded 7.55 tons per acre, and formed 7.8% of the total.

MOSQUITO TASTE. According to the *Mexican Investor* careful experiments with large numbers of *anopheles maculipennis* show that the exact preference of mosquitoes for colour is as follows: Dark blue is the favourite, with dark red a close second, brown, red, black, grey, and violet green follow in order, while azure, ochre, and white, are decidedly distasteful; and yellow is abhorrent. A Swiss expert on malaria has just confirmed these conclusions, adding that of 152 mosquitoes experimented upon, nearly three-fourths settled by preference on dark colours.

SISAL HEMP. Half a ton of marketable fibre per acre is looked upon as an average crop in Mexico, without the least probability of disappointment, and a yield of 15 cwt. to a ton per acre is quite possible. Twenty acres of sisal should thus yield 10 tons of fibre worth say £350, which, after deducting 50% for cost of production, would give a profit of £175, or about £8 15s. per acre. An extract of the leaves of the *Agave rigida*, or sisal plant, may be used for making soap, while a strip of the pole makes a good razor strop. The fibre makes also an extremely strong, tough smooth paper, which, even when unsized, may be written upon without the ink running.

A SPINELESS CACTUS. Some time ago, in Mexico, a Mr. Benham originated a species of cactus which is practically thornless. He accomplished this scientific feat by a series of experiments with the common prickly pears which predominate in the desert and waste lands of that State. From his experience as a plain's man, Mr. Benham noticed that, in the dry season when fodder was scarce, live stock was accustomed to feed upon the cactus, even at the cost of a great deal of pain from the spines which lodge in the mouth and nostrils. It is a well-recognised fact among stockmen that animals grow exceedingly fat on these cacti, and the spineless cactus exactly meets the requirements.

VALUABLE CAMPHOR. Camphor is a monopoly of the Japanese Government, and the world is dependent for practically the whole of its supply on the island of Formosa. When, says the *Indian Trade Journal*, the industry was placed under Government monopoly in 1899, the forests of camphor trees were infested by native ruffians, known as the "head hunters" of Formosa, and the work of the camphor collectors was fraught with great danger. By military measures Japan succeeded in reclaiming large areas of forest, and by means of improved stills produced a better quality of camphor than had been previously obtained. The work was proceeding satisfactorily until the outbreak of the war with Russia, when all the available troops were required for active service. During their absence the natives overran some of the districts which had been reclaimed, and thus the work of collection was delayed. The present enormous price of camphor is due to scarcity, and the scarcity has been due to the difficulties with which the workmen had to contend. Camphor could at one time be bought for 50s. per cwt., to-day it is worth 400s. per cwt. The bulk of the world's supply is used in the manufacture of celluloid. Although an artificial camphor has been produced synthetically on a small scale, it cannot yet be made on a commercial basis.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Convention and the sugar tax.

Colonel Harrison-Broadley asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the declarations made by members of his Majesty's Government against the continuance of the duty on sugar, he was now prepared to consider the advisability of abolishing or reducing the same; and whether his Majesty's Government had yet come to a decision as to the attitude to be taken with regard to the removal of the sugar bounties Convention. Mr. Asquith, in a written reply, on March 20th, said: If and when the state of the public finances permit, the claims of sugar will have my best consideration, but I am unable to say when such an opportunity is likely to arise. No decision has yet been taken as to withdrawal from the Brussels Convention.

The urgent needs of Jamaica.

On March 18th Mr. Arnold-Forster asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies whether the

loan made to the colony of Mauritius to facilitate the rebuilding of houses destroyed by the great hurricane was issued with an Imperial guarantee; whether the repayment of the loan was satisfactory; and, if so, whether he would favourably consider the advisability of giving similar aid to the colony of Jamaica to further the rebuilding of the town of Kingston.

Mr. Churchill replied: The loan to the colony of Mauritius to which the right hon. member refers was issued with an Imperial guarantee, and the Colonial Government has punctually met its obligations in regard to it. The question of giving financial aid to the colony of Jamaica will be carefully considered as soon as the Secretary of State has full materials for judging of the needs of the situation.

Jamaica and Naval Defence.

Mr. Harold Cox asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on March 11th, whether the naval defence of the inhabitants of the island of Jamaica was provided by ships of the Royal Navy; and whether the taxpayers of Jamaica made any contribution towards the cost of these ships or towards the cost of the naval defence of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. Mr. Lambert who replied, said: The naval defence of Jamaica, as in the case of all British colonies, is provided for in the general strategical disposition of the fleet. The colony makes no contribution.

Mr. Harold Cox then asked whether any sums of money had been granted in recent years at the expense of the taxpayers of the United Kingdom to assist the sugar industry of Jamaica; what was the aggregate amount of such sums; and whether the taxpayers of Jamaica had at any time made any grant to assist any industry in the United Kingdom. Mr. Churchill in reply, said: In the year 1902 the sum of £10,000 was granted from the Imperial Exchequer to assist the sugar industry of Jamaica, pending the abolition of sugar bounties under the Brussels Convention. The answer to the last part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. Harold Cox further asked what sum had been charged to the taxpayers of the United Kingdom during the present century for the West Indian Agricultural Department, or for other assistance to agriculture in the West Indian islands; how much of this total sum had been received by the island of Jamaica; and whether the taxpayers of Jamaica had made any contribution towards the assistance of agriculture in the United Kingdom. Mr. Churchill: The amount paid from Imperial funds during the present century, including the estimates for the current year, for the West Indian Agricultural Department, is £119,140. There was paid in aid of the sugar industry, pending the abolition of the sugar bounties, £250,000—total £369,140, of which the Government of Jamaica have received £11,877. My hon. friend is right in supposing that the answer to the last part of his question is in the negative.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Kingston*, which left Kingston, Jamaica, on February 28th, arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, March 12th, with a large number of passengers, including Mr. H. Berger, and Captain Rhodes, who had such a narrow escape at the time of the Earthquake, Sir Samuel Black, and Mrs. Ker Seymour. The R.M.S.P. *Trent* which sailed from Barbados on Wednesday, March 6th, reached Southampton, at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, March 18th, and her mails were delivered in London by three o'clock on that day. Among her passengers were Sir Frederick and Lady Treves, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Cox and family, Miss J. M. Leacock. The chief matter of interest when the mail left, was the visit of Canadian delegates, who arrived in St. Kitts on February 23rd, and were proceeding through the islands where conferences and meetings were being held. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

The importance of Antigua's Sugar Industry.

When the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on February 25th, the busy season was beginning. All the estates were starting sugar manufacture and cotton picking was in full swing. The *Esk* on the 23rd took 78 bales from Antigua, and there was every probability of a considerable expansion of the cotton industry in the island. If the sugar industry had to go under as the result of the denunciation of the Brussels Convention, the cotton industry would also receive a very severe blow, for it was the sugar industry which kept the people in the island and that found employment for them the whole year round, and the proper place for the cotton crop was that of a rotation crop with cane. Where there was no cane, cotton would cost much more to produce.

An important meeting was held in St. John's on February 23rd, on the question of mail communication, by the leading planters and merchants, and several schemes were discussed.

The meeting was unanimously in favour of the following arrangement; and a resolution to this effect was sent on to the Colonial Secretary. It was thought that the subsidy necessary for such a steamer could be raised easily by the islands served by her.

The running of a small steamer merely for mail purposes rather than for passengers and cargo between

Barbados and St. Thomas, and connecting with the Royal Mail at Barbados, and the various lines which touch at St. Thomas. This steamer could touch at several islands not now visited, and would give them a weekly mail communication, one week *via* Barbados, and the other *via* St. Thomas. The demands of passenger traffic would be met by the steamers of the Canadian and Quebec lines, either to Barbados, or New York, or Halifax.

The usual annual Agricultural Show was to take place on February 28th, under the auspices of the Agricultural and Commercial Society and the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The central factory at Gunthorpe's had commenced grinding, and the addition of a Krajewski crusher to the six roller plant seemed to have improved the crushing, which now appeared excellent. The Bendals' Factory was to start about the following week.

A new "triple effet" in Barbados.

Writing on March 3rd, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne reported that the Canadian delegates passed through Barbados on February 27th, and were entertained at the Club, having some conversation with the members afterwards. They would spend some days in the island on their return on March 8th, and arrangements had been made for conferences. They had already made up their minds that there ought to be better, quicker and more frequent steamers between the West Indies and Canada.

February went out and March came in with nice showers, which were general, but very light in some places. As much as two inches was marked on one estate in St. Peters' on February 24th. This, of course, would benefit the young canes, which were very healthy, and tend to purify the juice of those being reaped. The crop was proceeding rapidly. The writer had heard of no specially fine yield as yet, the general rule being $1\frac{1}{2}$ Hhds. per acre. A good deal of syrup was being made for the Canadian market, though with molasses at 18 cents, and muscovado sugar at \$1.45, the policy was doubtful. The triple effet lately erected by the Hon. G. L. Pile on Bulkeley estate was working admirably.

An emolument of £250 per annum had been voted to the Hon. F. J. Clarke, speaker of the House of Assembly. The Governor of Barbados has consented to Act 1906-7 to establish a sugar industry agricultural bank in Barbados, which was passed by the House of Assembly on Feb. 12th.

British Guiana and the Cable Question.

The Combined Court was still sitting when the mail left. It had guaranteed the payment of three more trips of the mail steamers after March 31st, and it was believed that the R.M.S.P. Co., would extend the service accordingly. The Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to the Government, urging that the necessity for a more reliable cable service might not be lost sight of. Mr. Jules Pairaudean pointed out that the breaks which occurred during the latter part of last year in the Demerara-Trinidad section, at a time when communication was of the utmost importance to the mercantile community, again drew public attention to the defects of the cable. On Monday, February 25th, Sir Frederic Hodgson delivered a message on the subject to the Combined Court. He said that if the Court so desired, the Secretary of State would invite tenders for the establishment of a wireless telegraph system between Georgetown and Port of Spain. It was not possible at the moment to make any precise estimate of the cost, but in the light of information already obtained it was believed that it would be within the means of the Colony, and if the Court desired tenders to be called for, no tenders would be accepted until the Court had fully considered the matter and given its authority for the necessary expenditure. In this connection he had received from the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State, offering to provide and work a wireless system between Trinidad and British Guiana, in addition to the cable service, which they would undertake to maintain to the best of their ability, without any addition to the subsidy of £3,000 per annum now payable, and without conditions other than a free grant of the land required for the erection of the wireless station and a continuance of the subsidy. This offer could be considered when tenders, if called for, were before the Court. On Thursday, February 28th, the Acting-Government Secretary moved that the Court approved of tenders being invited for the establishment of wireless telegraphy, and Mr. Garnett having seconded the motion, it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. J. C. McCowan wrote to say that they had been getting heavy rains recently, too much in some places, with cold bleak winds that had been prevailing for some time. The absence of strong sunshine had its effect on the young cultivation, which was not making the progress that it should.

The Railway question in British Honduras.

We have received from British Honduras a series of important resolutions adopted at a public meeting at Belize with regard to the question of railways in the colony. From these resolutions it appears that after careful consideration it is the general consensus of opinion that a line of 20 in. gauge and 20 lb. rails for Stann Creek railway will be inadequate to meet the requirements of the traffic which it is anticipated will spring up. It seems that such a gauge will be altogether unsuitable for the carriage of fruit, timber and other articles of great bulk, and the assistance of the West India

Committee has been solicited by the people of British Honduras. It has been pointed out that the adoption of the 20 in. gauge was essentially temporary, and the meeting deprecated the expenditure of public money on what at best must be a temporary line. A further resolution declared adherence to the proposal to construct a railway from Belize to the western frontier of the colony with an extension into Guatemala, believing that such a railway would lead to a wonderful development of the colony and would be well within the means of British Honduras. We shall deal with this question at length in our next issue, but may add that we learn that the Colonial Office will reconsider the question of gauge.

The Dominica Agricultural Society.

The Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls wrote that Mr. West had gone on to St. Lucia, leaving his colleague, Mr. Chapman, in Dominica for a week, but he intended to return. He believed that a splendid series of photographs of local scenery had been obtained. Mr. Chapman had been round the island in the *Yare*, and was about to pay a visit to the Imperial Road.

The writer was re-elected President of the Dominica Agricultural Society on February 23rd, the officers being Mr. A. C. Shillingford, Vice-President, Mr. Francis Potter, Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. A. A. Harvey, Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. V. L. Green, Assistant Hon. Secretary, with Messrs. J. Jones, A. J. Brookes, John Eaden, A. D. Riviere and F. A. Gordon Members of Council. The name of Mr. F. E. Everington was unfortunately omitted in error from the list of names of the Permanent Exhibition Committee.

Writing on March 2nd, Mr. E. A. Agar said that sufficient rains continued and the lime crop should be a bumper one this year. They were at present without any information regarding hurricane insurance for the coming season; as far as was known, no agent had yet been appointed and policies mostly expired in May. Mr. Winston Churchill's remarks anent the West Indian naval responsibilities gave some hope that a squadron of sorts would be provided. The election for the members of the Federal Council from Dominica had resulted in the appointment of the Hons. J. C. Macintyre and J. Cox Fillan.

Grenada and cacao information.

At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada held on March 1st, a resolution proposed by Mr. E. M. de Freitas and seconded by the Rev. G. W. Branch was passed, recording the grateful appreciation of the Society of the courtesy of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in so readily acceding to their request contained in their resolution of April last on the subject of the collection of information concerning the cacao industry in the chief cacao producing countries, and asking that he would be pleased to continue to obtain for the Society this useful information.

The *Federalist* was canvassing the desirability of opening up the island by means of trams and light railways.

The young sugar crop in St. Kitts.

Writing on February 18th, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson stated that since last advices the weather had been generally dry, though there were a few light showers at the end of the previous week, varying from a half to one inch. Grinding had become almost general. Some places had not been able to start on account of differences with labourers, who were asking for more money. They contended that the fact of sugar being of such small value did not concern them since cotton was up. Panama and St. Domingo had drawn away some few men. Cotton was being pulled up on most places to make room for the cane, which had been growing in the same fields, in some cases, for some time. The young sugar crop (1908) was looking well, and the juice for this season was reported good.

Writing on March 2nd, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported that since last advices the weather had been fine and suitable for reaping, though there had been a few showers at night, which had been just the thing for young plants. Cotton, with a few exceptions, had been pulled up to make way for the "legitimate" cane crop. Account sales were eminently satisfactory.

The *Olenda* passed the island on Sunday, February 24th, with the Canadian trade delegates, but as she only put in at 11 p.m., only two members of the Reception Committee went on board to see them. They were to return about the 15th inst., and as they would be at St. Kitts for nearly two days, there would be plenty of time to discuss questions of interest.

Favourable weather in St. Lucia.

Crop was in full swing, with fair prospects, when the Hon. E. DuBoulay wrote on March 4th, the weather being favourable to reaping operations. The Canadian delegates were expected at the island in a few days, and measures had been adopted for receiving them and facilities arranged for their meeting those principally concerned in agriculture and commerce. Mr. West had visited St. Lucia and taken some fine views.

Harmful winds in Nevis.

Mr. Shand reported on February 18th that the Governor had stayed at the island from February 5th to the 15th, and presided over a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 14th, when there was a very good attendance of members.

High winds were still continuing and the cotton crop had suffered very severely from the bolls being blown off when immature. It was feared that the effect on the yield would be most serious, and although the area planted was largely in excess of 1906, the actual output this year would be less. The quality of the cotton appeared to be good, and the high prices would in a measure atone for any deficit.

St. Vincent and the Mails.

The subject uppermost in the minds of the community when Mr. W. N. Sands wrote his letter on March 4th, was the mail question. It appeared that they would soon be cut off again and have to depend on small sailing schooners to carry their mails. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce had communicated with the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the desirability of holding a conference at Barbados to discuss the intercolonial mail question. The Agricultural and Commercial Society of St. Vincent was quite willing to send a delegate to such a conference.

The first reports of sales of the present season's cotton crop had been received by the mail, and were excellent, not only in price, but in quality and method of preparation. The prices obtained had varied from 26d. to 30d. per lb. of lint. Twenty-seven bales from Peter's Hope, Calder and Evesham Vale estates sold at the highest figure. The effect of these good reports on growers in the island could be imagined, and as they had already ginned about 500 bales (360 lbs. each) of first quality cotton, the value of the industry to a small island like St. Vincent could not be over estimated. The value of land suitable for cotton had gone up a good deal in value sterling, quite a different position to that of three years ago.

A thoroughbred horse stallion, Beau II., and a pure bred Ayrshire cow imported by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the stock farm at the Agricultural School, had arrived in good condition. Both animals were much admired. The stallion was considered to be one of the finest animals of his class imported into the West Indies in recent years.

Trinidad and the Canadian delegates.

In his letter of March 4th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick states that the Canadian delegates passed through Trinidad en route for Demerara, whence they were to return shortly, when they would meet representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Societies and discuss commercial relations between Canada and the British West Indian colonies. Prominent among the questions to be discussed would be that of the appropriation by the Canadian refiners of the benefit of the preferential duties on sugar accorded by the Canadian Government to the British colonial planters. The Agricultural Society had appointed the Hons. S. Henderson and Carl de Verteuil and Mr. Adrian de Verteuil to represent the Society, the first named for the sugar industry and the other two on behalf of the cocoa planters.

The weather had on the whole been favourable for sugar manufacture, though there had been two or three rather heavy showers. The showers were much needed for the young cane cultivation and interfered but little with the factories. Cacao estates benefited all round and the cultivation looked promising for the June pickings. The deliveries continued to be heavy, and the shipments for the month of February had been in excess of those of 1905 and 1906, but had not been large enough to make up the shortage in the month of January, so that the total shipments for the year were still behind those of last year. Whilst advices from the consuming centres had reported a downward tendency, the market in Trinidad had remained exceptionally firm owing principally to the covering by shippers of old contracts. New business at the present range of prices had been impracticable. Arrivals from Venezuela had been fairly heavy and prices in consequence had slightly weakened.

		SHIPMENTS.			
Totals at last report
Feb. 18.—S.S. <i>Thames</i>	23,819	Trinidad.	6,471
.. 21.—S.S. <i>Grenada</i>	1,020	..	20
.. 22.—S.S. <i>Sarstoon</i>	4,572	..	1,480
.. 22.—S.S. <i>Ocama</i>	238	..	—
.. 23.—S.S. <i>P. Fred. Hendrik</i>	25	..	20
.. 25.—S.S. <i>Crown of Navarre</i>	1,382	..	—
.. 26.—S.S. <i>Solstad</i>	371	..	27
.. 28.—S.S. <i>Bolivia</i>	1,098	..	168
.. 28.—S.S. <i>Tagus</i>	460	..	—
Mar. 2.—S.S. <i>France</i>	1,834	..	102
	1,272	..	221
Total to date	36,121	..	8,509
			

Writing on March 4th, Mr. Edgar Tripp stated that Mr. J. A. Allan, President of the Toronto Board of Trade, Mr. A. E. Jones and Mr. H. B. Schofield, representing the Boards of Trade of Halifax and St. John, N.B., respectively, formed a deputation to meet the commercial and agricultural societies of the West Indies, with a view to improving and promoting trade relations between these colonies and the Dominion. They were due to return from Demerara on March 6th. A meeting for discussion of business with the Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society would be held the same afternoon in the Council Chamber, when the President of the Chamber, Mr. Gordon, would preside. In the evening a dinner was to be given by the two bodies to the delegates, the Governor in the chair. The next day would be occupied in visits to sugar and cacao plantations, and the party intended to sail the same evening for Grenada. The arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the guests had been placed in the hands of Mr. Adam Smith, Hon. Secretary of the Chamber, and of the writer, as Commercial Agent for the Government of Canada, and the other members of the Reception Committee were: the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, with the following members added: Mr. R. Rust, Mr. Thomas Boyd, and Mr. E. C. Skinner. The Agricultural Society would be represented by the Hon. S. Henderson, Hon. C. de Verteuil, and Mr. Adrien de Verteuil.

OUR LIBRARY.

The International Sugar Journal. This publication for March contains articles by Noël Deerr and H. & L. Pellet and Ch. Fribourg, on the question of the effect of lead precipitate in sugar polarisations, together with some observations on the "Use of sodium hydrosulphite in the preparation of cane products for Polarimetric Assay," by the former. The condensed paper on "Hawaiian Water Molasses," by S. S. Peet, which appears in the Bulletin of the Hawaiian Sugar Planter's Association, gives useful figures in connection with this subject, although the conclusions arrived at are not new.

"**Notes on the West Indies.**" written during the expedition under the command of the late General Sir Ralph Abercromby, including observations on the island of Barbados and the settlements captured by the British troops upon the coast of Guiana, likewise remarks relating to the creoles and slaves of the Western Colonies, and the Indians of South America; with occasional hints regarding the seasoning or yellow fever of hot climates. By George Pinckard, M.D. In three volumes. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees & Orme, Paternoster Row, 1806. We are indebted to Mr. Harding Browne for a well-preserved copy of this book in three volumes; which will form a notable addition to our library.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate stands at 5 per cent. (changed on January 17th, 1907), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 84½.

BRITISH APATHY. "The Jamaica Earthquake, in its consequences, was a demonstration of British apathy or amity, as you may look at it, in that quarter."—*New York Sun*.

MR. A. T. RIGHTON. We regret to learn of the death of Mr. Augustus Theodore Righton, editor of our contemporary, the *Dominican*, which took place on Tuesday, February 19th.

QUITE RIGHT TOO. Sir Berkeley G. D. Sheffield, the successful candidate at the recent Brigg election, is, it is understood, prepared to vote for the abolition of the Sugar Tax, but does not favour the abolition of the Brussels Convention unless some alternative safeguard provided against the revival of foreign bounties.

CABLE BREAKS. Cable communication with Demerara, which was interrupted on Wednesday, March 13th, was restored at noon on Wednesday, March 20th. The shore end of the Bermuda-Jamaica cable was broken off Turks Island by an anchor on March 15th, and the end seawards has been dragged into deep water. A ship is proceeding to repair the cable.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE. In the Civil Service estimates for 1908 there appears for the first time under the head of "Colonial services," a sum of £1,500 grant-in-aid to the Imperial Institute. This indicates the adoption by the Government of the policy suggested by Sir Charles Bruce, and advocated from time to time in our columns, of the Institute passing more under the control of the Colonial Office, of which it is suggested that it might become a distinct department.

COTTON FIGURES. We are informed by Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland that since their last report, a good business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton, chiefly from 23d. to 25d. per lb. During the fortnight ended March 21st, 920 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, 19½d. per lb.; medium fine, 20½d. per lb.; fine, 22d. per lb. Prices paid 8½d. to 25d.

A MERITED HONOUR. Mr. W. F. Lawrence, for twenty years Member of Parliament for the Abercromby division of Liverpool, was entertained to dinner at the Conservative Club on March 14th, when he was presented with a service of silver plate and an illuminated address. This pleasing function appears to have been confined to his political supporters in Liverpool; otherwise many West Indians would have been associated with it, for they are mindful of the strenuous manner in which Mr. Lawrence, himself a West Indian proprietor, voiced their interests. It will be remembered that he succeeded the late Col. Victor Milward as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Anti-Bounty League, and was ever ready to take up West Indian questions in the House of Commons.

We are heartily pleased that Mr. Lawrence has been the recipient of such a well-earned testimonial, and we tender to him our congratulations.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Mar. 12.—Terrible explosion on board the French battleship *Jena* at Toulon.—Colonial Products Exhibition opened at Liverpool.—Beet, 9s. 1½d., steady.
- Wed., Mar. 13.—Two ingots of gold valued at £1,600 stolen from the South African Products Exhibition.—Consols fell to 84½.—Beet, 9s. 1½d., quiet.
- Thur., Mar. 14.—An influentially signed memorandum regarding Imperial communication appeared in the Press, with a covering letter from Sir F. Pollock.—Mr. Austen Chamberlain opened a discussion at a dinner of the United Club, on fiscal reform.—Lord Curzon elected Chancellor of Oxford University, receiving 1,101 votes as compared with 440 received by Lord Rosebery.—Beet, 9s. 0¾d., flat.
- Fri., Mar. 15.—Jamaica Earthquake Fund Matinée at the Criterion.—Beet, 8s. 11¾d., quiet.
- Sat., Mar. 16.—Cambridge won the boatrace by 4½ lengths.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 0¾d., steady.
- Sun., Mar. 17.—White Star liner *Suevic*, from Australia to London, ran ashore off the Lizard, at 11 p.m.
- Mon., Mar. 18.—Seventh list of subscribers to the Jamaica Earthquake Fund published in the *Times*.—The armoured cruiser *Indomitable* launched.—M. Marcelin Berthelot, the eminent scientist, died.—Elder Dempster liner *Jebba* went ashore near Salcombe.—Beet, 9s. 0¾d., steady.
- Tues., Mar. 19.—Mr. Balfour received a deputation of Irish Unionists on the subject of Home Rule.—Duke of Devonshire presided at the annual meeting of the Unionist Free Trade Club.—Beet, 9s. 1¼d., steady.
- Wed., Mar. 20.—Woman's Suffrage demonstration at Westminster.—Beet, 9s. 1¼d., steady.
- Thur., Mar. 21.—The London Chamber of Commerce at a special meeting expressed itself in favour of preferential treatment of the colonies and taxation of foreign manufactured imports.—Beet, 9s. 2¼d., steady.
- Fri., Mar. 22.—Meeting in the City to urge reform in the incidence of the income tax.—The opposition of the Government to the Channel tunnel scheme announced.—Beet, 9s. 2¼d., steady.
- Sat., Mar. 23.—Earl of Liverpool died.—Death of Constantine Petrovitch Polyhedonostoeff, Russian ex-Procurator of the Holy Synod.—De Ruyter tercentenary celebration in Holland.—A conference held under the auspices of the Cobden Club at the Memorial Hall, passed a resolution advocating a repeal of the sugar tax.—Beet (morning call) 9s. 2¼d., steady.
- Mon., Mar. 25.—Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Austen Chamberlain spoke on tariff reform.—Beet, 9s. 3d., quiet.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. B. Mackay.—The West Indies do not possess a gold currency, the current specie being mainly in the form of silver, although, however, gold has to be purchased at a premium, and silver is legal tender to any extent, the anomaly exists of the silver coinage, which is British, taking its value from the gold standard of this country, just as if there were a gold standard, and as if silver were a legal tender only up to a certain point as it is in this country. The effect of this is that silver coinage has to be bought at its face, not its intrinsic value, and an enormous profit results to the Home Government, which in this case has none of the loss from wear and tear and depreciation of a gold currency.

Betterave.—The sugar beet industry in Canada is of comparatively recent origin. In 1902, two factories were erected in Ontario, one at Wallaceburg, in Kent county, and one at Berlin in Waterloo county. In 1903, a third factory was built at Raymond in Alberta. The following table gives the statistics of the industry for the four years 1902-5.

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Tons of beets ...	51,067	51,159	76,000	118,095
Paid Growers ...	\$221,569	\$254,564	\$391,532	\$575,296
Paid for Wages ...	\$93,280	\$121,203	\$136,656	\$173,906
Value of Sugar ...	\$385,678	\$546,508	\$751,379	\$1,045,288

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) March 21st. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 18th (dated 15th). "Heavy rains continue, fine weather much needed." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 18th. "Heavy rains, cultivation suffering." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) March 19th. "Dry weather wanted." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) March 19th. "Weather again wet and unfavourable." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 25th. "We are having constant heavy showers with very little sunshine, forty inches since New Year." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) March 11th. "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 11th. "Weather continues favourable." March 18th. "Weather continues favourable." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended March 14th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), March 18th:—Mr. and Mrs. Gildersleeve, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr. W. B. Scott, Mr. R. Boyle, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. W. Dickinson, Mr. C. Maw, Miss Maw, Miss S. Maw, Mr. and Mrs. F. Morgan, Mrs. F. Aste, Miss Burton, Mr. W. Gibbs, Dr. and Mrs. A. Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Lockhart, General Sir A. Reed, Miss Herry, Miss J. Herry, Mr. P. van Tieghem de ten Berghe, Mr. Mallalieu, Mr. Broadbent, Mr. W. Hacking, Mrs. R. Hardy, Miss Hirtzel, Miss J. M. Leacock, Major C. Vesey, Mr. J. Wedgwood, Miss Wedgwood, Miss C. Wedgwood, Miss Lang, Mr. A. Lang, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Burton, Miss Watson, Miss Locke, Mr. E. A. Ridsdale, M.P., Mrs. Ridsdale, Mr. P. J. Whitaker, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Morton, Miss Morton, Mr. W. H. Leach, Mr. R. M. B. Parker, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. G. G. Brown, Mr. W. J. Tillett, Mr. F. C. Tillett, Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., Lady Treves, Mr. J. Reese, Miss Reese, Miss J. Tracy, Mr. and Mrs.

Gamble North, Miss North, Mr. and Mrs. Davies and four children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Clermont and five children, Mr. J. Bremner, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Gordon, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. H. Purdon, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Gordon Roger, Mr. and Mrs. R. Amaya and two daughters, Mr. L. A. Arias, Mr. C. Cabanso, Mr. B. Zalamea, Mr. J. Borda, Mr. T. Seccombe, Mr. H. Otten, Mr. G. Donati, Mr. H. Muir, Mr. E. Kummerou, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Cunningham, Mr. S. Abrahams, Mr. J. Miller, Major-Gen. Barton, Mr. Eric Gordon, Major and Mrs. Montgomerie, Mr. R. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Cox, Miss Cox, Master Cox, Mr. G. Coup, Mr. Milliken, Mr. and Mrs. P. Ulrich, Miss Swanton.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), March 27th:—Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez and family, Mr. H. Walker, Mr. P. V. C. Haldane, Mr. Fritz Weigell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Vyfhuis, Mrs. Jacomb Hood, Mr. Antonio Vidal, Mr. Ian MacIvor, Mr. J. A. Lopez de Caballos, Rev. Arthur M. Moss, Mr. Fred Paterson, Mr. Arthur H. Spooner, Mr. and Mrs. G. Martin, Mr. Jacques Greber, Mr. G. P. Schadewitz, Mr. C. H. Price, Sheriff A. S. D. and Mrs. Thomson, Mr. Alex. Colquhoun, Mrs. Walker, Mr. Geoffrey Parker, Mr. Parker, junr., Mrs. Goodman, Mr. F. L. da Lima, Mr. Federico Boccardo, Miss G. M. Hutchings, Mr. Hans Ganse, Mr. Gerald S. Sara, Mr. S. P. Dunstan, Mr. G. G. Wagner, Mr. E. S. Rogers, Mr. F. G. Risegari.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. J. G. Little), March 12th:—Mr. R. Avory, Mr. H. Berger, Sir Samuel Black, the two Misses Black, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Brinkley, Mr. T. H. Brinkley, Mrs. Brinkley, Lieut. J. C. Buchanan, Mr. A. D. Campbell, Major Cook, Mr. H. Cottrell, Mr. P. Craven, the two Misses Craven, Master Connacher, Mrs. L. Crooks, Master K. Crooks, Mr. C. M. DaCosta, Mr. and Mrs. Eastcott, Hon. Egerton, Mrs. D. Hendry, Master Hendry, Mrs. A. R. Holgate, Mrs. Jamieson, Miss Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kisingbury, Mr. Lancaster, Captain J. C. Mackenzie, Dr. Jas. Mullins, Mrs. Milholland and family, Mr. W. C. Murray, Mr. W. Owen, Mr. C. Phang, Captain Rhodes, Miss Robertson, the two Misses Sanfelen, Mrs. Sale, Mrs. Ker Seymour, Mr. Siebold, the two Misses Vaughan, Mr. G. F. Whiteman, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Ledger, Staff-Capt. and Mrs. Leib and family, Mrs. D. McKillop.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), March 23rd:—**Jamaica**: Mr. W. Allwood, Col. E. Moulton Barrett, Mr. W. Bourke, Mr. M. L. Chute, Mrs. J. A. Fraser, Mr. Wm. Hibbit, Mr. R. N. Johnstone, Mrs. McMahan, Mr. E. Raves, Miss Mina Tivy, Rev. L. Tucker, Mr. Geot. Thwaites, Miss Dorothy Thwaites, Mr. Walter H. Wilson, Mr. F. Dahlis, Mr. R. R. Russett. **Bermuda**: Major K. D. Bell, Mrs. Burrows, Captain and Mrs. F. S. Exham and family, Lieut. T. C. Spring, Miss Trethowan, Miss Sheldon-Williams, Mr. A. J. Walker.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Mar. 27	Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Trent</i>	Mar. 26, mdn't.
" 28	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Floridian</i>	" 27, 6 p.m.
April 5	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Demerara	*Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Sarstoon</i>	April 5, noon.
" 5	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Jamaica	†Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Dee</i>	" 5, "
" 6	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Antonio</i>	" 5, †6 p.m.
" 10	Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>	" 9, mdn't.

* Letters to be marked per S.S. *Sarstoon*, via Dartmouth. † Letters to be marked per S.S. *Dee*, via Dartmouth.
 † In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Mar. 27	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Antonio</i>
April 1	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Mar. 1		Jan. 1 to Feb. 28.		April 1 to Feb. 17.		Jan. 1 to Mar. 3.		Oct. 1 to Mar. 3.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906
Sugar	198	364 Tns.	20,886	21,224 Tons.	11,131	10,049 Tons.	26,943	73,214 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	1,896	2,541 Pns.	372	737 Puns.	...	...	394	146 Puns.	...	...
Rum	4,171	6,242 Puns.	1,234,806	864,471 Galls.	150	— Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasscuit	1,257	2,241 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	17,661	3,360 lbs.	45,239	28,363 Cwts.	5,925,520	7,976,390 lbs.	41,722	30,924 Bags.
Coffee	38,626	64,410 "	2,811	5,601 "	...	...
Coconuts	2,150	15,900	8,304,417	5,844,929	1,476,264	1,778,111	...	...
Copra	3,876	1,655 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	16,890	43,307 lbs.	...	...	3	21 Bales.
Asphalt	12,320	20,926 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	52,147,404	70,811,518	...	...	...	...
Bananas	14,425,978	13,352,379 Stms.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	72,566	83,279 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice	1632	2009 Brls.
Gold	9,976	12,803 ozs.	...	...	...	...	178	332 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	541	20 carats	...	...	...	...	190	224 Cases
Rice	677,925	4,200 lbs.	...	...	...	...	18	47 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/February, 6 months.

	1906/7.	1905/6.	1904/5.	
Convention Europe	2,090,000	2,100,000	1,950,000	Tons.
America	890,000	840,000	900,000	..
	2,980,000	2,940,000	2,850,000	..

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

1907.	1906.	1905.	
3,700,000	3,930,000	2,800,000	Tons.

The tendency of 88% prices during the past fortnight has again ruled in sellers' favour, and this is eminently satisfactory considering the languid trade demand which is curtailed almost to the last ton in view of the Budget to be presented to the world in a few weeks, when the fate of the sugar duties will be set at rest. The chief cause of this stiffening in prices is the reduced offerings from the Continent where the deficiency, so far as Convention Europe is concerned, is 750,000 tons in the beet crops as compared with last season. This was bound sooner or later to make itself felt, and indeed it has done so for the last six months, and is probably the cause of saving us declining to 8s. as we did last year. As to what is in store for us in the future each one must form his own conclusion as time passes on, this Summary being no place for the difficult functions of a prophet.

The quotations of 88% beet on Mar. 25th, were:—Mar., 9s. 3d.; May, 9s. 3½d.; Aug., 9s. 5½d., and Oct./Dec., 9s. 1½d. all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	3,120,000	3,450,000	2,370,000	3,200,000	3,030,000	Tons.
United States	260,000	230,000	210,000	130,000	180,000	..
Cuba... ..	350,000	200,000	250,000	250,000	310,000	..
Afloat	—	—	30,000	40,000	30,000	..
	3,730,000	3,880,000	2,860,000	3,620,000	3,550,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 25th Mar. :—	9s. 3d.	8s. 4½d.	14s. 6d.	8s. 6d.	8s. 1½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There is a steady demand for properly made yellow crystallised from 16s. to 17s. 6d., and the value of average qualities is once again 16s. 6d. Refiners' imitations are selling at 15s. 4½d. For a 96 test West India cargo about 10s. 3d. remains the value on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is in moderate demand only from 11s. for low qualities, up to 14s. for good grocery. To arrive on basis of 89 test, 8s. in bond remains the nominal value on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds are wanted and some good prices would be obtainable for early arrivals. For 89 test to Refiners, 9s. in bond remains the value on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	7300	13,100	8000	8400	3300	Tons.
Deliveries	9000	9400	8700	10,200	9700	..
Stocks, 18th Mar.	8900	12,000	8900	10,500	22,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, 25th Mar.:	16s. 6d.	14s. 9d.	21s. 3d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 9d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London, 18th Mar.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Jamaica	5000	5600	6400	7400	Puns.
Demerara	8100	10,300	6100	12,300	..
Total of all kinds	19,900	22,600	20,600	28,800	..

On the basis of 1s. proof for fair Demerara, large sales have taken place and the Importers have practically cleared out. Jamaica remains steady, with a quotation of 2s. 9d. for Home Trade Marks.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:—18th March:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Trinidad	6200	14,600	18,200	13,900	Bags.
Grenada	5700	9700	12,800	18,100	..
Total of all kinds	50,000	75,000	82,000	74,000	..

The Market continues active for all grades of West India cocoa up to 80s., but the finer qualities, such as Trinidad, are too dear to attract buyers, except in retail. The closing quotations are: Trinidad fair collected (nominal) 85s., Estate Marks, 86s. to 90s.; Grenada fair, 76s., fermented, 79s. to 81s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth 75s., and fermented, 78s. to 80s., with choice lots up to 83s.

Sundries.—**COFFEE:** about steady, Santos for March delivery, 30s. 1½d., and Jamaica, on the spot, good to fine ordinary, 43s. to 47s., greenish to fine, 51s. to 120s. **NUTMEGS:** recent sales of West India include 64's at 1s. 1d., 83's at 10d., 105's at 7d., and smalls from 5½d. to 6d. **MACE:** a few lots sold, pale, 1s. 7d. to 1s. 11d., red, 1s. 5d., and broken, 1s. 2d. **PIMENTO:** unchanged at 2½d. to 2¾d. **ARROWROOT:** quiet but steady, with small sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2¾d. **GINGER:** unchanged, Jamaica common, 65s. to 70s., medium to fine, 72s. to 90s. **COPRA:** firm, East India quoted £28 to £28 5s. **LIME JUICE:** steady, at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d.; Concentrated, firm, at £24; Distilled Oil, quoted at 2s. 10d. to 3s.; Hand Pressed, quiet, at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. XC.



Mr. Sydney Olivier, C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

April 8th, 1907

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

THE appointment of MR. SYDNEY OLIVIER to be Governor of Jamaica will, we imagine, meet with cordial approval in that island, as it appears to have done among the Jamaica proprietors at home. Indeed, if a plebiscite had been taken in the colony as to who the new Governor should be, we are convinced that it would have been on him that the choice of the people would have fallen. MR. OLIVIER is thoroughly acquainted with the wants and requirements of Jamaica, its agriculture, its commerce, and its people; and we welcome his appointment not only because we believe it to be an extremely satisfactory one, but also because it shows that the Government are considering the wishes of the people. If this had been done in the past there would have been fewer failures to record in the matter of colonial appointments. His experience of relief measures will be valuable at this critical time. In 1903 when MR. OLIVIER'S term of office as Colonial Secretary of Jamaica had expired, and a disastrous cyclone swept over the island, it became

our agreeable duty to ask MR. LYTTLTON, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, that it might

be extended for a further period, and MR. OLIVIER'S return to Jamaica was hailed with general satisfaction. On the present occasion MR. OLIVIER is faced by a task altogether more serious than that of 1903; but we are confident that if he is provided with a sufficiency of raw material in the shape of the liberal grant-in-aid, and the loan on easy terms, for which we have been pressing, he will prove equal to the task of rebuilding the fabric shattered by the recent earthquake. As a member of the Jamaica Relief Committee, and also of the larger Mansion House Committee, MR. OLIVIER is fully conversant with the steps which have been taken in this country for the relief of our fellow-countrymen in Jamaica, and the ARCHBISHOP OF THE WEST INDIES and MR. A. W. FARQUHARSON, the deputation from the stricken island, have been able to lay before him the exact position of affairs in the colony. MR. OLIVIER will, therefore, when he again sets foot in Kingston in May next, be fully conversant with all the circumstances of the case, and be able to set to work without any further delay. We cannot conclude without a reference to the untimely death of SIR AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING, which took place in Cairo on March 28th; for it was with him, when he was Governor of Jamaica, that MR. OLIVIER worked from 1900 to 1904, and it was for him that he administered the government of the colony on various occasions. Indeed, events have moved rapidly in connection with Jamaica during the first few months of this year. Death has robbed her of many of her prominent citizens, and now a governor, who so recently presided over her destinies, has responded to the inexorable call.

ANXIETY regarding the West Indian mail question has been to some extent allayed by the announcement that arrangements have been made for the continuance of the intercolonial service for a further period of a month from March 31st last. We are able to supplement this information by stating that the negotiations for the establishment of a more efficient mail service than the West Indies have enjoyed since the old contract was abandoned on June 30th, 1905, are still actively proceeding between the Colonial Office, the Post Office, and the Treasury. The delay has been wearisome and vexatious to West Indians and their correspondents at home; but when it is considered how many colonies' interests are involved, and what a tangle has to be unravelled, it will be fully realised that it is not altogether avoidable. The present service, though welcome as a stop-gap, has been recognised as falling far short of the extended facilities for intercolonial mail communication, the need for which was so strongly urged by the Royal Commission of 1897. It is, we believe, now recognised in official quarters that the provision of *two* intercolonial mail steamers is absolutely essential for the maintenance of regular fortnightly communication between each of the colonies. Events have shown that the monthly service to the northern islands hardly served a useful purpose, letters being subjected to detention at Barbados. As we briefly announced in our last issue, a conference of delegates from the Chambers of Commerce of Demerara, Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica and Barbados assembled in Bridgetown on March 23rd, and passed resolutions calling upon the Imperial Treasury to contribute liberally towards intercolonial mail communication in connection with the ocean service, the colonies alone being unable to provide a suitable service. The following routes were suggested: (1) *Demerara route*—Barbados, Demerara, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Barbados, and (2) *Northern Islands route*—Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, and Barbados. This would involve the retention of Barbados as headquarters; but, on the other hand, it seems that when the question of subsidies was discussed, the Barbados delegates suggested that their island should contribute £2,500 per annum towards a total of £11,200—excluding Trinidad—instead of £3,200 as at present, and £4,000 under the 1900-2 contract. The question of the transference of the headquarters to Trinidad again comes within the region of probability; the Chamber of Commerce of that island being, we believe, willing to recommend a substantial subsidy in the event of such a change being arranged. This certainly complicates matters,

though it is possible that the Legislature of Barbados will be willing to contribute more generously rather than lose the central position which they now occupy. This matter of the West Indian mail arrangements has been also the subject of many resolutions and representations which we have received from individual colonies. We hope that the cry of the West Indies will not pass unheeded.

THE subject of the British Honduras railways has from time to time been ventilated in our columns. It will be remembered that there were two principal schemes involved in the controversy, viz., the larger and more ambitious frontier line, which had the support of the colonists, and the smaller and modest Stann Creek line, on which the Home Government had set their heart. The former of these was designed not merely to open up districts at present inaccessible, but also by making connection with Guatemala and Southern Mexico to develop a trade with these countries. The Stann Creek line was intended to develop a small agricultural, mainly banana, district. The larger line, upwards of seventy miles in length, was to have its termination at Belize, the capital; the latter, of which there are to be somewhere over twelve miles, had its port up the coast. The Colonial Office, influenced mainly by the report of the engineer sent out through the Crown Agents, and by the exaggerated idea given of the cost of construction, for some time refused to entertain the larger project, but we have reason to believe that the excellent offers made by the syndicate represented by the late Mr. C. T. Hunter, and the strong expressions of opinion in its favour by the members of the Legislature, had had the effect of considerably modifying the home views, and but for the untimely death of that gentleman, that the scheme would have crystallised satisfactorily. It was, however, decided that the Stann Creek Railway should at once be taken in hand, but to the horror of the colonists, the Crown Agent's consulting engineers fixed the gauge of the line at 20 ins., and the weight of rail as 20 lbs. The colonists at once recognised the futility of a line constructed on these dimensions, and at a public meeting, and in the Legislative Council, protests were made against the decision. As the result, the Colonial Office have decided to reconsider the question of the gauge and weight of rail, and we sincerely trust that the recommendation of the resident engineer—that the gauge shall be 3 ft., and the weight of rail 40 lbs.—will be put into effect. It seems absurd that a line intended to have a commercial value should be constructed on such a Lilliputian basis, and we can conceive nothing more fatal to the success of a scheme of this description than that it should be carried on on an undersized scale. At the public meeting referred to, a resolution was also passed with reference to the frontier line, to the effect that "this public meeting of the inhabitants of Belize declares its adherence to the support which it has hitherto accorded to the proposal to construct a railway from Belize to the western frontier of the colony with an extension into Guatemala. This meeting has learned with satisfaction that a proposal to construct such a railway has recently been made, and is strongly of opinion that such proposal should not be rejected by the Government or the Secretary of State without due and careful consideration, and proper inquiries as to the probable success of the scheme being made both in the colony and Guatemala. This meeting is convinced that the construction of a trans-colonial railway such as the above would lead to a wonderful development of the colony, would be well within the means of the colony, and would, if economically and efficiently constructed and worked, be a successful venture for a private company." A committee was also formed to watch the interests of the colony in connection with these railways, and its general development. Now that the development of British Honduras seems to be seriously taken in hand, we sincerely trust that matters will advance satisfactorily, and that the wishes and views of the colonists will receive due consideration at the Colonial Office. The Stann Creek Railway, so long as it is constructed on a substantial scale, should prepare the way for the main scheme, the frontier railway, and any equitable proposal should be accepted by the Government. Such a proposal has been made, and it is of vital importance, in the best interests of the colony, that the work should be taken in

hand at an early date, and in a manner which will guarantee an efficient working concern. The sum slightly increased over the original offer to be paid by the colony, £100,000, should not prevent the work being done. The importance of the line is such that this sum, which the growing resources of the colony could well afford, is a mere nothing compared with the advantages to be derived from it. An opportunity, which may not occur again on such lines, is provided for the thorough opening up of the colony; and it is earnestly to be hoped that the matter will be looked at in its proper light by the Colonial Office. If substantial advance is to be made, now is the time for it.

THE outspoken utterances of the Canadian commercial delegates, who have been visiting the West Indies, as regards sugar are not calculated to improve the commercial relations of the Dominion and her tropical sisters. At the meetings which were convened for the purpose of discussing the question of closer commercial union it was distinctly laid down by the delegates that the West Indian sugar producer was not in any way entitled to a share in the preference, and that the preference was given as an inducement to the refiners to buy West Indian sugar and thus create a market for it. Our comments on the attitude of the refiners on the sugar question are thus borne out in a striking manner. We presume that the delegates voice the views of the interests they represent, and their statement on this point puts the seal on the short-sighted and illiberal attitude which the refiners have consistently taken up. In the place of amicable relations, based on give-and-take, they openly and unwisely state that the preferential tariff was not intended to give any further benefit to the West Indian than that of selection. West Indian planters are not good at combination, but the Canadian refiners seem bent on driving them to it.

COLONIAL PRODUCTS.

Our full-page illustration shows the British Guiana, Antigua, and Grenada stalls at the recent Colonial Products Exhibition in Liverpool, together with a portrait of the Earl of Elgin, who, as already reported in our columns, performed the opening ceremony. The cost of the Antigua and Grenada stalls was, on this occasion, less than £25 each, and, taking into consideration the fact that the actual cost of space came to well over half the total amount available, it cannot be said that the expenses were heavy. It is suggested that in future it would be desirable for the colonies to order space through their representatives at home, as it is generally possible to drive a bargain and secure some considerable reduction. At least, that has been our experience.

THE LATE SIR AUGUSTUS HEMMING.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Sir Augustus Hemming, G.C.M.G., formerly Governor of British Guiana and Jamaica, which occurred in Cairo on March 28th. Sir Augustus William Lawson Hemming, who was born in 1841, was the son of Mr. W. B. Hemming, M.R.C.S., and was educated at Epsom College. He entered the Colonial Office in 1860, and between 1867 and 1879 he acted as private secretary to three successive Under-Secretaries—Lord Blachford, Sir R. G. W. Herbert, and Lord Cadogan. He was promoted principal clerk in the latter year, and served on special missions to Paris and Berlin in 1879, 1881, 1887, and 1889, while he attended the West African Conference, held at Berlin in 1884, as the British delegate. In 1895 he was appointed Governor of British Guiana, and in 1898 he was transferred to the Governorship of Jamaica, from which office he retired in 1904. He received the honour of C.M.G. in 1885, of K.C.M.G. in 1890, and of G.C.M.G. in 1900. He was married, in 1873, to Gertrude, daughter of Mr. R. Mason, of Liverpool. Sir Augustus was a keen cricketer. He was one of the founders of the Incogniti Cricket Club, and took a deep interest in the visits of English teams to the West Indies during his Governorship. Sir Augustus Hemming was a Member of the West India Committee, and his loss will be deplored by a wide circle of friends.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The new List of Members of the West India Committee is now in course of preparation, and it is hoped, therefore, that members will notify the Secretary of any change of title or address, so that the list may be as accurate as possible. During the first three months of the present year, twenty-nine new



AT THE LIVERPOOL EXHIBITION, 1907.

members have been elected; but it is felt that this number falls considerably short of that which could be desired. There are many estates' proprietors and merchants who we should like to see enrolled, and who should support the cause for which we are working. It is hoped, therefore, that members will assist further to strengthen the organisation by introducing fresh candidates for election. Full particulars regarding membership and candidates' application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. The Secretary takes this opportunity of reminding those who have not forwarded their subscription for the current year, that he has instructions to discontinue forwarding the *Circular* to such members after a certain period.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

As far back as the latter end of the 18th century, the mail service to the West Indies was found to be inadequate to the requirements, and at a meeting of the West India Committee on June 1st, 1779, it was decided to apply to the Postmaster-General for four extra packets, and at the same time to represent to him the great importance of the immediate despatch of letters from Falmouth upon the arrival of the packets. In the minutes of June 29th, Mr. Neave is stated to have reported that the Committee waited on the Postmaster-General, when

"Mr. Ford, the Secretary, informed the Committee that the request of the West India merchants should be complied with as soon as the Pacquets could be provided, and that the letters should be despatched from Falmouth immediately upon arrival of the Pacquets."

Tempora mutantur, indeed! We would welcome a return to the times when these possessions were valued at their proper worth.

THE RUM SURTAX.

We give below the text of a letter which was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the rum surtax by the West India Committee on February 19th. To this letter Mr. Asquith replied that the question of the surtax on imported spirits had been fully considered, but that if the West India Committee would submit a statement showing how the interests of the West Indies had been prejudicially affected by the legislation of last session regarding industrial alcohol, he would give the matter his attention. This statement has been sent to the Treasury, and will be published in a future issue of the *West India Committee Circular*.

SIR,—For many years the extra duty chargeable on imported spirits, whereby rum, the produce of British colonies, is placed at a serious disadvantage as compared with whisky and other spirits manufactured in the mother country, has been a grievance which has been a constant cause of representations to the Home Government from our West Indian colonies and British Guiana.

2. This surtax, which in the case of rum at present amounts to 4d. per proof gallon, was imposed as a set off to certain alleged disabilities in connection with home distillers due to the operation of the Government regulations, and is based on claims made by distillers to that effect.

3. While allowing that there may be certain disabilities in the home regulations which do not exist in the colonial, and that the home distillers are entitled to compensation in respect of them, we have legitimate grounds for holding that as regards the bulk of the surtax there is no justification for its imposition, and that it constitutes a *de facto* preference in favour of the home distiller.

4. This injustice has, by the measure regarding the use of alcohol for industrial purposes which has recently become law, been intensified, the 5d. per gallon of surtax on imported plain or methylated spirit precluding the West Indian distillers from deriving, even if it were allowed to be introduced free as regards the normal duty, any benefit of the advantage due to the impetus the Act has given to consumption.

5. On June 20th, 1904, the Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to a question in the House of Commons as to the duty on colonial methylated spirits, stated that "if methylated spirit were imported from the colonies it would pay a duty of 11s. 5d. per gallon; but as a matter of fact none is imported." The reason why no methylated spirit is imported from the colonies is obvious. Though intrinsically worth 7d. or 8d. per gallon, it is subject to this absolutely prohibitive duty of 11s. 5d. per gallon, while methylated spirit manufactured in this country is duty free.

6. We beg also to call your attention to the fact that at last year's meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, a resolution was unanimously passed urging an enquiry into the surtax, the injustice of which to the colonial distiller was fully recognised.

7. We hope, therefore, that you will be so good as to receive a deputation of the West India Committee on this subject, who will place their case personally before you in the hope that an impartial enquiry may be made into the matter, to the end that the colonial may be placed on an equitable footing with the home distiller.

We have the honour to be, &c.

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

SPURIOUS JAMAICA RUM.

The Customs authorities recently seized at Southampton a consignment of thirty-four cases of rum from Savanilla on the ground that they bore a false trade mark indicating that it was rum from Jamaica, the label describing it as "Rhum de la Jamaïque." It was urged that the shippers were ignorant of the requirements of the law as to marking, and the authorities with some hesitation in

this special instance refrained from confiscating the shipment; and, after full consideration of the explanations offered, and the fact that the marking on the neckband in this case to some extent minimised the false description on the label, they finally gave their consent to the return of the goods to the port of shipment, or their being sent to another foreign port, if desired, upon the removal and destruction of the offending labels. Mr. J. C. Nolan, the Special Commissioner to the Jamaican Government, has expressed to us his liveliest satisfaction at the result. The action of the authorities in enforcing the Merchandise Marks Act is of the utmost importance to Jamaica, and one that will be welcome by all honest traders, and the plea of ignorance of the law will not safeguard the offenders from the penalties attached to the non-observance of that act.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN GERMANY.

According to statistics published in the *Reichsanzeiger* the quantity of raw sugar produced in Germany during the period from September 1st, 1906, to February 28th last, being the first six months of the 1906-7 sugar campaign, was 1,899,506 metric tons, as compared with 2,068,211 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1905-6. The quantity of refined sugar produced increased from 903,019 metric tons during the six months September, 1905, to February, 1906, to 947,761 metric tons during the six months September, 1906, to February, 1907. The total quantity of beets used during the first half of the present campaign was 14,171,666 metric tons, as compared with 15,733,478 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1905-6. The total output of sugar (raw and refined) during the period September, 1906, to February, 1907, expressed in terms of raw sugar, was 2,126,736 metric tons, as compared with 2,295,349 metric tons, the figure arrived at a year ago for the corresponding months of 1905-6.

THE HOME OF THE SUGAR CANE.

Referring to an extract from Dr. Moseley's *Treatise on Sugar*, published in 1799, which was given in these pages, the *Agricultural News* of a recent date, states that Dr. Moseley's views as to sugar cane being indigenous to the West Indies were erroneous, later information indicating that the East was its native home. Ritter, writing about 1840, notes that all the varieties of cane known in a wild state, and belonging to the genus *Saccharum*, are grown in India, with the exception of one found in Egypt, and further states that "the probability is entirely in favour of the origin in Asia, if one can draw a conclusion from botanical geography."

De Candolle in *The Origin of Cultivated Plants*, 1882, says: "the sugar cane is cultivated at the present day in all the warm regions of the globe, but a number of historical facts testify that it was first grown in Southern Asia, whence it spread into Africa and later into America. The *Lectures to Sugar Planters*, state that the native home of the sugar-cane is still a matter of doubt, but evidence seems to point to India, or some of the Islands of the Pacific as being the region from which it was originally obtained.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

No announcement has as yet been made as to the attitude of the Government with regard to the Brussels Convention, regarding which it is earnestly to be hoped that judgment will not be passed hastily. We give below the full text of a weighty petition to the King, which was agreed to by the House of Assembly and Legislative Council of Barbados on March 19th:—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Humble Petition of the Legislature of Your Majesty's ancient and loyal Island of Barbados. Respectfully Sheweth:—

1. That the Island of Barbados is one of the oldest colonies of the British Empire, and contains nearly 200,000 inhabitants, by far the greater proportion of which consists of the agricultural class, who are descendants of natives of Africa, brought under the laws of England and settled upon the sugar plantations.
2. That in spite of the cultivation of cotton, which has of late been successfully revived as a subsidiary agricultural industry in those parts of the Island suitable for its growth, the entire population still depend for subsistence upon the sugar industry.
3. That the Royal Commission of 1897 in their report on the condition and prospects of Barbados, recognised that the sugar industry was the only industry capable of supporting its dense population, and declared that if nothing was done to help that industry there was certainty of great distress and considerable expenditure to relieve it.
4. That for many years prior to 1903, the year in which the Brussels Convention was signed, the sugar industry had been struggling against the competition of the beet sugar produced upon the Continent of Europe under the system of bounties and cartels.
5. That prior to the Convention all British Governments for forty years had desired to abolish sugar bounties, and it was only the assured hope that justice would be done that encouraged the continued cultivation of sugar plantations in this island.
6. That Your Majesty's Petitioners are aware that Your Majesty fully realised the injustice of the Continental bounties and cartels, when reference was made by Your Majesty in the speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament in 1902, to the fact "that Your Majesty's subjects in the West Indian colonies had been too long unfairly weighted in the past."

7. That the Convention has not caused a rise in the price of sugar in England, but its effect has been gradually to restore freedom of trade in the markets of the world.

8. That although the results of the Convention are more apparent in some other other of Your Majesty's West Indian possessions where large amounts of capital have during the last three years been invested in the sugar industry, than in Barbados, yet Your Majesty's Petitioners see clearly the beneficial effects of the Convention to themselves, in the renewal of confidence in the one industry on which the entire people of this island mainly depend.

9. That since the Convention has come into operation the beneficial effects of the stability of the industry, inasmuch as it is now based on the principles of supply and demand instead of being at the mercy of foreign caprice, are shown by the purchases of estates at improved prices, not only by local buyers, but by investors from England and North and South America, by the efforts of proprietors to make a higher and better class of sugar than formerly, involving the introduction of new and improved machinery, and, generally, by the active interest taken in all experiments incident to the cultivation of the sugar cane.

10. That in the event of Your Majesty's Government deciding to withdraw from the Brussels Convention, although it may be unlikely that the Continental bounties will be restored, yet the high protective duties which render cartels possible and effective would undoubtedly begin anew, and the sugar industry cannot compete with Continental sugar thus artificially cheapened.

11. That the effect of the withdrawal of Your Majesty's Government from the Convention would assuredly be to thrust back the sugar industry to the moribund state in which it was found at the time of the Royal Commission of 1897, in other words would involve the certain ruin of that industry.

12. That Your Majesty's Petitioners with such a possibility in view, feel that a very grave responsibility rests on them with respect to the future of the inhabitants of the island of Barbados.

Wherefore Your Majesty's humble and loyal Petitioners the Legislature of Your Majesty's ancient island of Barbados most dutifully approach the Throne and pray that Your Majesty will be pleased to influence Your Majesty's Government to take such measures as will lead to the continuance of the Brussels Convention.

And Your Majesty's Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray,
&c., &c., &c.

The appeal of Barbados and British Guiana.

The Committee of Commerce of Barbados addressed a letter, of which the following is the text, to Sir Gilbert Carter, the Governor of the island, on March 18th, on the same subject:—

SIR,—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Committee of Commerce are very desirous to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through your medium, their earnest hope that the Brussels Convention may be continued, as they fully recognise the beneficial effects it has exercised over the sugar industry in this colony in having restored confidence to it, by having secured to the West Indian producer an equality of opportunity with foreigners in British markets, which has been brought about without any material rise in price to the consumer.

On the other hand they can only view with apprehension the disastrous effects to the sugar industry of this colony and the trade dependent thereon which a revival of foreign sugar bounties and cartels would have, as their effect would undoubtedly be to ruin the industry rapidly, whereas the result of the Convention has been merely to stamp out unfair competition.

For this reason, and as the Committee of Commerce feel that the future prosperity of this colony is largely dependent on the continuance of the Brussels Convention after September 1st, 1908, I am to request that your Excellency will be good enough to submit their views and wishes to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, earnestly imploring him to take the same into consideration in coming to a final decision on this important matter.

I have, &c.,

V. HANSHELL, *Chairman.*

At a meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association held at Georgetown, Demerara, on March 14th, it was proposed by the Hon. R. G. Duncan, seconded by the Hon. B. Howell Jones, and unanimously carried:—

"That whereas the Home Government will this year have under consideration the question of its continued adherence to the Brussels Sugar Convention. BE IT RESOLVED: That this Association views with serious alarm the possibility of the Home Government deciding to give notice of its intention to withdraw from the Convention. The enactment of the Brussels sugar Convention helped to restore confidence in the British colonial cane sugar industry, it placed the sugar industry in this colony on a more stable basis, and materially improved its credit. The acreage under cane cultivation has increased, and a large quantity of machinery has been imported, with the object of improving manufacture and reducing the cost of production. The amount of capital invested in the industry exceeds \$10,000,000, and a sum of fully \$3,000,000 is paid yearly in wages on the sugar estates. Sugar and its bye products represent over 70 per cent. in value of the total exports of the colony. The withdrawal of the Home Government from the Brussels Sugar Convention would, in the opinion of this Association, lead to the re-establishment of unfair trade in sugar, by which prices in the markets of the world would be forced below the natural cost of production, and the continued existence of the cane sugar industry in this colony would be seriously jeopardised."

At a meeting of the Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce held on March 15th, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That the Council of the Chamber of Commerce requests His Excellency the Governor to urge strongly on the Home Government the great evil which would befall this colony and the West Indies if the Home Government retires from the Brussels Convention. The abrogation of the Convention would lead to the re-establishment of cartels and other unfair methods of trade, and would go far to ruin the sugar industry in this colony on which the trade and commerce of the colony is so dependent. The sugar industry represents about 70 per cent. of the trade of the colony, and the amount expended in wages is said to be over \$3,000,000 per annum, and the capital invested over \$10,000,000."

In forwarding the text of this resolution to the Governor, Mr. Jules Pairaudeau, Secretary, asked that a copy of it might be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the outgoing mail.

COTTON & RICE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The report of the Board of Agriculture for 1905-6, gives the following particulars of the rice cultivation of British Guiana.

Period.	Rainfall ins.	ACREAGE UNDER RICE CULTIVATION.				TOTAL YIELD.		
		Berbice.	Demerara.	Essequibo. Mainland.	Islands.	TOTAL ACREAGE.	Paddy. Tons.	Equal to Rice Tons.
1898-9	49.93	4,642	1,520	—	293	6,477	6,374	4,653
1899-0	52.70	978	2,175	1,450	814	5,419	4,904	3,603
1900-1	88.94	6,256	3,777	2,277	1,358	13,668	14,669	10,701
1901-2	81.34	8,939½	7,672½	1,501½	1,006	19,119½	21,213	15,590
1902-3	94.48	8,267½	5,365½	2,355½	639	16,628	16,522	12,138
1903-4	99.18	8,253	4,715½	2,930	971	16,669½	17,701	12,940
1904-5	101.13	9,655	7,772	2,356	2,132	21,920	22,597	15,600
1905-6	74.10	9,101½	10,088½	2,532	2,131	23,853	23,728	17,443

The above have been collected from the returns made to the various District Commissaries by the cultivators, and are doubtless below the actual figures. With regard to cotton, Prof. J. B. Harrison, the Chairman of the Board, states that many experiments had been carried on during the year with cotton, both the Sea Island Cotton and the Egyptian varieties having been used. Up to the date of this report the results obtained had not been encouraging. The principal obstacles to the cultivation of the Sea Island Cotton are the heavy nature of most of the alluvial soils on the sea-board of the colony, the occupation of wide areas of soils somewhat better suited to the requirement of the plant by rice-cultivation, and the unreliableness and scarcity of labour. The Board were still directing their efforts to overcoming these difficulties, but it is very evident that any extension of the cotton cultivation in the colony can only be brought about slowly.

SUGAR AND COTTON IN INDIA.

The area under sugar in the six provinces which constitute 96.5 per cent. of the total for British India is, according to the *Indian Trade Journal*, 2,348,800 acres, an increase of 11.2 per cent. on the figures for last year. The total output is estimated at 2,223,400 tons, an increase of 28.9 per cent. on last year, but still considerably below a ton per acre. In cotton, the total area in all territories is computed as 22,344,000 acres, a net advance of 6 per cent. on the final figures for the previous season. The total estimated out-turn amounts to 4,908,000 bales of 400 lbs., the increase in this case being one of 1,482,000 bales, or 43.3 per cent. In British territory the estimated crop is 2,935,000 bales from 13,537,000 acres. This is a net contraction of 486,000 acres, or 3.5 per cent., which is more than accounted for by the marked shrinkage in the Punjab, where the season of 1905-6 was disastrous to cotton. In yield there is an increase of 704,000 bales, which is equal to 31.5 per cent. of last year's crop in British India, but then again it is necessary to bear in mind that the out-turn in the Punjab and some other provinces in the previous year was extraordinarily poor. The total exports of raw cotton were in 1906, 4,369,678 cwts.

THE WORLD'S RUBBER.

The following figures show the world's production and consumption of rubber from 1899 to 1906:—

Year, 1st July to 30th June.	Total Production. Tons.	Total Consumption. Tons.	Stocks, 30th June. Tons.
1899-0	53,348	48,352	8,869
1900-1	52,864	51,136	6,941
1901-2	53,887	51,110	6,816
1902-3	55,603	55,276	5,053
1903-4	61,759	59,666	4,388
1904-5	68,879	65,083	4,584
1905-6	67,999	62,574	5,352

Of the 68,000 tons of rubber produced in 1905-6 over one-half came from America, viz., 42,800 tons; about 23,400 tons from Africa, including the East African Islands, while the remaining 1,800 tons came from Asia and Polynesia. Of the 23,400 tons of African rubber, 4,500 tons were produced by the Congo State, 1,500 tons by French Guinea, 1,250 tons by Angola, 1,000 tons by the Gold Coast. In America, Brazil still supplies by far the largest amount, namely, 41,000 tons, then the Central American States with 400 tons, Mexico from 150 to 200 tons, and Bolivia 1,100 tons, which, however, is mostly accredited to Brazil.

DOMINICA AND JAMAICA ORANGES.

The planters in Dominica have been much exercised in their minds regarding the unsatisfactory prices which oranges have been realising on the London market. This they attributed largely to the flooding of the market with Jamaica fruit, and the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, President of the Dominica Agricultural Society, accordingly requested Mr. G. W. Penrice, the delegate representing Dominica, to bring the matter before the recent Agricultural Conference. Unfortunately the earthquake supervened; but later on, when affairs in Jamaica resume their normal condition, the Dominica Agricultural Society proposes to take steps to bring the question of market rates in London before the Jamaica shippers in the hope that something may be done to mitigate the evils of inadequately remunerative prices. The Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, in a letter written to Mr. Penrice at the close of last year, said that some years ago a great advance was made in the prosecution of the industry in Dominica by the extensive planting of budded Washington Navel and other fine varieties of oranges. Mr. Hesketh Bell, the then Administrator, and his brother-in-law, Mr. J. F. Scully, planted budded oranges in large numbers on their estates, and other proprietors followed their lead in the matter. The Imperial Department of Agriculture assisted greatly this new planting enterprise by publishing in pamphlet form the paper read by Mr. Hesketh Bell on "Orange Cultivation in Dominica," and by making proper provision at the Botanic Station for the continuous supply of budded plants, and the result was that many thousands of Washington Navel orange trees have been established in the island.

In 1906 considerable shipments of the fruit were made to the London market, and the brokers reported on them as follows:—"The oranges were very nice indeed and nicely packed." So that the conditions necessary for planters to secure success had been fulfilled; but, unfortunately, the prices proved unsatisfactory because the market was flooded with shipments of about 30,000 boxes of Jamaica oranges, many of which were reported to be "selling at prices which do not even cover the freight." Now this state of affairs must be as unsatisfactory to Jamaica shippers as it is to Dominica ones, and it will be of very great benefit to so important a West Indian industry if measures can be devised to prevent the total loss to growers that results from their fruit being sold at prices that do not even cover freight. It has been suggested that Jamaica shippers should take the matter into their own hands, and prevent their fruit being sold on the market for less than a minimum remunerative price. As Jamaica practically holds a monopoly of the London orange market during the months of August, September and October, it is in a position to dictate its own terms. It is a question between sellers and buyers; and, should buyers refuse to pay the minimum remunerative price fixed, then the fruit might be given away to the hospitals and other charitable institutions, or be disposed of otherwise. The loss of a few shipments in this way would show buyers that the growers were in earnest, and the loss would be made up before long by the healthier trade relations that would result from such action.

On his return from Jamaica, Mr. Penrice informed the Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls that he visited the Camden Grove orange estate in that island and spoke to the owner on some of the points raised. He informed Mr. Penrice that the timing of the fruit to reach the market at the best season was a matter to which the greatest attention was paid, and was regulated by the water being kept from the trees during the time that they were not required to fruit, in fact very often the trees were actually allowed to suffer for the want of water. The greatest attention was paid to all scale pests and all infected leaves hand-picked from the trees; and he found, if this was done when the trees were young, they were seldom afterwards affected. It appears to be a mistake to think that the Jamaica orange planters dump their oranges into the market at the wrong seasons and sell at unsatisfactory prices; the large proprietors make this a special point, and no doubt the shipments in barrels and at wrong seasons are nearly all peasant-grown oranges. Mr. Penrice was shown a very good grading machine, the chief point appears to be to take care that the orange passes down the machine stem or otherwise a uniform sized orange is not obtained. The orange curing house was also constructed in a very ingenious manner, and Mr. Penrice expressed his willingness to describe it to anyone interested.

SEEDLESS ORANGES.

A correspondent wrote to the *Globe* on March 19th as follows: "There has been a remarkable development in the Californian seedless orange trade this season. The fruits have entered our ports in increasing quantities, but already the public have found that they are in no way comparable to the juicy specimens with which our markets were supplied five years and more ago. Many of the specimens are dry and spongy, and though the fruits maintain their seedlessness there are distinct signs that they are running out and that the quality of the fruit has depreciated. This fact seems to show that seedlessness is secured at the expense of quality, and that the flesh of the fruits which lack seeds loses its juiciness and bids fair in time to degenerate into a kind of vegetable sponge."

"The effect of seeds upon succulency cannot be denied, for, strange to say, the decreased supply of seeds in fruits means a decreased percentage of succulency. Fertilisation and seediness seem still to be absolutely necessary in the evolution of perfect fruits. These both appear to act in a magical manner upon the plastic properties of all kinds of fruits, and though we have had seedless oranges, apples, lemons, and other products brought under our notice from time to time, it seems clear that the representatives of the seedless race of fruits cannot long be depended upon to mature specimens of high uniform quality. There is apparently the prospect of seedless fruits running out and deteriorating simply from seedlessness. We have spoken to several fruiterers, and they admit that they have had several complaints from customers about the poor quality of the Californian seedless oranges this season. This deterioration is causing some concern in fruit trade circles."

THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND.

The Mansion House Earthquake Fund, towards which the West India Committee has received £4,646 8s. 5d., amounts to £54,360. There is still abundant room for individual effort on the part of our readers, the requirements of the sufferers from the earthquake being far greater than was at first supposed. We continue to receive letters of a very distressing nature from Jamaica, which make this perfectly clear.

The Archbishop of the West Indies, Chairman of the Jamaica Relief Committee, and Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Crown Solicitor, the deputation appointed to lay before the Government and Parliament the Petition for a grant and loan in aid of the sufferers from the recent earthquake in Kingston, and to provide for the rebuilding of that city, arrived at Bristol in the *Port Antonio* on Wednesday, March 27th. They were met by the Secretary of the West India Committee. The Archbishop, who was accompanied by his son, Mr. Ernest Nuttall, representing certain policy holders in Jamaica, remained on board for the night, and the party proceeded to London the following morning and attended a meeting of the Jamaica Relief Committee at the West India Committee Rooms. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and there were present Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, and the Secretary. The Archbishop explained what had been done and what was being done in Jamaica, and emphasised the urgent need which existed for Imperial assistance. Mutual satisfaction was expressed at the harmonious manner in which the Relief Committees in Jamaica and London had been working together.

A copy of the Petition, which is couched in strong terms, can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. It will be presented, soon after an interview which the Archbishop and Mr. A. W. Farquharson are to have with Lord Elgin, immediately. When the question of Imperial assistance is settled the deputation will return to Jamaica, while Mr. Olivier will leave in order to assume the Government of the Colony early in May.

The insurance question.

A further meeting of the Relief Committee was held on April 4th to consider the question of insurance. There were present, Mr. Cyril Gurney in the chair, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. H. E. Carter, Mr. E. Nuttall, and the Secretary. We are glad to learn that active steps are being taken by the policy holders to secure a settlement of their claims against the companies. Policies, of course, vary very much as to their terms, but even where stringent earthquake clauses exist, we understand that the circumstances of the fire make the case of the policy holders a strong one, and we hope that the insurance companies may realise this, and that a speedy settlement, which must in the long run be to their advantage, will be effected. Meanwhile we are glad to be able to announce that the companies have agreed to extend the three months' limit within which actions must be brought after the rejection of claims.

Women's Self-Help Society.

Mrs. Rippon has continued her kind efforts on behalf of the Women's Self-Help Society, and the fund inaugurated for this deserving charity by Mrs. Parker-Smith now amounts to £330 14s. od. Will not some of our readers follow Mrs. Rippon's excellent example and collect some further amounts, so that we may raise this fund to £500? We earnestly appeal to those of our readers in the City of London to ask their wives to assist by collecting subscriptions. Since we last went to press the following donations have been received:—

Per Mrs. J. Rippon:—				
R. K. & M. H. Gray...	£5	5	0	
Miscellaneous ...	...	1	0	0
Leslie Williams	...	£0	10	0
C. Johnson	...	0	10	0
The Bartrams...	...	0	5	0
J. Hart...	...	£0	5	0
S. Hartridge	...	0	5	0
Miss May G. Wood	...	0	5	0

N. and S., and chiefly towards the S. But on the South Camp road, running north and south, the garden pillars, or their caps, have all been thrown E. and W., and chiefly towards the E.

Several circumstances agree in placing the epicentre a few miles south of the Palisadoes, between Plum Point L.H., and Harbour Head. The breaking of the submarine cable at Bull Bay, the breaking of the tramway lines at Port Royal, the long and deep fissures in the sand of the Palisadoes, near Harbour Head, and the sinking of the ground there as much as 24 ft. below the sea-level, agree with the curve marking the No. VI. area, and the considerations from the two sets of shocks just mentioned, in pointing out the position of the epicentre.

The next matter for consideration is that Buff Bay and Enfield, on the north side, felt No. VI. shocks, although they are 25 and 20 miles away, with intervening mountains which would reduce the shocks. And, I think, there is no doubt that another focus was formed below the large geological "fault" in the district of St. George. The two foci thus account for the oval form of No. VI. area; and the existence of the second focus between Buff Bay and Enfield seems to be proved by the following remarkable circumstances.

Many of my correspondents have reported the directions from which the shocks appeared to them to come; they do not write "N. and S.," for instance, but from "S. to N.," as though impressed by a particular vibration from S. to N., and as though they ignored all motion N. to S. Until this be explained I shall consider "S. to N." to be much the same as N. and S.; and "E. to W." to be much the same as E. and W., and so on.

If we now mark down upon the map the reported "directions," giving due weight to the general consensus of opinion in the west of the island as to "S. to N.," and reversing other directions, we will find that with few exceptions these directions are at right angles, or nearly so, to the lines joining the places with the principal epicentre south of the Palisadoes; and also that the general "motion" is the same way round as the hands of a watch.

Of the five exceptions, three are Annotto Bay, Castleton, and Stony Hill, which have all been affected by the second epicentre near Buff Bay according to the rule just laid down. The other exceptions are at Croft's Hill, a few miles east of the Bull Head in Clarendon, and Chapelton; and I am assured that the sound and shocks at Croft's Hill came from the Bull Head. And the existence of this local focus seems to be confirmed by the direction N.N.W. and S.S.E. I carefully noted at Chapelton. So that of twenty-one reported "directions," all are in accordance with the rule. It thus appears that the vibrations similar to those of light predominate over those similar to those of sound; and so much so that at a considerable distance from the epicentre only the former seem to be felt.

The weather service was abolished in 1901, but after the great earthquake Mr. J. F. Brennan remembered that he had put up a Gray's dead-beat pendulum seismoscope in the weather office and went to look at it; it was, however, out of order. He put it in order and he has just written me that the instrument has done most important work upon the after shocks. He writes: "Upon carefully examining the tracks upon the smoked glass plates, I could not fail to detect two distinct regions or directions of vibrations, so I then proceeded to classify them and tabulate the bearing of all the shocks producing an E. to W. or W. to E. vicinity in one set, and those which gave a N. to S. or S. to N. group in another set, which you will see compiled upon the attached sheet. My directions are determined by taking the greatest horizontal component of each case and then computing the mean of each set (with the P.W.D., Kingston, as the centre of observation). My result gives for No. 1 set a direction of S. 73° E. or N. 73° W., and the line intersects the Palisadoes just where it branches from the mainland, and continuing further to a point about half a mile to the south of Bull Bay. The other set, No. 2, gives a mean of N. 10° E. or S. 10° W., which represents a line traversing the Palisadoes northerly, about two miles to the west of the light-house, and thence across the island to a point between Annotto Bay and Buff Bay. It is a noteworthy fact that No. 1 set gives the mean horizontal component as .010 of an inch, which is two and a half times greater than the set No. 2, so far as the few shocks recorded are concerned." The positions of the epicentres have, therefore, been fully confirmed.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The House of Commons which adjourned for the Easter recess on Wednesday, March 27th, re-assembled on Monday, April 8th.

The profit from colonial silver.

It will be remembered that in our last issue we referred to the profits made by the Imperial Government out of the sale of silver to the West Indies. In a written reply to a question put by Mr. Mitchell-Thomson on March 26th, as to these profits in each year from 1900 to 1906 inclusive, respectively, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said the estimated profits in the years named were:—In 1900, £29,606; 1901, £15,309; 1902, £7,029; 1903, £2,207; 1904 and 1905, *nil*; and 1906, £33,324.

Coolie immigration into Trinidad.

On March 27th, in reply to Mr. Summerbell, Mr. Harcourt, speaking for Mr. Winston Churchill, said: The Secretary of State is aware of the reduction in the number of Indian immigrants to be introduced into Trinidad during the coming season. The returns of June, 1906, give the number of indentured immigrants in the colony as 9,924, and while about 3,000 have since been introduced, the indentures of some 2,400 introduced in 1902 have expired. The present number may, therefore, be assumed to be about 10,500. The special committee recently appointed by the Governor to consider the labour question in Trinidad reported that no general reduction in wages had taken place; any reduction that may recently have occurred on cocoa estates is doubtless due to the failure of the crop. The Secretary of State sees no reason at present for further limiting the importation of immigrants.

NATURE NOTES.

POOR WORM. On account of the ravages of the cotton worm in Barbados, a ring fence of castor oil plants has been planted in some instances round the cotton fields so that other and more congenial diet may be provided for these nuisances to feed upon. The most fastidious worm cannot, we understand, resist a good healthy castor oil plant.

FREAK BANANAS. Mr. W. Malins Smith, writing from Grenada to the *Agricultural News*, says: "A few days ago I picked a bunch of 'claret' bananas which contained two hands of green-coloured fingers and one hand of both claret and green fingers. There was one finger which was half green and half claret. The green fingers ripened yellow. The bunch, when ripe, presented a very curious appearance."

HINTS FOR APRIL. This Month is equal with the former, for making of Sugar, except that we expect, and have generally more Showers; therefore go on as is prescribed for March; plant and supply your Plantain Walk. Twenty Acres of Land well kept in a Plantain Walk will afford a very considerable Support, as Plantains are as hearty a Food as Eddoes, and the Plantain Walk may be a Nursery for declining Slaves, as well as to fatten old cattle when they are past Labour.—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting, by William Belgrave, 1755.*

SEEDLING CANES. The results of some experiments to ascertain whether cane plants, propagated as usual by cuttings, and chemically selected for their richness in sugar, would transmit their richness to their offspring when propagated by seed, have been published by Dr. J. D. Kohns in the *Archief voor de Java Suikerindustrie*. It was found that the chance of producing such offspring is three times as great with seedlings from such canes as with seedlings from poor canes. It can, therefore, be anticipated that by selecting the cane chemically before crossing, improved varieties can be raised more quickly than in the past.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Port Antonio* left Kingston, Jamaica, on March 14th, and arrived at Avonmouth on March 27th. The R.M.S.P. *La Plata*, which sailed from Barbados on Wednesday, March 20th, reached Southampton at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2nd, and her mails were delivered in London by 2 o'clock on that day. Among her passengers were Lord Frederick and Lord John Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Garnett, Mr. and Mrs. R. Jeffrey, and Colonel the Hon. E. A. Palk.

Antigua and the Sugar Convention.

We are informed by the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner that an important meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was to be held on March 11th to deal with the sugar Convention. One of the most important points to be brought forward would be that the large cotton industry was largely dependent on the sugar industry in much the same way as the prosperity of general agriculture in the Continental countries depended on the beet industry. The Agricultural Show which took place on February 28th was as successful as usual, cotton forming an exhibit of high excellence.

The sugar crop was in full swing, with excellent reaping weather. Both factories had gone ahead without any hitches, and with increased capabilities owing to recently introduced improvements. The juice was good, but the canes rather more fibrous than the planters liked to see them at that time of year. Cotton picking and ginning were progressing satisfactorily. The return of lint would be on the whole an average one; probably it would have been better if the wet season had acted less up to its name.

The strikes in Barbados at an end.

All labour disputes had quieted down when the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne wrote on March 17th, and work on the estates was proceeding smoothly. The strikes were at an end and the crop was

being reaped as if nothing had happened, in most cases at the old rate of wages. Many more women, however, were now being employed.

The Canadian delegates had come and gone. They were hospitably entertained, and met the planters and merchants at the Commercial Hall. There were no immediately apparent results, as they were neither empowered to make nor to accede to any proposals. However, there was a frank interchange of views, which might do some good.

There had been very high winds during the fortnight, which had, of course been good for the windmills, and the crop was proceeding rapidly. The general yield was from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ hhds. per acre, and it was noticeable that there was a large return of molasses per hhd. Muscovado sugar was quoted at \$1.60 per 100 lbs., centrifugals \$2.10, molasses at 18 cents, syrup or "fancy molasses" at 17 cents. Light showers were falling occasionally. There were still a good many visitors at the various hotels; but the homeward steamers were now getting full.

Canadian delegates at British Guiana.

Writing on March 15th, Mr. J. C. McCowan stated that a joint meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society and Chamber of Commerce was held on the 4th to meet the delegates from the Canadian Chambers of Commerce. Their visit was of rather a hurried nature, as they left the same afternoon for Trinidad. Full details of the meeting will be found in the local papers, and it will be noted that it was bluntly stated by them that no portion of the preferential tariff on sugar was intended for the benefit of the producers, it belonged solely to the consumers.

The weather had been too heavy during the fortnight with a continuance of cold and bleak winds. Young cultivation was suffering severely.

We have received from Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, a return of the exports from the colony for the month of February, with which we reproduce the figures for January, for the purpose of comparison:

	February, 1907.	January, 1907.		February, 1907.	January, 1907.
Gold	4,877 ozs.	5,099 ozs.	Diamonds	336 carats	205 carats.
Timber	2,561 cub. ft.	20,968 cub. ft.	Woods, Firewood ...	626 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons.	335 tons.
Lumber, greenheart, &c.	522 .. "	2,808 .. "	Gums, locust, &c. ...	— lbs.	310 lbs.
Charcoal	6,884 bags.	4,748 bags.	Balata	9,261 ..	42,095 ..
Shingles	41,000	35,000	Railway sleepers ...	—	1,000
Wallaba and hardwood posts	188	139	Rubber	323 ..	611 ..
			Fish-glue	746 ..	400 ..

Dominica and the mails.

The Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, writing from Dominica on March 17th, said that they had not yet received their mail letters, and so could not reply to the mail communications which reached Barbados early in the preceding week. He asked, Was this the way to advance the prosperity of these islands? At a meeting of the Dominica Agricultural Society held on March 8th, the following resolution was adopted:—

"Whereas it is necessary for the continued prosperity of Dominica that there should be a subsidised mail service with England, and whereas the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company proposes to remove its intercolonial steamers from the northern islands route,

RESOLVED: That in the opinion of the Council, the only service which will meet the requirements of these islands is a fortnightly one, with cold storage provided on the transatlantic vessels as a means of fostering the growing fruit trade with the mother country."

We are informed by Mr. E. A. Agar, who wrote on March 16th, that the Government were asking for donations of exhibits to form a local museum, but so far it was not known what arrangements were being made for cases, &c. The building to be used was the Victoria Memorial, which, since the erection of the free library presented by Mr. Carnegie, had ceased to be used as a library.

The delegates from the Canadian Boards of Trade visited Dominica on March 13th, and a public meeting was arranged for by the Administrator. The delegates had previously been furnished with statistics and lists of the principal points on which discussion was desired. The proceedings were most satisfactory, and it was believed that much good would eventually result. Useful rains continued, and there should be a magnificent lime crop.

At a meeting of the Dominica Planters' Association on March 13th, it was:—

RESOLVED: "That in the opinion of the Dominica Planters' Association it is absolutely essential to the continued prosperity of the island that a regular fortnightly mail service between this island and England be maintained. And whereas, in the capacity of this island to produce fruit, there is a great potential source of wealth, and whereas this trade has hitherto been greatly hampered by defective provision for transhipment from the inter-colonial to the transatlantic steamers, and latterly by the uncertainty of transport facilities, be it further resolved, that in the interests of the planting community it is most important that such arrangements be made as shall ensure the safe and speedy transport of fruit from Dominica to the English market."

Activity in Grenada.

In his letter of March 15th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton said that the S.S. *Olenda* with the Canadian delegates arrived on the 8th and a meeting was held at Government House, at which the President, Vice-Presidents and several members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society were present, to discuss what could be done to improve commercial relations with Canada, and if possible to induce Messrs. Pickford & Black to re-include Grenada in the itinerary of their steamers.

The annual general meeting of the Society took place on March 1st. The members of the Committee were re-elected. The second lady member was enrolled in the person of Mrs. Mary Brodie, of Mt. Edgecumbe. Mrs. H. E. McEwen, of Sans Souci, in St. Andrew's, was the other. With a view of enlarging the membership and improving the financial position, it was decided to invite the commercial houses and owners of estates to contribute a fixed sum annually to the funds as a donation and to interest themselves in securing new members. Mr. R. D. Anstead, Agricultural Superintendent, consented to collect all the existing information on the subject of diplodia, which the Government was to be asked to have printed, free of charge, for gratuitous distribution. A resolution was passed, and the Hon. C. M. Browne, C.M.G., Mr. P. J. Dean, Hon. D. S. De Freitas, and Mr. David Slinger were then nominated a committee to wait on the Governor to discuss with him the best means to be adopted to have Grenada again included in the itinerary of the Pickford & Black steamers. It was resolved that during each month of the current year a meeting should be held in a country district, to which the general public were to be invited, with the object of discussing agricultural matters and securing new members. It was decided to request the Governor to ask the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture to allow Mr. Ballou, the Entomologist of the Department, to go to Grenada to advise as to the wholesale treatment of "black blight" and other insect pests prevalent in the island, and Mr. Ballou had accordingly arrived by the last mail steamer.

Mr. P. J. Dean was leaving by the mail for Barbados to attend a conference to be held there on March 19th, to consider what steps could be taken, in view of the early termination of the present intercolonial mail service, and the consequent ill-effect it would have on the trade of the colonies concerned, to meet the difficulty.

The Prize Holdings Competition, 1906, was stated in the report of the judges to have been an undoubted success, and they strongly recommended that the Government be asked for funds, so that there might be another competition this year. The funds for the prizes, £25, came from the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the 1906 competition, and would be presented by the President at Gouyave on March 21st. H.M.S. *Sutlej* arrived at Grenada on the 14th, and a dance and "At Home" had been held. Crowds of liberty men were on shore during the day.

Shipments of cacao were in advance of the figures at the same time last year, and as the weather was all that could be desired, there was no reason why at least an average crop should not be turned out. The exhibition at St. Andrew's was a great success. It was opened by the new Governor on the 14th. The Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne won the Governor's cup with 147½ marks.

Relief for Jamaica.

Papers to hand by the mail give the correspondence between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Sir Alexander Swettenham with regard to the proposed Imperial assistance for the restoration of Kingston. In a telegram to Lord Elgin, the Governor expressed it as "his personal antiquated opinion" that this could best be effected by private enterprise. This correspondence makes it clear that the grant of £150,000 and the loan of one million were favourably entertained by the Home Government. With regard to the appeal for the remission of taxation in Kingston, the Governor announced that he would refuse his assent if negotiations in England produced any further relief to Kingston at the expense of the taxpayers of Jamaica. Mr. Cork moved a resolution in the Legislative Council to the effect that it was desirable that the importation of emigrants should be encouraged by reducing the cost to the employer per head to £17 10s., the amount previously fixed. This was carried after an entire day's debate, the principal opponents being Dr. Love, Mr. Stern, and Mr. Corinaldi.

St. Lucia and the Canadian delegates.

Writing on March 18th, the Hon. E. DuBoulay stated that they had had a visit from the Canadian delegates for a few hours on the 12th. A meeting was arranged with the leading merchants and planters, and samples of the island's products displayed for inspection. Addresses were made by Mr. Graff and Mr. Bennett, on behalf of the mercantile and agricultural interests respectively. All the three delegates replied, advocating a closer commercial union with Canada. Mr. Scholfield took the view that the West Indian planters had no claim on any portion of the rebate granted to the Canadian sugar refiners by their Government, that it was simply an inducement to them to buy British-grown sugars in preference to any other, and that Canadians might thereby get their sugar cheaper. He did not say,

ceteris paribus, what inducement there was to the planter to favour the markets of the Dominion. The delegates wished apparently that the West Indians should raise their tariff to, say, 20 per cent., except on British and British colonial goods, which should remain at present rates, but it was to be feared that even if the Colonial Office allowed such an arrangement, their revenue was not sufficiently elastic to make the matter feasible. The weather was propitious to the crops, which were being steadily reaped.

High prices for St. Vincent cotton.

Writing on March 18th, Mr. W. N. Sands said that St. Vincent still maintained the premier position in regard to prices realised for West Indian Sea Island cotton. By last mail Mr. Sands advised that the crop of three estates had sold for 30d. per lb.; this figure had, however, been exceeded, one of Mr. Alexander Smith's marks of lint having fetched the very high price of 31d. per lb. The brokers to the British Cotton Growing Association mentioned that this was probably the highest price that would be paid for West Indian cotton this season. Mr. Smith gained one of Sir Alfred Jones' gold medals for excellence in cultivation last season.

Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, arrived by the mail on March 13th. During his visit he had been busily engaged in dealing with questions of the greatest importance to the island, such as the reclamation of the lands and the restoration of the estates in the Carib country; the measures to be adopted to give immediate effect to the recommendations of Prof. Annett on the subject of anthrax; the formation of a local co-operative company to take over the central cotton factory from the Government. He had conferred with the Government and all the leading planters on the above matters, and Mr. Sands hoped to be in a position to give some of the results of his labours in due course. On March 18th, Sir Daniel proposed to address a large meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, when he would state what he had been able to accomplish during his visit, and put forward important points in connection with the cotton industry, agricultural school and stock farm, anthrax and the stock-producing industry.

Cacao prospects improving in Trinidad.

The Hon. G. T. Fenwick, in his letter dated March 18th, said that with regard to the visit of the Canadian delegates, a full report of their meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Society would be found in the local papers of the 7th. Questioned as to the action of the refiners in taking for themselves all the benefit of the preferential treatment of West India sugars, they boldly declared that they were fully entitled to do so, and argued that the reduction in the duty was intended to benefit the consumer and not the producer. The refiners doubtless had some other argument in dealing with the consumers. It would appear that if any advantages resulted from closer trade relations with Canada, the Canadians would take care that such advantages were mostly on their side.

The Hamburg-American liner *Blucher*, carrying nearly 300 tourists, spent two days at the island. Amongst her passengers were Mr. Cannon, Speaker of the U.S.A. Congress, and several members of Congress, a party of fourteen in all, on a round of visits to Porto Rico, the canal zone, and Cuba. Their visit was purely unofficial. They were much interested in all they saw and regretted their stay was not longer.

The weather had been very unsettled, particularly in the northern districts, during the whole fortnight, with frequent light showers and wind constantly changing between north-west and north-east. The trade wind from the east, usual at this time of year, had not set in. The manufacture of sugar and drying of cacao had not been interfered with, and growing crops had benefited much from the light rains. Canes were turning out up to estimate in weight in most cases, but the yield of sugar from them was much below the average. In spite of a change in leaf, cacao cultivation looked healthy and promising. Deliveries during the fortnight continued on a fairly large scale, but with strong demand the local prices had hardened considerably. Advices of a weaker tendency both in London and New York had had no effect on the market, and supplies coming forward had been freely taken in execution of pending contracts. The pickings still continued to be good, and with favourable weather the quality of cacao was somewhat above the average. Several large shipments had arrived from Venezuela and found ready purchasers at previous prices.

		SHIPMENTS.					
Totals at last report	36,121	Trinidad.	8,509	Venezuela.
Mar. 4.—S.S. <i>Trent</i>	963	"	1	Europe.
" 6.—S.S. <i>Maracas</i>	4,571	"	1,238	New York.
" 7.—S.S. <i>Olenda</i>	10	"	—	Canada.
" 9.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem III.</i>	950	"	—	Europe.
" 12.—S.S. <i>Georgia</i>	500	"	—	Europe.
" 14.—S.S. <i>Orinoco</i>	760	"	169	Europe.
Total to date	43,875	"	9,917	"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The West Indies and Canada.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—May I very briefly point out, in reply to your footnote to my letter,* that you are, I venture to think, repeating the confusion of ideas I desired to remove.

It is the pressure to sell Cuban sugar during the first four months of the year that depresses the American markets below European parity. The market price in America has to be accepted by all those who send their sugar there, but the Cuban still continues to obtain the American market price plus the preference of 34 cents per 100 lbs. This I had already explained. Your reply is that the Cuban does not get his preference "when the world's price of sugar—that based on 88% beet—is used as a basis." No, certainly not, the fact is manifest and self-evident, but it does not concern my point, which is that the Cuban continues to get his preference in his American—the United States—market, and that the British West Indian could do the same in his American—the Canadian—market if he imitated the Cuban, and fixed his price by adding his preference, or the greater part of it, to the American market price.

The Cuban is perfectly free to sell his sugar elsewhere, and he will do so directly the price he would get in Europe is equal to or greater than the American market price, plus the preference, plus the extra freight. I do not think the imaginary "financial grip of the American buyer" has the effect you suggest; nor does it affect the point in question.

As I am writing, may I say, in reference to your notice of Sir Francis Plunkett's death, that it was at the Brussels Conference of 1898, not of 1902, that he took a prominent part? His great and most friendly kindness on that occasion I shall never forget.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE MARTINEAU.

Gomshall, March 13th, 1907.

[The Cuban certainly gets the full value of the preference on the New York price, and so does the British West Indian in the Canadian market on the same basis under the recent conditions of parity. But the latter does not look upon the New York price as that on which the Canadian values should be based, but rather the British price.—Ed.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest. We have received the following:—

Science in Sugar Production. T. H. P. Heriot. Norman Rodger, Altrincham, 6/- net. This is a reproduction in a revised form of a series of articles on "The Chemical Control of Sugar Factories," which have appeared lately in the *International Sugar Journal*. No one is better able to speak with authority on the subject than Mr. Heriot, who has had much experience in tropical sugar houses, and the result of his knowledge and practical experience is embodied in the useful work he has now given to the public. The great feature of the work is the practical nature of it, and the methods given are calculated in every way to afford a reliable check on the work of a sugar-house.

Some West Indian Tracts. Mr. William Gillespie has been kind enough to present to the Library of the West India Committee, a volume containing the following ten pamphlets on West Indian questions and colonial affairs: (1) A letter to the Right Hon. Earl Grey, 1833; (2) A brief statement of the circumstances under which John Reddie has been recalled from the office of President of the Court of First Instance in Mauritius; (3) Mauritius and Slavery (a confidential paper); (4) The case of the Agent of Jamaica against the "act to provide for the enactment of certain laws in the Island of Jamaica," 1839; (5) Reasons for the employment of Convicts in the British Sugar Growing Colonies in the West Indies by James Window, 1847 (a presentation copy); (6) A letter on the West India Question addressed to the British people by a Free Trader, 1848; (7) Report of the Acting Committee to the Standing Committee of the West India Planters and Merchants, 1848; (8) The case of the Free-Labour British Colonies, 1852; (9) A letter to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle on West India Affairs, 1854; (10) Jamaica, its existing condition, with a few suggestions for its amelioration, 1856. The volume is of particular interest, not only for the nature of its contents, but from the fact that it belonged to Earl Grey, whose handsome book-plate, with the motto "*qualis ab incepto*," it bears.

Recollections of a Humourist. By Arthur W. à Beckett. London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd. "Grave and Gay" is the sub-title of this book. Its 412 pages teem with anecdotes to which only one accustomed to rest his knees under Mr. Punch's mahogany could have done adequate justice. The author's recent visit to Jamaica is pleasantly touched upon, and he has, we are glad to say, a good word for the hotels in the island. "Last year I spent a very pleasant summer holiday in the land of never-ending June There were some splendid inns, or rather hostelries, in Jamaica in 1906, I stayed at the Constant Spring, and it was excellent." It is interesting to note that Mr. à Beckett took an active part in the inauguration of Empire Day, which is now so widely celebrated throughout His Majesty's Dominions, and his account of the proceedings of the Victoria Day Committee and the Queen's 80th Birthday Committee, of which our old friend Sir William Robinson was chairman, will commend itself to the true Imperialist. During his life Mr. à Beckett has come across all sorts and conditions of men, and the hope which he expresses that his experience will prove a source of amusement and instruction to his readers, will surely be fulfilled. The frontispiece consists of an excellent portrait of the author, who has more especially since his visit to Jamaica taken such a close and kindly interest in West Indian affairs. The book is got up in the admirable style characteristic of the publishers.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

CABLE REPAIRED. The Bermuda-Turks Island cable of the Direct West India Cable Company was repaired on Sunday, April 7th.

* See *West India Committee Circular*, No. 221, p. 136.

HOT CROSS BUNS. Jamaicans will be interested to learn that "Pimento" or "Allspice," as we call it at home, formed an important ingredient in the manufacture of the hot or cold cross bun on Good Friday.

INSURANCE PROPOSALS. We understand that Messrs. Henry Head & Co., are about to undertake the renewals of hurricane, volcanic and earthquake insurances in Dominica, and that an agent will shortly be appointed by them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT. We have received an interesting volume from Messrs. Arthur Koppel containing half-tone pictures of railway plant and constructional works erected by them in almost every part of the world. It can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

URGENTLY WANTED. Will any of our readers having a copy or copies of the *West India Committee Circular* No. 219, of February 12th last, to spare, be good enough to forward them to the Secretary of the West India Committee, who will be pleased to pay for them in due course.

ONLY REALISED £630. A copy of Hawkins's "True declaration of the troublesome voyage to the West Indies," was sold at Messrs. Sotheby's on March 16th for £630. We wonder if any of our readers has a copy of this work which he will be willing to present to the library of the West India Committee.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS. In the pages of an old letter book in the West India archives, the writer, under date September 11th, 1792, addressing a correspondent in Grenada, says, "Diggin and Garraway are off to Ireland. Lloyd's Coffee House swarms with Grenada people. So many were never, I believe, home at one time before."

TO BOOM JAMAICA. The *African World* of March 9th devoted a special supplement to Jamaica. It seems a pity that the title "Jamaica in 1907" was chosen, as it may lead to confusion with the excellent work of reference published by the Institute of Jamaica. The *African World's* supplement is well got up and calculated to advertise the island.

GILLESPIE-WHITMAN. Our congratulations are due to Alexander Marshall (Alister) son of William Gillespie, of Fir View, Weybridge, Surrey, who was married to Eleanor Esmond, daughter of the late Eben. C. Whitman, and of Mrs. Mary E. Whitman, of Staten Island, New York, on April 6th, at Christchurch, New Brighton, Staten Island, New York.

WEST INDIAN CLUB. Mr. R. Rutherford presided over the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, on Wednesday March 20th. Those present were:—Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. Philip Somerville, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. W. E. Hobbs, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. J. Rippon, Dr. E. Sturridge, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and Mr. Harold de Pass.

CEYLON RUBBER. The report of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce shows that the export figures of rubber, which have been based on entries passed at the Customs for Ceylon produce, amount to 417,661 lbs. in 1906, as against 168,547 lbs. during 1905. From the very material increase as shown above of 249,119 lbs., some 90,000 lbs. representing Straits rubber re-exported must, however, be deducted.

A NEW ROUTE. The West India and Panama Telegraph Company have now established direct cable communication between Dominica and St. Lucia. By laying the cable a long way off and keeping clear of Martinique, danger of interruptions through the action of Mont Pelé should be obviated. By the establishment of this cable, duplicate communication between Santiago-de-Cuba and Trinidad is restored.

LABOUR WANTED. According to the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, the labour question in Hawaii has been a source of trouble since its annexation to the United States. Attempts are made to continue the Portuguese immigration, and a shipload of families representing 300 men fit for work, is on its way to the island, an utterly inadequate contingent. What is wanted in the present position of the cultivation is 10,000, and 20,000 if further lands are opened up.

IN SPANISH DAYS. In 1740 the failure of the cacao crop was so complete that the colonists of Trinidad petitioned their Sovereign to commiserate their position as they were reduced to a state of destitution "insomuch that they cannot go to Mass save once a year to fulfil their 'annual precepts,' when they appear in clothes borrowed from each other." An old paper stated that the Cabildo had but one pair of small clothes between the whole of the members.

R.M.S.P. "AVON." The twin-screw steamer *Avon*, with a gross register of 11,000 tons, which was successfully launched from the yard of Messrs. Harland and Wolff, on March 2nd and christened by Lady Pirrie, will take up her position in the South American mail service on June 14th. Like the *Avagon*, *Araguaya*, and *Amazon*, she has luxurious passenger accommodation, including cabines de luxe, state cabins, single berth cabins, a nursery, and a gymnasium.

THE SUGAR TAX. It would appear, says the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, that the annual consumption of sugar per head in Great Britain has remained stationary since the imposition of the sugar tax. While it is uncertain whether this, or the increase of general taxation since the Boer war has been the cause, it is extremely desirable that the sugar tax should be abolished. To maintain the Brussels Convention and do away with the sugar tax should, according to our contemporary, be the policy of this country.

THE TRINIDAD DOCK. We learn from Mr. A. Kitching, the Secretary of the Trinidad Dock and Engineering Company, Ltd., that their floating dock now in course of construction will, it is expected, be moored at Chaguaramas Bay, Trinidad, in about June or July next. The dock will have an over-all length of 365 ft., and an inside width of 56 ft., and it will be capable of lifting ships of 4,000 tons. The Company being also proprietors of extensive workshops at Port-of-Spain, will be in a position to carry out with despatch every description of repairs to vessels, whether above or below the water-line.

FRENCH SUGAR. The *Journal de Fabricants de Sucre*, considers it doubtful, in point of view of the low price of sugar, whether there will be an increase in the area of beet cultivation this year, but at the same time there is no chance of any diminution as both the agricultural and manufacturing departments of the industry would be seriously prejudiced. Speaking of the French industry, M. Dureau suggests that the present critical state of affairs might be met by reducing the extent of extraction of the crystallised sugar, and by thus increasing the richness of the by-products in nutritive principles, improving their market value.

FOR PHILATELISTS. In order to swell the Jamaica Earthquake Fund in Barbados, the Governor recently authorised the issue of a special 2d. stamp surcharged "Kingston Relief Fund, 1d." with the idea that the stamp should be used as an ordinary penny stamp and that the fund should benefit by the other penny. It appears that inadvertently the inscription on one sheet of these stamps was printed upside down. A well-known philatelist immediately bought up the lot at the rate of one dollar each. The moment His Excellency heard of it, he ordered that 6,000 more should be struck off. It is easy to imagine the chagrin of the philatelist.

A LECTURE ON GUIANA. A successful lecture on British Guiana, was given under the patronage of Sir Alfred Jones, and Mr. H. Nield, M.P., at Acton, on the 5th ult. The lecturer was Mr. Bertram James, formerly of British Guiana, but now a civil servant at the Gold Coast, who gave an account of that magnificent province in all its aspects. This lecture was received with much interest and was interspersed with excellent music. The proceeds, which amounted to £6 17s. 5d., were handed over to the Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers from the recent earthquake in Jamaica. The lecture is to be repeated at Ealing on the 18th inst.

CUBAN LABOUR. According to *El Economista*, the labour question in Cuba is becoming extremely serious and threatening the extension of the sugar industry. The Chamber of Commerce of Santiago de Cuba had addressed the Governor on the subject and pointed out the scarcity of field hands which "not only makes labour expensive, but actually makes it impossible to grind at all a large part of the cane grown." An appropriation towards immigration is urged, and Spain and the Canary Islands suggested as its source, while the immediate situation could be dealt with by importing labour from Porto Rico. What would the planters of the latter island say to this?

A GROSS CALUMNY. A Lanarkshire doctor, in a recent number of the *Glasgow Daily Record and Mail*, solemnly cautions the public against the use of bananas ripened in this country, as there is possibly some connection between the use of the fruit and the outbreak of spotted fever! The *British Medical Journal*, in refuting this statement says, that most of the epidemics of spotted fever have taken place where bananas are unknown, or in times prior to its introduction to them, and winds up by saying that it would be a pity if an ill-considered letter interfered in any way with the consumption of the banana, a fruit which is a welcome addition to the diet of both the rich and poor.

MR. WEST'S RETURN. Mr. A. J. West is now on his way home after a very successful tour with his camera. The films which he has secured have, we believe, come out very well, and we shall soon be able to see in London animated views of the interior of British Guiana, Diamond Estate, Demerara; the Windward Coast, Codrington College, and other places of interest in Barbados; a carnival in Trinidad; some scenes descriptive of Robinson Crusoe's alleged adventures in Tobago, the pitch lake in Trinidad, Diamond Rock; St. Pierre, Martinique, and views of Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts, Dominica and St. Lucia. We are grateful to our Hon. Correspondents and friends who have looked after Mr. West so well.

A DISAPPOINTMENT. Considerable disappointment has been caused in Trinidad to fruit growers by the announcement of the British West India Fruit Company that they intend to discontinue shipping "Governor" bananas from Trinidad altogether. In a circular letter to planters, Mr. A. F. Clarke

explains that the shipment of these bananas from October, 1905, to date, had shown a loss. They drop off the stalk before ripening, and fruiterers will not buy them, and as the variety from Barbados seems to carry all right, he fears that it has something to do with the soil in Trinidad. Mr. Clarke had, however, decided to make a further trial, and announced that he was prepared to accept two more shipments, but at a reduced price, namely 36 cents per bunch.

AD NAUSEAM. Sir James Buckingham, the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, has addressed a letter relative to better fiscal treatment of Indian products to the Right Hon. John Morley, Secretary of State for India, in which the following occurs: "When one remembers the burden that the people of this country took on their shoulders in joining the Sugar Convention, mainly for the purpose of helping the comparatively insignificant sugar industry of the West Indies, surely India has an irresistible claim for better fiscal treatment." Must we repeat a fact which has been brought forward *ad nauseam*, and which is now recognised, that the Brussels Convention has *not* increased the price of sugar in this country, and that, therefore, it has been no burden on the people of this country. Perhaps Sir James Buckingham will endeavour to realize what his views on the matter would have been had the Brussels Convention dealt with tea instead of sugar, and had put a stop to the dumping of bounty-fed foreign tea on the British market.

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., Mar. 26.—Colonial Merchant Shipping Conference opened at Foreign Office under the presidency of Mr. Lloyd-George.—Beet, 9s. 4½d.
- Wed., Mar. 27.—Delegates from the Jamaica Relief Committee arrived at Avonmouth in the *Port Antonio*.—Beet, 9s. 3½d. quiet.
- Thur., Mar. 28.—Hexham Election; Mr. R. D. Holt (L.), 5,401; Col. C. Bates (C.), 4,244; Liberal majority, 1,157.—The death in Cairo of Sir Augustus Hemming, G.C.M.G., announced.—Beet, 9s. 3½d.
- Good Friday, Mar. 29.—Ujda occupied by the French.
- Sat., Mar. 30.—Revenue returns issued. The figures £144,814,000 showed an increase of over £2,059,000 above the estimate.—The Prime Ministers of Cape Colony and Natal (Dr. Jameson and Hon. F. R. Moir) arrived in England to attend the Colonial Conference.
- Easterday, Mar. 31.—The appointment of Mr. S. Olivier to be Governor of Jamaica announced.
- Mon., April 1.—Sir Henry Elliot died.
- Tues., April 2.—Sir Wilfred Laurier and Mr. Bryce spoke on the relations between Canada and the Mother Country. Part of the *Suevic* salvaged. Despatch of Lord Elgin regarding retired Colonial Governors and Company promoting published.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
- Wed., April 3.—Earthquake in the Azores. Lord Cromer's annual report on Egypt. Beet, 9s. 1¾d., flat.
- Thur., April 4.—Note presented by Russia containing reservation of Powers to programme of Hague Conference.—Beet, 9s. 2¾d., quiet.
- Fri., April 5.—The Queen and the Empress Marie of Russia leave for the Continent.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
- Sat., April 6.—King and Queen leave Toulon for cruise in Mediterranean.—Beet, 9s. 1¾d., easier.
- Sun., April 7.—Report of abdication of Czar contradicted.
- Mon., April 8.—Parliament re-assembled.—Beet, 9s. 1¾d., 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.

- April 10.—Colonial Bank Meeting.
- April 12.—Royal Navy Club Dinner to celebrate Lord Rodney's victory over Count de Grasse, 1782.
- April 15.—The Colonial Conference meets at the Colonial Office.
- April 18.—Banquet to colonial Premiers by 1900 Club at the Albert Hall.
- April 24.—Royal Colonial Institute Banquet.
- April 25.—Lecture on "British Guiana and its Resources," by Prof. J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., West India Committee Rooms.
- June 13 & 14, Nov. 28 & 29.—Shows 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 Tuesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Jamaica.—We know of no directory more comprehensive than Kelly's Directory of merchants, manufacturers and shippers of the world, which should give you the information you require.

Ananas.—Though certain proposals have it is true been made in the Straits Settlements for raising the price of pine-apples it is not thought that they will prove effective, as the markets here are controlled largely by the fruit from the Azores.

Mazypop.—There is no reason why maize should not be grown on a much more extensive scale in the West Indies. At present, large quantities are imported which seems a wasteful policy when it can be grown locally. In Southern Nigeria remarkable headway has been made with this commodity. Whereas in 1900 the exports of it were nil, in 1905 they had reached the value of £32,504.

Boscombe.—Unfortunately year-books are not published in all the West Indian colonies. The following directories are obtainable: "Handbook of Jamaica," Stanford, Long Acre; "Grenada Handbook," Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane; "British Guiana Directory," *Daily Chronicle Office*, Georgetown, Demerara; "St. Lucia Handbook," Bradbury, Agnew & Co., London; "Trinidad Year-book," Government Printing Office, Port of Spain; "Barbados Handbook," Bowen & Co., Barbados.

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. SYDNEY OLIVIER, C.M.G., to be Governor of Jamaica, in succession to Sir J. A. Swettenham, K.C.M.G., who has resigned on the ground of age.

Mr. Olivier is the second son of the Rev. H. A. Olivier, of Winchfield, Hants, and was born in 1859. He was educated at Tonbridge School, and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he gained an open exhibition. He took a second class in classical moderations in 1878, and a second class in the final classical school in 1881, and was appointed to a clerkship in the Colonial Office on April 17th, 1882. From October, 1890, to April, 1891, he was Acting Colonial Secretary for British Honduras, and some years later—namely, from October, 1895, to February, 1896, Acting Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands. In September, 1896, he was appointed private secretary to Lord Selborne, who, at the time was Under-Secretary for the Colonies, and in December of the same year he was chosen to act as secretary of the Royal Commission then appointed to inquire into the condition of the West Indies. Mr. Olivier became a first-class clerk in the Colonial Office in June, 1897, and was sent to Washington in the following year on special service in connection with the West Indian reciprocity negotiations. From 1900 to 1904 he was Colonial Secretary at Jamaica, and was Acting Governor there in 1900, in 1902, and again in 1904, in October of which year he returned to the Colonial Office as principal clerk.

We understand that Mr. A. E. COLLINS will succeed Mr. Olivier as chief clerk of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office.

Mr. Collins was educated at the City of London School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He took a first class in the Classical Tripos, in 1893, and entered the Colonial Office in 1894. He acted as private secretary to Mr., now Sir Edward Wingfield, and assistant private secretary to Mr. Chamberlain. He was appointed a first class clerk in 1898.

MR. JAMES H. H. HARRISON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., has been appointed a Colonial Surgeon, British Honduras.

MR. M. ALEXANDER MURPHY, Colonial Engineer, St. Lucia, has been appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony.

HON. CONRAD J. SIMMONS has been re-appointed an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of St. Vincent, for a period of six years from February 26th.

DR. J. E. GODFREY, Surgeon-General of British Guiana, has left the Colony on leave of absence, and will visit the United States before coming to England in June.

PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON, C.M.G., Director of Science and Agriculture, and Government Analyst, has been granted an extension of leave until June 30th next.

MR. T. I. POTTER, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, Trinidad, and Warden of Oropuche and La Brea, has been made Harbour Master of Brighton, in the same Colony.

CAPT. W. LE POER POWER, Sub-Inspector of Police, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence, and resumed the duties of his office on February 15th.

MR. J. H. HART is about to retire from his position as Superintendent of the Botanical Department, Trinidad, after

a service of 22 years, to which we shall have occasion to refer in a future issue. It is understood that the Governor has applied for a temporary loan of the services of an official attached to the Agricultural Department of Ceylon, and it is proposed to secure the assistance of a mycologist and entomologist.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 5 per cent. (changed on January 17th, 1907), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86½.

The Colonial Bank.

The report of the Directors of the Colonial Bank to be presented at the 138th half-yearly general meeting to-morrow, April 10th, at 2 p.m. The course of business in the West Indies has been of a normal character, the Bank's operations showing no change of importance during the past half-year. Deposit and current accounts have been well maintained. Seasons have been fairly favourable, and the crops of sugar and cocoa may be expected to be up to the average, while the planting of cotton is extending. The earthquake and fire which destroyed Kingston, Jamaica, did not occur in the half-year dealt with in the accounts now presented, but the circumstances are so exceptional that the Court have thought it expedient to bear it in mind when dealing with the figures. The building of the Bank has been destroyed, with the exception of the strong room, the contents of which were found uninjured. The cost of re-building will be fully covered by the Bank's insurance fund. Thanks to the courage and energy of the manager and staff the cash and books were placed in safety in the strong room. It is impossible as yet to say what loss will be caused to the Bank by the destruction of property belonging to the Bank's customers. It is not anticipated that it will prove serious. The Court, however, have thought it prudent to pay 3 per cent. only for the half-year, and to increase the carry forward as above shown. The profit and loss account shows a gross profit of £57,168 os. 6d., making with £24,668 12s. 11d. brought forward from last half-year £81,836 13s. 5d. Expenses in the London office and at fourteen branches and agencies, including income tax, amounted to £33,222 2s. 11d., leaving a balance of £48,614 10s. 6d. Out of this balance the Directors recommend a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year ended December 31st last, free of income tax, which will require £18,000, leaving £30,614 10s. 6d. to be carried forward to the next half-year.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) April 4th. "Very dry, rain wanted." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 2nd. "Weather is too wet." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) April 3rd. **BERBICE**: "There is a favourable change in the weather." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 8th. "There has been a favourable change in the weather." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 25th. "Weather showery and unsettled."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Triggs), April 2nd:—Mr. A. A. Gillespie, Mr. J. E. Bergstresser, Mr. W. R. Arkwright, Mr. E. Fox, Mr. W. G. Purdy, Lord Frederick Hamilton, Lord John Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Marshall, Mr. Conway Ross, Rev. J. S. McKnight, Mr. H. McColl, Mr. Harold Le Gros, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Burton, Mr. Francisco Pike, Mr. Ed. R. Marker, Mr. H. Boon, Mrs. Bedin, Miss Bedin, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Keech and infant, Mr. M. Benado, Mr. Geo. Lanthorne, Mr. Delún Borrero, Mr. Cecil Norman, Mr. E. Moore, Mr. Walter L. Newman, Mrs. L. Van Konghuet, Mrs. W. F. Sellers, Miss Mildred Sellers, Master Gerald Sellers, Master A. F. Sellers, Miss Woolcombe, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Greave, Miss Moffat, Mr. T. Mew, Mrs. J. E. London and infant, Mr. D. Clarke, Sister Mary Regis Cahill, Mrs. Pocknell, Mrs. McMillan, Miss Madge Weber, Mr. Geo. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Garnett, Mr. W. Reece, Mr. P. D'Aignevelle, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jeffrey, Mrs. D. I. Todd, Mr. N. K. Jardine, Dr. and Mrs. Senhenlt, Mr. J. M. Thomas, Sergeant-Major Simpson, Miss A. Vignale, Mr. R. C. Foster, Major E. F. Becker, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Venables Kyrke, Mr. A. C. Crewe, Miss Shelley, Col. Hon. and Mrs. E. A. Palk, Mr. and Mrs. Hornsby, Mr. H. A. McNaught, Miss Alice Coelho Amaral, Miss Mathilde Coelho Amaral, Mr. José Claudio de Sousa, junr., Mr. C. Sobens, Mr. Alexander King, Mr. Alfred Cowdin, Mr. Herbert Hughes, Mr. Thomas Thomas, Mr. A. B. Eastwood, Mr. A. E. Shipley, Mr. Thomas Taylor, Mr. William Vernon, Mr. B. Bakhout, Mr. J. Stout, Mr. M. Sato, Mr. H. Kelerk, Mr. J. J. Geelhoed, Mr. W. D. Kullen, Mr. Edward Luck, Mr. Joseph Pollock, Mr. G. H. Bamberger, Mr. G. M. Sterling, Mr. W. J. Stewart, Mr. A. R. Braine, Mr. Geo. W. Hayes.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Triggs) April 10th:—Miss Allen, Mr. Gustav Lund, Mr. H. Burmeister, Mr. F. L. da Lima, Mr. James F. Swanson, Mr. R. W. Lishman, Mr. Schurenbech, Mr. Harmening, Mr. W. Bailey, Mr. W. E. Coates, Mr. Arthur Perry Stockings, Miss Bream, Mr. T. F. Kelter, Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. D. Oswald Williams, Mr. J. D. Hill, Mrs. Ruth Baker, Messrs. Jacques Kaegi and Hermann Reincke, Mr. and Mrs. Hargreave and child, Mrs. H. E. Sharpin, Rev. W. B. Ritchie, Mr. Gustav Hardt, Mr. Henry G. Leedorff, Mr. R. Stephens, Mr. W. Brown.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), March 27th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. J. A. Anderson, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Bailey, Mrs. Bailey, Miss Bailey, Miss Coke, Mr. R. M. Davy, Mr. Edmondson, Mrs. Edmondson, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Miss Gordon, Mr. C. Maxwell Hall, Mr. J. Jones, Mr. Kingston, Lieut. Latham, Mr. Leicester Hawkins, Sisters Martha, Archbishop Nuttall, Mr. Nuttall, Mr. Neylan, Mr. J. Phipps, Lieut. Priestly, Mr. Rowlands, Mrs. Rowlands, Lieut. Sewell, Mr. R. B. Smith, Mr. Sherlock, Mr. Thompson, Mr. J. E. Arnold, Mrs. J. E. Arnold, Mr. Moonsay.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), April 6th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. L. A. Archer, Mrs. Archer, Major Barlow, Rev. R. H. Charles, D.D., Mrs. Charles, Mr. W. Charter, Mr. A. E. Dick, Mr. C. E. Gunning, Nurse Gordon, Captain S. H. Hingley, Mr. H. R. Hampton, Miss Marcella Kerr, Rev. A. McDougall, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mr. J. Pringle, Mr. J. T. Rankin, Mr. G. Calder-Woods, Mr. B. Brown, Mr. J. J. Barber, Mr. Walter Booker, Mrs. Bewlay, Miss Grant, Miss Humphreys, Mr. Morand, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Scott, Sergt. P. Darnley, Sergt. Hart.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
April 10	Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>	April 9, mdn't.
.. 18	Barbados (for Demerara and West India Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	<i>Matador</i>	.. 17, 6 p.m.
.. 19	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica	Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Statia</i>	.. 19, noon.
.. 20	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>	.. 19, *6 p.m.
.. 24	Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>	.. 23, mdn't.

* In E. C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
April 10	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>
.. 15	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Mar. 9	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Mar. 14	1907 1906	April 1 to Mar. 3.	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Mar. 16.	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to Mar. 18.	1907 1906
Sugar	230	1040 Tns.	20,897	22,930 Tons.	11,814	10,616 Tons.	48,399	73,214 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	4,890	5,056 Pns.	372	860 Puns.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rum	5,079	6,511 Puns.	1,110,638	934,956 Galls.	247	— Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasscuit	1,836	2,375 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	17,661	3,300 lbs.	46,522	30,358 Cwts.	7,459,040	7,076,390 lbs.	43,026	36,712 Bags.
Coffee	44,150	73,360 "	3,040	3,601 "	...	...
Coconuts	7,600	16,038	8,953,002	6,280,629	1,723,564	1,778,111	...	...
Copra	4,960	2,190 Bags.	3	21 Bales.
Cotton	16,890	43,307 lbs.	...	...	...	...
Asphalt	20,850	20,926 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	32,835,204	71,095,693	...	...	...	...
Bananas	14,842,628	13,731,147 bnchs	...	...	...	...
Pimento	76,490	87,716 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	12,211	16,213 ozs.	...	...	...	...	1734	2184 Brls.
Diamonds	541	20 carats	...	...	...	...	187	245 1/2-Brils.
Rice	1,133,035	4,200 lbs.	...	...	...	...	196	245 Cases

PRICE

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The tendency of the 88% beet market continued to be favourable after the Easter holidays, which naturally interfered with business. Towards the close of last week, however, the Market took a less favourable turn. The demand from the trade is confined within the narrowest limits pending Mr. Asquith's Budget statement which is to be made on April 18th. The Cuban receipts last week were cabled as 60,000 tons, as compared with 61,000 tons in the previous week and 51,000 tons in the corresponding week of last year, the total being 813,000 tons against 542,000 tons on the same date in 1906. The weather on the Continent has been favourable, but only a moderate extension of cultivation is looked for.

The quotations of 88% beet on April 8th, were:—April, 9s. 2d.; May, 9s. 2d.; June, 9s. 2½d.; July, 9s. 3d.; August, 9s. 3½d., and October/December, 9s. 0½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	3,137,820	3,468,930	2,375,250	3,193,450	3,044,130	Tons
United States	262,000	246,320	254,540	140,320	206,340	"
Cuba... ..	412,000	248,000	291,000	267,300	344,680	"
Cargoes afloat	3,200	3,580	43,100	45,160	30,280	"
Total	3,815,020	3,966,830	2,963,890	3,646,230	3,625,430	"

Quotations of 88% Beet, April 8th, and approximate dates:—

9s. 2d. 8s. 4½d. 14s. 8d. 8s. 6½d. 8s. 2½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar has been in fair demand at steady prices, though business has been interrupted by the holidays. 16s. to 17s. 6d. has been paid for well-made yellows, and 18s. for a little choice. The value of average qualities is still about 16s. 11d., afloat business has been done at 10s. 7½d. for 96%.

Molasses Sugar has been in fair demand, without change in value, 11s. for low qualities and 14s. for good grocery being the quotations.

Muscovado.—The sales of grocery kinds have been of a retail character, at 13s. 6d. to 16s., the demand being slow; 500 tons muscovado, Barbados, sold afloat at 9s. 3d. for 89%.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	9700	14,000	9000	9000	4000	Tons.
Deliveries	10,100	10,000	9000	11,000	11,000	"
Stocks	9259	13,000	9000	10,000	22,000	"

Quotations of average qualities, April 8th: ... 16s. 6d. 14s. 9d. 21s. 0d. 15s. 0d. 14s. 9d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, March 30th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	5900	5500	6300	7300	8500	Puns.
Demerara	8400	10,400	6100	12,000	10,000	"
Total of all kinds	21,200	22,400	19,600	24,500	28,800	"

The Market has been steady, 150 Puns. Demerara sold at 1s. to 1s. 1d. per proof gallon. Jamaica, quiet but steady, with fair common qualities done at 2s. 7d.

COCOA.—Stocks in London:—March 30th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	6175	13,900	17,400	15,800	14,400	Bags.
Grenada	6050	9700	14,900	16,000	16,700	"
Total of all kinds	53,230	76,000	83,000	75,000	83,000	"

The Market continues very firm, but practically nothing has been doing pending the resumption of sales this afternoon. Closing quotations: Trinidad fair collected 85s., Estate Marks, 86s. to 90s.; Grenada fair quality, 77s., fermented, 79s. to 82s. Fair Native from other Islands, 75s. to 76s., fermented, 79s. to 81s., choice lots up to 83s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Santos for April delivery is unchanged at 30s. 1½d. The market has been very quiet. Jamaica is steady, but slow of sale. Only half the quantity catalogued has been sold at 37s. for low ordinary; 41s. 6d. to 48s. for ordinary to good ordinary, and 53s. 6d., to 66s. 6d. for fine ordinary to good middling.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended April 4th, 194 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. West Indian good medium is quoted in Liverpool, 6.90; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 19½ per lb.; medium fine, 20½ per lb.; fine, 22 per lb. West Indian Sea Island has been in good request and prices remain very firm. Cotton from Cunningham's estate, St. Kitts recently fetched 27d., and from Mr. Alexander Smith's estate in St. Vincent, 31d.

ARROWROOT has been slow, and sales unimportant, good manufacturing is nominally 2½d. per lb., fair quality 2¼d.

Imports and deliveries for the first 3 months, with stocks, are as follows:—

Imported ...	1907.	1906.	Deliveries ...	1907.	1906.	Stocks ...	1907.	1906.
Barrels ...	4,310	5,871	Barrels ...	2,641	3,338	Barrels ...	5,087	8,255
Boxes and Tins —	138		Boxes and Tins	82	107	Boxes and Tins	858	1,136

PIMENTO steady, small business done at 2¼d. for fair. **NUTMEGS.**—West India, firm sales made of 66's at 1s. 1d., 83's at 10d., 98's at 7½d., 100's at 7d., Smalls 128's to 137's at 5½d. to 6d. **MACE.**—West Indian dearer, a few packages have changed hands, good pale, at 1s. 11d. to 2s. 3d., good red, at 1s. 7d., broken, at 1s. 4d. **GINGER.**—Quiet and unchanged. Jamaica met a fair demand at previous values, business done common 65s. to 66s., ordinary and good bright, 74s. to 80s. **LIME JUICE.**—Steady, a few packages of fine quality sold at 1s. 6d. Concentrated, unchanged, a small business done at £24. Distilled oil, 2s. 11d. Hand pressed, 3s. 6d. **COPRA.**—Prices range high. Fair merchantable qualities are worth from £25 to £26 per ton, c.i.f., packed in bags.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

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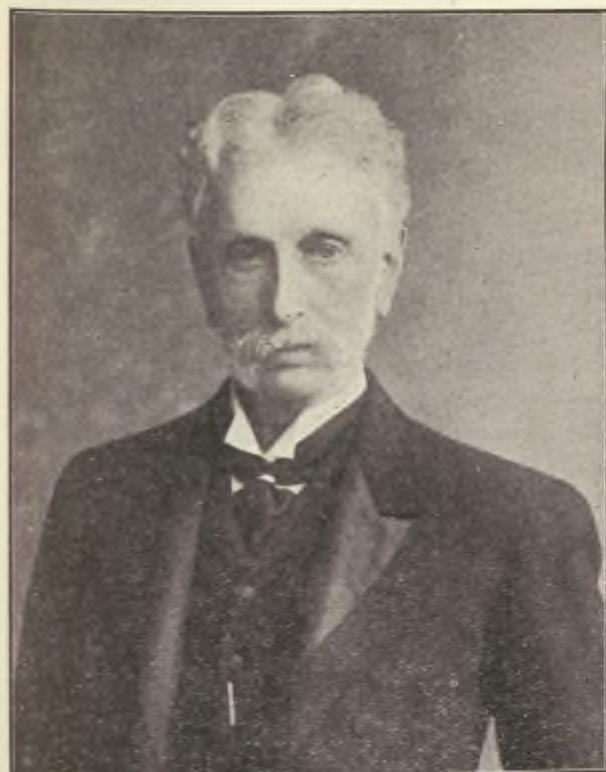
No. 224.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

XCI.



Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

April 22nd, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6042 CENTRAL.

IT is an interesting and significant fact that though radio-telegraphy has been extensively tried by the American Government they are now adopting cables in its place for commercial purposes. Again, since the year 1900, when the introduction of wireless telegraphy first became seriously talked of, no less than 69,039 nautical miles of submarine cables have been laid in all parts of the world. This should be a subject for reflection for those who are inclined to rush hastily into schemes for linking up the West Indies with, and rendering them dependent upon, radio-telegraphy for their inter-communication. No one recognises more than we do the advantages of the wireless system for special conditions, such as communication between ship and shore, and possibly for linking up such islands as St. Kitts and Nevis, but it has yet to be demonstrated that it can be successfully used for commercial purposes over long distances. Every effort to get favourable or reliable information on this point has been unavailing, and we can only presume that it is not forthcoming. We still,

therefore, adhere to the belief that the solution of the present cable difficulty must lie in the extension of

the Halifax and Bermuda cable to Barbados, and the laying of new cables from Barbados to Trinidad, and from Barbados or Trinidad to Demerara, together with the establishment on an efficient basis of a connecting cable between the Windward and Leeward Islands and Barbados, with—and this is very important—a considerable reduction of message rates. Mr. EDWARD R. DAVSON recently pointed this out in a forcible letter to the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*, and he rendered a similar service at the meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire last year when he moved a resolution, which was adopted unanimously, urging that the Imperial Government should assist in providing a subsidy or guarantee for a direct cable between the British West Indies, Canada and England. This resolution was carried with enthusiasm, and, as he showed in his letter, the West Indies were thus armed with a powerful weapon with which to bring pressure on the Home Government. This pressure has never yet been brought, but it is hoped that it will not be forgotten in the pursuit of the shadow of radio-telegraphy. The cost of the all-British scheme can be met in various ways, either by those colonies concerned increasing their subsidies to what they were in or about 1887, or, if this is impossible, by the Imperial Government making up the difference between the sums in the form of a temporary subsidy, or by their either guaranteeing interest on the capital required or adopting some such method as a traffic guarantee for a limited number of years. Will not, then, the colonies take united action and bring pressure upon the Home Government to induce them to bring about a satisfactory solution of this vexed question? 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 time of war, constitute, as was pointed out in the report of the Sub-Committee of the West India Committee, which went into this matter, 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; but even if the Home Government does not see its way to assist in this matter, it would not be unreasonable to expect an Imperial guarantee of the Colonial Government subsidies, which would enable capital for the new lines to be raised at a lower rate of interest, and thus enable work to be started with a still smaller subsidy. But the colonies will surely agree to what they used to pay formerly if they are given not only a new service of cables but all-British communication with Canada and Great Britain, and a reduction of message rates to, say, 4s. 2d. per word between each colony and the mother country, France and Germany, together with the substantial improvement in the nature of Press news, which, as all will agree, is much to be desired. The Departmental Committee is still sitting at the Colonial Office, but it is an open secret that if the money is forthcoming the cable system is preferred by them to the wireless.

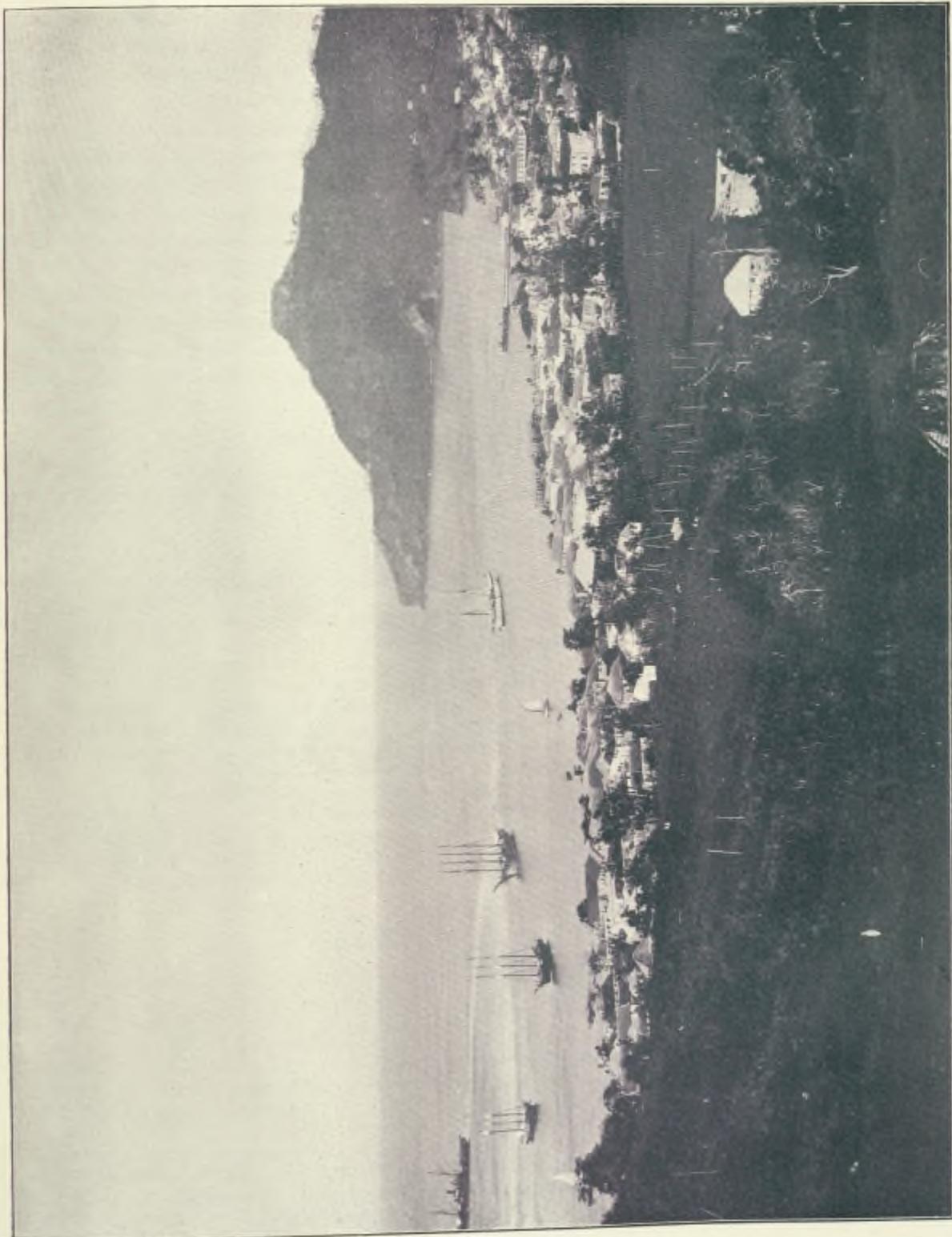
ONE of the most important developments of the present day in relation to tropical life is that of the study of tropical diseases. The unhealthiness of colonies under the shadow of the equator, has been one of the great drawbacks to this development, and the virulent maladies which are characteristic of most of them, have been a *terra incognita* to practical medicine. This is now changed, research in the active fields of the diseases has been productive of striking and encouraging results, and schools of tropical medicine, in which medical men, proposing to devote themselves to tropical practice can make themselves practically acquainted with the characteristics of the several diseases have been instituted. One of the most important of these is the London School of Tropical Medicine, which owes its inception to the foresight of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. The beginning of the school was unpretending. In the small branch of the Seaman's Hospital, at the Albert Docks, containing only twelve beds, there were frequently cases of tropical disease of importance. When SIR PATRICK MANSON was appointed physician to the institution in 1897, although there was no formal school, he invited various medical men from the colonies and elsewhere, and demonstrated to them some of the more important parasites then known to cause disease. This coming to the knowledge of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, who recognised at once the value of organised research in the direction of tropical disease, a scheme was organised, as the outcome of which

the small branch of the Seaman's Hospital at the Albert Docks was connected with an efficient School of Tropical Medicine. The object of the school is to train medical men going to the tropics, so that they may be the better prepared to cope with the diseases they meet, and fit those capable for investigation work. The accommodation of the hospital has now been increased to fifty-two beds, and suitable laboratories provided, provision being made for thirty-eight students, who go through a three months' course of instruction. During the short time that the school has been established, somewhere about 700 students have passed through the course, and an enormous impetus thus given to the study of tropical diseases on the spot. As regards the work done by the school it is almost unnecessary to dilate. Following Dr. Ross' proof of the mode of transmission of malaria was the practical demonstration by the London School of Tropical Medicine that malaria could be acquired in malaria-free England—by the bites of mosquitoes brought from Italy, and that men could live in the most malarial part of Italy exposed to sun, to night air, and to emanations from the soil, so long as access of mosquitoes to them was prevented. The Cragg's scholar showed that elephantiasis was conveyed by the bite of certain mosquitoes. A past student of the school was one of those who aided in the proof of the mode of propagation of yellow fever in Cuba. A student in Uganda demonstrated the connection of sleeping sickness with *Trypanosoma Gambiensi* of man, which another past student had discovered; and the actual causes of many less important diseases have been determined by students of this school. The school has been instrumental in proving that the white man can dwell in health and comfort in any portion of the tropics if he only knows how to live, and has the aid of skilled and fully-qualified medical men who have extended their studies so as to make themselves acquainted with those forms of disease which are peculiar to the tropics. It will be quite readily understood that an institution of this character cannot be conducted without funds, and funds are required if continued progress is to be made. The staff of the school at the hospital includes men with experience in every part of the tropical world, and it is the lack of endowments which severely hampers the usefulness of the school. It is the duty of all connected with the tropics, at home and abroad, official and unofficial, to support and help to develop an institution of this description, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the London School of Tropical Medicine will soon be placed in a position which will free it from all pecuniary anxiety.

MR. GEORGE S. HUDSON, our Hon. Correspondent in St. Lucia, asks how it is that that island has not attracted settlers to the same extent as her neighbours have done. We have no hesitation in stating that one great reason has been the fact that no attempt has been made to bring its great natural advantages before the public as, as we imagine, has been made in Dominica by the late Administrator, MR. H. HESKETH BELL; in Jamaica by MR. FRANK CUNDALL'S admirable pamphlet, "Jamaica in 1905," and in Tobago by the "Hints to Settlers," issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Coming in contact, as we do, with a constant stream of applications for information and advice from would-be settlers, the value of these works both to us and the prospective emigrants has been great, and has enabled us to be instrumental in sending several settlers to the two first named islands. SIR HENRY M. JACKSON, the Governor of Trinidad, has also entrusted us with a large number of the pamphlets regarding Tobago, and we are hopeful of being able to render a similar service to "Robinson Crusoe's island." Without such literature we are seriously hampered in giving information and advice. No matter how much we are acquainted and in touch with the local conditions, we cannot appeal to intending colonists so forcibly as when we are able to put before them in black and white the natural advantages of the West Indian colonies. With a supply of suitable literature, however, the only limit to our sphere of utility is the capacity of the islands for the absorption of new blood. We hope, then, that each of the colonies desiring to avail themselves of the services of the West India Committee for this purpose, will furnish them with the necessary material in the form of suitable literature, and that our friends of the West Indian press, who always so loyally back up our

efforts, will help us to keep the need for it constantly before the various local Governments. Every one will agree that of late years the increased interest which has been taken in the West Indies is very noticeable, but there is much more to be done yet, and the question is of sufficient moment to justify financial assistance being afforded by the local Governments to enable them to develop and extend this propagandist work which is quite apart from their ordinary duties. The advantages which the West Indies offer to settlers and tourists have not yet been sufficiently advertised, and in the light of our own experience and of what is being done in bringing before the public the merits of other colonies, we believe that it would be well worth while for the colonies to make the experiment and devote a small sum annually for the express purpose of publicity which the West India Committee could obtain for them in a large variety of ways. Hitherto there has been too great a tendency to rely on private enterprise. In this connection we must refer to our friend MR. A. J. WEST, who has just returned from the West Indies with a fresh set of films for his animated pictures of West Indian life and scenery. MR. WEST on his second visit left, we believe, not a single island out of his itinerary, and judging by the few of his pictures which he has already shown us, he has been specially fortunate in securing some magnificent views from British Guiana to Jamaica. They will shortly be put on public exhibition, and they too will help very greatly to popularise the West Indies. When we first suggested the visit of an "animated photographer," we scarcely hoped that it would be possible for so capable an expert as MR. WEST to devote so much of his time to our West Indian colonies, and all connected with them must feel grateful to him for what he has done, which will undoubtedly serve to interest the British public in the West Indies.

IN the Legislative Council of Barbados on March 7th, the HON. W. K. CHANDLER, referring to the £250,000 grant-in-aid voted by Parliament to the West Indies on July 31st, 1902, to enable them to tide over the period until the Sugar Convention, then agreed to, became operative, made a statement which, we feel, requires some modification. He is reported to have said that it was largely and principally due to SIR FREDERIC HODGSON that the grant was ultimately made. Without any wish to minimise the efforts of the late Governor of Barbados, which were so greatly appreciated in the colony, we feel that in fairness to SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK and MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU, the expert advisers to the Brussels Conference, we should once more point out that it was to them that the grant in question was, in the first instance, due. The circumstances were these: it had been hoped that Germany and Austria would agree to the date, September 1st, 1902, as that on which the Sugar Bounty Convention should come into force. They declined, and it then appeared that September 1st, 1903, was the earliest date on which the agreement could be brought into operation. It was recognised that the delay would have a serious effect on the West Indian sugar industry. Accordingly, in a memorandum dated January 24th, 1902, Sir Neville Lubbock and Mr. George Martineau emphatically pointed out that they could only recommend the delegates to agree to the Convention if the British Government would decide to afford some adequate measures of relief to the West Indies in the meantime. The delegates accepted the position, and refused to commit themselves to an Article, introduced by the French delegates, to the effect that during the interval the signatory powers should undertake not to enact any measure tending to stimulate the production or importation of sugar. The West India Committee immediately took steps to urge upon the Government the necessity of the adoption of temporary relief measures, and on March 5th a deputation waited upon SIR MONTAGUE OMMANNEY and MR. C. P. LUCAS, at the Colonial Office, by request, to lay before them these facts. Subsequently a private deputation was received by MR. CHAMBERLAIN, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and it is now generally known that at this meeting the actual sum of £250,000 was first mentioned, and it was agreed that the crops of 1902 should form the basis of proportion at the rate of 30s. per ton of sugar to the more necessitous colonies; while those in which



(Photograph by)

KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT.

[A. J. WILSON.]

the sugar industry was in a less precarious position should receive relief at the rate of £1 per ton on their crops. A lengthy memorial was sent to MR. CHAMBERLAIN on March 18th, and an interview with SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, resulted. On April 14th the grant-in-aid was made. As to the manner in which the grant was applied, it is not for us to give our views here. In some cases it was distributed in accordance with the original intention as a free grant to those who undertook to carry on the cultivation of their properties on the strength of the Government's promise to assist them to do so, in others it was used for ulterior objects; but be that as it may, the facts are as above stated. This, as MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU reminds us, was pointed out very distinctly by MR. R. RUTHERFORD, in a letter in the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of July 18th, 1903, which lack of space precludes us from reproducing in our columns. We mention it again because we feel that credit is due to SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU, and the others of the loyal band of workers on this side who devoted so much time and energy on behalf of the West Indies in those dark years which preceded the abolition of bounties. Only those who actually participated in the fight can fully realise what it cost them in worry and anxiety before the day was won, and it is, we feel, only proper that honour should be accorded to those to whom honour is most certainly due.

SIR FREDERICK YOUNG, K.C.M.G.

All true Imperialists must be glad to learn that a testimonial is to be presented to Sir Frederick Young, who has devoted so many years of his life to the interests of our colonies. Time was when our colonies were only poorly appreciated at home, but such zealous and indefatigable workers as Sir Frederick Young have altered all that, and it would be suitable on that account, if on no other, that he should find a place in our gallery of celebrities. But Sir Frederick Young has also been a prominent figure at many of our West Indian functions, for there is no part of our Empire in which he does not, in spite of his years, take a keen and active interest. It seems incredible to those who are privileged to meet him, that Sir Frederick Young was born so far back as 1817; but that is the case, and it is on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, on June 21st next, that the testimonial is to be presented to him in recognition of his indefatigable services to the Royal Colonial Institute and to the Empire during a period of more than thirty-seven years. The son of the late George Frederick Young, M.P., for Tynemouth, and Mary, daughter of John Abbott, of Canterbury, he became a merchant in London, and took a prominent part in promoting various schemes for the welfare of the people. He is by no means an armchair colonist, as he has travelled extensively in South Africa and Canada. He became a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute as far back as December 20th, 1869, a Councillor on June 5th, 1871, and he acted, moreover, as Honorary Secretary from November 24th, 1874, to July 27th, 1886, on which date he was elected to his present position of a Vice-President. He was created a K.C.M.G. in recognition of his eminent services in 1888, and his many friends and admirers are hopeful that that "K." may become a "G.," which would be a fitting honour to confer on one whose career has been so useful to the Empire.

KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT.

When Froude visited the West Indies he was particularly struck with Kingstown, which nestles at the foot of the mountains on the shores of a deep bay at the south-west of St. Vincent, of which it is the capital. Certainly its situation could not be more picturesque. On entering the bay one seems to be surrounded entirely by an amphitheatre of hills clothed in verdure of such beauty that only the tropics can afford. To the north-west is the imposing Fort Charlotte, on a lofty eminence which appears in our full-page illustration, while on the south, or Cane Garden Point, there is also a formidable battery. At the back of the town is Mount St. Andrew, which rises to a height of 2,600ft., and is the final elevation of the backbone of mountains which traverses St. Vincent from north to south. During the insurrection of 1795-6, when the Caribs were under Chatoyer—whose Punch Ladle now rests at the West India Committee Rooms—and Duvallé, it looked down on many a stirring scene in which the residents of Kingstown played no ignoble part. Though St. Vincent fell on evil days owing to the effect of the foreign sugar bounties, it is rapidly recovering some of its lost prosperity, and it can now with justice claim to produce the finest Sea Island cotton in the world. Our illustration is from a photograph by Mr. A. J. Wilson, the capable photographer in Kingstown.

"BRITISH GUIANA AND ITS RESOURCES."

There is likely to be a large attendance at the meeting to be held at the West India Committee Rooms on Thursday, April 25th, to hear Professor J. B. Harrison's lecture on the resources of the Magnificent Province. Already all the tickets have been allotted, and it is only in the event of any tickets being returned that we can entertain any further application for seats. Sir Charles Bruce has kindly consented to take the chair on this occasion, and tea will be served immediately after the lecture.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, April 11th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
T. C. HART (Dominica)	A. Danes Riviere	Leycester P. Storr.
S. D. MALONE (Nevis)	D. S. Blake	William Gillespie.
J. H. LEE (Antigua)	Hon. A. St. G. Spooner	E. L. Marshall.
ALFRED BROWNE (Barbados)	T. W. Wilkinson	R. Rutherford.
THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY	Sir Nevile Lubbock	R. Rutherford.
THE COCOA PLANTERS' ASSN. (Trinidad)	J. G. de Gannes	Fred Em. Scott.
GEORGE TAYLOR (Jamaica)	E. A. de Pass	Cyril Gurney.
N. J. A. BASCOM (British Guiana)	Spencer H. Curtis	C. Algernon Campbell.
TRINIDAD DOCK & ENGINEERING Co., LTD.	A. N. Lubbock	H. F. Previté.
ALFREDO DILLON	F. N. Martinez	The British and Benington's Tea Trading Assn., Ltd.

It may be mentioned that a new List of Members is in course of preparation. Full particulars regarding membership and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinnall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE WORLD'S SUGAR CONSUMPTION.

The sugar consumption per head in the principal countries of the world is given by Otto Licht as being, in lbs.:—

	1905-6	1904-5	1903-4		1905-6	1904-5	1903-4
Germany ...	40.37	34.09	42.35	Greece ...	8.73	7.92	9.21
Austria ...	23.32	20.04	23.34	Servia ...	6.66	6.07	8.91
France ...	35.24	33.48	44.24	Turkey and Asia...	11.55	10.21	9.35
Russia ...	18.31	17.80	15.73	Portugal and...			
Belgium ...	24.57	23.29	33.64	Madeira ...	12.27	12.16	13.66
Holland ...	38.84	37.53	35.15	Switzerland ...	58.28	55.75	58.12
Sweden ...	53.61	44.96	39.73	England ...	87.82	78.20	86.11
Norway ...	35.28	34.89					
Denmark ...	76.23	71.85	65.27	Europe ...	30.56	27.67	30.25
Italy ...	7.85	7.10	7.61	U.S. America ...	82.36	72.93	75.68
Spain ...	11.08	12.14	11.81				
Roumania ...	8.20	6.79	6.80	Average of the World	38.74	36.87	37.64
Bulgaria ...	8.77	6.62	6.82				

GERMANY AND THE CONVENTION.

At a general meeting of the Sugar Manufacturers of Eastern Germany the result of the labours of the Permanent Commission sitting under the terms of the Brussels Convention has been severely criticised by Dr. Bartens, who considers that in most of the questions which came before it, Great Britain has had her own way. This, he says, was especially apparent in the case of Brazil, in which Great Britain showed an extraordinary activity. In the first place she obtained the postponement of the special duties directed against Brazilian sugar, and then caused it to be declared, by means of reports coming from Belgian and English Consuls in Brazil, that the fiscal conditions of that State did not amount to a bounty under the terms of the Convention. The Permanent Commission, according to Dr. Bartens, allowed itself to be convinced, and ultimately withdrew the countervailing duties it had previously fixed for these sugars, although there is nothing more certain than that the Brazilian surtax considerably exceeded the limit laid down by the Convention, that repeated attempts are made by producers in the direction of the formation of syndicates, and that these efforts are encouraged by the new Brazilian laws. If Dr. Bartens had studied the reports as to the condition of the Brazil sugar industry with an open mind, he could not have failed to have come to the same conclusion as the members of the Permanent Commission, and the fact that all attempts at cartel formation in Brazil have failed is evidence in itself of the position. The fact of the matter is that Dr. Bartens has evidently allowed Anglophobe proclivities to prejudice his judgment. Indeed he attributes the

hypnotic influence which Great Britain evidently exercised over the members of the Commission to the desire to obtain the 50,000 tons which represent the Brazil sugar exports! There is another question which Dr. Bartens would like to see brought forward, and that is the treatment of the United States. The Commission, he says, has not dared to apply the penal clause in this case, although justified by the high customs' duty and the bounties which result. The question is anything but an indifferent one, as United States sugars according to him, are competing with those of Germany in the markets of South Africa. Again, as regards Cuba, does not the preferential treatment by America justify the bringing into force of the penal clause?

Dr. Bartens winds up by stating that, from a German point of view, it is a serious question whether, in the event of Great Britain remaining a party to the Convention, Germany should continue its adherence to it. Should Great Britain remain a party to it, the Convention ought to be reformed in more than one point, notably as regards the Permanent Commission. If Great Britain retires a Convention without England would not be without danger to Germany.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, in commenting upon Dr. Bartens' remarks, considers it is a pity that the penal clause was not applied in a stricter manner, and deplors the fact that no action has been taken with regard to American bounties; and considers that these bounties, which represent 259 million of francs, contribute in a great measure to the actual lowering of the sugar markets throughout the world.

MANY YEARS AGO.

The Glorious 12th of April.

During the past fortnight there has occurred the anniversary of a victory scarcely less glorious to the vanquished than it was to the victors; which, to the English, was of great and far-reaching importance. We refer to the battle off Dominica and Guadeloupe, at which Rodney gained a brilliant and decisive victory over Count de Grasse on April 12th, 1782. By it, to quote the words on the monument to the naval hero in St. Paul's Cathedral, "An effectual protection was afforded to the West India Islands."

Island after island had fallen into the hands of the French, who were contemplating an immediate descent upon Jamaica, and the outlook was dark indeed when on February 19th Sir George Rodney arrived at Barbados. He proceeded to Gros Islet Bay, Saint Lucia, where he was kept informed by a chain of frigates and look-outs on Pigeon Island of the movements of De Grasse, who was lying in Fort Royal Bay, Martinique. On April 8th a preliminary engagement took place between Sir Samuel Hood and the French Admiral. Four days later, on the eventful April 12th, one of De Grasse's vessels, which had lost her foremast and bowsprit, was being towed into Guadeloupe by a frigate when Rodney gave chase. De Grasse at once formed his line of battle. Rodney recalled his chasing ships and followed suit. An engagement soon became general. This was at 7 a.m., and at 11 the breeze freshened, and Rodney and Hood closed up with the enemies' van. The ships of the two fleets were in parallel line, and sailing in opposite directions, when Rodney, seizing his opportunity, executed the brilliant manœuvre, ever after famous, of breaking the enemies' line. By thus dividing the enemies' fleet into two divisions he secured a complete and signal victory. In the *Formidable* (90 guns) he next endeavoured to engage the *Ville de Paris*, sinking on his way the *Diadème* with a single broadside. Though he failed at once to reach the flagship, she was compelled to yield to the *Barfleur*, De Grasse fighting gallantly to the last, until only he himself and two unwounded men remained on the upper deck. This was at 6.30 p.m. The English lost 261 killed and 837 wounded; while of the French, no less than 14,000 were accounted for as being killed and wounded. In this memorable engagement, which secured to us our West Indian Colonies, the English fleet was slightly superior in numbers, consisting of 36 ships and 2,640 guns, as compared with 34 ships and 2,560 guns of the French, but the latter carried an extra complement of 5,500 men and a complete train of battering guns and field pieces for the conquest of Jamaica. The *Ville de Paris*, a magnificent three-decker of 2,300 tons and 110 guns, which was the gift of the City of Paris to Louis XV., and cost £156,000,—no small sum for a single ship in those days,—was sent home by Rodney as a prize with five others, and with three of his own ships which had been seriously damaged, under the command of Admiral Graves, but unfortunately she and the *Glorieux* went down in a hurry with all hands. Rodney reached England on September 21st, 1782, and was at once raised to the peerage and granted a pension of £2,000 a year in addition to the similar amount which he was receiving as a reward for defeating De Guichen off Martinique in 1780. He died on May 21st, 1792, and a monument was erected to his memory at the national expense in St. Paul's Cathedral.

On February 20th, 1783, the House of Assembly of Jamaica directed the committee of correspondence to write to Stephen Fuller, Esq., the Agent for the island, asking him to apply to the most eminent artist in England to prepare an elegant marble statue of Lord Rodney, to be erected in the parish of Spanish Town in commemoration of the glorious victory. In 1788 the statue was received at Kingston, and "its arrival renewing the public feeling towards it which the long delay had in some

slight measure depressed," as we are informed in 'Hakewill's Tour in the Island of Jamaica,' "a violent strife commenced between Kingston and Spanish Town for the honour of its final position. A petition was presented to the House of Assembly from the inhabitants of Kingston and Port Royal, in



De Grasse delivering his Sword to Rodney.

This picture, after an old engraving, is reproduced from the frontispiece of "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," by kind permission of Mr. Edward Stanford.

while that of Sir Charles Metcalfe has been transferred to the Parade.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB AND JAMAICA.

There was a large attendance at the Howard Hotel on April 16th, when the Archbishop of the West Indies and Mr. A. W. Farquharson were entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club. Mr. E. A. de Pass presided, and there were present: Sir Henry K. Davson, Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Hon. C. T. Cox, C.M.G., Mr. E. Alberga, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. Badcock, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. E. H. F. Cox, Mr. T. Gordon Davson, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. Gerald S. Ewen, Mr. P. Gillespie, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. H. Gray, Mr. J. H. Hicks-Bratt, Mr. Henry Kirke, Dr. A. C. Lockett, Dr. G. V. Lockett, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. A. A. Nathan, Rev. A. Outram, Mr. W. C. C. Park, Dr. E. Simpson, Mr. Edgar Penman, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. James Scott, Mr. J. A. Sellors, Mr. J. R. Smith, Mr. Stranger, Dr. E. Sturridge, Mr. W. Thorn, Dr. H. A. Whitelocke, and Mr. Charles Wilson.

which they stated 'that they had subscribed a large sum of money for the purpose of conveying water from the Hope River to the Parade at Kingston, by means of which they proposed to form a spacious basin to surround the statue, and that they had lately subscribed a further considerable sum to assist in erecting it; but that they are penetrated with the deepest concern to find that a report prevails of its intending to be placed in Spanish Town.' The motion was made in the House of Assembly that the petition be referred to a committee of the whole House, but it was determined in the negative by the casting vote of the Speaker. A committee was then appointed for determining the site in Spanish Town on which it should be erected, and they reported in favour of the Parade, and for erecting a colonnade and the public offices which form the wings." The statue, sculptured by the elder Bacon, was erected on Dec. 13th, 1792, and in the evening splendidly illuminated. The whole expense of this national monument appears to have been £30,918 8s. 4d. in Jamaica currency. When Spanish Town ceased to be the capital of Jamaica, during the Governorship of Sir John Peter Grant in 1870, Rodney's statue was removed to Kingston, but such was the outcry of the inhabitants of the former city, that it had to be replaced. The pedestal vacated by it was occupied for a time by the statue of Sir Charles Metcalfe, a former Governor (1839-1842), also erected originally in Spanish Town at a cost of £3,000, which was voted by the House of Assembly. It is now adorned by a handsome statue of Queen Victoria, which was unveiled in 1897, Parade.

In proposing the toast of the King, the Chairman referred to the promptness with which His Majesty took the initiative in the matter of the Mansion House Relief Fund. The toast having been honoured, Mr. de Pass then proposed the health of the guests of the evening. He said that those among them who had been intimately associated with Jamaica had always known that in His Grace and in Mr. Arthur Farquharson that island possessed citizens whose whole-hearted devotion and public spirited energies had constituted an asset of which any community might be proud. It had remained for recent events to bring this knowledge home to all and sundry. For many years, ties of affection, ties of friendship and ties of commerce had bound him closely to the beautiful land whose chief city had been so sorely visited. During those years he had learned to appreciate the indomitable spirit with which her sons had met the numerous misfortunes and set-backs she had been called upon to endure. For, as if jealous of the many favours she had showered upon the island, Nature had seemed at times disposed to demand a heavy toll. They had heard much, at one time or another, of the thriftlessness, shiftlessness, and listlessness of the people there. The self-interest of too many folks on this side had led them to seek in such accusations excuses for refusing to remove crying wrongs under which the former chief industry of the island—the sugar industry—groaned, and against which it fought, in company with the other islands and Demerara, for a quarter of a century. But in his experience the people of Jamaica, and those of our other West Indian possessions, did not sit down thriftlessly, shiftlessly or listlessly to accept their fate, but stood up bravely and resourcefully to fight the battle of life. And in spite of difficulties, many of which were almost unknown to us in this land, where Nature had calmer moods, Jamaica was gradually raising herself once more to a pinnacle of prosperity. Drought, floods and hurricanes had to be combatted and their effects overcome, and when at last good sense, consistency and justice prevailed with the Government of this country, and that indefensible blot on free-trade—the foreign sugar bounties—was removed, Jamaica began to forge ahead and to show what could be done with her great natural resources. Happily those resources remained, and were as pregnant of prosperity for the island as ever they were. But fate had decreed that a staggering blow should be dealt,—a blow over the heart. With appalling suddenness, hundreds of useful lives were ended, a great part of the material wealth of the island was swept away, and a large portion of the population was rendered homeless. Too many, alas! were ruined in that moment, through no act of their own, by an event which no foresight could have prevented. They had heard something about the teaching given by such events, of the lessons of self-help and the necessity of working out one's own salvation without assistance. Such philosophy might be correct, and the stoic might be the only philanthropist; but if so, then the wounded in battle should be left to die unaided, the sick should be denied the ministrations of the physician, the starving should be passed by on the other side. He believed there were few, or none, outside the pale of the Peculiar People, who in this land of generous hearts, held to such a doctrine, and he believed the people of this country desired and intended, that help, quick, generous, but judicious help, should be accorded to our stricken fellow subjects. They all knew and honoured the self-denying tireless devotion with which the Archbishop threw himself into the breach and worked with the force of a giant—and a young giant at that—for the relief of those among whom his lot had been cast. They knew, also, that in the catholicity of his benevolence all races and all creeds were alike. They had heard too, and no one better than he could bear testimony to this, how in the midst of his multifarious duties and interests Mr. Farquharson was ready and willing to sacrifice those interests, to live laborious days and nights in order to give the benefit of his clear intellect and his ceaseless energy to the great work of re-establishing the prosperity of his city. Many others in far away and ruined Kingston had been and were cheerful and able workers in the same field, and shared the glory and approbation which were the due of our honoured guests; but it had been their allotted task to come over here—at who knew what personal sacrifices—in order that the Government and people of the motherland should know the truth about the suffering of their fellow citizens and the needs, and the urgent and not to be denied needs of the situation. He trusted and believed that the labour of love already done by the West India Committee and by the Club would have paved the way for them, and he was proud to be allowed, in the name of the Club and of every lover of the great Empire to which we belong, to wish them God-speed in their mission, and a success which would enable them shortly to return to Jamaica with both hands full—with all four hands full—of the evidences that Britain knew how to stand by her own (cheers).

THE ARCHBISHOP said he desired to bear testimony to the strong appreciation in Jamaica of the help and sympathy which had been given in this country; by the Lord Mayor and subscribers to the Mansion House Fund, by the West India Committee, and by the West Indian Club, not only to ameliorate present needs, but to prepare the way for the mission which he and Mr. Farquharson represented, and which seemed necessary in order to bring home to those in authority the actual requirements of Jamaica. So far as they had hitherto been brought in contact with the members of the Government, he could say that they manifested that sympathy which he should have expected from any representatives of Great Britain. No one who was not on the spot could realise what the cata-

strophe meant. At the one moment a populous city full of life and energy, at the next chaos and ruin. He could not believe that the response of the people of this country would be less generous than the American nation was ready to give, or than the people of the French islands had given, or than that of Canada. Canada alone had voted £10,000, and had agreed to give another £10,000. And they were only asking for a relatively small grant of £150,000 from this country. They were not begging. As regards the £1,000,000, they were merely asking for a loan on which the Government would get good interest. It would not cost a shilling to the taxpayer, yet it would be a great help to Jamaica (hear, hear).

MR. FARQUHARSON paid a high tribute to the energy of the Archbishop, who had stood head and shoulders above all in organising power during the crisis which followed the earthquake. It had been stated publicly that the earthquake would be a good thing for Kingston, and give an opportunity for rebuilding the city on better lines; but he would mention that it was the larger and more substantially built buildings which had suffered most. The new Governor would be welcomed by the people of Jamaica. From him they would have a sympathetic appreciation of their needs. He was certain that the next few years would constitute an epoch-making period in the history of the island (cheers).

SIR HENRY K. DAVSON then rose to propose the "Colonial Conference," and said, the toast that it had devolved on him to propose was one which he felt sure would meet with a general response, for it was in connection with an event that was destined to become historical, marking, as it did, a significant feature in the relationship of the mother country and the colonies, and giving reality to that grand aspiration, "The United Empire" (hear, hear), and it was in this hope and in this belief that he rose to propose the toast "Success to the Colonial Conference now sitting." In doing this he was well aware that the Conference consisted only of delegates from the self-governing colonies, but although they were not admitted to their deliberations, the result must of necessity concern the interests of those colonies also which were not self-governing, and of which the West Indies formed a conspicuous portion. The fact that the Conference was presided over by the Colonial Secretary was, he thought, a guarantee that the interests of the West Indies would not be overlooked. The King's Message inspired confidence. The address of the Premier gave assurance that party politics would not form an element in the discussions, and his touching allusion to the great Statesman (cheers) whom they all so highly honoured, and who had done so much for the colonies, breathed a promise of continuity in colonial politics (cheers). The toast having been honoured, Mr. J. Rippon proposed the chairman, and Mr. de Pass having replied, the party adjourned to the Club Room where the remainder of an enjoyable evening was spent.

THE MANSION HOUSE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Mansion House Jamaica Relief Committee was held on Monday, April 15th in the Venetian Parlour. The Lord Mayor presided, and there were present Lord Harewood, the Archbishop of the West Indies, Mr. Sydney Olivier, Sir Nevile Lubbock, Sir Henry Davson, Mr. D. Q. Henriques, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, and Sir William Soulsby.

The LORD MAYOR took occasion to offer to the new Governor of Jamaica the congratulations of the Committee on his appointment, which, in view of Mr. Olivier's great interest in the welfare of the community of the island, augured well for the future of the colony. Mr. OLIVIER, acknowledging the compliment, said he would take care to bring to the attention of the colony the deep obligation they were under to the Lord Mayor and the Mansion House Committee for their public-spirited services in mitigating the distress occasioned by the recent calamity.

The fund was reported to amount to £54,982, of which £40,000 had already been sent to the Relief Committee at Kingston. A letter was read from Lord Frederick Hamilton, who had just returned from Jamaica, stating that the distress in Kingston was among the white people—the widows and families of white bank clerks, shop assistants, and others. The villa homes, in the purchase or building of which their savings had been invested, were destroyed; the bread-winners had been killed, and therefore these unfortunate white ladies found themselves penniless and homeless.

The ARCHBISHOP said these were mere illustrations of a vast number of cases which presented a serious problem for the Kingston Committee to deal with. The loan for which they had asked would be administered on purely business lines, and, unless some dreadful calamity happened, the Government would be fully secured, both for principal and interest; but the loan could not be used for charity, and that was why an Imperial grant of £150,000 was applied for. Quite 1,000 white families were in the position alluded to by Lord Frederick Hamilton. The Archbishop said he felt it very difficult to express the feelings of gratitude of the poor people of Jamaica to the Lord Mayor's Committee for their timely help. It had been one of the bright spots in their gloom and depression, and had given them courage to face the disaster. It had been a terrible thing for people to have

everything they possessed destroyed in the twinkling of an eye. They were in a dreadful condition of poverty and distress, and were now appealing to the mother country to help them.

LORD HAREWOOD conveyed the thanks of the Committee to the Archbishop of the West Indies for his interesting and touching statement. The Committee then resolved to appeal to the Prime Minister to make the grant—£150,000—suggested by the Archbishop for the relief of the distress.

THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND.

Since we last went to press the following additional donations have been received by the West India Committee, making with the amounts already acknowledged, £5,689 15s. 8d., which have been added to the Mansion House Fund:—Special Matinee at Criterion theatre, £41 11s. 7d.; Balance, Jamaica 1903 Hurricane Fund (per Sir Robert H. Symes), £1 15s. 8d. The total of the Mansion House Fund is now £55,036.

Women's Self-Help Society.

This fund now amounts to £343 4s. od. The following additional subscriptions have been received:—

" M.R."	£5 0 0	Per Mrs. J. Rippon—	Mrs. Ralph Wilson ...	£1 0 0
Miss S. E. Chamberlain	10 0	Elliott Bros. ...	Miscellaneous	10 0
				£5 5 0

THE ST. VINCENT CARIB COUNTRY.

The question of the development of the once fertile Carib country in St. Vincent has again been engaging the attention of the West India Committee, and on April 12th the following letter on the subject was addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

MY LORD,—We had the honour on various occasions to address your Lordship's predecessors, at the instance of the people of St. Vincent, with regard to the unexpended balance of the St. Vincent Eruption Fund, which, as your Lordship is doubtless aware, was raised in 1902 by the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Dimsdale, the then Lord Mayor of London, as a Mansion House Fund "for the relief of the terrible distress prevailing among the inhabitants of St. Vincent consequent upon the recent volcanic eruptions," and was supplemented by contributions from other colonies and various sources.

2. We understand that at the present time upwards of £30,000 of the total amount subscribed remains unspent, and that £25,000 is invested, the interest being used for poor relief, it being intended to retain the principal as a special reserve to meet any possible recurrence of acute distress.

3. My Committee have often called attention to the desirability of opening up the Carib country in the north-east part of St. Vincent, which was formerly the most fertile part of the island. Owing, however, to the effects of the eruption, the Freshwater or Carib Canal has been filled up and the development of the country, therefore, rendered impracticable.

The Committee appointed in 1904 by the Governor-in-Chief to consider and report upon the suggestions in connection with the expenditure of the balance of the Eruption Fund, reported as follows:—

"We are of opinion and strongly recommend that on the Messrs. Porter satisfying the Government of their intention to re-establish their Carib country estates, substantial aid should be given them towards replacing the canal, the sum necessary for that purpose to be provided from interest accrued and to accrue from moneys invested."

4. Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, one of the delegates of the British Cotton Growing Association, who recently visited the island, expressed his opinion that if the land were ploughed to a sufficient depth to mix up the volcanic sand with the soil thoroughly, this fertile region would be available as a large cotton growing area.

May we, therefore, venture once more respectfully to suggest the desirability of utilising a portion of the fund for the purpose of opening up the Freshwater Canal and rendering the Carib country suitable for cultivation, if it is considered possible.

We have, &c.,

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

The British Cotton Growing Association are also in communication with the Colonial Office on the subject, and in view of the fact that the Commissioner of Agriculture has recently visited the district, there is good reason to hope that this matter will receive attention.

COLONIAL PREFERENCE.

At the annual general meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce on April 10th, it was announced that the resolution in favour of tariff reform, which was adopted at a largely attended meeting of the Chamber on March 21st, had been carried on a poll by 1,077 to 472 votes, and after some discussion it was decided that copies should be sent to the Prime Minister, the Colonial Secretary,

the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Balfour, and the Premiers of the self-governing Colonies. The following is the text of the resolution on which the poll was taken :—

"That this meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce is of opinion that the present fiscal system is no longer suited to the needs of the country, and that it should be altered in such a manner as will enable us (1) to promote the commercial union of the Empire on a preferential basis, and (2) to raise a proportion of our revenue from the imports of foreign manufactures, which will tend to safeguard our industries from the unfair competition of foreign countries."

THE CORAL ROCKS OF BARBADOS.

Professor J. B. Harrison read a paper before the Geological Society of London, on March 27th last, on the Coral Rocks of Barbados, which has just been published in the proceedings of that learned society. In the course of this paper he said that the results of his extended, and in many places detailed, re-examination of the coral-rocks in the southern half of Barbados, gave no support to Dr. J. W. Spencer's theory of the existence of strata of the "Antigua Formation" in that island. It was now shown that a certain knoll, whence Dr. Spencer collected corals, which in his estimation proved that it and other parts of the coral-rocks were of Oligocene age, was in part made up of corals which, as stated by Prof. J. W. Gregory, "certainly show no evidence of any age greater than the Pleistocene." The author failed to find any signs of the widespread formation, described in Dr. Spencer's paper as extending from Mount Misery to near Ragged Point, a distance of about 11 miles, and dipping south-eastward at from 12° to 20°. Such a formation would be about 15,000 feet thick; while the facts that nowhere in the island did the combined thickness of the limestone and of its basal or Bissex Beds exceed 280 feet, and that the limestone was not traversed by faults, were fairly conclusive evidence of the non-existence of such a formation. This dip was referred to the action of landslips in some cases, and in others to current-bedding. The author's recent investigations confirmed the statements made and the views expressed by Mr. Jukes-Browne and himself, in the notes published in the *Geological Magazine* for December 1902.

Sir Archibald Geikie, the president, remarked that, without a personal acquaintance with the ground in dispute, it was hardly possible to offer a criticism of the paper. They had, of course, still to hear what might be urged in defence of the views which had been opposed by the author; but, so far as he could judge, the balance of probabilities seemed to be strongly against these views. When the normal mode of formation of coral-islands was considered, in which the movements of the crust are slow and tranquil and the elevation or subsidence comparatively equable, it appeared to be highly improbable that a series of disturbances of so serious a kind should have occurred as were required to account for the intercalation of a calcareous member with highly-inclined bedding. The speaker thought it much more likely that the total thickness of coral-rock in Barbados, as in other islands, was not more than 200 or 300 feet, and that the supposed formation of some 15,000 feet of tilted strata could be satisfactorily explained, as the author had shown, by landslips affecting calcareous accumulations in the deposition of which current-bedding had been developed.

DISTORTED IDEAS.

Since her visit to the West Indies a year ago, Mrs. Parker Smith has given many interesting lectures regarding these colonies and their capabilities. On March 18th she related her experiences to the deaf and dumb children of Donaldson's Hospital, Edinburgh, who were made to write down next day as much as they could remember of what had been interpreted to them in the deaf and dumb language. Many of the children wrote excellent accounts, and it was wonderful how much they understood and remembered, but in some of their little minds there was a decided confusion of ideas. We clip the following delightful gems from the results submitted, many of which were excellent :—

- "We saw a picture of one of the passengers wearing his dress gowns."
- "We were shown a picture of a man in his nightdress, and in the tropics it was a warm climate."
- "Also the picture of a gentleman sitting on a chair. He worked at the voyage for forty-seven times."
- "The electric cars moved along the streets and had cow-catchers used for taking somebody away from running over."
- "We saw a picture of a government. Mrs. Smith told us that this government had been destroyed by this earthquake."
- "We saw the funny river hanging over the rocks. She showed us the picture of a funny shop in Jamaica, but it is not the same as ours. I forget what shop it was and what she said about it."
- "We were told by Mrs. Smith that it was the custom of the passengers on board to rise up early in the mornings about six o'clock, and walk up and down the deck and take a bath in the cool breezy sea."
- "We also saw a picture of chocolate trees. The black men climb up the trees and pull the chocolate nuts off the branches. They break them, and are put on the roof. We saw a picture of some men grounding them with their feet."
- "Barbados is a coral island, so when the wind blew much of the dust rose up in the air. The dust was white like snow. We were told that the coral was used for making walls. At first we thought that when the wind blew the coral

would blow off the walls and leave nothing behind, but we were surprised that the coral grew hard by the heat of the sun."

"The next island Mrs. Parker Smith and her husband arrived in was Trinidad, which is a part of Spain. Mrs. Smith told us about the chocolate tree which grows in Barbados. She told us that the negroes just pull the chocolates off the trees like nuts and then dry them. They next send them to the chocolate factory where it is ground into chocolate powder."

What seemed to impress the children most was the estates' proprietor—many of our readers will recognise him as Sir Henry Davson—and his frequent voyages across the Atlantic.

NATURE NOTES.

LEAD ARSENATE. The *Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Trades' Journal* states that as a spraying medium for plants arsenate of lead is better and safer than Paris green. The objection to Paris green is that it invariably scorches the leaves, it only kills some insects, and its effects are not lasting, it being easily washed off the leaves by rain.

CALIFORNIAN CAMPHOR. Camphor trees have been found near Lake Shabot in the mountains situated sideways of Berkeley in Alameda County, California. Most of these trees are 20 to 35 years old, and belong to the species *cinamon camphora*. They are over 25 feet high, have a large number of branches, a smooth bark, and green, broad thick leaves pointed at both ends. The wood of these trees actually yields camphor. The leaves contain about .15 per cent. camphor of great purity, purer than Japanese or Chinese camphor, which must first be purified by refining.

THE TRUE INDIGO. How the value of an article may depend upon its impurities is well shown in the case of indigo. The *Indian Trade Journal* states that brown colouring matters and substances of a gelatinous nature, termed gluten, are precipitated along with the natural indigo blue at the time of its formation. These impurities are absent in the artificial indigo, and the question is, whether they are useful ingredients which take an active part in the dyeing process, adding depth, lustre and fastness to the color, and thus establishing the superiority of natural over artificial indigo.

FLAX GROWING. While cotton production is claiming the attention of West Africa and the West Indies, flax growing seems likely to make some headway in Australia, owing to a discovery made by Mr. Charles Rogers, formerly of Bristol. He found that notwithstanding a bonus given by the Victorian Government of £2 per acre for growing flax and £3 per ton for the fibre produced, its cultivation was not increasing because of the difficulty growers experienced in setting, breaking, and scutching. Mr. C. Rogers is reported to have invented or introduced new and more efficient methods, and the results promise to be important, as his process reduces the "straw" to the desired condition in about an hour's time.

A USEFUL WORK. Mr. D. W. May, the special agent in charge of the Porto Rico experimental station, has published a pamphlet dealing with fertilizers in relation to cultivation in that island. The writer attributes much of the agricultural disappointment to continued cropping of the soil without making up for loss, and advises planters to use first of all stable manure, bat guano, tobacco stems, &c., which are available, and to make up deficiencies with artificial manures. Plans for experimental fields are given, so that planters may conduct their own experiments, and the field treatment for the main industries laid down. In connection with sugar, Mr. May recommends cow peas being grown in between the canes, to be ploughed in when the cane has attained a pretty good growth, or to be allowed to be smothered by them. Our planting readers would be interested in this pamphlet, which can be obtained at the Government printing office, Washington.

SOIL BACTERIA. The chief chemist of the Dominion of Canada Experimental Farms does not report favourably on the inoculation of soil by bacterial cultures; and he expresses the opinion that the necessity for inoculation was not so great as once thought; the existence of the leguminous nitrogen-fixing bacteria is by no means restricted to small or isolated areas, and failures in the past to obtain good clove crops are, in many cases, to be attributed to other circumstances, *e.g.*, lack of moisture, bad tilth and the like, than to the absence of nitrogen assimilating germs. Nevertheless, it is pointed out that excellent results have been obtained in some districts by inoculating soils which grow small crops of legumes with soil from land which grows good crops. The directions for inoculating according to this method are: Mix the soil containing the bacteria with a large quantity of other soil; the whole is then broad-casted over the area to be inoculated, which is at once thoroughly harrowed.

USEFUL PEA-NUT OIL. One of the most useful vegetable products is the ground nut, *Arachis Hypogaea*. The oil, which resembles olive oil, replaces it very largely in Europe, and, besides being used as a salad oil, is also utilised in soap-making, burning, dyeing, tanning, and cloth-cleaning. It enters into cold-

cream, pomades, etc. It is used for lubricating, and is an important ingredient in the manufacture of oleomargarine. In Java it is used as an oil for illuminating. As a food the use of the seed is extensive. When in its unripe state it has, as cooked, the flavour of kidney beans. Roasted in its shell it is sold in immense quantities in the streets of the cities and towns of Eastern North America. The seeds in Europe have served as adulterants for coffee, cocoa and spices. For adulterating coffee they are pressed in moulds and passed as coffee beans. As cocoa they are pounded and mixed with the true material. The seeds ground finely after being roasted make a butter-like mass, sold as "pea-nut butter" in the United States. Ground nuts grow excellently in the lighter soil of the West Indies.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

Mr. Asquith's Budget Statement.

Mr. Asquith made his second Budget statement in the House of Commons on Thursday, April 18th. The following is a summary:—

Estimated Revenue	£144,190,000	The surplus will be allocated as follows:—	
Estimated Expenditure	140,757,000	Reduction of 3d. in tax on earned incomes under £2,000 ...	£2,000,000
Surplus on basis of present Taxation ...	3,433,000	Addition to Sinking Fund ...	1,500,000
Increase in Death Duties	600,000	Grant to Necessitous Schools ...	200,000
			3,700,000
Total estimated surplus	£4,033,000	Margin for contingencies... ..	£333,000

It will be seen that no change in indirect taxation is contemplated. Regarding it he said: I have been urged in the course of the year to repeal almost every tax on the list, especially those called the war taxes. (Hear.) These are 4d. on the income tax, the whole of the sugar duty, 1d. still on the tea tax, and all the extra imposts on tobacco, beer and spirits, amounting altogether to something like 20 millions sterling. It is urged that the war is now over, but I must point out that we are still paying the cost of having waged war—(hear, hear)—which has imposed a burden on the people of this country of something like 130 millions extra debt. Therefore, the claim for the removal of the war tax is inadmissible. With regard to the cocoa duty, to which the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Austen Chamberlain) has directed a good deal of attention, it produces only about £200,000, and though it has been referred to as a step in the direction of Protection, it has been preserved with the connivance of Mr. Gladstone, Sir William Harcourt, Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord Goschen and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach—who slightly increased it. (Laughter.) All these were severe and ardent Free Traders, and what is good enough for them is good enough for me. (Hear, hear.) Tea was reduced last year by 1d., it now stands at 5d., and it is now only 1d. above the lowest point it reached before the war. I am satisfied, from a very careful review of the existing condition of the trade, that a reduction would not be of any real profit to the consumers of the country. (Hear, hear.) As regards sugar, that brings in six millions, which to my mind is a strong argument in favour of its retention—(laughter)—objectionable though I have always thought it to be. (Applause.) Its removal would not do any good whatever to the vast bulk of the people. It would not benefit the working classes or the consumer appreciably. It might do some good to the confectionery trade and the mineral water trade, to which sugar is a raw material. (Hear.) On the general principle I have laid down, therefore, that I must not permanently impair my sources of revenue, I do not propose this year to make any change in the indirect taxation of the country.

£400,000 out of the West Indies.

In reply to Mr. Owen Philipps, who on April 8th asked how much profit had been made out of the silver currency shipped to the West Indian colonies and British Guiana during the last twenty years, the Secretary to the Treasury said: "The estimated profit, representing the difference between the bullion value and the coined value of the silver supplied, may be taken as £400,000; but it must be remembered that the Imperial Government accepts the liability for the redemption of worn coins at their full nominal value."

The Board of Trade and Molascuit.

In the House of Commons on April 10th, Mr H. C. Lea asked the President of the Board of Trade if he was aware that a new process for using the bye-product of the sugar-cane, called molascuit, had been recently developed, and that it could be imported and sold at a price to be of considerable advantage both to the British stock feeder and the Colonial sugar-cane grower; and would he take steps to bring this product before the agriculturists in this country by drawing attention to it through the Board's publications.

To this question the following reply was given: Our attention has been directed to the feeding-

stuff to which my hon. friend refers, but we do not see our way to call special attention to it in our publications. It will doubtless be brought to the notice of stockowners through the usual channels.

The duty on Cocoa and Chocolate.

In reply to Sir W. Bull on April 15th, Mr. Runciman, answering for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said: Taking the figures for the five years 1902 to 1906 inclusive, the average annual import into the United Kingdom of cocoa or chocolate, ground, prepared, or in any way manufactured, and confectionery containing chocolate, has been 10,914,000 lb., of which the average quantity entered for home consumption has been 10,307,000 lb. The average total amount of duty received thereon was £85,340; but I am not prepared to say what proportion (if any) of this receipt results from the alleged protective character of the rates of duty, or to make an estimate of any advantage which may accrue to British manufacturers by reason of those rates.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain asked whether it was not a fact that the duty payable on raw cocoa was from 2s. 3d. to 8s. 6d. per cwt. less than the duty charged on the product of the same quantity of raw material imported in the manufactured form. Mr. Runciman said if the right hon. gentleman would put his question on the paper he would have the figures verified. Mr. Austen Chamberlain further asked whether there could not be presented to the House the calculations on this subject made by the Chairman of the Board of Customs in October, 1904, for the information of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Runciman said that he would be glad to communicate this desire to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Sir A. Swettenham's resignation.

Viscount Castlereagh, on behalf of Mr. F. E. Smith, asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies on April 10th whether the resignation of the late Governor of Jamaica was occasioned by consideration of age; whether age was assigned by the late Governor as the reason of his retirement; and, if not, on what ground was the resignation officially expressed to be the result of age. Mr. Churchill: The resignation by Sir Alexander Swettenham of his office as Governor of Jamaica was tendered upon January 24th last in a telegram couched in the following words:—"Respectfully apply for permission for retirement on account of age, forthwith to be relieved."

Mr. C. Craig asked whether the recent unfortunate incidents which took place in Jamaica had any connection with the resignation of Sir Alexander Swettenham. Mr. Churchill: That is not included in the question on the paper. I do not think it would be any advantage at this stage if I were to try to specify the circumstances which were and those which were not connected with the resignation.

Mr. Arnold-Forster: Will the whole of the correspondence be laid on the table? Mr. Churchill: I cannot yet say what part of the correspondence may properly be laid. Certainly the whole of the correspondence is not of a character suitable for publication.

Mr. Lyttleton: Can the right hon. gentleman say when the correspondence will be laid? Mr. Churchill: I think the right hon. gentleman had better put down a question on that subject. The correspondence affects other Governments besides our own, and it must be very carefully considered, from every point of view, by the Foreign Office as well as by the Colonial Office, before any decision can be come to in regard to publication.*

COLONIAL REPORT.

The trade of the Leeward Islands.

The aggregate revenue of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1905-6 (exclusive of grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £7,017 14s. 4d.) was £137,055, showing a net increase of £8,133 3s. 10d. over that for the previous financial year. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the various Presidencies of the colony:—

Presidency.	Revenue.					Expenditure.				
	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
Antigua ...	£42,067	£46,395	£43,812	£44,295	£48,798	£48,514	£48,992	£50,209	£48,670	£54,383
St. Kitts-Nevis	43,793	42,773	39,127	43,905	47,145	44,135	43,713	44,782	43,063	44,026
Dominica ...	29,598	31,045	31,443	30,982	31,200	28,012	30,419	31,331	31,033	34,187
Montserrat ...	6,196	6,294	7,599	7,237	7,433	10,312	9,917	9,364	8,361	7,107
Virgin Islands	1,796	1,848	2,167	2,503	2,478	1,924	1,854	2,342	2,431	2,511
Total ...	123,450	128,355	124,148	128,922	137,054	132,897	134,895	138,028	133,558	142,214

* The correspondence was subsequently presented to Parliament (Cd. 3403), on April 19th. It contains nothing which was not already known.—E.D.

The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are shown in the following table:—

Country whence imported	Imports.					Exports.				
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United Kingdom ...	£160,827	£165,958	£168,700	£175,546	£177,119	£60,374	£78,292	£67,178	£79,256	£122,970
British colonies... ..	51,441	56,941	51,716	56,541	62,019	48,071	129,611	152,075	175,458	226,593
United States America	137,496	143,521	150,240	144,026	151,968	183,696	92,617	74,467	61,851	40,239
Other Foreign countries	8,466	8,107	7,044	12,109	12,375	15,203	17,315	17,749	18,725	58,192
Total... ..	358,230	374,527	377,700	388,222	403,481	307,344	317,835	311,469	335,290	447,994

The chief exports of the colony were as follows:—

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Sugar	£191,771	£211,026	£170,695	£176,691	£198,769
Molasses	28,063	17,806	32,447	12,383	15,808
Cocoa... ..	25,056	20,980	20,730	28,442	22,898
Limes and Lime Juice	44,557	35,943	24,608	47,824	33,517

The exports of cotton from the various Presidencies were as follows:—

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Antigua	99,948 lbs.	54,720 lbs.	27,847 lbs.	151 lbs.
St. Kitts-Nevis	298,519 ..	163,778 ..	86,748 ..	22,880 ..
Montserrat	86,698 ..	82,312 ..	27,606 ..	35,657 ..
Virgin Islands	6,975 ..	4,100 ..	1,300 ..	— ..

The great harm of uncertainty.

In his general remarks, the Hon. E. St. J. Branch, the Colonial Secretary, refers in the following terms to the sugar industry of Antigua: "The Presidency has an abundant supply of labour available at low wages, and although it is far too early to draw reliable inferences as to the success of the grey crystal sugar factories established at Gunthorpe's and Bendal's, yet it is believed that the change is economically sound, and that it promises well. Only a short time has elapsed since the adoption of a factory policy, and in that time there have been two bad seasons. Notwithstanding this, however, the actual working of the factory scheme has proceeded with almost unexpected smoothness. The area contributing canes to the Gunthorpe's Factory has been increased, its railway is being extended, and substantial improvements in the factory itself are being made. At Bendal's Factory advantage has been taken by peasants of the obligation on the part of the owners of the factory to grind their canes to such an extent that the labour market in that particular quarter of the island has become affected, to the detriment, for the time being, at any rate, of the owners. Efforts are being made to improve the cultivation in different parts of the island by the introduction of steam ploughs, and one large firm of estate owners is conducting important experiments in mechanical cultivation. Notwithstanding this, however, there is no doubt that the fear which now prevails as to the possible denunciation of the Sugar Convention is doing much to prevent progress, and capitalists who would otherwise be willing to help the sugar industry in the Leeward Islands are frightened by the uncertainty which has been introduced in respect of the continuance of the Convention. This is exceedingly unfortunate, for it is only the high price of molasses which enables the muscovado industry to be carried on at a profit, and to enable this profit to be made low wages must be paid.

The pineapple industry in Antigua is at present in a somewhat decadent condition owing to the ravages of a disease, probably bacterial in origin, which causes a destruction of the interior portion of the fruit. The Island of Barbuda is now being managed as a Crown estate. Cotton has been experimented with successfully, and during the year 55 acres gave a net profit of £288. The tarpon fishing available in the lagoon and along the shores has proved a great attraction to sportsmen, and excellent deer shooting had at a small cost. Guinea fowl and duck are also plentiful. The cultivation of cotton has added to the prosperity of St. Kitts-Nevis, and during the year 3,200 acres were under cultivation, and 8 ginneries were at work.

The development of cotton growing.

The extension of the cultivation of Sea Island cotton has been very marked in the Leeward Islands during the past four years. It is estimated that for the coming crop 1,800 acres are under cultivation in Antigua, 1,100 in Montserrat, and 4,000 in St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla. In the Virgin Islands the cultivation of cotton is gradually being extended. In Dominica its cultivation has made practically no headway, it being found that the climatic conditions are unsuitable to its successful growth. In this island the cacao industry continues to make solid progress. For some years it has been the principal export of Dominica. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has under its control a large number of experimental plots for the cultivation of cacao in various districts of the island, designed with the object of ascertaining the effect of various manures and different methods of cultivation on the crop. These experiments are followed with considerable interest by planters.

In Montserrat the lime industry is now firmly re-established; in Dominica the industry continues to advance; large shipments of raw and concentrated juice are now made, and there is also an appreciable export in green and pickled limes. The manufacture of citrate of lime in place of concentrated lime juice is now attracting attention, and shipments of this product from both Dominica and Montserrat have been made.

Everywhere signs of prosperity were apparent. Even Montserrat enjoyed a fairly prosperous year, and the revenue returns showed a satisfactory improvement. An endeavour was being made to establish a pigeon post with Antigua. Some homers had been imported from England, and if the experiment proved successful, the movements of steamers would be known in Montserrat soon after telegraphic news reached Antigua, and shipments of fruit and other perishable things could be got ready without fear of their having to lie on the wharves and rot.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Royal*, which left Kingston, Jamaica on March 28th, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, April 10th. The R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, which sailed from Barbados on April 3rd, reached Southampton at 1 a.m. on Sunday, April 14th, but her mails were not delivered until 2 p.m. on the following day. She brought a very large number of passengers, among whom were the Earl and Countess of Buckinghamshire, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Baeza and family, Mr. D. Baird, Mr. J. M. Carvalho, Mrs. and Miss Constantine, Mr., Mrs., and the Misses Thom, the Bishop of Trinidad, General Sir Thomas Kelly Kenny, Mr. Noel Deer, who has left British Guiana to take up an appointment in Hawaii, and Dr. and Mrs. De Freitas. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our hon. correspondents:—

Unusual weather in Barbados.

Writing on March 31st, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that the Easter holidays had made the fortnight a broken one, but they were passing off quietly. Good progress had been made with the crop, except during a period of calm, when the windmills could not work, and the steam in the boiling-houses was very disagreeable. During that time, for three or four days, the trade winds which they had been enjoying suddenly ceased, and it became intensely still and hot. Although there was no wind, the sea on the leeward coast became extremely high and boisterous, and lighters found it difficult to unload. This had been succeeded by a steady breeze from the north, a very unusual quarter. Muscovado was quoted at \$1.65. Molasses were slow of sale at 17 cents, and a very large amount of syrups was being made. There had been no rain during the fortnight, and naturally the pastures were badly cracked and burnt up, and the roads terribly dirty and glaring. Rain would be very welcome for the cotton also, the late planted fields looking very pretty with new blossom; but they wanted showers to bring them on. Messrs. James A. Lynch and Co. reported that the cotton plants were springing again nicely, and that the second crop should do fairly well.

British Guiana's rice crop.

The weather during the first part of the fortnight ended March 28th, the date of Mr. J. C. McCowan's letter, continued wet, and cultivation throughout the colony had suffered. Since the 25th it had been fine and bright.

A special meeting of the Combined Court was held on the 20th, when the electors in a body declined to vote any subsidy for a mail service which did not include an intercolonial one as well. Full details of the meeting will be found in the Mail Edition of the *Daily Chronicle*.

Messrs. Wieting and Richter reported that the rice crop had turned out to be a good one, and the local foodstuff business had greatly fallen off. The report of the British Guiana Bank had been issued, a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum being recommended by the directors.

Dominica "citrate of lime."

Mr. E. A. Agar reported on March 30th that the weather for the fortnight had been very dry. The Legislature had recommended a payment of £400 per annum towards a fortnightly mail service. An export duty on citrate of lime had been imposed; this amounted to 1s. 3d. per cwt., and was equivalent to the present duty on concentrated lime juice.

The Nevis cotton crop.

The date of the Agricultural Show had been fixed for April 4th, and Mr. Shand stated in his letter of March 19th that the Administrator had not only kindly consented to open the Show, but had also accepted the somewhat irksome duty of acting as one of the judges in live stock.

The weather since last advices had been dry, and had assisted the sugar planters in their reaping campaign. The output of sugar this year was, as far as could be ascertained, better all round than last, and they would want all they could get to swell their exports. The most promising and advanced fields of cotton were unfortunately laid low by the high winds previously reported, the bolls

being actually stripped from the trees like apples sometimes are in their earlier stages, and the heavy rains which accompanied and followed the gale put a finishing touch to crop prospects. It had all been very disheartening, but the only saving clause was the fact that Nevis cotton had been valued at 1s. 11d. per lb., which was almost double what it fetched on an average last year.

The Canadian delegates arrived at the island per s.s. *Olenda* on March 15th, and a committee of the Agricultural Society met them on board and discussed various matters of importance with them, better and more frequent inter-insular communication between the islands and the Dominion, and the question of the rebate on sugar being the most important. A very successful meeting was held later in the same day at Basseterre.

The Agricultural and Industrial Show held in St. Kitts on March 5th proved a most conspicuous success, the exhibits in the live stock department being especially attractive. Nevis not only contributed a goodly contingent of the spectators, but also vied with its sister isle in the competition for prizes, and carried off prizes in cocoa and coffee, honey and ginger, &c. Many of the winners in the live stock were also originally natives of Nevis.

St. Kitts and the Sugar Convention.

Writing on March 15th, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson stated that a resolution had been passed unanimously by the Agricultural Society requesting that the local Government should bring before the Home Government the disastrous state of affairs that would follow withdrawal from the Brussels Convention. This was put as a resolution, proposed on the unofficial side, at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 14th, and was carried unanimously.

Sugar-making was in full swing, and juice was reported to be generally of excellent quality, and some of the returns put down to B. 208 cane were very fine. The weather since last advices had been dry, and rains were wanted (at night or on Sundays) for the young 1908 sprouts. Mr. Adamson thought that his estimate of about 300 bales for the cotton crop would not be very far wrong after all. Spot sales had been made at 1s. 11d. and 2s. 2d. on this side.

On March 5th the first Show was held under the auspices of the Agricultural and Commercial Society and the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and was very successful. It was, however, to be regretted that the peasant exhibits were very few, but probably by the time the next show took place they might be brought to believe that the Government were really not fishing for new sources of revenue. Great credit was due to Mr. F. R. Shepherd, of the Imperial Department, for the really hard work of organisation, which mainly fell upon him.

On March 26th, Mr. Adamson continued that the weather had been first-class for reaping, but at the same time few planters would regret having to stop on account of rain, which was much wanted by the young 1908 canes. Since last writing, 2s. 4d. had been reported for St. Kitts' cotton, which was the highest price obtained in the island so far. Some places were already planting for next season's crop, from which picking should begin in August and September.

The Canadian trade delegates met all interested parties at the Court House on March 15th, and a most successful meeting was the result. The list of imports was carefully gone through, and it seemed that the Canadians would make a serious bid for a lot of the trade that now came through New York. To help on the part of the West Indians it would be necessary to give force to a preferential tariff by putting on extra import duties on goods coming from outside the Empire. The delegates rather laid stress on the fact that Canada was doing so of her own free will, but they had hardly left the island before news was received from Halifax of further tariff changes, under which a certain amount of beet sugar from outside the Empire was to be admitted on the same terms as West Indian.

The possibilities of St. Lucia.

Hon. E. Du Boulay reported that the weather had been fine, and the crops were being quickly reaped. Mr. George S. Hudson, in his letter of March 30th, said that with reference to the capacity of St. Lucia in the way of cultivation apart from cacao and sugar, the island contained large tracts of land excellently suited to rubber planting, both Para and *Castilloa* making quick and healthy growth. Lime cultivation was also now being successfully exploited, and there was no reason why St. Lucia should not produce limes to the same extent as Dominica. Sea Island cotton could also be grown successfully, although St. Lucians did not seem to take to it. The writer had grown it in experimental plots all over the island, and was now growing it as a "catch crop" amongst cacao. He had grown excellent tobacco, ginger, nutmegs, mace, kola, vanilla, honey, beeswax and musk seed, were all amongst the annual exports. They could grow any amount and variety of fruit and vegetables, but no sensible person would attempt it on any scale under existing shipping conditions, and there was no great opening for cattle raising.

It seemed difficult to understand why St. Lucia had not been hitherto deemed as desirable a locality for settlers as Dominica or Tobago; the few new settlers they had in the island were making first-class progress. One man whom the writer met on the previous day, and who had not been three

Sir Nevile Lubbock and myself to Sir Constantine Phipps on January 24th, 1903, when we were at the Brussels Conference. Subsequently the West India Committee sent two deputations to the Colonial Office which were successful in convincing Mr. Chamberlain. Undoubtedly the representations made by the Governor of Barbados were also of great assistance in procuring the grant.

Gomshall, April 15th, 1907.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE MARTINEAU.

P.S. I see I have not replied to your other point—that the West Indian “does not look upon the New York price as that on which Canadian values should be based, but rather the British price.” You might with equal force argue, when New York prices happen to be above Europe, that the West Indian seller expects to get, for his sugar in London, not Hamburg but New York prices. Both, of course, are hopes which cannot be realized; yearnings after the impossible.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

JAMAICA HOTELS. Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co., have exercised their option and purchased the Myrtle Bank and Constant Spring Hotels from the Government of Jamaica, from whom they were previously leased.

BRAVERY REWARDED. The Bank of Nova Scotia has rewarded its staff at Kingston, Jamaica, for bravery during the earthquake and after, by presenting each member with a cheque, ranging in value from \$100 to \$1,000.

COTTON IN JAMAICA. We understand that Mr. Conrad Watson, our esteemed hon. correspondent in Montserrat, has left that island in order that he may superintend experiments in cotton cultivation on the Earl of Dudley's estate in Clarendon, Jamaica. Mr. Watson has gained a thorough knowledge of cotton cultivation in Montserrat, and he will be a distinct gain to Jamaica.

THOSE PALMY DAYS. In Beckford's time, in the 18th century, West Indian estates were of immense value. Simon Taylor, for over 40 years a member of the House of Assembly of Jamaica, and one of the wealthiest men of the day, rivalling even Beckford, gave £100,000 for Holland Estate. His son, Simon Watson Taylor, is said to have had pokers, tongs, and shovels made of solid silver.

A FATAL ACCIDENT. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Julian Wickham, one of our members, and manager of Pln. L'Union, Essequebo, which took place under tragic conditions. Mr. Wickham was engaged in superintending the taking down of some machinery, when an unexpected collapse occurred, a portion of the falling mass inflicting fatal injuries upon him. Mr. Wickham was the son of the late Rev. H. E. Wickham of Leguan, and has long been connected with planting in British Guiana.

PALMAM QUI MERUIT. Mr. John Barclay, the Agricultural Society's energetic Secretary in Jamaica, and one of the correspondents of the West India Committee in that island, has received the special thanks of the Governor for his promptness, energy and resource, and the untiring continuity with which he devoted all his powers, in the first instance to the rescue of the wounded and the protection of Government property, and subsequently to the clearing of the streets and the removal of bodies, and for the valuable assistance rendered by him to the Relief Committee.

C. TENNANT, SONS & CO. We are informed that the business of Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co., has been registered as a limited liability company. There will be no alteration in the management, and no shares are being offered to the public. The directors are Sir Edward P. Tennant, Bart. (Chairman), Mr. William A. Tennant and Mr. Charles Atkins. The company will continue to act as managers of the sugar, cocoa and rubber estates, and the merchant business in Trinidad, formerly belonging to the late Sir Charles Tennant, and now the property of Sir Edward P. Tennant.

FALSE JAMAICA RUM. For some time past rum, purporting to be pure Jamaica rum, has been imported into Canada from Bordeaux and Marseilles, presumably a blend of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and other French colonial rums. This being brought to the notice of Mr. J. C. Nolan, he at once communicated with the Canadian authorities who have taken steps to prevent the entry of this spurious rum into that country. The particular rum which brought about this action was labelled “White Bull Old Jamaica Rum,” and was supposed to be shipped by the “White Bull Company,” of Kingston.

CHEAP SUMMER TRIPS. Hitherto the West Indies have been looked upon by the average tourist purely as a winter resort; but Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co., are making a bold bid to popularise them—or, at least, Jamaica, during the summer months. This enterprising company has arranged to issue return tickets between Avonmouth and Jamaica, at the reduced rate of £25, from May to August inclusive. The whole trip can be done in 32 days, allowing five or six days stay in the island (at the passenger's own expense), thus affording an excellent opportunity for holiday makers to visit one of our finest possessions.

A TIMELY REMINDER! The following telegram was sent to the chairman of the dinner given on Friday night by the Royal Navy Club, to celebrate Lord Rodney's victory of April 12th, 1782: “Members of the West India Committee desire to congratulate members of the Royal Navy Club on the occasion of the celebration of Lord Rodney's glorious victory, which secured to us our West Indian Colonies.

They hope that the celebration of this anniversary will serve as a reminder of the need for more of his Majesty's ships in West Indian waters, which was emphasised by the events following the recent earthquake in Jamaica."

THE JAMAICA CHURCH. The Lord Mayor of London has consented to preside at a meeting at the Mansion House on Friday, April 26th, at 3 p.m. on behalf of the Jamaica Church Relief Fund for restoring the Churches which were ruined in the earthquake of January 14th, in Jamaica. The speakers will include the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and the Archbishop of the West Indies, supported by other prominent churchmen. It is thought that many will be glad of this opportunity of welcoming the Archbishop of the West Indies during his brief visit to this country, after his terrible experiences in the earthquake. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a good attendance. No tickets of admission will be required, but any communications respecting this meeting may be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Jamaica Church Aid Association, 24, Belsize Park, London, N.W.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., April 9.—Merchant Shipping Advisory Committee appointed by the Board of Trade (*Times*, p. 9).—Dr. J. W. Hackett on "Some Federal Tendencies in Australia" at the Royal Colonial Institute.—Beet, 9s. 1½d., steady.
- Wed., April 10.—Resolution in favour of fiscal reform passed at a meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce on March 21st, was declared to be approved by 1,097 votes to 472 votes on a poll.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
- Thur., April 11.—Mr. Bonar Law, M.P., entertained by the Constitutional Club.—Lord Cromer, Agent and Consul-General of Egypt, resigned. Sir Eldon Gorst appointed in his stead.—Prince Edward of Wales passed the qualifying examination for the Navy.—Beet, 9s. 2¾d., quiet.
- Fri., April 12.—Anniversary of Rodney's victory over De Grasse, 1782.—Degrees were conferred on the Colonial Premiers at Edinburgh University.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., firm.
- Sat., April 13.—Lord William Nevill sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.—Sir Wilfred and Lady Laurier arrived at Liverpool.—Beet, 9s. 3¾d., quiet.
- Mon., April 15.—Canadian postal arrangements (*Times*, p. 15).—Colonial Conference held its first meeting at the Colonial Office.—Forthcoming reduction in the postage of newspapers and magazines to Canada announced.—Beet, 9s. 3¾d., firm.
- Tues., April 16.—Colonial Premiers entertained at the Guildhall and also by the Eighty Club.—West Indian Club Dinner.—Beet, 9s. 4¾d., quiet.
- Wed., April 17.—Second sitting of Colonial Conference.—Resolutions for the establishment of an Imperial Conference considered, and of regret at the death of Mr. Seddon, and a telegram read from Mr. Chamberlain.—Beet, 9s. 5¼d., quiet.
- Thur., April 18.—Third sitting of Colonial Conference.—Colonial Premiers entertained by 1900 Club.—Lord Middleton died.—Mr. Asquith made his Budget statement.—Beet, 9s. 5d., quiet.
- Fri., April 19.—Primrose Day.—Colonial Premiers entertained by the Pilgrims' Club.—Beet, 9s. 5¼d., firm.
- Sat., April 20.—Fourth sitting of Colonial Conference.—Decided to form an Imperial Secretariat.—Premiers entertained by Prime Minister.—Sir George Armstrong died.—Beet, 9s. 5d., quiet.
- Mon., April 22.—King and Queen arrived at Naples.—Beet, 9s. 5¼d., quiet.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Citrate of Lime.—The manufacture of citrate of lime was dealt with by Dr. Francis Watts, in the Bulletin of the Botanical Department, Jamaica, Vol. V., pp. 263-9, which was reproduced in the West Indian Bulletin, Vol. II., pp. 308-18. The matter is also dealt with in the West Indian Bulletin, Vol. VII., No. 4.

Cocoa.—During the calendar year 1906, the quantity of cocoa exported from the Gold Coast was 20,079,300 lbs., as compared with 11,407,608 lbs. in 1905. The figures for 1906 in the case of the other West African Colonies are not yet available, but for 1905 they were as follows: Colony of Southern Nigeria (Lagos), 664,829 lbs.; Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, 388,479 lbs.; Gambia, nil; Sierra Leone, nil.

Gardiner.—(1) The mango and mangosteen were first introduced into Jamaica by Lord Rodney in 1782, and the bread fruit tree to St. Vincent by Captain Bligh in 1793. Two nutmeg trees were brought to the same island from Cayenne by Dr. Anderson in 1803. (2) The Botanic Garden in St. Vincent was begun in 1763, and it has the distinction of being the first of its kind to be established in British dominions. It was then under the control of the Secretary of War. Soon after 1814 the staff and many of the plants were removed to Trinidad; but under the direction of Mr. W. N. Sands, the garden still flourishes.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate 4½% (changed from 5% on April 11th, 1907). Consols (2½%) 85¼.

The Colonial Bank.

For the first time for twenty-two years, Mr. H. H. Dobree was unable to take the chair at the annual meeting of the Colonial Bank, owing to illness from which he has suffered for four months. Mr. E. Brodie Hoare, therefore, presided over the half-yearly meeting on April 10th. The report having been taken as read, he reminded the shareholders that the bank was dependent almost wholly upon agriculture, and that that must always be of a very fluctuating character. His expressed satisfaction, therefore, at the West Indies adding another string to their bow, and largely extending the cultivation of cotton. In Trinidad there had been an almost total failure of the cocoa crop last year. Referring to the earthquake in Jamaica, he eulogised the manner in which Mr. Lucie-Smith, the Manager, rallied his men, who all volunteered, even down to the cook, and put the cash in boxes and conveyed it to the strong room. The insurance fund was more than ample to cover the whole cost of rebuilding the bank. A temporary shed was opened on January 18th, only four days after the earthquake. The earthquake had not injured the crops, and, therefore, whatever losses the bank might be called upon to bear were confined to a small area, and the really substantial wealth of the island was unaffected. The report

and the dividend of 3% having been agreed to, Mr. S. H. Curtis, Mr. D. Q. Henriques, Mr. E. B. Hoare, and Mr. E. C. Morgan, the retiring directors, were re-elected; and Mr. Cyril Gurney was elected a director in the place of Mr. Rudolf A. Hankey, deceased. Mr. Drysdale, as usual, proposed a vote of thanks to the directors, and the chairman having responded, the proceedings terminated.

Demerara Railway Company.

The report of the directors for the half-year ended December 31st states that the gross revenue was £28,038 1s. 8d., and the gross expenditure £21,569 18s. 9d., leaving, after the deduction of £1,400 debenture interest, and the net revenue amounting to £5,068; and, including the Government subsidy, £6,250; and the amount brought forward, £1,649 18s. 10d.; the balance available is £12,968 1s. 9d. After providing a dividend of 4% (£6,250) on the Extension Preference shares, the directors recommend a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the Seven per cent. Preference Stock (£4,025), making 6 per cent. for the year, appropriating to renewal fund £1,000, and carrying forward £1,693. Out of this sum the damages, resulting from the boiler explosion on the West Coast section in January, 1906, which were awarded, to the amount of £520, as well as the costs incurred, have been provided. The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows: Demerara Railway, 157,219, against 146,752 in 1905; Berbice Railway, 25,255, against 23,540 in 1905; West Coast Railway, 54,941, against 51,937 in 1905. The tonnage of goods was: Demerara Railway, 42,362 tons, against 38,018 tons in 1905; Berbice Railway, 4,123 tons, against 4,492 tons in 1905; West Coast Railway, 6,152 tons, against 2,416 tons in 1905. During the half-year the remaining two-and-a-half miles of permanent way on the Demerara Section have been relaid with steel rails, and the cost of this, together with certain other extraordinary renewals amounting in all to £4,713 11s. 2d., has been charged to revenue. The directors who retire by rotation are R. A. Robertson, Esq., of the London Board, and the Hon. George Garnett, of the Demerara Committee, both of whom offer themselves for re-election. The retiring auditor is Mr. J. R. Pedler, who offers himself for re-election.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000l.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4%	101-103
375,000l.	"	Barbados - - 3½ " " 1925-42 ...	100	3½%	97-99
194,500l.	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935 ...	100	4%	104-106
123,670l.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4%	98-100kd
1,098,907l.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934 ...	100	4%	106-108
85,479l.	"	St. Lucia - - 4½ " " 1919-44 ...	100	4½%	101-103
422,593l.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " Inscribed Stock 1917-42 ...	100	4%	101-103
600,000l.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " " 1922-44 ...	100	3%	85-87
100,000	20	The Colonial Bank	£6	6%	5½-5½
600,000l.	Stock.	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Ord. Stock ...	100	—	50-53
900,000l.	Stock.	" " " " " Pref. Stock ...	100	5%	92-95
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½%	88-91
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.,	5	—	½-½
46,874	5	" " " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	—	—
347,500l.	Stock.	" " " " " 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4%	79-81
335,800	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ...	100	6%	96-101
165,000l.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	—	18-21
115,000l.	Stock.	" " " " " 7% Preference ...	100	5%	101-104
31,250	10	" " " " " 4% Extension Preference...	10	4s.	8-9
70,000l.	Stock.	" " " " " 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4%	92-94kd
60,500l.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debs. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4½%	99-101
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6%	—
33,500l.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4½%	99-101
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5%	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	14-14½
34,563	10	" " " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	8s.	7½-8
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd "	10	—	6-7
80,000l.	100	" " " " " 5% Deb. ...	100	5%	99-102

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) April 18th. "Very dry, rain wanted." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), April 11th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 15th. "Over 3 inches rain generally." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended April 10th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Tags* (Capt. F. K. Corbould), April 14th:—Mr. Aston, Col. E. K. Aylmer, Mr. G. P. V. Aylmer, Mr. J. A. Aikman, Mr. M. J. Alcantara, Col. M. W. Biddulph, Miss Browne, the Right Hon. the Earl and Countess of Buckinghamshire, Mr. and Mrs. Bairstow, Col. J. H. Balfour, Mr. and Mrs. Becker and two children, Mrs. W. H. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Mr. J. N. Carvalho, Colonel Sharman-Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Carr, Miss Carr, Mr. F. C. Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. Sharman-Crawford, Mrs. Constantine, Mr. R. W. Duke, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Dean, Miss Denholm, Mr. G. Denholm, Miss Day, Miss T. Davies, Commander G. Ellis, R.N., Mr. A. R. Fellowes, Mr. G. E. S. Fryer, Mr. Fryer, jun., Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Friese, Col. and Mrs.

Good, Mr. R. Greatback, Miss Hepburn, Mr. E. Holguin, Capt. and Mrs. Stanhope Ingham, Rev. H. A. Jones, Mr. H. Koppel, Miss E. Kendall, Mr. F. Lowry, Mrs. J. H. Lee, Capt. J. F. J. Archibald, Mrs. E. Alleyne, Miss Awdry, Mr. L. L. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Baeza, Mr. A. E. Baeza, Miss and Master Baeza, Mr. D. Baird, Miss Constantine, Miss E. M. Coulthard, Mr. Chacornac, Mr. Charpentier, Mr. Chapman, Col. K. Coghill, C.B., Mr. A. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. de Dreuille, Mr. Henrique P. Dupuy, Mr. N. Deer, Mrs. Dasent, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dixon, Dr. and Mrs. Q. B. De Freitas, Mr. F. C. Ebbels, Mrs. H. Goodwin, Capt. W. Gordon-Cumming, Mr. G. de Courcy-Hamilton, Mrs. Hamlyn-Nott, Mr. G. E. Jarvis, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Karner, Gen. Sir Thomas Kelly-Kenny, Miss Landale, Miss A. Lamont, Miss M. Mathews, Miss C. Marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Maclay, Mr. Hughes Martin, Mr. Cecil Mocatta, Miss M. Mason, Mr. J. S. de la Mothe, Mrs. McEwan, Miss Mann, Mr. M. Pollack, Miss Pollack, Mr. R. N. Pretty, Mr. M. Pahie, Miss G. Packer, Miss G. Porter, Mr. T. E. Peters, Miss L. Paterson, Miss V. Paterson, Mr. A. Parra, Major G. A. Porter, Mr. I. Quigley, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Robertson, Mr. Maxwell Rouse, Miss Sanford, Mr. W. Stewart, Miss Slimon, Miss Stewart, Mrs. R. Stack and three children, Miss J. Saunders, Mr. J. W. Stokes, Mr. J. A. Sutcliffe, Mr. A. Steiner, Mr. J. Sellier, Mrs. Skinner, Mr. J. B. Syme, Mr. C. H. Spooner, Miss M. E. Smith, Mr. G. J. Smith, Mr. J. D. Smith, Mr. M. D. Shairp, Mrs. Stevens, Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Thom, Capt. A. F. Townshend, Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Twose, Master Twose, Miss Ure, Mr. and Mrs. Van Merlo, Rev. and Mrs. Lawson Whatley, Mr. W. E. Wells, Mr. P. Walter, Mr. A. J. West, Mr. P. Wilchens, Mr. Y. G. Wingate, Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Trinidad, Mrs. Welsh, Mr. W. Young and Mr. E. Carpenter.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. F. K. Corbould), April 24th:—Dr. and Mrs. Gaffron, Mrs. Taitt, Mr. Otto Salzer, Mr. A. C. Marten, Mr. J. M. Thomas, Miss Buckingham, Mr. and Mrs. Aya, Mrs. de la Torre, Mrs. E. Hunt, Mr. J. Tough, Mr. and Mrs. E. Henderson, Miss D. Nicholls, Mr. W. Fahrhop, Mr. P. S. Stobo, Mr. J. Penman-Browne, Miss E. Dowley, Rev. P. Heffeman, Mr. C. Stuart, Mr. A. Diago, Mrs. E. Hurt, Mr. S. Bromberger, Mr. B. M. Graham and Mr. R. E. A. W. Hughes Chamberlain.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. J. G. Parsons), April 10th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. F. Abell, Mrs. Abell, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Armstrong, Mr. H. H. Bathgate, Mr. W. Bellows, Mr. J. Collis Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Few, Col. and Mrs. Gascoigne, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Miss Henderson, Hon. H. F. and Mrs. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Lee, Major C. W. Long, Mr. Gay, Capt. Marley, Mrs. Niven, Mr. E. A. Poole, Miss Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Tullis, and Mrs. Shortridge.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. J. G. Parsons), April 20th:—**Jamaica:** Colonel H. J. Blagrove, C.B., Mr. E. J. Barff, Mr. Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Aston W. Gardner, Mr. J. R. C. Lyons, Mr. A. C. Paton, Mr. J. G. Robins, Mr. J. E. Taylor and Mr. Matt Wann.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
April 24	West Indies and British Guiana	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>	April 23, mdn't.
"	Demerara	*Liverpool	Liverpool Line	<i>Carmelina</i>	" 24, 6 p.m.
" 27	Barbados and Trinidad ...	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Yucatan</i>	" 26, 6 p.m.
May 3	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Dominica, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Demerara	†Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Conway</i>	May 3, noon.
" 3	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Jamaica	‡Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Caroni</i>	" "
" 4	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>	" 3, 11/6 p.m.
" 8	Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>	" 7, mdn't.

* Letters should be addressed per *Carmelina* from Liverpool. † Letters should be addressed per s.s. *Caroni* via Dartmouth. ‡ In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
April 24	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>
" 29	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Mar. 27	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Mar. 27	1907 1906	April 1 to Mar. 17	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Mar. 30	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to April 1.	1907 1906
Sugar	999	1977 Tns.	30,015	25,786 Tons.	12,716	11,117 Tons.	105,260	124,669 Bgs. & Brs.	...	...
Molasses	12,380	9,631 Pns.	372	860 Pns.	...	...	563	348 Pns.	...	...
Rum	5,322	6,954 Pns.	1,364,012	1,000,235 Galls.	340	2 "	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasses	1,837	2,430 Tons.	...	...	...	...	45,163	37,200 Bags.
Cocoa	17,661	3,300 lbs.	48,298	30,724 Cwts.	2,427,532	9,389,270 lbs.	...	...
Coffee	45,727	76,218 "	3,040	5,760 "	...	...
Coconuts	10,800	22,038	9,694,237	6,501,404	2,789,894	2,813,050	...	...
Copra	6,122	3,611 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	16,890	65,307 lbs.	...	...	15	299 Bales.
" Seed	55	2,100 Bags.
Asphalt	22,566	33,078 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	53,723,794	72,231,693	...	...	...	...
Bananas	15,319,997	14,257,124 bnchs	...	...	...	...
Pimento	77,782	87,834 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	14,799	20,118 ozs.	...	...	...	...	1926	2357 Brs.
Diamonds	755	355 carats	...	...	...	...	206	257 1/2 Brs.
Rice	1,383,710	7,600 lbs.	...	...	...	...	250	252 Cases
									251	52 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The absence of any promise of abatement of the sugar tax in the Budget statement was received with equanimity by the market, though the confectionery and allied industries have suffered a disappointment. The movements which earlier in the fortnight were confined within narrow limits, later took an upward turn upon the advices of a decline in Cuban receipts from 60,000 tons to 39,000 tons, followed by a further reduction to 37,000, the total production to date being 889,000 tons as compared with 635,000 tons, while only 134 factories remain at work as compared with 180 and 164 at the corresponding dates in the two previous years. Mr. Guma has reduced his estimate for the crop to 1,350,000 tons, while other experts think that those figures will not be realised. Rains on the Continent have kept back the beet sowings, and it will probably be another fortnight before a definite idea can be obtained of their extent. In the meanwhile it would look as though between 3 to 6 per cent. increase on last year's sowing might be expected. F. O. Licht gives the following comparative figures of consumption for the seven months, September-March, for Europe and North America:—

	1906/7.	1905/6.	1904/5.	1903/4.
Consumption:—	3,501,347	3,459,312	3,263,404	3,479,617 Tons.

Prices have advanced fully 3d. within the fortnight, and the quotations of 88% beet on April 22nd, were:— April, 9s. 5½d.; May, 9s. 5d.; June, 9s. 5½d.; July, 9s. 6d.; August, 9s. 6½d., and October/December, 9s. 3d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Europe	2,815,780	3,116,290	2,180,100	2,849,480	2,765,170 Tons.
United States	280,000	293,740	264,370	160,680	213,020 ..
Cuba... ..	417,000	284,000	334,000	256,540	350,000 ..
Cargoes afloat	—	3,580	41,060	31,160	22,560 ..
Total	3,512,780	3,697,610	2,819,530	3,297,860	3,350,750 ..

Quotations of 88% Beet, April 22nd:—

9s. 5½d.	8s. 6d.	13s. 11d.	8s. 6d.	8s. 5d.
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Grocery West Indian has been in moderate demand, but as very little has been offering the sales have been of small extent. At last Friday's auction, after the Budget statement, a better demand was apparent and prices obtained were slightly dearer. Business was, however, checked by sellers holding for higher rates. Prices are firm at 16s. 3d. to 18s. for well-made yellow to choice qualities of crystallised.

Muscovado.—The demand has been slow on the spot; 500 tons muscovado, Barbados 89% have been sold at 9s. 5½d., floating landing.

Molasses Sugar has been in steady demand, very little, however, offering. Trinidad in small quantities has been sold at 12s. 6d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Imports... ..	10,150	18,000	11,000	13,000	5000 Tons.
Deliveries	10,070	12,000	10,000	13,000	12,000 ..
Stocks (April 13th)	9715	15,000	11,000	12,000	21,000 ..
Quotations of average qualities:	16s. 6d.	14s. 9d.	20s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	15s. 0d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, April 13th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	6076	5000	6800	8100	8600 Puns.
Demerara	8612	10,200	6400	12,700	10,100 ..
Total of all kinds	21,432	22,400	20,700	28,800	28,300 ..

The Market for proof kinds is quietly steady, and slightly dearer for the better kinds. Demerara's sold at 18. to 18. 2d. per proof gallon. Jamaica, slow of sale; but where business has been done, steady rates have been obtained. Business has been passing in fair common at from 2s. 8d. to 2s. 11d.

COCOA.—Stocks in London:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Trinidad	6666	12,800	17,200	17,900	17,500 Bags.
Grenada	5148	8200	14,200	19,700	14,200 ..
Total of all kinds	55,996	72,000	78,000	81,000	83,000 ..

The Market has been very firm. Common kinds of West India 18. to 2s. dearer. Fermented, slow of sale, values unaltered. Quotations: Trinidad fair collected 86s., Estate Marks, 88s. to 92s.; Grenada fair quality, 78s., fermented, 80s. to 83s. Fair Native from other Islands, 76s. to 78s., fermented, 79s. 6d. to 85s. (St. Lucia done at 85s.)

COFFEE has been flat and lower. Santos for April delivery 26s. 6d. The market is steady after decline. Jamaica is easier, but a good quantity has been sold, ordinary to good ordinary, 40s. to 48s., fine ordinary to good middling, 48s. 6d., to 65s. Pea berry, 49s. to 60s. 6d.

COTTON.—During the fortnight since April 4th, 411 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. West Indian good medium is quoted in Liverpool, 7.05; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 10½ per lb.; medium fine, 20½ per lb.; fine, 22 per lb. Since last report, West Indian Sea Islands have been in good demand, but spinners are showing less disposition to pay the prices ruling, and this feeling will probably be accentuated as the season goes on, present rates being so much higher than for years past.

ARROWROOT is quiet and inactive; 346 barrels St. Vincent offered in auction, but only 20 barrels sold, good manufacturing at 2½d. The price is nominally 2½d. for good manufacturing and 2¼d. for fair.

PIMENTO is quiet, prices are, however, maintained, but the demand is very slow. Value for fair is 2½d. At auction during the fortnight 325 bags were offered, and part sold at previous rates. **NUTMEGS.**—West India, steady at 6½d. to 8d., 106's/126's at 5½d. to 6½d., 130's/138's at 5½d. to 5¾d. **MACE.**—West Indian, steady. Fifty packages sold, fair to palish, 18. 8d. to 18. 9d., good red, 18. 7d., fair red, 18. 5d. to 18. 6d., broken, 18. 2d. to 18. 4d. **GINGER.**—

Jamaica in good demand and 2s. dearer. Quotations: Jamaica ordinary to good bright, 75s. to 86s., common to good common qualities, 65s. to 74s. **LIME JUICE.**—Steady, with a quiet demand, fine quality still about 18. 6d. Concentrated, firm and dearer, £25 is the latest quotation for West India at which business has been done. Distilled oil, 28. 11d. Hand pressed, 38. 3d. to 38. 6d. **COPRA.**—The present range of prices continues very high and fair merchantable qualities are worth from £24 10s. to £25 10s. per ton, c.i.f., packed in bags.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES. XCII.



The Right Hon. Sir William Purdie Treloar, J.P.
LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

The West India Committee Rooms,
15, SKEETHING LANE, LONDON.

May 6th, 1907

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

PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON in his lecture on the resources of British Guiana, a summary of which we reproduce elsewhere in this issue, made a notable contribution to our knowledge of that somewhat misunderstood colony. We say misunderstood, for it is unfortunately the case that the general impression prevails that sugar, grown under uncertain conditions of climate, is the only possible agricultural industry for it, that the timber is played out, and gold only obtainable in small and doubtful quantities. No one who listened to PROFESSOR HARRISON could continue to hold that view. From his high scientific attainments, coupled with intimate practical knowledge of British Guiana and its hinterland, we have no hesitation in saying that PROFESSOR HARRISON'S opinion on the subject is second to none in value. The great potentialities of the colony in the direction of rice, fruit—especially limes—cacao, coffee and rubber, apart from the old staple sugar—the stores of gold which lie in the masses of rock formation which characterise portions of the

colony—the thousands of miles of valuable timber awaiting the wood-cutter's axe, and to crown all,

the immense power available for development in the falls and channels of its many rivers, were impressively brought home to his hearers. We propose to reproduce PROFESSOR HARRISON'S lecture in pamphlet form, and are sure that its dissemination cannot fail to bring about a better knowledge of the possibilities of this somewhat *terra incognita*.

WE had hoped that the ventilation of the subject of rum which took place in the *West India Committee Circular* in the early part of last year, would have set the matter at rest and put a stop to the unnecessary and unjustifiable vilification of West Indian rums not pot-still Jamaica. We are glad that calumny was not repeated in the recent prosecution, very properly conducted, under the Merchandise Marks Act, but we regret, however, that in an article in the *African World*, which is reproduced in the *Wine and Spirit Trade Record*, the aspersions against ordinary West Indian rums have been repeated with renewed force. The article in question is so full of reprehensible assertions that we must refer our readers to it for a full grasp of its import, but the following extracts will give a good idea of the inaccuracy and mischievous mis-statements contained in it: "Parsimony has dictated the purchase of cheap rums—patent Spirits from a Coffey still—for the Navy, notwithstanding expert judgment as to the unwisdom of the proceeding. Rum at 2d. (*sic*) or 1s. per proof gallon is enough to justify disorder and desertion." We would point out that rum bought by the authorities for use in the Navy is perfectly sound rum, although the product of the West Indies other than Jamaica. It is made from pure sugar-cane products, and if it does not fetch the same figure as Jamaica, it is not so much from any fault in itself, as because the latter is more or less of a special article. It would be on all fours with the spirit of the statement to say that the use of any claret other than a Chateau brand is dangerous to health, or that only a silk umbrella will keep off the rain. Again, "Finding that merit was at a discount, that mechanical Rum, as contrived by the German chemist, was as marketable as the rum *The Lancet* defines, other West Indian Colonies quickly trimmed their sails accordingly to meet the altered circumstances, and by the use of the patent-still these have manufactured inferior rums at one-third the cost and saleable at one-half the price of the Jamaica article." On behalf of the West Indies we emphatically deny this accusation. "It is the result of rapid fermentation, productive of ethers, subsequently converted into a cheap form of alcohol in a patent still that further impairs by comparison the character of what was established as Jamaica rum." The rum manufactured is sound and wholesome, and as honestly made, whether it be Demerara, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, as that of Jamaica. Patent stills are few, and as we have already pointed out, they need not necessarily affect the quality of the rum. Indeed, PROFESSOR HARRISON, the Government Analyst of British Guiana, in his report on the proportion of ethers found to be present in the rum distilled in British Guiana during the crop year 1904-5, says: "It is not possible in the majority of cases to distinguish between rum distilled in continuous stills from rum distilled in vat stills by means of the contents of esters only," and this does away at once with the charge against the makers, of depreciating the quality of the rum by reducing the proportion of ethers for the sake of economy. As we have said above, want of space prevents our reproducing all the unhappy and misleading statements which permeate the article in question. Suffice it that the impression conveyed by the article is that all West Indian rums other than Jamaica are unfit for consumption, and that all dealers in them are dishonest. We cannot believe that MR. J. C. NOLAN, who has done useful work for Jamaica in protecting the Jamaica rum industry on this side, and whose portrait appears in conjunction with the article, could have inspired statements so prejudicial to the interests of the great bulk of West Indian planters. There can be no question of the superiority of Jamaica rums over the other West Indian rums—it is made from materials of higher quality—but that is no reason why the latter should be branded, as has been done in the article under review, with such terms as "hellish and terrible liquor" and "kill devil." If Trinidad and Demerara rums, for instance, lack the aroma and special characters of Jamaica rum,

they have qualities of their own which recommend them to a class of consumers, and although they may lack the highly stimulating qualities of a highly "estered" and "aged" rum, upon which the medical profession lays so much stress, they are none the less wholesome for ordinary use on that account. No doubt a large amount of rum, purporting to be Jamaica, is still sold, containing admixtures of cheaper rums, as evidenced by the conviction in the Whiteley case. It is quite right that every effort should be made to put a stop to these malpractices, but as we have said before, it is a gross injustice to other West Indian rums to depreciate them, as has been done in the article in the *African World*.

THE Cotton Exhibition at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, affords convincing proof of the vitality of the British Cotton Growing movement. The exhibits will remain on view for about a month, and those of our readers who have not already done so will be well advised to inspect them. Visitors will see gloves, lace, embroidery, curtains, and a magnificent specimen of Brussels' lace made from such cotton as the West Indies produce. There are also to be seen lawns and muslins, as well as handkerchiefs of all sorts and sizes of such a fine texture that only an expert could distinguish them from silk. This is due to the wonderful lustre of West Indian cotton. There are two excellent photographs of cotton fields from the camera of MR. J. A. HUTTON, and of the St. Vincent ginnery, which, it may be mentioned, is about to be taken over by a company with a capital of £2,500 in £5 shares. Further, a comprehensive exhibit of samples of cotton serves to substantiate the claim of the Association that cotton of every quality required by British spinners can be grown within the limits of the Empire. At the opening ceremony on April 25th MR. LLOYD GEORGE paid a well-merited compliment to the British Cotton Growing Association, remarking that its success was largely due to the characteristic energy which SIR ALFRED JONES had thrown into the enterprise, and that it was a matter for congratulation to MR. J. A. HUTTON that during his Chairmanship the operations of the Association had approached such considerable dimensions. It was, he said, rather remarkable that, in spite of the very severe lesson we got in the "sixties," nothing substantial had been done till within the last few years to remedy that state of things. We were, he added, the greatest exporters of cotton fabrics in the world, and therefore it was our duty, our national duty, to see that, at any rate, the supply of cotton should be as secure as we could possibly make it. In this work it is gratifying to feel that the West Indies are doing their share, turning out as they are, with the help of the Commissioner of Agriculture and his able assistants, the finest cotton in the world. In Barbados, St. Vincent, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat, the cotton industry is firmly established, and the Commissioner informs us that on many estates in Barbados cotton is now being grown as a main crop instead of sugar. In Jamaica a serious attempt is to be made to develop cotton cultivation, and the fact that MR. CONRAD WATSON, our late Hon. Correspondent in Montserrat, who has been connected with the cotton industry in that island since its inception, has left for Jamaica to take charge of the EARL OF DUDLEY'S estate, augurs well for the prospects of the successful development of a new industry in that island. As to the future of the industry, much must, of course—as is the case with any form of cultivation conducted on the basis of free competition,—depend on the planters themselves. In this connection a letter written by MR. A. H. DIXON, the Managing Director of the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers' Association of Manchester, who has recently been paying a visit to the cotton islands, which appears in the *Agricultural News* of April 6th, merits close attention. He makes several valuable recommendations, which should receive the most careful consideration, and we must not omit to mention that admirable little pamphlet, the "A. B. C. of Cotton Planting," of which a new and revised edition has just been issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Sea Island cotton cultivation is one which requires unceasing and most careful watching, and if due attention is paid to the crop, cotton planters should feel little apprehension as to the future, even if the present high range of values is not maintained.

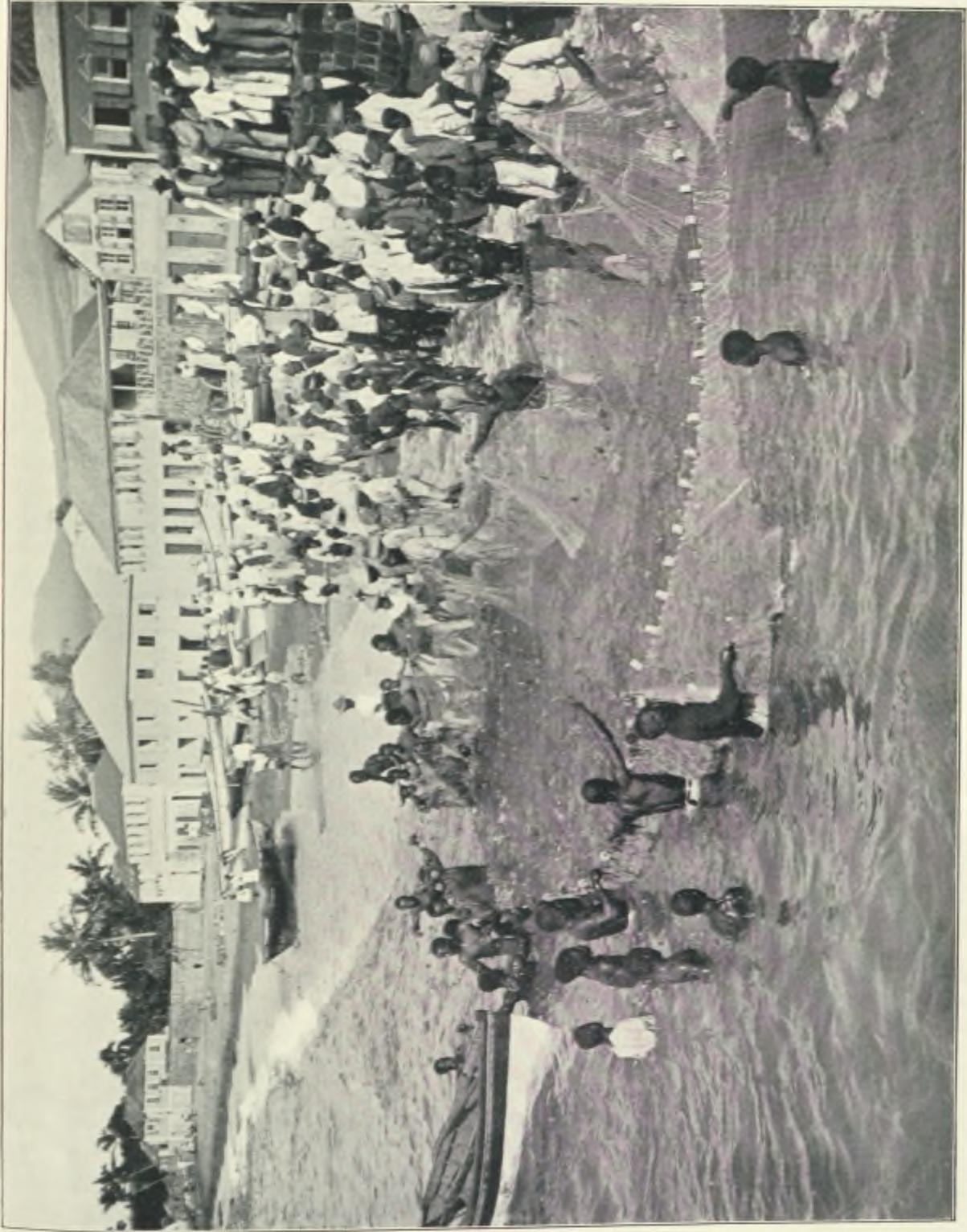
Two announcements concerning Jamaica and the West Indian Islands are anxiously awaited as we go to press. The people of Jamaica want to know what assistance is to be afforded them to enable them to begin the long delayed task of rebuilding Kingston. Even before these lines are in print it is possible that their minds will be set at rest on this score and in any case a definite statement is not likely to be much longer withheld. The people of the West Indies generally are equally desirous of being informed what arrangements are to be made for the conveyance of mails and passengers to and from those colonies which were cut off from regular outside communication when the provisional arrangement with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company came to an end on May 1st. Here again, there are good grounds for the belief that a pronouncement will be forthcoming very shortly. We are assured that the matter continues to receive close attention at the Colonial Office, where the inconvenience of inadequate mail facilities must, indeed, be felt scarcely less than it is by the merchants and others closely connected with the West Indies. In both cases, namely, that of earthquake relief and mail communication an exceedingly good case has been made out for substantial Imperial assistance and it is earnestly to be hoped that it will be forthcoming. If the Government treats the colonies liberally they will, we venture to think, be surprised how quickly they will respond. We have before referred to the remarkable resiliency of the agricultural industries and trade of our tropical possessions, which has been demonstrated again and again after a series of unparalleled disasters. Given liberal treatment in the matters referred to above, and also, let us add, regarding the all-British Cable question, the provision of the promised patrol ships, to which Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL has referred, and continued adherence to the Brussels Convention, there is every probability that the West Indies will enjoy quite a boom and show a return to prosperity, for which the Government will gain the credit and from which the mother country will reap a large share of the benefit.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR WILLIAM PURDIE TRELOAR, J.P.

During the past ten years it has been necessary to invoke the assistance of the British public through the Mansion House on four different occasions. In 1898 there was the hurricane which swept over Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. In the following year a similar disaster visited the Leeward Islands. In 1902 the eruption of the Soufrière in St. Vincent caused widespread distress, and now in 1907 there has been the earthquake in Jamaica. It will not be the fault of Sir William Treloar, the present Lord Mayor of London, if the fund now open does not exceed the amount of any of the former funds mentioned, though it still falls short of the St. Vincent Fund. He has taken a very active interest in the Jamaica Earthquake Fund, and by attending meetings connected with it has taken up much of his valuable time, and we have it on Sir William's own word that he is so busy that he never knows till he is awakened what his numerous engagements for the day are. Sir William Treloar was born in London on January 13th, 1843. He is the second son of the late Thomas Treloar of Helston, Cornwall, and he was married in 1865 to the daughter of Mr. G. Blake. He was educated at King's College School, and his connection with the firm of Treloar in Ludgate Hill is too well known to require mention. He has been a member of the Corporation of the City of London since 1880, and was elected one of the Sheriffs for 1899-1900. Since 1892 he became Alderman of the ward of Farringdon Without, and acceded to the Chief Magistracy in 1906. Sir William Treloar's name is familiar in connection with the crippled children of London, whom in a variety of ways he has managed to make happier. It is well known that he inaugurated the "Cripples' Fund" at the Mansion House for the relief of the little sufferers, and it would be a kindly act if those of our Jamaica friends who have suffered less than many others from the Jamaica earthquake, were to permit their thank-offerings to take the form of a contribution towards the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund at the Mansion House.

A DAY'S FISHING.

Deep sea fishing off the little island of St. Kitts is conducted by means of large baskets called "fish pots," which are about four or five feet long, and are taken out to sea and anchored over night, but when the season for sprats arrive, the fish are caught by large nets close in to shore. When the nets are hauled in, the utmost excitement prevails, and many of the inhabitants assemble to watch the sport. The excitement becomes quite intense as the net is brought in by the negroes, who seem to revel



Photograph by]

A FISHING SCENE AT BASSETTERRE,
ST. KITTS.

[A. M. TORADA.]

in the fun, and go in for total immersion. The silvery sprats glisten in the sun and add to the life and spirit of the scene, which is picturesque in the extreme. Our illustration is from a photograph taken by Mr. A. M. Losada, if we mistake not, from the small pier at Basseterre. In the background is the comfortable little Seaside Hotel, the two wings of which are joined by a covered terrace.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Wednesday, April 24th, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
BENEKENDORFF, BERGER & Co.	E. A. de Pass	Joseph Rippon.
LOUIS M. PARET (St. Lucia)	Hon. E. Du Boulay	Sydney D. Melville.
FRED A. GORDON (Dominica)	S. Didier	C. H. Grell.
CAVE, SHEPHERD & Co. (Barbados)	Robert Schult	T. W. Wilkinson.
A. & W. SMITH & Co., LTD.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall.
MAJOR E. F. BECHER	E. L. Marshall	D. Mackintosh.
Mrs. BROMLEY	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Hon. C. A. Shand.
LESLIE ASHE	Hon. A. C. Ponsonby	Ronald Cheales.

It may be mentioned that a new List of Members is in course of preparation. 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.

"BEFORE THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND AFTER."

The paper by Sir Nevile Lubbock regarding the Brussels Sugar Convention and its effect on consumers and producers of sugar, which appeared under the above heading in a recent issue of the *West India Committee Circular*, has just been published in pamphlet form. This will form the first of a new series of pamphlets to be issued by the West India Committee. It may be mentioned that in former days such pamphlets were frequently issued by the Committee, and it is believed that they were very greatly appreciated. The price of the pamphlet is 3d. per copy; but we shall be pleased to send copies to our subscribers free of charge on application.

BRITISH GUIANA AND ITS RESOURCES.

There was a very large attendance at the West India Committee Rooms on Thursday, April 25th, when Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., the Director of Science and Agriculture of British Guiana, delivered an important and informative address on British Guiana and its resources. Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., who was Governor of the colony from 1885 to 1893 presided, and among those present were: Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Chairman of the West India Committee, Sir Henry K. Davson, Deputy Chairman, Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Sir C. J. Tarring, Mr. C. W. Anderson, Mr. H. E. Anderson, Mr. E. J. Baeza, Mr. David Baird, Mrs. Moulton Barrett, Mr. Norman J. A. Bascom, Capt. F. N. Billham, Mrs. Billham, Lady Briggs, Mr. E. Chambers, Mrs. Chambers, Miss Chambers, Miss Mary Clarke, Miss M. H. Clarke, Hon. C. T. Cox, C.M.G., Mr. D. Dalton, Mr. E. H. G. Dalton, Mr. H. Dalton, Miss M. Dalton, Miss N. Dalton, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. C. W. Dawson, Mr. A. K. F. Duncan, Mr. Edward Easton, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mrs. William H. Gill, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. Murray T. Gow, Miss Gow, Miss Gowdey, Mr. Ferris Grant, Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge, Mr. H. Hadida, Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Felix Haynes, Mr. Harold Haynes, Mr. John T. Haynes, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. John Hinkson, Mr. Jas. Hiscox, Mr. John Hughes, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. G. Knight, Mr. W. H. Knights, Hon. Acton Don Lockhart, Mrs. Lockhart, Mr. H. D. MacDonal, Mr. W. Macdonald, Mr. J. Z. Mayhew, Mr. W. A. Moat, Miss Morris, Miss A. G. Morris, Miss M. E. Morris, Mr. Boyd A. Neilson, Mr. D. Keith Nightingale, Mrs. Archibald Pile, Mrs. Plaxton, Mrs. A. Poyer, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mrs. Rippon, Mr. L. M. Roach, Miss Salmon, Miss Sandbach, Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., Miss R. C. Scott, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Miss A. Smith, Mr. E. C. Stembridge, Dr. Frank L. Teed, Mr. F. P. Thomas, Miss L. Toppin, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. P. J. Whitaker, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

SIR CHARLES BRUCE, in introducing the lecturer, expressed the pleasure he always felt at finding himself among his friends of the West India Committee. About twenty-two years ago he was appointed Government Secretary and Lieutenant-Governor of British Guiana, and during the eight or nine years he was in that colony, and subsequently when he was Governor of the Windward Islands, his associations with the West India Committee were always of a very close and intimate

kind. He was glad to take the opportunity of saying that, personally, he was under obligations to the West India Committee which it was quite impossible to forget, and more than that, during the whole time of his residence in British Guiana and the West India Islands, he received, in his official capacity, every support and assistance from the Committee. (Hear, hear.) The services of Professor Harrison, at one time his colleague in British Guiana, to the West Indies, extended about twenty-eight years, and what he had done, especially in connection with the discovery of the fertility of the seed of the sugar-cane, had made him a name and an authority recognised not only throughout the British tropics, but in all the cane-sugar producing countries of the world. Professor Harrison's services in British Guiana extended over eighteen years. Appointed originally as Government Analyst and Professor of Chemistry, his works had taken a wide range, and during that time he had made a geological survey of the whole colony, of a scientific and practical nature, which had been published. He now held the important office of Director of Science and Agriculture. It was a matter of great satisfaction that he had consented to give them the lecture that afternoon. He would read the following telegrams which had been received from the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow, and then call upon Professor Harrison to deliver his lecture:—

"Regret unable to attend lecture. Hope Professor Harrison will have good audience.—TINSE, Chairman, Liverpool Association."

"Regret inability to attend lecture and meet Professor Harrison, to whom West Indies owe deep gratitude for share he took in introducing seedling canes.—H. CRUM-EWING."

PROFESSOR HARRISON, who was greeted with applause, said that the resources of British Guiana fell under four heads,—agricultural, forest, mineral and power resources. At present the sugar-cane with its products was the most important of the agricultural resources. In round figures the colony exported yearly about 114,000 tons of sugar, 3,600 casks of molasses, 2,500,000 gallons of rum, and 12,000 tons of cattle-food prepared from products of the sugar-cane. Like many other sugar-cane producing countries the sugar-cane in British Guiana had suffered a good deal in late years from fungoid diseases. As a consequence the Bourbon cane, the source of the far-famed "Demerara crystals" had fallen off in its yields, and persistent efforts had been made to obtain an equally satisfactory variety from seed. This had been attended with a large measure of success as far as obtaining varieties which yielded more heavily than the Bourbon now did, and which would flourish for some years at any rate on soils on which the Bourbon would not now grow. But a variety which approached the Bourbon as a source of high-class sugar had not yet been secured.

In the year 1899 not more than 550 acres were occupied by new varieties in the colony, in 1906 about 20,100 acres were planted with them, and probably some 25,000 acres were under them at the present time. The records obtained and published by the Board of Agriculture showed that new varieties of sugar-cane had given over large areas mean results of 8, 10, 22, and 35 per cent. higher than the mean returns obtained from the Bourbon during the five years 1901 to 1905. About 20 per cent. of the area occupied with seedling varieties were under kinds imported from Barbados, and which were there raised by Mr. J. R. Bovell; while about 80 per cent. was under varieties raised in British Guiana. The most promising varieties up to the present had been 208 B. and 147 B. raised in Barbados, and D. 625 and D. 145 raised in Demerara. The cultivation and manuring of the sugar-cane in British Guiana were then briefly described, and the opinion expressed that under equal conditions of fiscal treatment British Guiana's resources for cane-growing were equal to those of any other country. The industry was one which economic conditions had compelled to be one almost solely for large capitalists and wealthy companies. The rice-growing industry on the other hand was emphatically one for small farmers, and its development was principally due to the East Indian settlers in British Guiana. It was, however, only fair to the proprietors of sugar-estates in the colony to point out that they had given every encouragement in their power to their employés to carry on rice-growing. Returns made to the Board of Agriculture showed that since 1900 the acreage under rice had increased from about 6,000 acres to about 24,000 in 1906. It was estimated that this year about 26,000 acres of rice would be under cultivation. The increase in the crop between 1899 and 1906 represented about 12,500 tons of cleaned rice per annum, the value of which was about £125,000.

For some years the rice produced was practically all used in the colony, replacing rice imported from India, but a year or so ago a commencement was made of an export trade, and about 750 tons were sent to the West Indian Islands during the year 1906-7. The export returns showed that this amount would in all probability be very largely added to during the present year. It was gratifying to state that the black people in the colony were at present entering with enthusiasm into the rice-growing industry. The enormous area in British Guiana suitable, or rather pre-eminently suitable, for rice cultivation, would enable that colony to become the granary for the West Indies when the cultivation of Sea Island cotton attained the great development foreshadowed for it in that province. The cultivation, varieties and manuring of rice were briefly described.

Dealing next with the cacao industry, Professor Harrison said that this was one of some promise

in British Guiana, but unfortunately, it was one that demanded for its successful pursuit the command of a good deal of capital. There were great areas of land situated a few miles up the lower reaches of the river on which cacao flourished, and it was to be regretted that persons with some capital had not taken up its cultivation on these places to a greater extent than had been done. Only about 2,000 acres were occupied by cacao, the yield was mostly used for the local demands of the colony, and only about 400 cwts. were yearly exported. In some places kola-nuts were grown among the cacao, and a small yearly export of about 40 cwts. testified to that fact.

As regards coffee, towards the earlier part of last century British Guiana, and especially the county of Berbice, was celebrated for its coffee. Unfortunately, about the time of the cessation of slavery, circumstances beyond the control of the planters necessitated the gradual abandonment of cultivation. At present about 1,400 acres were occupied in coffee cultivation, practically the whole of the product from which was consumed locally. Two varieties were cultivated, the Creole or Arabian kind and the more recently introduced Liberian variety. Both grew with exceptional vigour, and the former was singularly free from disease. As a matter of fact large areas of low-lying land in British Guiana were ideally suited to the growth of Arabian coffee. The Liberian coffee-tree was, in British Guiana, and more noticeably on the coast lands, more adversely affected by unfavourable meteorological conditions than was the Arabian kind. But in conditions which suited it it was an exceedingly prolific sort. Unfortunately the low price of coffee did not offer any inducement to a resumption of its cultivation in the colony on a large scale.

Probably the most promising undeveloped agricultural resource of the colony was the cultivation of bananas. There could be few, if any, places better suited, from soil and meteorological conditions and from the topography of the land, than the coast lands of British Guiana for the cultivation of this fruit. If facilities could be provided for placing the fruit on the market, he felt certain that a great impetus would be given to this industry, and that in the course of a few years British Guiana would become one of the leading places for the exportation of the fruit. The bananas grown in British Guiana were, in his opinion, far superior in flavour to the miserable specimens of the fruit noticed in London, Manchester and other large towns. The flavour of the variety now imported into Great Britain was described by his late colleague, Mr. G. S. Jenman, who was a connoisseur in bananas, as sugary with a reminiscence of boot-leather.

In respect to cotton and other fibres, fortunately for Barbados and some of the other West Indian islands, it had not proved possible on the available soils of British Guiana to grow Sea Island cotton or even Egyptian cotton with any chance of commercial success. This was due to the heavy nature of the soil and the somewhat erratic nature of the rainfall. There were several varieties in the colony which had been there long enough to be practically indigenous. These grew with great vigour, and on suitable land were able to withstand the detrimental effects of both excessive rainfalls and more or less protracted droughts to a far greater extent than any of the introduced kinds. If agencies for the purchase of cotton were established in the country districts, a very great impetus would be given to the cultivation of the indigenous varieties by small proprietors and the peasantry. The cottons were short stapled, but of about the same general quality, or a little better, than rough Peruvian.

With regard to citrus fruits, limes grew well on all the lighter soils of British Guiana, especially those at some distance from the sea. The trees were very free from disease, and they bore very heavy crops of large, thin-skinned, very juicy fruits. It was hoped that the establishment of the cultivation of limes on a large scale and the encouragement offered to smaller growers by the London syndicate of citric acid makers would do much towards the development of lime-growing as a subsidiary industry in the colony. If this were so there was no apparent reason why British Guiana should not become one of the most important producers of lime-juice and its products in the world. Lime-growing was an industry peculiarly well-suited to the peasantry of the colony, especially those residing on the lower reaches and in the islands near the estuaries of the great rivers. In some districts of the colony from ten to thirty miles from the coast, oranges and other varieties of citrus fruits, especially Tangerine oranges, grew very well and yielded an abundance of excellently flavoured fruit.

Mangoes flourished on the better drained parts of the coast lands, and gave very heavy crops of excellent fruit. With the advent of really satisfactory carriage facilities, British Guiana would become a most important source of tropical fruits of many kinds. There were very large areas of land in the colony which when drained were very well adapted for cattle raising, and he looked to the time when the colony would be the main source of supply for the West Indian islands. At present there were only about 80,000 cattle on the coast-land farms. In the somewhat distant future great developments might take place in cattle-ranching on the great savannahs of the far interior. The Government through the Board of Agriculture had imported during the last few years several pure-bred bulls in the hope of thereby improving the breed of cattle on the coast-lands, and for similar reasons had imported two thoroughbred stallions and a Spanish Jack.

Coming to the forest resources of the colony, Professor Harrison said that at present the only

timber exported from British Guiana in any quantity was greenheart. There were enormous timber resources awaiting development. The Hon. A. G. Bell, Colonial Civil Engineer, was devoting much energy to the study of these, and the lecturer hoped that in a short time representative exhibits of our various timbers would be on show in England. At present British Guiana largely supplied the West Indies with shingles, firewood, and charcoal. A proposal was under discussion to appoint a special forest officer for the colony whose duty would be to study the resources of the interior. If this were done, he felt convinced that it would be followed by a marked increase in the utilisation of our potential forest resources. About 5,000 cwts. of balata were yearly collected in the forests and exported from the colony. The extension of this important forest industry depended largely on the discovery of balata tracts where the expenses of collection, freight, &c., would allow of a fair profit being made. During the last two years a good deal of interest had been taken in the prospects of rubber collection and cultivation in the colony. About 26 cwts. was yearly exported all of which was collected in the colony from trees of the *Sapium* family. These grew to great sizes in the forests of the coastlands. There were many trees of various varieties of *Hevea* growing in the forests, but unfortunately *Hevea brasiliensis* was of rare occurrence in the colony. A special vote had been recently made to start an experimental rubber plantation, in which it would be able to ascertain which varieties of rubber-yielding trees were the more suitable for their local conditions. All that could be said at present was that many parts of the colony appeared to be almost ideal in conditions for rubber cultivation. There were small exports of gum *animi* and of other forest products, but none of these promised ever to become of importance.

The lecturer then went on to speak of the mineral resources, and as regards gold said that since 1885, when the exports of gold first received the notice of the Customs' authorities, to the end of 1906, about 1,940,000 ozs. of the metal had been exported from British Guiana. The approximate value of this was £7,256,000. This great sum represented the value of the energy and sturdy industry of a large and important section of the black people of British Guiana. As truly as the rice industry might be considered the industry of the East Indian so might the mineral industries—the exploitation of gold and of diamonds—be regarded as belonging to the black section of our population. It was the farmers, the artisans, and the labourers of that race who had rendered possible those industries, and to them was mainly due the success which had attended them. Negroes first proved the existence of both auriferous and of diamantiferous deposits, they superintended their earlier development, and they expended their energies, and not unfrequently their small capitals in working them. As far as has been proved the gold-bearing areas of British Guiana in which gold had been found in paying quantities had a total area of about 4,600 square miles, that was about a tenth larger than the total area of Jamaica. The conditions under which the metal occurred in them had been fairly well determined. The deposits followed the trend of great intrusive masses and dykes of basic rocks across the Archean rocks of the colony. At present, owing to the exhaustion of several of the larger properties, the annual production of gold is not as large as it once was, being now about 95,000 ozs., as compared with an average production of 112,500 ozs. per annum over the period 1891 to 1906. There could be no doubt that as this great area of auriferous rocks became better known to expert mining engineers, methods of more profitable working would be introduced and its output greatly increased.

Diamonds were first discovered in quantity in British Guiana by a negro prospector named Gilkes, in 1890, but owing to various causes they were not sought for seriously until 1900. Since that year about 740,000 stones, weighing 49,000 carats, and valued at £68,000, had been found. But little was known of their mode of origin, as in places they were found in alluvial deposits, in others in residuary deposits from basic rocks, and in others in chloritic and micaceous rocks that may be altered sediments. The exploitation of diamonds would receive a great impetus when the high costs of transport to the diamantiferous areas were lessened.

Power resources were among the most valuable of British Guiana, and had hitherto received the least attention. The cataracts and great falls on the rivers would doubtless in time be utilised as sources of electrical energy, and with this there would be the development of quartz-mining, of hydraulic mining of the very extensive placer-deposits, and of the timber resources of the forests. When the Kaieteur and other great falls were compelled to do their share in the development of the colony British Guiana would have well proved its right to its title of "The Magnificent Province."

Professor Harrison in conclusion, said that he trusted that he had in the short time at his disposal succeeded in giving some insight into the natural resources of British Guiana, and that he had shown that since the great fall in the value of its staple product, each section of the community, European, black, and East Indian, has done whatever lay in their power to its development, and that in this the labouring classes in British Guiana had done as much as, if not more, than in any other part of the West Indian province.

After Professor Harrison's interesting and exhaustive lecture, SIR CHARLES BRUCE said that he

would not detain the meeting by speaking at any great length, but he would make a few general observations. The lecture was most opportune at the present moment as illustrating the great value of our undeveloped assets in the King's over-sea dominions. The Imperial Conference then at work at the other end of the city was calling attention to the relations between the mother country and the self-governing colonies. He had, of course, every respect for the self-governing colonies, which practically included all the territories of the Empire in the temperate zones, and recognised fully the importance of the relations discussed, but at the same time the extent to which the complex life of the modern world rests on the produce of the tropics was getting to be more and more fully appreciated, and it was realised that the British Empire never could be made self-sufficing and self-contained by the self-governing colonies alone. These had to be supplemented by the Empire of India and by the Crown Colonies, Dependencies and Protectorates. At the present time the self-governing colonies certainly overshadowed the others, but that had not always been the case. The expansion of England had passed through three stages: first, a period of seeking after gold and other treasure, second, a period of enterprise for the purposes of trade with natives, mainly in spices and other articles of tropical produce, and lastly, the period of settlement and development of local resources by British enterprise. In the earlier stages the British Government attached a great deal more importance to their tropical possessions, especially the West Indies, than to the North American provinces. Indeed, in 1664, by the Treaty of Breda, England acquired that portion of America now known as New York, by exchange, of what is now Dutch Guiana, then the English Colony known as Surinam, founded by Lord Willoughby of Parham. The presence of Sir Wilfred Laurier at this moment in London, and the great importance we attach to Canada, reminded Sir Charles of another fact now perhaps forgotten. After the conquest of Canada, during the negotiations which followed the Seven Years' War, the British Government were actually in favour of surrendering Canada for the small island of Guadeloupe, a proposal so indignantly resented that it must be counted among the contributory causes of the loss of our American colonies. Unfortunately, the peace which followed the year 1814 introduced a policy of neglect so fatal to the West Indies and our tropical possessions generally, that, had it not been for the constancy and courage of the West India Committee and other organisations, it was doubtful whether they would now form a part of our Empire. Without attempting to trace the causes which fortunately averted this disastrous colonial policy, he might, as one who had held office as a colonial Governor during the whole period of Mr. Chamberlain's reign at the Colonial Office, bear testimony to the services rendered by that statesman to the Crown colonies, dependencies and protectorates, and in particular to the West Indies. Mr. Chamberlain had done great things for these colonies (applause), he had grasped every point of importance connected with them, and showed extraordinary energy in producing agents to develop their resources of every kind. At the present moment Sir Charles was happy to think that these resources were being developed with every possible skill and attention. Although Sir Charles had spent many years in British Guiana and visited most parts of the colony, he had never more fully realised the great importance of this Imperial asset than he did at that moment. Professor Harrison's lecture had been a most valuable lesson. It had been a matter of great pleasure to hear the way in which he recognised that the development of the resources in British Guiana was due to so many agencies, and owed so much to the co-operation of the Europeans, the East Indian immigrants, and the negroes. There could be no doubt that one of the most important questions of the present century would be the relation of the employer to the labourer in all our tropical possessions. Professor Harrison had reminded his hearers that the area of British Guiana was about equal to that of the British Isles, but Sir Charles would add that the area at present beneficially occupied was hardly larger than the Isle of Wight! This would give some idea of the extent of territory that remained to be developed, one of the richest in the world, and the results which its development would produce to the Empire. The success of its development must depend mainly on two things, on continuity of policy in the administration and on the labour supply. It was impossible to expect that capitalists would risk their money on enterprises that might suddenly be ruined by an interruption or reversal of administrative policy, especially in respect of the law affecting the supply of labour. There was nothing during his term of office in British Guiana to which he looked back with more complete satisfaction than the passing of the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance 1891, for which he was responsible, and which had recently been the subject of much discussion. He should be glad if some day Mr. Aspinall could find room in the *Circular* for extracts from the report of Dr. Comins, the Commissioner of the Government of India to British Guiana, who was in the colony when this enactment was passed. He bore testimony to the cordial and generous co-operation of the planters of the colony, mostly representatives of the West India Committee, with the Government in the enactment of this important measure. And this testimony he was glad to confirm. In conclusion he was satisfied that he expressed the feeling of all present in declaring that they were greatly indebted to Professor Harrison for the information he had given them in his lucid and exhaustive lecture. (Cheers).

SIR HENRY DAVSON said that he could bear personal testimony to the zeal with which Professor Harrison carried out the great work entrusted to him in British Guiana. Anyone desiring information in the colony went at once to him and there obtained it. He had given them all advice, not only in connection with sugar, but in connection with all the other products. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Professor, which was conveyed by Sir Charles Bruce amidst applause.

SIR E. NOEL WALKER having thanked Sir Charles Bruce for taking the chair, those present adjourned for tea, which was served in the Committee Rooms, after a most successful meeting.

THE SUGAR BOUNTIES—A RETROSPECT.

Continental sugar bounties originated and were for a long series of years obtained by the payment of a larger sum in drawback on exportation than had been received in duty on the raw material; in the first instance by more drawback on refined than had been paid in duty on the raw sugar, and afterwards, when the beetroot industry began to flourish, by more drawback on the sugar than had been paid in duty on the roots. The system first came into force about the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1648 the prohibition against exporting raw sugar was repealed, and refiners were given a bounty of 9 livres and 15 sous for every 100 kilos exported. In 1786 it was decided that all sugar coming from French colonies and refined in French ports should receive a rebate of the amount of duty paid on it as raw sugar. At that time it was estimated that 170 lbs. of refined sugar represented 225 lbs. of raw sugar. In addition to this the exporter received 4 livres for each quintal if he could conclusively show that the sugar had reached its destination. These premiums were abolished in 1791, but re-established in 1803. Fixed at first at 50 fcs. they were increased gradually to 110 fcs. in 1819. This, however, is ancient history, and no estimate, so far as we know, was made in those days of the amount of bounty obtained by excessive drawback. It was not till 1863 that definite measures were taken to estimate the bounty and apply a remedy. International experiments were carried out for ascertaining the yield in pure refined sugar from the various classes of raw sugar, and on the results was based the International Convention of 1864 for the abolition of bounties in France, Belgium, Holland and Great Britain. France, unfortunately, failed to carry out the terms of that Convention, and the Paris refiners, therefore, continued to enjoy a considerable bounty on the exportation of their loaf sugar, the rapidly increasing quantity of which inflicted severe injury on the loaf-sugar industry of this country.

In 1872 a vigorous and successful effort was made to convince our Government of this fact. Strong and persistent representations were made to the French Government, and International Conferences were held on the subject. The Convention of 1864, however, expired without any definite settlement of the question. International Conferences were again held, in Brussels in 1875, and in Paris in 1876 and 1877, and the matter was so thoroughly investigated that there appeared to be every prospect of a satisfactory Convention. Great changes had taken place in the production of sugar since 1864. The colour of raw sugar had ceased to be a reliable test of its probable yield of refined sugar. A system of sugar analysis had been discovered which furnished a much more accurate criterion, and it was on that system that the endeavour was made to base a new Convention. The necessity for the abolition of the bounties had become much more urgent because the Paris refiners were every year obtaining a larger bounty and cutting further into the legitimate industry of sugar refining in this country. Moreover, every ton of refined sugar imported was shutting out more than a ton of our colonial sugar, which was in those days the principal raw material of the British refiner. The Paris refiners, and also those in Holland, were getting every year a larger and larger yield from their raw sugar than that on which their duties and drawbacks were based, and were consequently receiving a larger and larger drawback on export than that to which they were entitled. This was their bounty, which stimulated them to constantly increasing over-production and enabled them to undersell all competitors outside their own country.

The Conferences were unsuccessful because our Government refused to give the foreign Governments security that they should no longer have to compete against bounties in British markets. But they were so far successful that they convinced the French Government of the serious loss of revenue caused by the bounties. Consequently before the year 1880 the French Government adopted the system of saccharimetry for the assessment of duty, and thus practically reduced the legal bounty on loaf sugar to an insignificant sum.

The indirect bounty on raw sugar in France dated from 1884. In that year France adopted the German system by which the sugar duty was levied on the weight of roots according to an estimated yield of sugar; and as the quantity of sugar actually produced exceeded the quantity on which the duty was levied, a portion of the production escaped the tax. On exportation, however, a drawback of the full duty on the sugar was given to the producer. In Germany and Austria this

system had been long in vogue, and had given rise to large bounties which had greatly stimulated the over-production in those countries. In 1892, the German Government abolished the bounty by establishing excise supervision and levying the duty on the actual sugar; but, that the sugar industry should not suffer from the competition with France, a temporary direct bounty was substituted. In 1896 French production was making such progress that Germany doubled her bounty. France responded, and added to her enormous indirect bounty a direct bounty equivalent to the doubled bounty in Germany. The French colonies, by the law of 1884, received each year the same bounty on the sugar which they sent to France as the beetroot producers had secured in the previous season.

In 1892 the German direct export bounty was 1 mark 25 (1s. 3d.) per 100 kilos on raw, and 2 marks (2s.) on refined sugar. This was raised in 1896 to 2 marks 50 (2s. 6d.) on raw, and 3 marks 55 (3s. 6½d.) on refined sugar.

The cartels in Austria and Germany were inaugurated in 1898 and 1900 respectively. They were combinations or rings consisting of the sugar producers and manufacturers, and their success depended on the existence of a high protective tariff. The ring were able to keep the prices of sugar to home consumers at such a high level that they could export their surplus production at a very low price and yet realise a large profit on the balance. In the case of Austria the difference between the Customs and the Excise duties was 13 florins (25s.) per 100 kilos, while in Germany it amounted to 20 marks (20s.). By the Brussels Convention the *écart* or difference between the duties has been limited to 6 francs (about 4s. 9½d.) per 100 kilos.

BRITISH GUIANA AND THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

We have received the following important resolution from British Guiana on the subject of the continuance of the Brussels Sugar Convention:—

"The Board of Agriculture of British Guiana views with considerable alarm and with the greatest anxiety the possibility of the British Government giving notice of its intention to withdraw from the Brussels Sugar Convention. British Guiana is one of the largest cane sugar-producing colonies belonging to the British Empire, and sugar and its by-products represent about 75 per cent. in value of the total exports of the colony. Enormous sums have been invested by the owners of sugar estates in improved machinery, drainage, water supply, and immigration, and the feeling of security and improved confidence gained by the sugar industry since the signing of the Brussels Convention would be entirely lost, were the Home Government unfortunately to withdraw its adherence to the Convention. The sugar industry of British Guiana and the British West Indies was handicapped almost to the extent of extinction by bounty supported sugar imported into England from Continental countries, and the withdrawal from the Convention at the present time when the industry is in anything but a flourishing condition, would result in many sugar plantations in the colony being abandoned. This would be followed by a very serious diminution in the revenues of the colony, and the wage-earning population would be seriously affected. There is no other industry known in the colony at present that could take the place of the sugar industry, and such minor industries as are slowly coming to the front, depend in a great measure, as far as their future success is concerned, on a continuance of the sugar industry. There are 133,000 East Indian immigrants resident in the colony, and of this number 73,000 or thereby, are resident on the sugar estates, and the majority of those not resident depend mainly on the sugar estates for employment. The sugar estates circulate in round figures about \$3,000,000 per annum in the shape of wages, and about half of this amount is earned by negro labourers, including artisans of all trades. BE IT RESOLVED: That this Board most earnestly requests His Majesty's Government to take the foregoing facts into consideration, and to abstain from giving notice of its intention to withdraw from the Convention."

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND THE CONVENTION.

At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua, held on March 22nd, a report drawn up by the Standing Committee dealing with questions as to the Brussels Convention, submitted by the Commissioner of Agriculture, was read and adopted, and directed to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. As regards the effect of the Convention, dealing with the Presidency the report states that the passing of the Convention was followed by a great revival of confidence and of credit, and the subsequent introduction of outside capital. On Gunthorpe's and Bendall's Central Factories a sum of at least £80,000 has been spent on capital account. None of this capital would have been forthcoming but for the Convention and confidence in the continuity of Imperial policy. From the recent uncertainty of the continuance of the Convention credit has relaxed. The capitalists who found the money for Gunthorpe's and Bendall's factories were ready to promote, and themselves subscribe largely to, a much-needed central sugar factory in St. Kitts. This scheme has now been dropped, and generally expensive improvements elsewhere have been at least postponed. The probable effect of the non-continuance of the Convention, the report goes on to state, would be that the loss of credit would continue, and with it the inability to adopt modern methods of sugar manufacture. The return to the old Continental system would incur the practical extinction at an early date of the sugar industry in the British West Indies, unless, as the report suggests, it is fated for these colonies to prosper under another flag.

CLIMATE AND SUGAR-CANE.

One of the effects of transplanting sugar-cane to another country or climate, says the *Agricultural Journal of India*, is at times a decrease in the richness of the juice. This is not uniformly so. For example, canes called "Wine coloured," "Vizianagram," "White Secuni," and "Namali," which were imported from the Samalkita agricultural station to Pusa in 1904, have contained as much juice in the new as in the former region. The percentage of cane sugar in the juice of these varieties as grown in Pusa has been 21.3, 18.1, and 25.4. But in other cases the plant does not grow at first in the same perfect manner, and two Mauritius varieties may be instanced. These were imported by the Bombay department in 1894, the one a red thick cane and the other a white thick cane, and they had the reputation of containing some 18 per cent. of sugar in the juice, whilst the white variety contained about 12 per cent. and 1.4 per cent. of glucose respectively. In 1897 they were analysed again, when the red variety yielded juice containing 12.7 per cent. of cane sugar and 1.5 per cent. of glucose, and the white variety 14.71 per cent. and .99 per cent. respectively. They were again tested at Poona in 1901, when the juice of the red variety contained 13 per cent. sugar and 2 per cent. glucose, and the white variety 13.5 per cent. of cane sugar and 1.2 per cent. of glucose. Thus, whilst there was a fairly steady increase, it had not reached the supposed original standard in seven years. They were brought to Pusa in 1904 and have grown perfectly there. The red variety in the crop of 1905 contained 18.4 per cent. cane sugar and .5 per cent. glucose in the juice; the juice of the white variety contained 21.1 per cent. of cane sugar and 3 per cent. of glucose.

SUGAR BEET IN ENGLAND.

Lord Denbigh continues actively to champion the cause of home-grown beet. On Monday week in the House of Commons he will put a very comprehensive question to the Government on the subject. He will ask them whether they are prepared to encourage the establishment of the industry in the British Islands, and "thereby ensure that a portion of the 18 millions now paid annually for imported sugar, shall be available for labour in rural districts at home; whether they realise that the main obstacles to the introduction of the capital necessary for the erection of factories are: (1) the threatened imposition of a heavy Excise duty on any home-grown sugar; (2) the attitude of individual members of the Government towards the Brussels Convention, and the possible re-introduction of bounty-fed sugar; and whether His Majesty's Government will now, by a rebate of Excise duty for a term of years, accord to an English sugar industry the same encouragement as has been given to Irish tobacco, and also give such an assurance on the subject of the Brussels Convention as will tend to remove the feeling of uncertainty now prevailing." We think that West Indians may look upon the establishment of a beet industry in this country with equanimity. It has now been made quite clear that cane can successfully compete with beet on even terms, and it may be taken for granted that the West Indies will insist upon receiving the same treatment as the home producer with regard to the foreigner. It is hardly necessary to add that it will be extremely satisfactory if Lord Denbigh succeeds in securing an assurance that the Brussels Convention will be allowed to continue, so that the present feeling of uncertainty may be removed.

THE SPIRIT SURTAX.

In our issue of April 9th, we gave the text of a letter addressed by the West India Committee to Mr. Asquith on the subject of the spirit surtax on February 19th. We now give the Chancellor of the Exchequer's reply, together with further correspondence which has since passed regarding this matter. On February 29th the following letter was received from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, on the subject of the surtax on imported spirits, I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say that, as most of the questions which the West India Committee desire to bring to his notice have been fully considered on several occasions, not only by his predecessors in the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, but also by himself, he does not think that there would be any advantage in his receiving a deputation.

With reference, however, to your contention in the fourth paragraph of your letter, that the interests of the West Indies have been prejudicially affected by the legislation of last Session regarding industrial alcohol, I am to say that, if you will furnish him with a statement in writing illustrating the precise manner in which the alleged injury arises, he will give the matter his careful attention.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BRADBURY.

To this letter the following reply was sent by the West India Committee:—

SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. John Bradbury's letter of February 28th last, written by your direction, on the subject of the surtax on imported spirits, and in reply thereto beg to submit for your consideration the following remarks.

18th March, 1907.

2. By the Revenue Act, 1906 (6 Edw. VII., Ch. 20), the facilities for the use of methylated spirit in Great Britain were increased by cheapening the cost of methylation; in cases when the spirit was required for purely industrial purposes. This was done as the result of the report of a Parliamentary Committee which sat in 1904. Prior to the appointment of this committee, the matter had been taken up by a joint committee of the Society of Chemical Industry and the Chemical Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, on which the West India Committee was represented. This joint committee carefully considered the subject, it having been shown that the use of alcohol was likely to be enormously extended in the applied arts and sciences, and especially in the direction of motor power, and that legislation on the subject was necessary for development in this direction. The interests of the Colonial distillers in connection with this matter were fully recognised, and recommendations made to the Government that they should be represented on the proposed Parliamentary Committee. These, however, were not acted on by the Government, who stated that they were not prepared to deal with the question of colonial spirit.

3. For some years past, on account of increased production, the bond value of the commoner description of rum—rum coming from British Guiana, Trinidad, and the Windward and Leeward Islands, has been low, rarely reaching 1s. a proof gallon, and sales have had very often to be made at figures barely sufficient to pay cost and freight. It has been felt that if another outlet for the spirit other than the potable market were obtained, relief would be afforded to the constantly glutted market.

4. The conversion of molasses into cattle food has, to some extent, met this difficulty, but the market for this commodity is limited, and not sufficient to relieve the situation to an adequate extent. In the new field for industrial alcohol, however, the West Indian distiller would have, in competition with the home distiller, a further and constantly expanding outlet for his spirit were the terms equitable, which we would submit they are not.

5. At the present moment the West Indian distiller has to face two alternatives:—

(a) If he methylates his spirit before shipping he has to pay in Great Britain a duty amounting to 11s. 5d. per proof gallon, as against no duty for the home distiller.

(b) If he ships the spirit plain and methylates it in bond in Great Britain, he has to pay a duty of 5d. per gallon of proof spirit, as compared with the home distiller, and at the same time have the extra cost of methylation in bond here, as compared with what it would be in the process of manufacture in his own colony.

In either circumstances the surtax of 5d. remains, and here we may point out that the anomalous position exists that if the spirit is shipped as rum it has to pay 4d. surtax, and if as plain spirit 5d., both of these charges being alleged compensation to the home distiller for the same disabilities under the Government regulations.

6. The items of the Government regulations which the distillers claim cause them substantial pecuniary loss are:

(a) Compensation for duty on foreign grain	...	...	...	...	...	3d.	per proof gallon.
(b) Purchase of yeast, owing to distiller not being allowed to mix worts	...	...	...	...	...	1d.	" "
(c) Extra plant required owing to restrictions as to fermenting and distilling	...	...	...	...	...	1 d.	" "
(d) Loss from having to rectify duty-paid spirits in separate buildings, thus incurring loss in transit and in manufacture of spirit which has already paid duty	...	...	...	...	...	2½d.	" "
						4½d.	" "

7. We are prepared to admit the justice of the principle involved in *b* and *c*, if it is considered that the regulations involved are necessary for the protection of the Revenue, though we must admit that the amount allowed in respect of these regulations appears to us to be quite excessive: but we hold that *d* is quite unjustifiable. No duty is paid at any time on methylated spirit, therefore there can be no loss of duty paid spirit in re-distillation or transit. As regards *a*, it suffices to point out that the duty on grain was abolished in 1859 and only temporarily re-imposed in 1902.

8. We therefore hold that 1½d. only of the 5d. surtax on methylated spirit has any justification, though it is excessive, and that the remaining 3½d. is a distinct protection to the home distiller to the extent of 30 per cent. and upwards of the value of the product. In these circumstances, competition between West Indian and home distillers is impossible, and a valuable outlet for the spirits of West Indian sugar planters closed to them.

9. We submit, therefore, that the Revenue Act above referred to, while giving home distillers a further opening for the extension of their industry, leaves the West Indian distillers in the same position as before, thus still further accentuating the unfair competition arising from the excessive amount of the spirit surtax.

Thanking you, Sir, for your kind promise to give this matter your careful attention,

We have the honour to be, &c.,

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

To this the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied in the following terms:—

March 25th, 1907.

SIR,—With further reference to your letter of the 18th inst., I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say that, after careful consideration of the points you bring forward, he is unable to find anything to justify the contention that the legislation of last Session on the subject of industrial alcohol has "intensified the injustice of the surtax" upon colonial spirits.

I am to point out that the words "any spirits" in line 1 of Section 1 of the Revenue Act, 1906, include Foreign and Colonial as well as British spirits, and that the same allowance of 3d. is given in each case.

The Act does not, therefore, in any way affect the position of the different classes of spirit relatively to each other.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN BRADBURY.

Subsequent to a meeting of the Executive held on April 11th, a further letter was addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as follows:—

April 11th, 1907.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. John Bradbury's letter of March 25th, written by your direction, and replying to

our letter to you of March 18th on the subject of the surtax on imported spirits, we have the honour to submit the following remarks:—

It is true that spirit imported for industrial purposes under the terms of the Revenue Act, 1906 (6. Edw. VII., Chap. 20), receives the same allowance as home-made spirit. The differentiation of 5d. remains, however, the same as before, and absolutely prohibits the West Indian distiller from competing with the home distiller.

At the present price of plain spirit, the home distiller would receive, say, 10d. per proof gallon from the buyer, together with 3d. from the Government, or 1s. 1d. in all. The colonial distiller on the other hand, would have to pay on importation 2d. per proof gallon—the 5d. surtax less the allowance of 3d.—and would thus only net 8d. or 38 per cent. less than the home distiller. Thus it is evident that while the Revenue Act, 1906, provides to the home distiller an extension of the field for the use of his alcohol, the surtax prevents the West Indian distiller from obtaining any benefit from it whatever.

As the West Indian distiller is compelled to work up an amount of raw material which depends upon his sugar output, and therefore cannot adjust his spirit production to the demand in the same way that the home distiller can, the continued barring of opportunity for competition in a manner which practically amounts to prohibition, is especially prejudicial.

We should like, Sir, respectfully to point out that the fact that only 3d.—the export allowance on plain spirits—is allowed to the home producer, is in itself an admission of the false basis of the 5d. surtax, and we again beg to call your earnest attention to the injustice of it.

We would beg, Sir, emphatically to impress upon you our opinion, which is shared by the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, as shown at their last meeting in London, that this surtax acts as a distinct protection of a British-home industry as against a British-colonial industry.

Trusting that you will see your way to accede to our request for an impartial enquiry to be made into the matter, so that the colonial may be placed on an equitable footing with the home distiller.

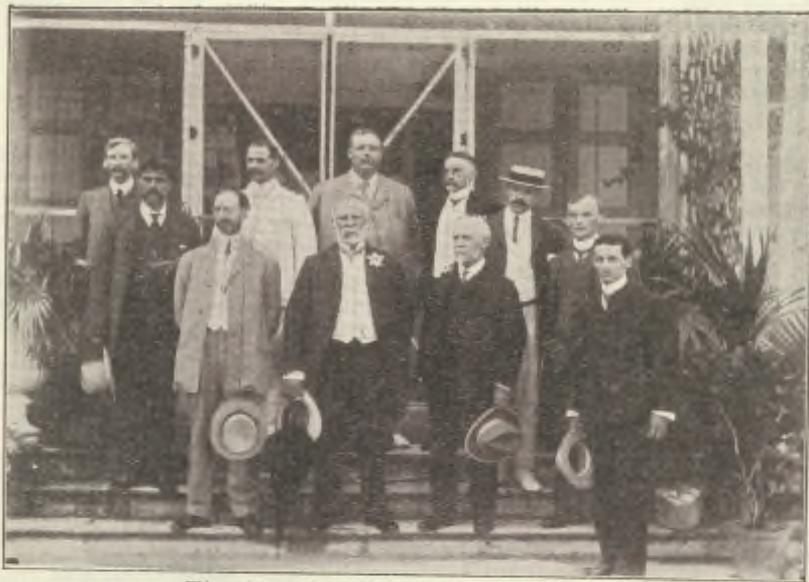
We have the honour, &c.,

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

DOMINICA AND CANADA.

The public meeting held at Dominica for the purpose of conferring with the delegates from the



The Canadian Delegates in Antigua.

The names in the above group of delegates and prominent Antiguans (from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo) are—Top row: D. McDonald, Hon. J. J. Comacho, R. Bryson, A. P. Cowley, A. E. Jones, T. M. Frazer, N. Scott Johnson. In front: H. B. Scholefield, J. D. Allan, Dr. Hon. F. Watts, and R. Malone.

value of the cacao exports. The delegates were unanimous in their expression of opinion that the lime was superior to the lemon in beverages. The duties on citrus fruits entering Canada had been removed for the purpose of developing a trade with the West Indies, and it was pointed out that discouragement must be expected from existing interests in other directions in fruit importation. Mr. Pickford, of Messrs. Pickford & Black, stated that no shippers by their line received preferential rates. His Honour having proposed a vote of thanks to the delegates, Mr. Allan replied and spoke earnestly of the closer

Canadian Boards of Trade was presided over by His Honour Mr. Douglas Young, the Administrator, who introduced the delegates, Mr. Allan, of Toronto, Mr. Jones, of Halifax, Mr. Schofield, of St. John's, and Mr. Fraser, Secretary. Mr. Allan, in addressing those present on behalf of the delegates, stated that the object of their visit was to consolidate the Empire by reciprocity in trade relations. It was pointed out that if Canada wanted to increase her trade with the West Indies she must be prepared to undersell American goods, freights being brought to the same level as the American rates from New York. As regards the island products it was stated that the demand for cacao was increasing in Canada, the value of Dominican cacao exported to that country, which was only £200 in 1904, amounting to £2,000 in 1905, only 7% to 8% however, of the total

union between England and the colonies, which would consolidate and bind together the great British Empire, a union which could only be achieved by reciprocity in trade relations.

Addressing a special meeting of the Toronto Board of Trade, Mr. Allan, the delegate who was appointed by the Board to investigate trade conditions in the West Indies, said that business facilities were behind the times because of Downing Street rule. The islands were practically deserted by Great Britain, and mail and cable communication were almost neglected.

SPURIOUS JAMAICA RUM.

Mr. J. C. Nolan, the Special Commissioner of Jamaica in connection with the rum industry, at the Marylebone Police Court, on April 26th, prosecuted William Whiteley, Limited, on three summonses, under the Merchandise Marks Act, for selling bottles of spirit to which the false trade description of "Jamaica rum" was applied. The defendants pleaded guilty.

Mr. O'Connor, who prosecuted, pointed out that his client had endeavoured to obtain from Messrs. Whiteley the name of the firm from whom they had obtained this spurious Jamaica rum, with the object of proceedings being taken against them also, but it had not been given. The present purchases were made on March 20th and other dates, and the assistant was asked to put the words "Jamaica rum" into the bill, but he declined. Counsel contended that the matter was a very serious one, for rum was the staple manufacture of the island, and its sale had been seriously injured for the last forty years by the introduction of spurious articles on the market.

Mr. O'Connor suggested that the tampering occurred after the rum had been taken out of bond. Counsel drew attention to the labels on the samples purchased, which bore the words, "Fine old Jamaica rum. William Whiteley, Limited, wine merchants and shippers. Uniformity of quality guaranteed." And in view of the attitude adopted by the defendants in refusing the information asked for he asked that the full penalty of the law should be imposed. Mr. Nolan, the Special Commissioner, said the samples purchased from the defendants were of a very inferior quality of rum, and contained little or no Jamaica rum.

Mr. Roche, for the defendants, said his clients had been under the impression that the article sold by them was pure Jamaica rum, but after the purchase in question had been made they communicated with the vendors, and discovered that owing to a mistake the rum had been taken from a wrong vat. Mr. Plowden said the Act provided persons accused under it with unusual facilities for their defence, but Messrs. Whiteley had not availed themselves of those facilities. They did not seem to have been at the slightest pains to discover whether the rum was genuine or not, and, from the most favourable point of view, they must have been selling it with great carelessness, and even recklessness, indifferent as to what its contents really were. Great wrong had been done to the island of Jamaica, and he felt it his duty to impose the maximum penalty of £20 on each of the three summonses, with 10 guineas costs. He, however, declined to make an order for the defendants' stock of rum to be forfeited.

THE RIOTING IN ST. LUCIA.

Since our last issue serious riots have occurred at St. Lucia. It appears that on April 23rd, the coalheavers, an important branch of the industrial community, and consisting mainly of females, struck for higher wages and on their demands being refused, in conjunction with the rabble of the town, broke into stores, attacked police and private individuals, and caused a general condition of riot. The police fired on the rioters and several were injured. The next day, although with the Governor's aid an agreement had been come to between masters and men, the disturbances spread to the country districts, the Dennery, Roseau, and Cul-de-sac factories being involved, and many cane fields burnt down. On April 25th the Roseau labourers marched to Cul-de-sac, where an encounter with the police took place, who fired upon the rioters, killing four and wounding nineteen. The Royal Mail Company having placed the *Solent* at the disposal of the authorities, 100 Barbados and 27 St. Vincent police with a Maxim, landed on the evening of the third day, and with the opportune arrival of a Dutch mail man-of-war the situation was considerably relieved. On April 30th the Governor telegraphed that conditions had improved, but that feeling was still acute.

As was the case after the Jamaica earthquake, the need of more adequate protection of our West Indian colonies is again being actively canvassed in the press, as a result of the St. Lucia disturbances. We give the following extracts, which speak for themselves:—

Little anxiety need be felt so far as Castries itself is concerned, because a Dutch warship, which happened to hear of the trouble, is now at anchor in the harbour, and is ready to lend assistance if required.—*The Sheffield Telegraph*, April 27th.

We have for a long time past been steadily getting further and further away from our once-cherished possessions in the West Indies. . . . Our withdrawal of effective protection and succour has been our latest (and we hope our last) folly.—*Evening News*, April 27th.

Absolutely the only warship actually near St. Lucia appears to have been the Dutch cruiser *Gelderland*; it was not until yesterday that the British cruiser *Indefatigable* left for the island. If we continuously and culpably neglect our West Indian possessions, we need not expect those small scattered communities, which find it difficult to exist even under the best conditions, to be very prosperous.—*The Globe*, April 29th.

Although it is now just a week since the serious rioting broke out in the island of St. Lucia, no British ship has yet arrived. . . . It is strongly urged that it is time the Admiralty gave its attention to an adequate redistribution of ships, so that when any sudden emergency causes a British possession to need assistance, the Navy will not always be unable and unready to render that assistance.—*The Daily Express*, April 30th.

The present Government, which left Jamaica to find herself in difficulties, and with only American warships at hand, at the pinch, has every reason to congratulate itself on the part played by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in the present state of things at St. Lucia. . . . Meantime, the Secretary of the Admiralty announces that a British warship, having thus had time to coal, is now actually proceeding to the scene of action.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, April 30th.

IMPERIAL EDUCATION.

We were glad to notice several of those connected with the West Indies at the meeting held at the Guildhall on April 23rd, to consider the question of education in relation to the Empire. Among them were Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. William Gillespie, and Mr. R. Rutherford. The Lord Mayor presided, and a resolution urging the obligatory teaching of Empire subjects in all elementary and secondary schools was moved by the Duke of Somerset, seconded by Dr. Parkin, Secretary to the Rhodes Trustees, and adopted. Lord Milner, whose reception was most enthusiastic, in moving that public subscriptions for Empire education should be inaugurated, said that what was wanted was that teaching about the Empire should become a recognised and normal part of the education of children in all the schools of the country, and to secure that it was necessary to create the public feeling which would apply the necessary pressure to the educational authorities. The field of knowledge nowadays was so vast that there was no room for fads in education; but surely it was not a fad to familiarise the young with the nature of the State of which they were members and the extent of their heritage. Mr. Deakin, Premier of the Australian Commonwealth, seconded the motion, which was carried. A resolution for the establishment of a "British Empire Fund" was moved by Lord Strathcona, seconded by Lord Ranfurly, and agreed to.

Earlier in the day it had been announced that the Princess of Wales had within the past few weeks, with the assistance of Lady Dudley and a committee of ladies, raised by private subscription a fund of £4,000 in furtherance of the work of providing on a uniform system illustrated lectures for use in the schools of the Empire. This, it should be understood, is a separate scheme altogether, being that conducted by Professor H. J. Mackinder, under the auspices of the Colonial Office, to which reference has already been made in our columns.

CANADIAN PREFERENCE.

The *Louisiana Planter* writing on the subject of the Canadian sugar preferential tariff, speaks of the "British-Colonial sugar producers, who were not consulted in the matter by the Canadian Government, but were simply lured with a preference rate of duty into the Canadian markets, where seemingly it was not intended to give the colonial producer any other advantage than that of supplying Canada with colonial sugars at lower prices than Canada can secure them elsewhere, but at prices which will net the colonial producer as much as he has hitherto been getting relatively, and give him the monopoly of the Canadian market. In the much discussed reciprocity treaty between the United States and Cuba, the claim was made in Washington that we owed it to Cuba to give them a preferred market in the United States, so that they should have the advantage of the reciprocity preference duties. It was quickly found, however, that if the Cubans let their sugars come on the market as fast as they were produced, they quickly lost all the preference. They could only secure a monopoly on the American market by granting to American buyers some part of the reciprocity advantage, and at times the whole of it. The friends of the Cuban sugar producers were slow to recognize any equity in this, and yet now we find that in Canada some parties are urging that the preferential duties on colonial sugars in Canada is strictly a Canadian affair and for the good of Canada."

FOR JAMAICA.

Mr. Sydney Olivier left in the *Port Kingston* on Saturday last to assume the government of Jamaica, and we are sorry that our *Circular* has been issued too late to enable us publicly to convey to him, as we have already done privately, God-speed on behalf of our numerous readers. Mr. Olivier was accompanied by Mr. A. W. Farquharson, the Crown Solicitor, who with the Archbishop of the West Indies formed the deputation to present to the Government the people's petition for the grant

and loan to enable the rebuilding of Kingston to be proceeded with. The Archbishop of the West Indies will remain in England for some little time longer. The Lord Mayor presided over a meeting at the Mansion House on April 26th, in support of the Archbishop's appeal for £30,000 to rebuild and restore the churches and other ecclesiastical buildings of Jamaica. There was a large attendance, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Chichester, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Trinidad, and Mr. Sydney Olivier. Several interesting speeches were made, and it was announced that donations would be thankfully received by Mr. W. Klein, 24, Belsize Park, Treasurer of the Fund. With regard to the proposed grant and loan to Jamaica, it is expected that the long delayed announcement will be made almost immediately, so that the rebuilding of Kingston may be proceeded with.

The Earthquake Fund.

The West India Committee have received a donation of £200 from the Football Association, Limited, towards the Jamaica Earthquake Fund. The Mansion House Fund now amounts to £55,409.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The riots at St. Lucia.

In a written reply, on April 30th, to Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, who asked what was the distance between the nearest available British warship and the scene of the riots in St. Lucia on the 23rd inst., Mr. Lambert said: 1,130 miles. His Majesty's ship *Indefatigable* left Jamaica for St. Lucia, a distance of 930 miles, at noon on Sunday.

On May 2nd, in reply to Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Churchill said: The following telegram was received from the Governor on the afternoon of April 30th:—"April 30th.—Conditions improved, one factory working, two partly working, one idle, but feeling still acute, no firing since last report, but correct casualty returns rifle fire number of killed is four, wounded twenty-nine, of whom two since dead, other casualties with (?) sticks and stones. No doubt that armed police by firing saved the factories and lives, checked organised massing of three large bodies of rioters, and prevented far greater calamity." On the afternoon of yesterday the following telegram was received:—"1st May.—Factories still guarded, conditions unchanged, temper of people unsatisfactory. Marines should be landed in place of Barbados police on arrival of *Indefatigable*." My answer to the hon. members for West Lanarkshire and Mid-Armagh on Monday last has shown what measures have hitherto been taken to prevent further disturbances. Detachments of police were summoned from Barbados and St. Vincent, and his Majesty's ship *Indefatigable* was ordered to proceed to St. Lucia and arrived last night. The Governor has stated that no further assistance is required.

Sir G. Parker asked whether, in view of recent events, the Government would take into consideration the question of greater naval protection for the West Indies. Mr. Churchill: Yes, Sir; it is being taken into consideration, and I understand some alteration is about to be made. (Cheers.)

Sir Alexander Swettenham's resignation.

Sir G. Parker, on April 30th, asked the Under Secretary for the Colonies whether all the correspondence between the Government and Sir Alexander Swettenham in relation to the Admiral Davis incident at Jamaica and to his retirement had been published; and, if not, would the remainder be laid on the table. Mr. Churchill replied: No, Sir. There is a considerable volume of correspondence on the details of the question, but the Government has decided after careful consideration that the public interest would not be served by its publication either here or in the United States, and that such publication is wholly unnecessary to enable a just opinion to be formed on the only point on which fault has been found with Sir Alexander Swettenham, namely, the propriety of his letter to Admiral Davis. In reply to a further question by Sir G. Parker, Mr. Churchill said that the propriety of Sir A. Swettenham's action had not been called in question, and no useful purpose, but the reverse, would be served by setting forth the reasons which prompted him to dispense with the service of the contingent landed by Admiral Davis other than those published.

Sir Gilbert Parker also asked, in view of further information received as to the privacy of the letter addressed by Sir Alexander Swettenham to Admiral Davis, and that a private letter of the kind should not have been published without permission, and that this Government had not requisite knowledge of all the facts when it administered its rebuke to Sir Alexander Swettenham on January 22nd, whether it could see its way to make due apology and reparation to him. Mr. Churchill replied: The answer is in the negative. Mr. Remnant asked if the Colonial Office would place before the House the message sent by Admiral Davis to his superior officer, Admiral Evans, relating to Sir A. Swettenham. Mr. Churchill: The question of publishing a report from one officer of the United States Service to another officer of that Service is obviously a matter which does not fall within the province of his Majesty's Government. (Ministerial cheers.) Mr. Remnant: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that the letter has been published in the newspapers? Mr. Churchill: It is not the practice

of his Majesty's Government to publish in official papers all matters published in the newspapers. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. J. Collings: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that the letter he is now asked to publish absolutely exonerates Sir A. Swettenham from the charge brought against him that he ever quarrelled with the American Admiral—(Opposition cheers)—and may I ask the right hon. gentleman whether in justice to this House and to the honour of the country he will not publish that letter? (Opposition cheers.) Mr. Churchill: I really do not see how the honour of the country and of the House of Commons are involved in the question whether we should publish as an official paper a letter which has already been made public in many newspapers. (Ministerial cheers.) Sir G. Parker: Is it not the case that the Government took action upon a letter published in the newspapers when they had no official information whatever? Mr. Churchill: No action was taken upon newspaper publication except in the event of that publication being accepted and endorsed by Sir A. Swettenham. Mr. Pike Pease: Did not the Colonial Office ask Sir A. Swettenham to withdraw his resignation? Mr. Churchill: Sir A. Swettenham was not requested to withdraw his resignation, but was given the opportunity of doing so if he wished.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Kingston*, which left Kingston, Jamaica, on April 11th, and arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, April 23rd, had among her passengers Sir Fielding Clarke, Mr. A. Crum Ewing, Mr. D. S. Gideon, Mr. Eustace Greg and Mr. Sabey. The R.M.S.P. *Orinoco*, which sailed from Barbados at 3 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17th, reached Southampton at 7 a.m. on Monday, April 29th, and her mails were delivered in London by 2 p.m. on the same day. Among her large number of passengers were Mr. W. Craib, Hon. W. C. Dyett, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Esdaile, Mr. A. M. Low, and Colonel Trollope. Mr. James Slater, Secretary of the Hand-in-Hand Fire Insurance Company, of British Guiana, and the Hon. James Cox Fillan, of Dominica, are also among our visitors, having arrived by the *Crown of Castille* and the *Empress of India* (via Canada) respectively. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Barbados and the *Indefatigable*.

When the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne wrote on April 14th, nothing more had been heard with regard to the strengthening of the Fleet in West Indian waters. The *Indefatigable* left on the 9th for Bermuda and eventually for Jamaica. She was not expected to return to Barbados till November. Her absence, therefore, would cover the whole period of the hurricane months, and give ample time for mishaps, either in Barbados, Trinidad or British Guiana.

During the fortnight there had again been no rain worth mentioning, and March and April had been even drier than last year. Twenty-three parts had been measured at Porter's for the month, and this experience was general. The consequence was that the old canes were either drying up, or ripening rapidly in the fields, and the yield from the juice was diminishing. This seemed extraordinary when one considered the floods of rain in British Guiana, not far off. The late planted cotton crop was looking beautiful, but of course all the pods would dry off if they did not get rain. The young crop was standing the weather wonderfully as yet. Muscovado sugar had advanced to \$1.70. Molasses had receded to 15 cents, and syrup was very dull at 17 cents. The young canes were holding splendidly.

From the newspapers we learn that on April 9th the Bill to provide a salary for the Speaker was thrown out by the Legislative Council. The Council had adjourned for eight weeks. The annual meeting of the Commercial Hall was held on March 30th. The report showed an improvement in the financial position, the balance being \$566.36 as against \$297.68 in 1905. The following officers and Committees were appointed:—Committee of Management: V. Hanschell, Chairman, E. I. Baeza, Vice-Chairman, H. J. Jones, Treasurer, H. B. G. Austin, J. R. Bancroft, J. A. Jones, H. L. Johnson, E. M. Sanderson, T. W. Wilkinson. Committee of Commerce: Chairman and Vice-Chairman, R. Arthur, Senr., H. B. G. Austin, J. R. Bancroft, R. Challenor, F. A. C. Collymore, Darnley C. DaCosta, J. A. Jones, H. J. Jones, R. A. Mahon, Capt. W. H. Owen, E. F. O. Swan, T. W. Wilkinson, J. O. Wright. Honorary Members: Harbour Master, Assistant Harbour Master, the Health Officer, American Consul, Venezuelan Consul, Hon. S. W. Knaggs.

British Guiana rubber.

Writing on April 12th, Mr. J. C. McCowan stated that Colonel Kuper and Mr. Foot had arrived in the colony by the last mail, on behalf of the Cuyuni Exploration Rubber Syndicate, and had gone into the interior. Colonel Linke had also arrived for the purpose of looking after the interests of the British Guiana Rubber Corporation, the prospectus of which had been referred to in the *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XXI., page 516.

It was reported that recent heavy rains had damaged a good deal of the rice cultivation, and

the crop this year would be short. There was nothing doing in the sugar market. Latest advices quoted much higher rates in the Canadian market, as compared with New York prices. The weather was hot and bright during the fortnight until the 11th, when some two inches of rain fell in Demerara and Berbice. Copies of the Customs Duties and Tax Ordinance for 1907-8 were received by the mail. The mail edition of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* gives an account of the accident to Messrs. Sproston's launch, the *Lena*, which sank after a violent explosion, 20 miles above Rockstone, on her way to Tumatumari on April 8th. Three lives were lost and four men were injured. The *Argosy* has now become a daily newspaper.

The trade of Dominica.

Useful showers were falling on April 12th when Mr. E. A. Agar wrote. At the opening of the Legislative Council on March 28th, His Honour the Administrator said that the actual revenue had exceeded the estimated revenue, but in spite of that there was a deficit on the year's accounts, due, however, to expenditure on public works. A surplus was estimated for the coming year. It was his intention to accumulate a reserve fund of £10,000, the amount in hand being now little over £2,000. The principal public work completed was the installation of the electric light in Roseau. The amount set aside for the upkeep of roads and bridges was considerably increased for this year. The trade of the island had increased enormously during the past year, imports reaching the total of £103,224, and the exports £105,245; while ten years ago the trade of the island amounted to £115,915, last year it had risen to £209,470. A new industry, the manufacture of citrate of lime, had been established during the past year, and two projects were being worked out for the development of the timber industry and Crown lands by means of railways. The address, published in the local press, of the President, Dr. Nicholls, to the Dominica Agricultural Society, reviewed the work of the Society since its inception in 1899, and alluded in warm terms to the work which Mr. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., the previous Administrator of the island, had done for the Dominica Agricultural Society and also for the island. Reference was made in the address to the improved condition of the lime industry, due to greater appreciation of this fruit in Great Britain and the United States, and to the increase of agricultural enterprise, which had been prosecuted during the year to an extent unprecedented, and to the influence of the new European settlers in developing the island. Dr. Nicholls concluded an excellent address by predicting a bright outlook for the island.

Sport in Grenada.

Mr. P. J. Dean stated on April 14th that the Governor had appointed a Commission of Enquiry into the condition of the peasant proprietors, which was then sitting, and which would be productive of some good if they would only come forward and give evidence. The Commission had met at Grand Bay and Concord and obtained a good deal of valuable evidence.

The cacao crop was turning out well; there was a lull in shipments at the time of writing, but at the end of April and in May the pickings would again come on, and it was thought that they would reach to 60,000 bags for the crop closing September 30th.

The Governor's cups, won by the Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne at the St. Andrew's exhibition, and "Sweetheart" at the Grand Ance races in February, had arrived, and had been handed over to their respective owners, in the case of "Sweetheart" to Mr. M. E. H. Martin. The St. Andrew's gymkana races took place on Easter Monday and were quite a success, the weather being all that could be desired. Mr. Anton announced with regret the death, on April 6th, of Mr. E. T. Gay, of "The Brothers" estate in the parish of St. John. He was a member of the Agricultural and Commercial Society and of the West India Committee.

The weather had been as favourable as could be expected at the time of year. The sea had been very rough off and on for some weeks, and the Gouyave Jetty had followed that of Victoria, which was washed away some time ago.

Drought in Jamaica.

Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, writing on April 11th, said that the want of rain was becoming very serious. The whole island was suffering, and unless the May rains fell, the loss in cattle and growing crops would be increasingly heavy. Already some of the parishes had been very badly hit.*

The *Jamaica Gleaner* of April 19th published a list of subscribers in Jamaica to the war fund when England was at war in 1798. The papers of April 4th gave the full text of the new Building Law, which was adopted by the Legislative Council.

The Nevis Agricultural Show.

Hon. C. A. Shand, in his letter dated March 28th, said that the Agricultural Show was to take place on April 4th, and would probably be one of the best they had ever had as far as live stock of all kinds was concerned, but the dry weather experienced throughout the month of March had made

* A cablegram received subsequently announced that rain fell on May 4th, but it ceased after a few hours, and the drought continues.—Ed.

fruit, flowers and vegetables extremely few and far between, so there would be a marked diminution in the number of exhibits in these classes. The cotton crop was turning out poor in quantity, but the quality was good and the high prices would help to reduce the possible deficit. The planters would have to adopt more care in future in the cultivation of their lands, though this season, even on the best tilled estates, great disappointment had been felt at the low yield. The abnormally high winds which were prevailing even at the time of writing, prevented the boll from setting properly, and in many cases plants which flowered profusely had been found with absolutely no bolls whatever. Mr. Shand had never known the weather so stormy for the time of year, and the experience of those who had to cross the channel between Nevis and St. Kitts in their open craft did not conduce towards longevity.

The "Nevis Limited" factory had made a start, and up to the present their machinery had given satisfactory results, but the raw material had mostly been dealt with, as far as cotton was concerned, by rival ginneries, so unless the company could secure a regular supply of cotton seed, their campaign on this occasion would be brief.

In a subsequent letter on April 8th, Mr. Shand stated that the weather was extremely dry throughout the month of March and still continued so, and rain would be a great boon. The event of the previous week was the holding of the third annual agricultural show. Despite the drought there were 631 entries, of which no less than 167 were under the heading of live stock. The peasant proprietors were most excellently represented in this class, and the show was pronounced a decided success. The Administrator not only came over at considerable personal inconvenience to open the show (the day was still, and the wind very light), but performed the arduous duties of judge of live stock to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The St. Vincent ginnery.

The weather was very dry when Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. wrote on April 15th, and the land so hard that digging arrowroot and preparing lands for next season was at a standstill.

Writing on April 15th, Mr. W. N. Sands stated that a local company had been formed to take over the central cotton factory from the Government on the lines suggested by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture; the capital of the company would be £2,500 in £5 shares. With an average crop a good profit should be made each season. To date, 616 bales of cotton (360 lbs.) had been ginned at the factory this season, and there were probably 30 or 40 more to come in. In the Customs returns for the year ended March 31st, 1907, the export of cotton amounted to 263,036 lbs., of an estimated value of £18,169 4s., so that probably next year cotton would take the premier place in point of value of the island's exports.

The Government was taking active measures in connection with the control of anthrax. Vaccine had been imported and vaccinating officers appointed for different districts. A large number of animals had already been vaccinated. With the co-operation of all it was hoped to stamp out the disease and so revive the once flourishing stock-producing industry. Already the Governments of Trinidad and Barbados were willing to allow vaccinated stock to be imported.

The weather continued dry and little could be done as yet in the matter of the preparation of lands for next season's crops. Most planters were now clearing off and burning the old cotton stalks left on the fields. The cotton worm did no damage last season to speak of. It had never been troublesome in St. Vincent, but of course it might be at any time. It was found in the island last season for the first time.

Trinidad and Radio-telegraphy.

We have received no letter from our Hon. Correspondent, the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, by this mail, but advices from Trinidad state that although the weather was dry there was promise of rain, which should favourably affect the June pickings of cacao—the delivery from the country districts having been moderate during the fortnight. A general meeting of the resuscitated Agricultural Society had been held under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor, and a formal motion was passed changing the name of the Society so as to include in it the Island of Tobago. At a meeting of the Legislative Council, in reply to a question by Mr. Marryat, a report was read on the working of the wireless telegraphic system between Trinidad and Tobago. In this it was stated that since the duplicate plant had been installed the working had been satisfactory. The number of telegrams apart from the main items of the daily press news, had, however, amounted to 401 only during the year. The expenditure for the year had been £1,144, including £341 for the duplicate plant, and the revenue £18 2s. 5d. No charge being made for the daily press message.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Empire Day.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Will you allow me through your columns to draw the attention of your readers to the "Empire Day Movement," a non-party and non-sectarian effort to train the rising generation in those virtues which tend towards the creation of good

citizens, and to establish a public opinion which shall demand of British subjects the cultivation of a higher standard of civic and Imperial obligation, and a graver sense of the responsibilities and duties attached to citizenship, especially in regard to the 350,000,000 of coloured British subjects who possess no direct voice in their own Government, but are dependent for their welfare and happiness on the votes of the remaining 50,000,000 of white subjects of King Edward VII. If these 400,000,000 of people were truly bound together, as is the aim of this movement, by feelings of mutual affection, the British Empire would constitute the most effective guarantee of peace the world has ever known. That no small step has already been taken in this direction, will at once be apparent, when it is mentioned that last year "Empire Day," May 24th, or a day approximately near to that date, was observed by over 8,000,000 British subjects.

My object in writing to you, is not so much to ask the co-operation of your readers in the timely organisation of public and private demonstrations on May 24th next, as to invite them to use their influence, especially with Education Authorities and in schools, in the direction of creating a public opinion which shall encourage the subordination of selfish and class interests to those of State and of the community, and the inculcation in the minds of all British subjects of the necessity of preparing themselves, by the acquisition of the requisite knowledge, for the due fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities attached to British citizenship. The watchwords of the movement are "Responsibility, Duty, Sympathy, Self-sacrifice." These few words very adequately outline the higher ideals of the movement, which I heartily trust may meet with the enthusiastic support of many of your readers. Should any further information be needed, the Secretary to the movement will gladly send leaflets, including an "Empire Day Catechism," an "Address to the Boys and Girls of the Empire," and "The Children's Song," by Rudyard Kipling, on application to him at 83, Lancaster Gate, London, W.

83, Lancaster Gate, London, W.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

April 19th, 1907.

MEATH.

OUR LIBRARY.

Debates in the Legislative Council of Trinidad & Tobago. January-December, 1907. This Trinidad Hansard is exhaustive, well indexed and a useful record of the year's debates.

The A.B.C. of Cotton Planting. Published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d. This is a new and revised edition of a pamphlet first issued in June 1904.

The West Indian Bulletin. Vol. VII., No. 4. Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d. This number contains a useful summary of the position of the seedling cane experiments, in the form of an article entitled "The Improvement of the Sugar Cane by Selection and Hybridisation," by Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G. and Mr. F. A. Stockdale, B.A. The "Share System in Cane Cultivation in Fiji, Hawaii, and Mauritius," by Sir Henry M. Jackson, K.C.M.G., is an interesting contribution to the subject of co-operative cane cultivation.

A Text-Book of Tropical Agriculture, by Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, M.D., F.L.S., C.M.Z.S. Macmillan & Co., Ltd. This excellent work by a well-known authority on tropical agriculture not only contains useful scientific information as to soils, plant life, manures, &c., but also deals in a simple and practical form with drainage, tillage, &c., adapted to tropical agriculture. The cultivation of coffee, cotton, cacao, tea, fruits, drugs, vegetables, &c., is comprehensively dealt with. Written in a clear and useful manner, this work, which is already well known and has recently run into a new edition, will be invaluable to the tropical colonist, and will form a guide to how the many agricultural products which the tropics permit of being grown should be handled. The work is the outcome of a prize given by the Jamaica Government for the best text-book on tropical agriculture, which was awarded to Dr. Nicholls. The present volume is an extension of this.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

CONGRATULATIONS. We have to congratulate Mr. Leycester P. Storr, of Layou Park Estate, Dominica, upon his marriage to the Hon. Eily Blake, daughter of Lord Wallscourt, which was solemnised at Holy Trinity Church, Cowes, on April 13th.

"SMOKE IMPERIALLY." A special feature at the Tobacco Exhibition held last week at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, was a display of Jamaica and Trinidad Cigars, of which a large variety were shown, by the West Indian Produce Association. Visitors were requested by the Association to "Smoke Imperially."

MR. BELL'S RETURN. His many friends will be glad to know that there is every chance of Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief of Uganda, returning to England for a holiday at the end of May. In his spare moments Mr. Bell, who is best remembered by our readers as Administrator of Dominica, has been devoting himself to sport, and in a recent tour through the Western Provinces of Uganda, two fine elephants and a buffalo fell to his rifle.

MR. M. MALCOLM. A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in September, between Maurice, fourth son of Colonel Malcolm, C.B., of Paltalloch, county Argyll, and Henrietta Fairfax, younger daughter of Mr. R. P. Copeland, D.L., of Kibblestone Hall, Stone, Staffordshire. Mr. Maurice Malcolm, who like his distinguished father is a member of the West India Committee, manages Knockalva estate in Jamaica, while Miss Copeland is a sister of Lady Swettenham, the wife of the retiring Governor of Jamaica.

MALARIA IN ITALY. Signor Angelo Celli, Professor at the University, Director of Institute of Hygiene, and organizer of the war on malaria, has just published most interesting and hopeful figures concerning the campaign, coming to the conclusion that a few more years' perseverance will rid Italy of the scourge. He says that before the war against malaria was begun with modern methods, namely protection against mosquitoes and the administration of quinine, those suffering from malaria in Italy were about 2,000,000 a year, with an average of 15,000 deaths a year from pure malaria. Among the malarial population those rejected for military service at the age of conscription went as high as 85 per cent. whilst 4,942,000 acres of land were uncultivated because infected with malaria. The number of deaths from malaria had sunk from 15,865 in 1900, to 7,838 in 1905, as the result of the measures employed.

A DEPUTATION. A deputation from the Executive of the West India Committee waited upon Sir Wilfred Laurier at the Hotel Cecil on Saturday morning, April 27th, when various matters concerning the trade relations between the Dominion of Canada and the West Indies were discussed. The deputation expressed the opinion that much might be done to strengthen the commercial bonds between the two colonies, and Sir Nevile Lubbock stated that it would be a mistake to suppose that the West Indies were ungrateful to Canada for her action in granting them preferential treatment. With regard to the introduction of foreign beet into the Dominion under the terms of the British preferential tariff, Sir Wilfred Laurier reminded the deputation that as at present arranged this would be for three years only, and that the bounties given by the State of Ontario to beet growers had now ceased.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., April 23.—**ST. GEORGE'S DAY.**—Empire Education meeting at the Guildhall, speeches by Lord Milner and Mr. Deakin. —Special service for the members of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in their chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral.—The Colonial Conference agreed to the formation of a General Staff for the defence of the Empire.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Wed., April 24.—Parliamentary luncheon to the Premiers in Westminster Hall.—Mr. Winston Churchill made a Member of the Privy Council.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., quiet.
- Thur., April 25.—The Prince and Princess of Wales opened a new dock at Clyde Bank.—Letter from Mr. Chamberlain read at a Tariff Reform meeting at the Albert Hall.—Emigration and naturalisation discussed by the Colonial Conference.—Professor Harrison lectured on "British Guiana and its Resources" at the West India Committee Rooms.—Beet, 9s. 5d., steady.
- Fri., April 26.—Colonial Premiers entertained at a banquet by the National Liberal Club.—The Colonial Conference discussed the question of Judicial Appeals.—President Roosevelt opened the exhibition at Jamestown in celebration of the tercentenary of the first landing of English settlers in America.—Rioting in St. Lucia reported.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., quiet.
- Sat., April 27.—The Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone of the S. P. G.'s new house at Westminster.—Beet (morning) 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Mon., April 29.—The Colonial Shipping Conference held its first sitting at the Foreign Office.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Tues., April 30.—Colonial Preference resolutions discussed by the Colonial Conference.—The Premiers entertained by the Canada Club.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Wed., May 1.—Colonial Conference: discussion on preference continued; Mr. Deakin spoke about the Colonial Office at the Victorian League meeting.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Thur., May 2.—Colonial Conference; Mr. Asquith expressed inability of Government to grant preference.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Fri., May 3.—Mr. Balfour spoke on preference at a meeting of the Primrose League at the Albert Hall.—Great Naval review at Portsmouth.—Riots in India.—Mr. Sydney Olivier left to assume Governorship of Jamaica.—It was announced that Sir Alexander Swettenham would continue to reside in Jamaica.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., firm.
- Sat., May 4.—The Colonial Premiers visited Manchester.—Hamburg-American liner *Prinz August Wilhelm* reported to have grounded in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica.—Beet (morning), 9s. 8¼d., firm.
- Sun., May 5.—Franco-Japanese agreement reported.—The ratification of the new American-San Domingo Treaty by Congress announced.
- Mon., May 6.—Colonial Conference: discussion on preference resumed.—Beet, 9s. 10d., firm.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. and S.—A list of sugar estates and their proprietors, attorneys and managers in Barbados, is given in Mr. S. J. Fraser's "Barbados Diamond Jubilee Directory," which is published by T. E. King & Co., 143, Roebuck Street, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Cape of Good Hope.—You would do well to write to Mr. Sigmund Stein, Liverpool, who has issued several publications giving the analyses of beet. He has been intimately associated with beet-growing experiments in this country. It is, we believe, a fact that there is no sugar beet industry which has been successful that is not protected.

A. W. F.—As your enquiry is one the reply to which is likely to be of more than usual interest to our readers, we have dealt with it in a separate article on another page. Further information on the point raised can be obtained from the following publications: 1. "Journal of the Royal Statistical Society," Vol. LXII., Part II., June 30th, 1899, in a paper read before the Society on "The Statistical Aspect of the Sugar Question," published by the Society at 9, Adelphi Terrace, W.C., price 1s. 2. "The Economic Journal" (journal of the Royal Economic Society) for March, 1904, Vol. XIV., No. 53, in an article on "The Brussels Sugar Convention," published by Macmillan, price 5s. 3. "The New Liberal Review" for November, 1902, Vol. IV., No. 22, in an article on "Free Trade in Danger." 4. "The New Liberal Chambers, E.C., price 1s. each.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate 4% (changed from 4½% on Thursday, April 25th, 1907). Consols (2½%) 85½.

Pure Jamaica, Limited.

Registered April 27th, by Rutherford's, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. (and Liverpool). Capital, £150,000, in 149,950 Ordinary shares of £1 each and 1,000 Deferred shares of 1s. each. Objects: To adopt an agreement with the Colonial Traders' Association, Limited, of 33, Cornhill, E.C., to sell, dispose of and distribute Jamaica rum and other spirits, &c. The signatories are: Messrs. W. G. Murphy, T. D. C. Brown, J. C. Nolan, W. H. Edwardes, J. Nolan, T. O'Reilly, F. McKenna. Minimum cash subscription, 5 per cent. of the shares offered to the public. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than seven) are to be appointed by the signatories. Qualification, 100 shares of either or both classes. Remuneration, £100 each per annum (£50 extra for the chairman) and 5 per cent. of the surplus profits available for distribution after 10 per cent. has been paid on the Ordinary shares, divisible. Registered office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) May 3rd. "Very dry, rain wanted." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) April 22nd. "Showery and unsettled." April 29th. "Berbice generally too wet, favourable elsewhere." (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), May 1st. "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message. (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 6th. "Heavy rains continue, finer weather much needed." **Jamaica**. KINGSTON, May 1st. "Drought broken, rain falling. Week ended April 24th. PORT ANTONIO: "Fine." KINGSTON: "Fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), April 29th:—Mr. J. Alfaro, Mr. W. B. Anderson, Mrs. Bruce-Austin, Lieut.-Col. H. G. T. Brake, D.S.O., Mr. G. R. Bryant, Mr. Bovallius, Miss V. Barnes, Miss D. Barnes, Mrs. A. S. Bryden, Miss W. Bryden, Mr. and Mrs. F. Cusicanqui, two Misses Cusicanqui, Mr. N. Calderon, Mrs. N. Campbell and child, Mr. W. Craib, Miss Callendar, Hon. W. C. Dyett, Miss M. C. Dyett, Miss Q. Dyett, Mrs. B. T. Davis, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Esdaile, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Guzman, Mrs. E. Gordon, Miss B. Gordon, Mrs. H. G. Given, Mr. A. B. Gall, Miss M. Gill, Mr. J. Galmot, Mr. O. Harley, Mrs. J. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hall and two children, Miss F. J. Hart, Miss Haycock, Mr. I. D. Jackson, Mr. R. James, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Kempson, Mrs. Kirby, Count E. Lewenhaupt, Dr. and Mrs. G. B. Longstaff, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Low, Mr. F. W. Linck, Mr. and Mrs. John Macphail, Miss C. Macdougall, Master K. McKenzie, Sub.-Lt. Martinez, Mrs. R. A. Money, Mr. and Mrs. J. McGillivray, Mrs. Marwood, Mrs. R. Morrell, Mr. G. W. Martin, Mr. F. R. McMahon, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. L. Mason, Mrs. Moore, Miss Moore, Mr. H. de Minvielle, Commander Ontaneda, Mr. B. H. Pollard, Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Pengelly and two children, Miss E. Powell, Mr. D. Peterkin, Miss Pile, Miss E. Perkins, Sub.-Lt. Romero, Mr. A. T. Russell, Mrs. G. S. Robertson, Mrs. Seccombe, Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. T. Smellie and two children, Miss T. Seon, Capt. A. A. Smith, Mr. C. E. Shepherd, Mr. J. Thompson, Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. C. Vergara, Dr. F. L. de Verteuil, Mr. W. Vogeler, Mr. J. Whelham, Mr. H. L. Wilson, Mr. F. Agostini, Mr. Alveque, Miss Croft, Dr. L. A. Clemente, Mr. and Mrs. Dreyfus and child, Miss S. Galindo, Dr. and Mrs. Iturbe, Mrs. E. Thorne de Orenas, Master Ed. Thorn de Orenas, Mr. and Mrs. C. Vengoechea and two children, Mr. H. Vengoechea, and Mr. F. Souhart.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), May 8th:—Mrs. L., Miss and Master Schaefer, Miss J. Eckstein, Mr. C. Schmelzer, Mr. Emerich Kovacs, Mr. J. O'Donoghue, Mr. Carlos Englebrecht, Junr., Mr. Frank Tracey, Mr. Henry W. Ablett, Mrs. Gay, Mr. Charles Stuart, Mr. A. R. Phillips, Mr. Quinet, Mr. W. Ian Hamilton, Mr. Philip F. Anstruther, and Mr. G. W. Bird.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Magdalen*, May 22nd:—Mr. C. Boughton Hamilton, the two Misses Hamilton, Mr. A. E. Craig, and Mrs. J. R. Phillips.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), April 23rd:—**Jamaica**: Lieut. Adair, Mrs. Adair, Dr. and Mrs. Allwood and child, Hon. and Mrs. J. H. Allwood and two children, Canon, Mrs. and Miss Austin, Lieut. Belcher, Miss Bull, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Carter, Miss E. Carter, Miss G. Carter, Mr. W. G. Clark, Sir and Lady Fielding Clarke, Mr. W. Conran, Mr. A. Crum-Ewing, Miss Crum-Ewing, Mr. E. Mattes, Miss Poole, Mr. A. E. Delgado, Mr. D. Dickson, two Misses Feurtado, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Percy Fox, Mr. D. S. Gideon, Mr. E. S. Gordon, Mrs. Ernest Gordon, Miss Grabham, Lieut. Grant, Mr. Eustace Greg, Mr. W. Hibbit, Major Kremnitz, Mrs. Kremnitz, the Misses Kremnitz, Mr. Ernest Kremnitz, Mr. Lacon, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Prendergast, Mr. Rayson, Mr. Sabey, Lieut. Sidgwick, Mr. C. York Slader, Miss B. Smythe, Miss J. Smythe, Mr. Tomlinson, Miss Travers, Miss Wedderburn, and Mr. Allan Young.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), May 4th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. James Boyd, Miss W. Costa, Mrs. R. G. Collins, Doctor Vaughan and Mrs. Cornish, Mr. A. Daunt, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Miss Gossett, Mrs. Gill, Mr. W. Henderson, Sir Charles Nicholson, Bart., His Excellency Sydney Olivier, C.M.G., Mr. C. Phang, Mr. H. L. Paxton, Mr. A. and Mrs. Siebold, Mr. E. T. Scott, Mr. R. B. Smith, Mrs. and Miss Thorp, Mr. A. M. H. Thorp, Miss Willans, Mrs. and Miss Williams, Miss Walker, Miss Warlters. **Bermuda**: Lieut. R. D. Johnston, and Mr. S. H. Walling.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

In view of the present uncertainty regarding the mail arrangements, all readers are advised to mark their correspondence "Per first opportunity." A list of occasional sailings can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Apr. 11	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to April 11.	1907 1906	April 1 to Mar. 24.	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to April 13.	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to April 15.	1907 1906
Sugar ...	4,396	8,652 Tns.	21,010	25,851 Tons.	13,733	11,630 Tons.	138,791	253,960 Bgs. & Brs.	...	...
Molasses ...	17,748	16,642 Pns.	372	1,302 Puns.	...	...	953	348 Puns.	...	...
Rum	5,482	7,193 Puns.	1,368,076	1,003,594 Galls.	560	" "	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	1,837	3,872 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	17,661	3,300 lbs.	49,143	33,948 Cwts.	10,197,440	10,280,920 lbs.	45,722	37,997 Bags.
Coffee	49,130	76,796 "	3,360	10,240 "	...	...
Coconuts	19,800	24,338	10,073,092	6,726,604	3,168,494	3,218,850	...	...
Copra	7,726	3,084 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	16,890	65,307 lbs.	...	...	95	408 Bales.
" Seed	595	2,685 Bags.
Asphalt	27,326	39,153 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	24,429,354	72,300,343	...	...	...	...
Bananas	15,570,545	18,300,016 stems	...	...	...	...
Pimento	60,944	87,915 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	17,085	23,997 ozs.	...	...	...	...	2060	1227 Brls.
Diamonds	755	564 carats	...	...	...	...	236	288 1/2 Brls.
Rice	1,064,434	10,110 lbs.	...	...	...	...	280	265 Cases.
									26	54 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The beet Market has shown further improvement during the fortnight, and closes very firm at an advance of 5d. The Cuban crop is practically over, only 62 factories still grinding, while the drought is said to be interfering with new planting. As regards the Continent, the abnormally low temperature has not been without its effect. In France the sowing is more advanced than last year, though in the east of Europe it seems generally to be rather backward. The first factory estimates indicate a decrease of 1.38 per cent. in beet sowings for Convention Europe.

The latest quotations of 88% beet are:—May, 9s. 10d.; June, 9s. 10½d.; July, 9s. 11d.; August, 9s. 11½d., and October/December, 9s. 8½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	2,820,000	3,123,000	2,191,500	2,841,000	2,776,000	Tons.
United States	320,000	334,000	278,000	188,300	248,500	..
Cuba... ..	428,000	301,000	361,000	242,300	372,000	..
Cargoes afloat	—	3,500	37,000	36,700	22,500	..
Total	3,568,000	3,761,500	2,867,500	3,308,300	3,419,000	..

Quotations of 88% Beet, May 6th:—

9s. 10d. 8s. 3½d. 12s. 10½d. 8s. 9½d. 8s. 3½d.

Grocery West Indian has been in fair demand. The moderate quantities in public sale have been partly sold at full prices; the lower qualities in particular commanding stiff rates. Prices are firm at 14s. 9d. to 15s. for gray; low yellow to middling yellow, 16s. to 16s. 6d.; good, 16s. 9d. to 17s.; fine, 17s. 3d. to 18s. 3d.

Muscovado.—The demand has been quiet. On the spot, small sales have been made at 13s. for middling gray, to 16s. 6d. for fine colony Barbados in barrels. 9s. 9d., floating landing, could probably be obtained for a cargo testing 89%.

Molasses Sugar in fair demand but without change in value. St. Kitts grayish yellow sold at 12s. 9d., good pale at 13s. 6d., and Trinidad fine colour syrups at 15s. 9d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	11,358	22,000	14,000	17,000	7000	Tons.
Deliveries	11,828	13,000	12,000	15,000	13,000	..
Stocks (April 27th)	9186	18,000	12,000	13,000	22,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: ... 16s. 6d. 14s. 9d. 20s. 0d. 15s. 6d. 15s. 0d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, April 27th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	6316	5600	7200	7800	9200	Puns.
Demerara	8762	10,000	6300	12,000	10,100	..
Total of all kinds	22,021	22,000	21,000	29,000	25,000	..

There is very little change in the Market. Jamaicas are steady but inactive. The shipments are coming forward more rapidly, as they are being made by steamers now instead of by sailing vessels. Quotations show no change: 2s. 7d. to 2s. 11d. being the value for fair common; Demeraras are rather firmer, sales of about 500 puns. have taken place at 1s. to 1s. 0½d. proof for common to fair, up to 1s. 1½d. proof for good marks.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, April 27th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	6290	12,000	15,800	23,000	20,100	Bags.
Grenada	3405	8400	14,500	20,300	12,700	..
Total of all kinds	49,885	72,000	76,000	89,000	85,000	..

The Market is very firm and business has been limited in consequence of short supplies. The statistical position, from the trade point of view, is getting serious, as the supplies fall very much short of the demand. Prices show an advance of 2s. to 3s. for Trinidad, 1s. 6d. to 2s. for Grenada, and 2s. for Jamaica, and privately even a greater advance has taken place. Quotations: Trinidad fair collected, 90s. to 91s., Estate Marks, 92s. to 96s. 6d.; Grenada fair quality, 80s. to 80s. 6d.; fermented, 81s. to 84s. Fair Native from other Islands, 78s. to 79s., fermented, 80s. to 83s.

COFFEE has been steady with a fair competition. Santos for May delivery 26s. 10½d. In Jamaica nearly 500 packages have been sold at 37s. to 46s. for ordinary to fine ordinary, low middling, 48s. 6d. to 52s.

COTTON.—The imports of West Indian cotton into the United Kingdom for the fortnight ended May 2nd have been 426 bales. West Indian good medium in Liverpool, 7.35; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 19½ per lb.; medium fine, 20½ per lb.; fine, 22 per lb. since last report. Sea Island descriptions have been quieter and prices are in favour of buyers. Spinners are now somewhat indifferent about buying, unless at a concession in price.

ARROWROOT.—Steady. Privately about 300 barrels St. Vincent sold at 2½d. with a few at 2¾d. It is reported that 3,800 barrels St. Vincent have been bought for delivery in Bristol at 2¼d. per lb.

	1907.	1906.	Imports ...	1907.	1906.	Deliveries ...	1907.	1906.
Stocks in London	4,924	9,005	Barrels ...	5,184	7,331	Barrels ...	3,658	4,018
Barrels	835	1,129	Boxes and Tins	7	138	Boxes and Tins	112	174

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice is quiet; fine, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 7d. Distilled oil, 3s. 2d. Hand pressed, 3s. 9d. Concentrated, £24 to £24 10s. Though the Naples lemon crop promises to be a good one there is likely to be a shortage from Sicily which should be good news to shippers of fresh limes. The demand, however, must follow the weather, which for the moment is considerably warmer, though variable.

PIMENTO is quiet; 100 bags offered at public auction were all bought in at 2¾d. West Indian sold 78's at 9½d., 95's/99's 6½d., and 132's at 5½d. **NUTMEGS** are quiet. **GINGER.**—Jamaica in auction met good competition and 323 packages sold at 3s. to 5s. advance, good qualities in some cases show even a greater advance. Quotations: fair to good bright, 87s. 6d. to 93s. 6d., low middling, 80s. to 85s., ordinary to good ordinary, 73s. 6d. to 79s. 6d., common dark and ratoon, 62s. 6d. to 71s. 6d. **COPRA.**—Prices have fallen considerably, but the Market is now steady at the decline. Values for fair marketable qualities, £24 to £24 10s.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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TUESDAY, MAY 21st, 1907.

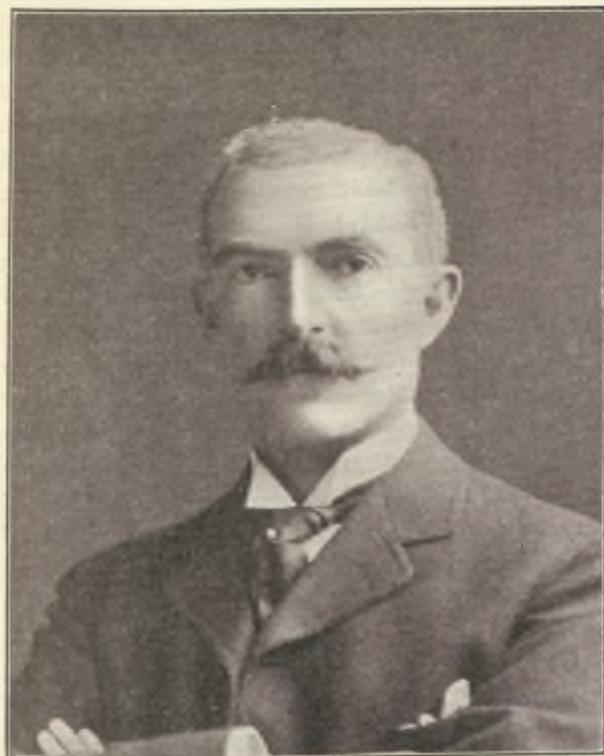
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OUR CELEBRITIES.

XCIH.



Mr. J. Arthur Hutton.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

May 20th, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6643 CENTRAL.

a foregone conclusion. Now that it is forthcoming it is gratifying to reflect that the views of the

ON May 8th we were informed by the EARL OF ELGIN in a letter, the full text of which we give on another page, that the Government had decided to invite Parliament to make a free grant of £150,000, and to authorise a loan to the Colonial Government of £800,000 for the sufferers from the recent disaster in Jamaica. From the first we realised that Imperial aid on a substantial scale would be needed to supplement the charitable donations for the relief of the sufferers from one of the worst calamities which has ever befallen the West Indies, and to provide for the rebuilding of Kingston. It was abundantly clear that something more than sympathy was required, and the need of financial assistance was urged by a deputation consisting of Mr. E. A. DE PASS, MR. W. GILLESPIE, MR. CYRIL GURNEY, MR. J. RIPPON and the Secretary, which was courteously received at the Colonial Office, immediately after the disaster. The support of the Press was enlisted, and public opinion aroused to such an extent that the grant of Imperial succour became

West India Committee proved to be so completely in accord with those of the inhabitants of Jamaica that the amount of the grant and loan asked for, namely £150,000 and £1,000,000 respectively, were, with striking—we might almost say Zancigesque—unanimity, settled upon both here and in the island before an interchange of correspondence could take place. This estimate was subsequently increased when, for reasons which are well-known, the Mansion House Fund did not show that expansion which was expected of it. With regard to the loan, some uncertainty existed, owing to the unwillingness of the then Governor to pledge the credit of the colony. With his resignation, however, and with the indication that the Legislative Council would not oppose a loan on the terms laid down by the Home Government, this obstacle was removed, and with the arrival of DR. ENOS NUTTALL, the Archbishop of the West Indies and MR. A. W. FARQUHARSON, the matter was finally concluded in the manner above indicated. The devoted manner in which these gentlemen pleaded the cause of their fellow-citizens must arouse the keenest appreciation and gratitude. Nor, we are sure, will the self-sacrificing services of many other inhabitants of Kingston be forgotten. In his touching address at the dinner of the West Indian Club, the Archbishop paid a high tribute to the labours of MR. CHARLES DE MERCADO and many others on behalf of the afflicted city. How far the decision as to the grant and loan meets with the approval of the people of Jamaica, we shall know in a few days when the mail arrives, but that it will have been received with satisfaction there can be little doubt. To some, the delay, the cause for which cannot be said to rest at the door of the Home Government, has seemed unfortunate. Four whole months have elapsed since the earthquake occurred, but now that Mr. Olivier has arrived in Jamaica, and the decision of the Government has been announced, it may be expected that the rehabilitation of Kingston will immediately and rapidly be proceeded with.

IN a Parliamentary Paper recently published, particulars of the remuneration received by the engineers of the Crown Agents for work done in connection with various tropical railways during the last ten years are given. The engineers included are Messrs. Baker & Shelford, Messrs. Gregory, Eyles & Waring, Sir John Wolfe Barry & Partners, and Messrs. Rendel & Robertson, and the figures given cover work done in Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, Southern Nigeria, Cyprus, Ceylon, the Federated Malay States, the Straits Settlements, Trinidad, British Central Africa, and Uganda. Of the engineers in question, Messrs. Baker & Shelford received for the ten years £25,365 in the form of salary, and £36,443 for office expenses, in all £61,808, on a total expenditure of £4,024,601. Messrs. Gregory, Eyles & Waring, £12,425 for salary and £16,444 for office expenses, or £28,869 on an expenditure of £5,829,514; Sir John Wolfe Barry & Partners, £1,000 for salaries and £623 for office expenses on £74,000; and Messrs. Rendel & Robertson, £3,650 and £3,696 for office expenses, or £7,346 on an expenditure of £4,921,856. Leaving out the claim of Sir John Wolfe Barry & Partners, which was in connection with a comparatively small matter, the sums which the consulting engineers received amounted to 1.5% of the total expenditure in the case of Messrs. Baker & Shelford, .5% with Messrs. Gregory, Eyles & Waring, and .15% in the case of Messrs. Rendel & Robertson, whose services were in connection with the Uganda railway, and whose remuneration was sanctioned by the Uganda Railway Committee. We are not prepared to say that the 1.5 per cent. was an excessive charge in comparison with the expenditure, but why should the proportion of the emoluments to the latter vary as they have done? It seems to us that if the Uganda Railway Committee could get their consulting work done by Messrs. Rendel & Robertson for .15 per cent., why should not the Colonial Office have made similar terms with Messrs. Baker & Shelford, instead of the 1.5% which their remuneration amounted to. The actual remuneration, however, which the consulting engineers of the Crown Agents receive, is not the crux of the antagonistic feeling in the colonies as regards the association of these with colonial work of development. It is felt, and rightly, that their recommendations are not, as a rule, in accord with the views of the colonists, or for

the welfare of the colonies concerned. Of course, in purely technical matters, expert advice must be given due weight to, but as regards the main objects of a development scheme, it is the opinion of those on the spot who are intimately acquainted with the requirements which should be given effect to. If, for instance, the consensus of responsible opinion in a colony is to the effect that a railway should be constructed to a certain point and through a certain tract of country, and to do a certain duty, it is not for the consulting engineers of the home authorities to say that it should not be so; but to do their best to construct it in a fit, while economic, manner. Here, indeed, the standing grievance of colonists comes in. It is, unfortunately, a recognised fact that work carried out under the control of the Crown Agents is invariably associated with excessive expenditure, and that the same work could be done unofficially at a much less rate. This is regrettable, but all the same the feeling exists, and we are afraid is well founded. This naturally leads to much apprehension and consequent hesitation on the part of colonists when the Crown Agents are mentioned in association with any new scheme of development. There has been a good deal of ventilation of the subject of late, and we sincerely trust that the effect will be to place the relationship of the Colonial Office to development work in Crown and semi-autonomous colonies on a better footing than heretofore. What is wanted, if the Colonial Office insists on the Crown Agents operating in these matters, is that the conduct of affairs should be placed on a better business basis and one more in accord with the times and the views of the colonies concerned.

ALTHOUGH Barbados has always been regarded as a shipping centre for the Southern West Indies, the full importance of the port has been, perhaps, hardly recognised. The report of the harbour-master of Barbados, however, brings this forcibly forward. From it we learn that during 1906 no less than 1,509 vessels, of a net registered tonnage of 1,373,496 tons were entered, including 13 ships of war, 4 yachts, 659 steamers, and 833 sailing vessels. The steamer tonnage under the British flag totalled 1,090,052 tons, under the Norwegian 39,979 tons, and under the German 21,715 tons; only two American steamers, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,188 tons, called during the year. Of the sailing ships 650 were British, with a tonnage of 80,900 tons; Norway contributed 45,110 tons, while America was represented by 36 vessels of 18,000 tons. The principal lines of steamers were the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Direct, Leyland, Harrison and Glasgow lines, from the United Kingdom; the Royal Mail, Quebec, Booth and Lloyd-Brazilian from the United States; the Pickford & Black line from Canada; and the Lamport & Holt, Booth, Prince, Sloman and Lloyd-Brazilian lines from Brazil for the United States. But, perhaps the most satisfactory feature in the report is the indication it gives of the rapid development of a coaling industry due mainly to the increasing trade between the United States and the Brazils. During the year in question no less than 227 steamers coaled in Barbados, taking 46,682 tons of coal, a notable increase on past years, the number in 1904 being only 73, with a total of 16,379 tons of coal. The importance of this increasing industry cannot be over-estimated. A notable increase in the passenger traffic also occurred, 15,607 persons arriving during the year. Of these 3,553 were saloon passengers, and 12,054 third-class and deckers, 3,501 of the latter being return labourers from Panama, who brought back with them somewhere about £18,000. The opening of the Panama Canal will, there is little reason to doubt, still further help to develop the shipping business of the island. The rapidly improving condition of things in this respect in Barbados shows the importance of the West Indian Islands in view of the increasing trade of the mainland, and affords an index of their value as ports of call in the future. Standing out as she does into the Atlantic outside the semi-circular chain of the other Antilles, Barbados occupies a unique position from a shipping point of view, which cannot but be taken advantage of by shipping lines as the trade with the West increases. CAPTAIN J. K. KIRKHAM'S report shows that a great deal of work has been done during the year, and it is highly creditable that

the duties have been performed to the satisfaction of all classes of the community. It affords, also, further evidence of West Indian commercial progress.

THE behaviour of the West India Regiment after the recent earthquake in Jamaica has already been publicly referred to as being very good, but details which have been kindly afforded us by LT.-COLONEL LONG, bring home to all how excellent it really was. On the Monday the men in Kingston were chiefly employed in preventing the fire spreading, but from the Tuesday they were employed on guard and picquets over buildings and streets. A cordon of sentries were formed all round the burning part, and nobody was allowed inside but the fire brigade. The men were divided up into parties of three or four, and were posted at the entrance of the various streets with fixed bayonets and twenty rounds of ball cartridge, and they used a great deal of tact with the civilians. The same evening the police were entirely removed, and the town remained in charge of the troops until the next morning. On the Tuesday evening a rumour was started that a tidal wave was coming, and the streets became thronged with people making for the upper part of the town. These rumours, however, had not the slightest effect on the men, who stood at their posts as though nothing was going on, and their steadiness could not be surpassed. The regiment evidently maintained all the traditions of the British Army. When soldiers do their duty it is not as a rule a subject for special commendation, though it becomes one for denunciation if they do not do so. On the occasions referred to, however, the circumstances were exceptional, and we may be excused for congratulating both officers and men upon the admirable behaviour and steadiness of all ranks.

MR. J. ARTHUR HUTTON.

Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, the Chairman of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, whose portrait appears on the first page of our present issue, is also the head of Messrs. James F. Hutton & Co., Ltd., of Manchester, a firm which has been established in the West African trade since the end of the eighteenth century. Mr. Hutton is also a Director of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and before his time was so fully occupied with the almost overwhelming work of the Cotton Growing Association, he filled the post of Chairman of the West African Committee of the former body. When the possibility of growing cotton in the British Empire to supply Lancashire's needs was first raised by the Oldham Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Hutton's attention was naturally drawn to the great possibilities offered in that direction in West Africa, and in his capacity as Chairman of the African Committee he invited Sir Alfred Jones and other gentlemen connected with the colonies and with the spinning trade to dinner, to discuss the whole question. It was at this dinner that the cotton growing movement first took a practical shape. It will be remembered that Mr. Hutton recently visited Barbados and St. Vincent, where he inspected the local ginneries and the cotton fields.

A COTTON ESTATE IN BARBADOS.

The five pictures comprising our full-page illustration are from photographs taken on a cotton estate in Barbados by Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, Chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association, during his recent visit to that island and St. Vincent. The pictures hardly require description. At the top are seen the children awaiting their instructions to go out into the cotton field to start picking; in the next, women and children are picking the cotton. In the centre picture the labourers are shown drawn up with the result of their morning's picking in baskets on their heads; while the fourth picture shows them being marshalled by the overseer for the ordeal of photography. It is interesting to note in the background the fabric of the old sugar-mill of the estate. The last picture shows Mr. E. L. Oliver and Mr. Shelmerdine inspecting cotton at Porter's the estate of our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, who is standing between them. Mr. Hutton, with Mr. Oliver, visited several cotton estates in Barbados, notably those of Mr. Thorne, Dr. Gooding, Mr. Shepherd, and Mr. Sam Browne, and was very favourably impressed with the prospects of the industry, and though the first picking of cotton in the island was not altogether satisfactory, good promise was held out for the second pickings. One of the matters which struck them was the lack of



SCENES ON A COTTON ESTATE IN BARBADOS,
From Photographs by Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, Chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association.

appreciation of the value of cotton. For example, on one estate they saw what looked like a pile of brushwood, which, on inspection, proved to be the dried tops of cotton plants with bolls still on them. On remonstrating with the proprietor for throwing money away in this manner, and especially so in view of the high prices at present prevailing, the cotton was picked. It is evident that the necessity of gathering every single pound, when even weather-damaged and stained cotton would fetch nearly 1s. per lb., was not fully appreciated.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, May 16th, Sir Henry K. Davson, presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
VISCOUNT MOUNTMORRES.	Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
WILLIAM MEARNS (British Guiana).	F. J. Morris.	F. I. Scard.
C. STEWART.	E. A. de Pass.	E. R. Davson.
C. FORBES TODD (St. Kitts).	A. D. C. Adamson.	Major G. M. Montgomerie.
ALLAN CAMPBELL (Dominica).	W. P. B. Shephard.	C. Algernon Campbell.
GEORGE F. BRANCH (Grenada).	Hon. F. Gurney.	P. J. Dean.

It may be mentioned that a new List of Members is in course of preparation. 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 CONTINENTAL SUGAR CRISIS.

On March 18th last, the Association of the German Sugar Industry addressed a petition to the Reichstag with the view of obtaining, as soon as possible, a lowering of the tax on sugar from 14 marks to 10 marks per 100 kilos. According to the authors of the petition, says the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the sugar exportation of Germany has been, since the Brussels Convention, seriously threatened by foreign competition. Whilst in 1896-7 the German exportation absorbed 61.6 per cent. of the total amount of sugar available, in 1904-5 only 42.1 per cent., and in 1905-6 44.9 per cent. was thus disposed of. At the mean price of 16 marks 21 per quintal (a little over £8 per ton) realised by 88% raw beet in 1905-6, the cost of manufacture and cultivation would not be covered. The accounts of twenty factories, representing a total capital of 13,200,000 marks, show a loss of 1,551,000 marks, over 10 per cent. of the capital, and among them some lost 30 to 50 per cent. of their initial capital. For a number of factories the loss is moreover not apparent, being hidden in an occult manner in the price paid for beet to shareholder cultivators. To sum up, says the *Journal*, the situation of the German industry is critical. For its remedy, two measures, according to the petition, present themselves: (1) the creation of an investment organisation to regulate production and price; (2) the reduction of the production. It has not been possible up to now to bring about the first of these, the second could only have a limited application on account of the necessity for keeping down the cost of manufacture. There remains, therefore, only one way of aiding the industry, viz., by lowering the tax on sugar. The German sugar industry had lately contemplated the formation of a guarantee fund, in order to compensate the Treasury for the momentary reduction of receipts consequent on lowering of the tax, but the scheme had had to be given up. The petitioners calculate, that on account of the regular increase in population and the increase in consumption, it would not take long for the Treasury receipts to return to their former level. An absolute unanimity, says our contemporary, reigns among German sugar makers and their supporters as to the necessity for keeping the cultivation of the beet and the production of sugar at the present level. The German sugar industry does not intend at any cost to draw back or abandon its position; the ground which it would lose would soon be occupied by its competitors. "Should not," says M. Dureau, "the same reasoning apply to the French sugar industry, and does not the lowering of taxation appear to be the one solution of an acute crisis which at the present moment threatens our producers of beet and sugar?"

THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF RUBBER.

The world's consumption and production of rubber is stated to be as follows:—

Year, July 1st to June 30th.	Total Pro- duction, Tons.	Total Con- sumption, Tons.	Stocks, June 30th. Tons.	Year, July 1st to June 30th.	Total Pro- duction, Tons.	Total Con- sumption, Tons.	Stocks, June 30th. Tons.
1899-0	53,348	48,352	8,869	1903-4	61,759	59,666	4,388
1900-1	52,864	51,136	6,941	1904-5	68,879	65,083	4,584
1901-2	53,887	51,110	6,816	1905-6	67,999	62,574	5,352
1902-3	55,603	55,276	5,053				

Of the 68,000 tons of rubber produced in 1905-6, 42,800 tons, or more than one-half came from America, about 23,400 tons from Africa, including the East African Islands, while the remaining 1,800 tons came from Asia and Polynesia. Of the 23,400 tons of African rubber, 4,500 tons were produced by the Congo State, 1,500 tons by French Guinea, 1,250 tons by Angola, and 1,000 tons by the Gold Coast. In America, Brazil still supplies by far the largest amount, namely, 41,000 tons, then come the Central American States with 400 tons, Mexico from 150 to 200 tons, and Bolivia 1,100 tons, which, however, is mostly accredited to Brazil.

THE JAMAICA GRANT AND LOAN.

The following notification as to the assistance to be afforded to Jamaica was sent by Lord Elgin to the West India Committee on May 8th:—

Downing Street,
May 8th, 1907.

SIR,—I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to take the earliest opportunity of informing you of the decision of His Majesty's Government with regard to the assistance to be afforded from the Home Exchequer to the sufferers from the recent disaster in Jamaica.

2. They have decided to invite Parliament to make a free grant of £150,000, and to authorize a loan to the Colonial Government of £800,000. The precise terms of the loan are still under consideration.

3. Lord Elgin has much pleasure in making this intimation to the Committee, who, he is aware, have taken a deep interest in the matter.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. P. LUCAS.

The Secretary,

The West India Committee.

As was to be expected, the announcement regarding the Jamaica grant and loan has been received with general satisfaction as the following extracts from the Press will show:—

The Government are undoubtedly giving effect to the wishes of the nation.—*The Times*.

The Government have acted as the country would wish them in giving help to Jamaica.—*The Evening Standard*.

Everyone will cordially approve of the Government's proposal to assist Jamaica in her troubles. . . . It will smooth the way for Mr. Olivier, the new Governor, under whose wise rule the island ought to regain some of its old prosperity.—*The Tribune*.

There will be a general feeling of relief at the announcement made yesterday in the House, that the Government are about to give a free grant of £150,000 to the sufferers from the Jamaica earthquake, and also to advance a loan of £800,000, mainly for rebuilding purposes. As it is already four months since the disaster took place, both grant and loan might have been arranged before: but there is nothing else to cavil at in a tardy but adequate reparation.—*The Globe*.

OUR POLICY TOWARDS THE WEST INDIES.

The feeling of dissatisfaction which, as we have constantly pointed out in our columns, has been felt at the apparent indifference of Great Britain to her West Indian colonies in the matter of the protection of life and property, has not been diminished by the recent deplorable events in St. Lucia. We have already warned the home authorities in no uncertain terms as to the grave responsibility which is incurred by those to whom the provision of such totally inadequate measures for policing the West Indies is due, and we most earnestly hope that a decision may immediately be arrived at as to what steps are to be taken for safeguarding these colonies in the future. The serious importance of this matter cannot be urged too strongly upon the Government. The following extracts from the West Indian Press, received by the homeward mail, following as they do those which we gave in our issue of February 12th last, are significant, and will be of interest in this connection:—

The policing of the island in any emergency is, therefore, dependent on the services of the cruiser stationed in these waters. As in the case of Jamaica in January, however, no cruiser was near at hand when the disturbances took place. And this affords further proof, if any was needed, that the theatre of operations is too extended to be confined to a single cruiser.—*Barbados Advocate*.

St. Lucia affords another deplorable illustration, following quickly on that which has so lately disturbed the public mind in the case of Jamaica, of the results of the blue water policy, and the practical abandonment by Great Britain of the West Indies to their casual fate, and leaving their protection to accident or to the sympathetic generosity of foreign nations.—*The Voice of St. Lucia*.

It is not too much to say that if a British warship had been in the vicinity and had been able to anchor in Castries harbour at the beginning of the outbreak there would have been no such serious disorders as have been in

progress during the last few days. . . . During the greater part of the year Holland, France, and even Germany, each maintain a larger number of warships in Caribbean waters than England, with her infinitely more important interests.—*Demerara Daily Chronicle*.

On this same subject the *Globe* says:—

It is satisfactory that Mr. Winston Churchill was able to assure the House, in view of recent events, that an extra cruiser, in addition to the *Indefatigable*, is to be sent for service in West Indian waters. But the sooner the Government make up their minds exactly what steps they are going to take to supplement this admittedly temporary arrangement the better. The fact that the whole West Indian defence question is receiving careful attention does not help much when we read the further statement that it will continue to receive such attention. So is Rosyth; but nothing particular seems to be done in either case.

PROSPEROUS DOMINICA.

The address of His Honour Douglas Young, the Administrator of Dominica, to the Legislative Council, delivered on March 28th last, forms interesting reading, instancing, as it does, the advance in its agricultural development. It is a pleasing feature in the finances of the island to note that the revenue for the year ending 1906-7, practically at a close at the date of the address, was expected to show an excess of revenue over expenditure as against a deficit the previous year, and that steps were to be taken to restore the surplus or reserve fund of the colony, which had been depleted by the calls made upon it to meet extraordinary expenditure in public works. A further notable evidence of progress lies in the fact that whereas ten years ago the trade of the island was represented by imports valued at £64,477, and exports, £51,438, last year these figures were represented by sums of £103,224 and £106,246 respectively, a gratifying feature in the latter being that the value of the exports was in excess of that of the imports. The lime industry showed development during the year, 300,003 gallons of lime juice and 15,799 barrels of limes having been shipped, as against 289,100 gallons and 13,564 barrels the previous year. A new industry, the manufacture of citrate of lime, had been initiated and promised well. The crop of cacao was somewhat below that of the preceding year, in common with the other cacao producing centres in the West Indies, but the crop of the present year was likely to be good. Mr. Young paid a well-merited tribute to the part which the Imperial Department of Agriculture had played in the agricultural development of the island, and alluded to the increasing settlement by new comers. Apart from the acquisition of private lands, no less than 5,000 acres of Crown lands had recently been purchased by these, and were being put in cultivation. An interesting point in connection with the possibilities of Dominica lies in the fact that, although it contains only 291 square miles, no less than 350 miles of public roads in fair condition are in existence. Two projects are mentioned as being worked out by private parties for the development of the timber industry, and in connection with these an important feature is the construction of tramways to facilitate transport to the seaboard, not only of the timber cut, but also of other produce. The address of the Administrator clearly indicates the steady progress Dominica is making, and with provision for adequate shipping and mail facilities should in due course rank among the most prosperous West Indian colonies.

CABLE COMMUNICATION.

At the meeting of the Imperial Conference on May 2nd, Mr. Asquith, after giving the reasons why the British Government could not accept the principle of preferential treatment by way of tariff preference, said that they would be ready to consider and co-operate with any practical proposals for the improvement of inter-Imperial trade relations by bettering the means of communication, and on May 6th Mr. Lloyd-George said that with regard to the suggestion for improving and cheapening cable communication, it would be an undoubted advantage if traders could communicate their orders quickly and at rates which would not be prohibitive. We ought to shorten the distances between ourselves and the colonies by all possible means. Mr. Deakin, at the sitting on May 9th, moved a resolution proposing that:—

"In order to provide funds for developing trade, commerce, the means of communication, and those of transport within the Empire, a duty of 1 per cent. upon all foreign imports shall be levied, or an equivalent contribution made by each of its Legislatures."

Mr. Lloyd-George said that he understood that Mr. Deakin's fund was to be used solely for purposes of improving intercommunication, and he therefore presumed that it was intended to be presented as a workable scheme in reply to the expression of willingness on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider practical proposals for the improvement of inter-Imperial communications, but he felt it difficult to regard the resolution as a business-like proposition. Sir Wilfred Laurier took the view that it was not desirable to pass such a resolution. He believed that for any practical

schemes for improving cable communication and navigation, which would tend to produce unity, the colonies would be prepared to vote money, and that these should be dealt with on their merits. Mr. Lloyd-George pressed the point that Mr. Asquith had only undertaken to consider a definite plan if approved by all parties. He did not wish the Conference to be under the impression that the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards the ideas embodied in Mr. Deakin's resolution was a purely negative one, and he therefore proposed an amended resolution, based on Mr. Deakin's, in the following terms:—

"This Conference recommends that, in order to develop trade, commerce, the means of communication and those of transport within the Empire, it is desirable that some means should be devised for systematic consultation between the representatives of various parts of the Empire for the purpose of considering co-operative projects for the general purpose of fostering the industrial forces of the Empire so as to promote its growth and unity."

The following resolution of the Cape Colony on the subject of Imperial cable communication was passed:—

- (1) "In the opinion of this Conference the provision of alternative routes of cable communication is desirable; but in deciding upon such routes the question of the strategic advantage should receive the fullest consideration.
- (2) "That landing licences should not operate for a longer period than 20 years, and that when subsidies are agreed to be paid they should be arranged on the 'standard revenue' principle, *i.e.*, half the receipts after the fixed gross revenue has been earned to be utilised for the extinguishment of the subsidy and, by agreement, for the reduction of rates."

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

Sir A. Swettenham.

Mr. Haddock, on May 7th, asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies whether an offer was made to Sir Alexander Swettenham to withdraw Lord Elgin's message of censure if Sir Alexander Swettenham would withdraw his resignation of the Governorship of Jamaica. Mr. Churchill: No, Sir.

The Jamaica grant and loan.

Mr. Owen Philipps asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on May 7th, whether it was now possible to announce the decision of His Majesty's Government with regard to the question of Imperial assistance to the island of Jamaica. Mr. Churchill: His Majesty's Government have decided, in answer to the representations which have been made on behalf of Jamaica, to make a free grant of £150,000 in aid of the sufferers from the earthquake in that island, and also to make a loan of £800,000 to the colonial Government mainly for rebuilding purposes. A supplementary estimate providing for the sum of £150,000 will be laid before the House as soon as possible, and when the terms of the loan have been finally settled they will be embodied in a Bill.

The St. Lucia disturbances.

In reply to Mr. Mitchell-Thomson who asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, on May 7th, whether he could give further information as to the state of affairs in St. Lucia and the nature and extent of the riots, Mr. Churchill said: The following telegram was received from the Governor on May 2nd:—"May 2nd: *Indefatigable* arrived May 1st. Detachment of Royal Marines relieve Barbados police Dennery for a short time. Roseau, Cul-de-Sac, Vieuxfort factories at work. Dennery partly working. Coalheavers, on learning that trade leaving port, relinquished recent rise wages, continuing work at former rates, subject to minor increases. Barbados police returning, position highly satisfactory." In a further telegram dated May 5th the Governor reported that he was sailing for Grenada on that day. It may, therefore, be assumed that the disturbances are at an end.

In reply to a further question put by Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Churchill said: In view of recent events, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have decided to detail a cruiser in addition to His Majesty's ship *Indefatigable* for temporary service in West Indian waters. The general question has been receiving, and will continue to receive, the careful attention of His Majesty's Government. (Cheers.) Mr. Mitchell-Thomson: Can the right hon. gentleman state what the cruiser is likely to be? Mr. Churchill: I think the cruiser is called the *Scylla*, a sister ship of the *Indefatigable*.

The Rum Surtax again.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave the following reply to a starred question by Mr. Mitchell-Thomson on April 18th:—"Colonial spirit, like all imported spirit, is subjected to a Customs' duty which exceeds the Excise duty on British spirit by 4d. a gallon in the case of rum and brandy, and by 5d. in the case of other spirit. The reason for the difference between the Customs' and Excise duty is that the Excise duty represents only a part of the total burden imposed on British spirit. It does not cover that portion of the burden which results from revenue restrictions on the manufacture of spirit, and, as this portion of the burden has to be borne by British spirit, whatever the purpose

for which it may be used, equality of treatment requires that imported spirit should pay the difference between the two duties, whatever the purpose for which it may be used. Accordingly, imported spirit used for methylation is charged the difference, which on colonial spirit would be 4d. in the case of rum or brandy, and 5d. in case of other spirit."

In reply to a further question on April 29th, he said:—"There is no duty payable on British methylated spirit. On foreign spirit methylated in the United Kingdom there is an eventual charge of 2d. per gallon, if it be plain spirit, of 1d. per gallon if it be rum (or brandy). On imported methylated spirit the duty is 11s. 5d. per gallon. The reasons for these differences cannot be set forth within the compass of an answer to a question. But the subject is fully explained in Appendix No. 1 to the Report of the Industrial Alcohol Committee (Cd. 2,472 of 1905.)"

Cable and mail communication.

During the discussion of the Post Office Vote in the House of Commons on May 9th Mr. Henniker Heaton said that there never was more need for an Imperial Postmaster-General who would consult with our colonies and dependencies, and with foreign countries, upon the question of telegraph communication. The public scarcely realised the importance of this subject and the opportunities there were for economy in expenditure. An amount of something like four millions sterling was spent in telegraphing in the year. To the Cape the expenditure was £500,000. In telegraphing to Australia we spent more than £1,000 a day, to India and the East almost the same sum, and to the United States £1,000,000 a year. These figures showed the necessity for reform, and he trusted the right hon. gentleman would insist upon getting from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the money necessary to carry it out. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson trusted that the Postmaster-General would give them an assurance that the question of subsidy to the West India mail service would be considered in a practical and sympathetic spirit. The telegraphic service to the West Indies was at present conducted by a cable partly foreign, telegrams from Trinidad to Demerara having to pass by the West India and Panama Company's line through Cuba up to Key West. There was a proposal for an extension of the British cable, the Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica route, which would give an all-British communication. The connection between this country and Demerara was often interrupted, and in the interest of British Guiana it was important that knowledge of the state of the markets in London and New York should be at all times available, which it was not, and he hoped the Postmaster-General would consider with a sympathetic spirit the extension of the all-British cable from Halifax to Trinidad.

Mr. Buxton said that questions in reference to postal and telegraphic communication abroad more properly belonged to the Colonial Office.

Home grown sugar beet and the Convention.

In the House of Lords on May 13th, Lord Denbigh asked whether, in view of their expressed desire to promote remunerative employment in agricultural districts and check the exodus to the towns, the Government were now prepared seriously to encourage the establishment of a sugar beet industry in the British Isles, and thereby ensure that a portion of the 18 millions paid annually for imported sugar should be available for labour in rural districts at home; whether they realised that the main obstacles to the introduction of the capital necessary for the erection of factories were (1) the threatened imposition of a heavy Excise duty on any home-grown sugar; (2) the attitude of individual members of the Government towards the Brussels Convention and the possible re-introduction of bounty-fed sugar; and whether his Majesty's Government would now, by a rebate of excise for a term of years, accord to an English sugar industry the same encouragement as has been given to Irish tobacco, and also give such an assurance on the subject of the Brussels Convention as would tend to remove the feeling of uncertainty now prevailing." Referring to his request for a rebate, he explained that the first factory to be put up would be absolutely experimental, and it was surely worth the while of the Government to strain a point in order to establish such a factory. A great obstacle to the introduction of capital was the attitude of various members of the Government towards the Brussels Convention. Lord Denman, in reply, said that if a rebate were granted, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have to continue the sugar tax, and that the noble Earl seemed to be unmindful of the consumers and bakers and confectioners, and mineral water manufacturers, and also of sugar growers in the West Indies and British Guiana, at whom a very severe blow would be dealt if we grew sugar in this country by means of a rebate. Viscount Ridley quoted the *West India Committee Circular* as showing that with stability of prices, cane sugar could always be grown at a profit in fair competition with beet sugar, and that they would be glad to see sugar-beet grown at a profit by British farmers. There was nothing in this proposal that could not be supported by the most extreme free-trader. All that they asked for was some guarantee that the existing state of affairs as regarded the Brussels Sugar Convention would continue. That Convention had inaugurated steadiness in the price of sugar. Lord Fitzmaurice said that in the opinion of the Government the hour for stating what their intentions

were with regard to the Sugar Convention had not yet come. He could only reply to the points raised by the Earl of Denbigh if he were able to explain to the House what the settled policy of the Government in regard to the Convention was. But the time for that had not yet come. The Convention would have to be considered by the Government in all its aspects within the present year; and in that House or elsewhere a full statement would be made, which, he trusted, would be satisfactory to the country and to their Lordships.

NATURE NOTES.

COFFEE IN BRAZIL. The Government of San Paulo, Brazil, has been authorised by its legislature to offer, in connection with the coffee industry, a prize of \$8,000 for the best cultivator; a prize of \$6,000 for preparing the ground for coffee planting, enabling labour to be dispensed with; a prize of \$4,000 for the best cleaner which will effectually remove all sticks and stones.

THE CARIB COUNTRY. The Consular Report on the trade of South Italy for the year 1906 mentions that although the eruption of Vesuvius caused considerable damage to all the fields in its immediate vicinity, after the burnt-up crop had been ploughed in and the fields resown, the new plants of hemp, "assimilated the ejections of the mountain, and, aided by favourable climatic conditions did remarkably well." This augurs well for the future of the Carib country in St. Vincent which was affected by the eruption of the Soufrière.

THE CANE B. 208. *The International Sugar Journal* states that for some time back suspicion has been felt that the cane cultivated on the well-known Diamond Estate in Demerara under the name of B. 208 was not the original seedling variety of that designation. This suspicion, our contemporary states, has now become an established fact, and a report, which still, however, requires confirmation, is that the Diamond B. 208 has been identified with the White Tanna. The White Tanna is not a seedling-cane but a bud sport of the Striped Tanna. Much extension of the real B. 208 has been made on other estates as the result of the Diamond published results.

COCOA-NUTS & SALT. M. A. Fauchère, writing in the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale* on the subject of cocoa-nuts, says that the action of sea salt and sea water on cocoa-nut trees would seem to be much less than it is supposed. "We are," he says, "almost certain that those who manure their trees with sea salt lose both time and money." Experiments on a cocoa-nut plantation near Tamatave, conducted over a period of three years, showed a difference between trees treated with salt, or sea-water, and those without. M. Fauchère attributes the rarity of cocoa-nut palms in Barbados, where he does not remember seeing a single one in the interior of the island, though the soil conditions seem perfect for their growth, to the dryness of the atmosphere.

STIMULATING SUGAR. Many experiments made with sugar in some one of its forms, as a food-stuff, have developed the fact that a quick relief is given by it when an ordinary sense of fatigue is experienced. This, says the *Louisiana Planter*, has seemed almost to require the title of sugar stimulation, yet any analysis of sugar shows that it is a carbohydrate food and of very definite value, and apparently there is nothing mysterious about it. The sense of fatigue which comes to tired men and tired animals is said to be owing to the presence of residuary products of nutrition in the blood that can only be removed from the body by the other excretory processes of the body and not by the quick action of the lungs. It is likely that sugar owes its great value as food to these facts. If our planters would only give more attention to the careful use of molasses as a food article for live stock they would learn more and more of its merits the longer they use it.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Agriculture in Russia.

In consequence of the increased cost of labour in Russia, which renders production more expensive, Russia will, says Mr. Consul-General Murray, have to adopt more intensive agriculture. As artificial manure is one of the most important factors to that end, Mr. Murray considers that the consumption of such manure in all forms—superphosphates, slugs, nitrates, and potassium—is sure to increase continually, and, when once their advantage becomes known amongst the peasant farmers, very rapidly.

Venezuelan tariff surtax.

Mr. Consul C. H. de Lemos says that, with the exception of a few direct sailing vessels from Hamburg and New York, the bulk of the imports into Venezuela continue to be shipped *via* Trinidad in transit. Out of the total of £220,542 imported from that island only £2,969 were direct purchases from Trinidad, the rest being transshipment goods from the United Kingdom, United States, France,

Germany and Spain. The 30 per cent. surtax on customs duties on goods from Trinidad makes the cost of any direct purchases prohibitive. The total tonnage of the imports during 1906 amounted to 7,104 tons of 2,240 lbs.

Agricultural exports of Mexico.

Among vegetable products there has been a marked increase in rubber. The value of it in 1906 amounted to £167,132 more than the previous year, guayule also being credited with an increase of £11,702. The increase in the export of vanilla, amounting to £18,717, which last year showed an augmentation of 75 per cent., is also noteworthy. The increases in exports are, however, practically nullified by the almost complete extinction of the export of sugar during the year. From £571,744 the value has fallen to £67,423. The domestic demand, however, in Mexico improved sufficiently to keep the price of sugar at a reasonable figure.

Malarial fever in Rome.

The former scourge of the district round Rome was malaria. Improved sanitation and the measures everywhere adopted in order to avoid infection through the dreaded mosquito have largely contributed to reduce the rate of mortality from that disease. The following returns, given by Mr. Consul Morgan, are particularly interesting:—

Year.	Deaths from Malaria.						
1893	... 189	1897	... 73	1901	... 76	1905	... 65
1895	... 189	1899	... 87	1903	... 46		

Sugar and rubber in Honduras.

Many parts of Honduras, states Mr. Consul Campbell, in his report for 1905-6, are very suitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane, but so far the planters use their crop almost entirely for the manufacture of the supply of rum required for the Government liquor monopoly. The local needs of this district will probably be supplied very shortly from a plantation in the neighbourhood, where machinery has lately been erected to produce sugar equal in quality to that hitherto imported from the neighbouring Republics. There is no reason why those in Honduras should not be as successful in producing sugar for export as her neighbours Nicaragua and Salvador, for many of the most suitable districts for this industry are within easy reach of the coasts, and it is to be hoped some attention may be given by planters to this matter before long. In spite of the attraction rubber-planting now has for other countries of similar climates, no serious attempt has been made to cultivate it in Honduras. The small amount of rubber exported is principally from wild trees, which are tapped without the necessary care.

Distribution of Venezuelan trade.

The leading position in Venezuelan trade is held by the United States, Great Britain coming next instead of Germany as in 1905. Dutch imports have risen and French declined. It is difficult to speak with certainty as to the causes of these changes of relative position. French imports have possibly been affected by the circumstances which led to the closing of the French cable, thus isolating Venezuela from direct telegraphic communication with Trinidad and thence to Europe. The interchange of position between the United Kingdom and Germany is perhaps harder to account for. Nearly one-half of the loss of £117,865 to German trade is spread fairly evenly over the ports of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo. In view, however, of the fact that the imports from the Netherlands have also increased, Mr. Vice-Consul Gray is inclined to the opinion that the cause is to be sought in the removal of the so-called "transshipment tax" on goods transhipped in the West Indies, and that, when published, the export statistics of the British and Dutch West Indian colonies will probably indicate that goods hitherto shipped direct *via* Germany are now more and more sent to the West Indies and thence transhipped to Venezuela. The 30 per cent. surtax on all goods from the West Indies, however, still remains in force; should the efforts to remove this tax prove successful it should have the effect of placing British goods easily first on the list of imports of this Republic.

Agricultural progress in Porto Rico.

Mr. Consul Churchward reports that in 1906 two new sugar factories were completed and started work, and, while three others are in course of construction with the view of handling the coming crop, at least two others are definitely planned for operation in 1908. Besides these additions, most of the old factories have been or are in course of being refitted with modern machinery. Modern agricultural methods are in course of adoption generally, by means of which it is to be expected that the Porto Rican sugar yield can be brought to equal that of Hawaii, which is due in the greater part to scientific culture and generous use of appropriate fertilisers.* The value of sugar and molasses exported from Porto Rico during the fiscal year ended June 30th, amounted to £2,983,583, showing an advance of £503,755 upon the previous year.

* And great natural advantages.—Ed.

Tobacco production and manufacture improved greatly during the year, principally through the enterprise of a large corporation operating under the immediate influence of the United States Tobacco Trust. Three other companies are also cultivating and manufacturing tobacco on a large scale with considerable success. The larger operators have been able to adopt the more expensive methods of growing, curing and general handling, and consequently have increased the production and improved the quality of the leaf. A large proportion of these companies' crops is grown under cover, the cost of which, although it is said to amount to some £100 per acre, is more than repaid in the enhanced yield and finer quality. These enterprises have had the effect of almost doubling the prices of tobacco lands and of causing hitherto considered inaccessible places to be taken into cultivation. The island exported during the fiscal year tobacco, principally manufactured, to the amount of £730,488, an excess of £201,293 over the previous year.

The coffee crop showed an improvement upon its predecessor of 1905. Its export value was £714,808, of which only £5,558 worth went to the United States, due to having to compete unprotected in this market with the Brazilian coffee. Cotton to the value of £28,074 was exported during the year, but cotton planting is declining, owing mainly to the expense of fertilising and risk of damage by insects. There are now 7,000 acres of citrus plantations in the island in course of development. The Government have determined to introduce some 100,000 plants of sisal hemp in order to attempt its cultivation on a commercial basis.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Henderson*, which left Kingston, Jamaica, on April 25th, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, May 8th. The R.M.S.P. *Atrato*, which left Barbados at 6 a.m. on Thursday, May 2nd, reached Southampton at 12 noon on Monday, May 13th. Among the many passengers who arrived in her, were His Excellency Sir H. M. Jackson, Mr. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. W. C. Hutson, Mr. W. Buttenshaw, Mr. G. Kellard, Mr. A. H. Spooner, Mr. M. J. Taurel, Mr. R. Spence, Mr. F. Agostini, Mr. B. H. Stephens, and Mr. L. H. Schoener. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Sugar and Cotton in Antigua.

Writing on April 18th, Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said there was no doubt that a considerable future was before Antigua, St. Kitts and Barbados in the combination of the sugar and cotton industries. The improvement of sugar machinery generally was the most important thing, and with the greater general intelligence required where modern methods of sugar manufacture were adopted, the cotton rotation crop would do all the better. In certain places like Antigua the labour problem might be a serious one; unfortunately the payment of higher wages, which could certainly be paid with up-to-date methods in cotton and sugar adopted, did not result in more plentiful labour, the general result being in a shorter working week. This was where the East Indian surpassed the negro as a labourer; the higher wages he got the harder he worked and the more he saved, and as a result the more prosperous did his adopted home-country become. The Brussels Convention was the thing that the future of the West Indies depended on; its maintenance meant capital and confidence, not high prices for sugar. No one expected the latter, and with up-to-date methods as the result of capital expenditure they could get along without them as far as Antigua was concerned. Peasant cane continued to flow in on a large scale to both central factories. Bental's had had to limit the amount it could take per week, to protect its own crop.

Barbados and the patrol ship.

In his letter dated April 28th, Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that the remarks in the *West India Committee Circular* regarding the insufficiency of British war ships in the West Indies, would receive greater force from the occurrences of the past week at St. Lucia. As in the case when necessity arose in Jamaica, the *Indefatigable* was distant at about the furthest point she could possibly be, viz., at Honduras, over 1,000 miles away. There was a Dutch man-of-war at St. Lucia and three Brazilians at Barbados, but of our own ships not a trace! The irony of the thing was that this should have happened at St. Lucia, which was designed for years to be the headquarters of the troops, where millions had been spent on barracks which had never been occupied, and where in quite the last few years a big gun was put in position at an immense cost! Now it was dependent for its safety on 100 policemen from Barbados, and the writer believed that St. Vincent had contributed 27 more. Meanwhile, the safety of Barbados was entrusted to the remaining handful of police under the command of a native sergeant. How long was this farce going to be allowed to continue? Was there no public opinion in England which would force the Government to give adequate protection to the West Indies, and not make their policy the laughing-stock of the world? The barracks in Barbados and St. Lucia were still standing, and it was still open to them to quarter a small force provided

with Maxim guns either in one island or the other. Barbados would have the advantage of being a fixed point, which telegrams would always reach and whence the men could be quickly despatched to any place of danger. The experiment of the one ship of war had utterly broken down, for during the short time in which this policy had been in operation, neither in British Guiana, nor in Jamaica, nor in St. Lucia, had she been of the slightest use. It was hoped that the West India Committee would take up this matter strongly, and that all West Indians who happened to be in England would make themselves heard. The writer regretted again to have to report dry weather; hardly a shower had fallen during the fortnight, and the soil was consequently cracked and parched. The hot suns had had the effect of drying up the juice in the old canes, and the yield was not as satisfactory as it had been. It was feared that the total crop would be very disappointing. The young canes were standing the drought wonderfully. There were many beautiful fields of cotton in full blossom, which only wanted good showers to bring them on. Sir H. M. Jackson was going to England by the mail for an operation, and as there was no Colonial Secretary in Trinidad, Sir Gilbert Carter had been ordered there to administer the Government for four months. Mr. Knaggs would take his place in Barbados. As Mr. Leacock, Dr. Chandler, and Mr. Laurie Pile were all going on leave, there would be a small number in the Legislative Council. The report of the proceedings at the Colonial Conference would be read with interest, and it was hoped that some scheme of colonial preference might be promulgated, with the ultimate object of tariff reform. It was humiliating to think that the West Indies were totally unrepresented, and probably their name would not even be mentioned, and their interests entirely ignored. This was the sort of treatment that they had grown accustomed to, but it was none the less galling.

British Guiana and the Mails.

Writing on April 26th, Mr. J. C. McCowan reported that the Combined Court on the 17th voted £5,000 for the regular conveyance of mails on condition that satisfactory arrangements were made for a fortnightly intercolonial service and the itinerary approved of by the recent conference at Barbados, by which the steamer would arrive at British Guiana on the Thursday morning and leave on Saturday afternoon, adopted. A further sum of £100 was voted for the carriage of transatlantic mails. It would be noted from the discussion that it was on Mr. Mackey's amendment insisting on the itinerary as proposed by the conference, that the vote was passed. There was nothing to report in connection with the sugar market. The weather during the fortnight had been too wet in Berbice; in Demerara and Essequibo the fall had been lighter, but still too much for requirements. The last few days had been fine. The *Demerara Daily Chronicle* publishes an interview with Mr. Wilson, the senior partner of the firm of Messrs. J. & E. Sturge, of Birmingham, who was returning home, thoroughly satisfied with the result of his visit, as representative of a syndicate which has in view the establishment of a lime industry for the manufacture of citric acid. The above firm, together with four other English firms and an American house, form the syndicate. Mr. Bennett, the expert, who went out on their behalf in the first instance, had selected Agatash, on the Essequibo, three miles above Bartica, and obtained a grant from the Government of 1,500 acres. Mr. Wilson, who had left the interests of the syndicate in the hands of Mr. W. E. Patea, of Pln. Aurora, expressed himself in very sanguine terms as to the future of the industry. The great bulk of the supply of citrate of lime had hitherto been in the hands of Sicilians, who manufactured it from the lemon, but Mr. Wilson stated that the West Indian lime is superior to the lemon in every way for this purpose, and that there was every possibility of British Guiana becoming an important source of supply. We have received from Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, a return of the exports from the colony for the month of March, with which we reproduce the figures for February, for the purpose of comparison:—

	March, 1907.	February, 1907.		March, 1907.	February, 1907.
Gold	7,109 ozs.	4,877 ozs.	Shingles	154,150	41,000
Diamonds	314 carats	336 carats.	Timber	78,728 cub. ft.	2,561 cub. ft.
Balata	55,249 lbs.	9,261 lbs.	Lumber, greenheart,		
Locust gum	2,222 ..	— ..	mora, &c.	24,269 ..	522 ..
Rubber	291 ..	323 ..	Wallaba and hardwood		
Fish-glue	1,262 ..	746 ..	posts	329	188
Charcoal	7,395 bags.	6,884 bags.	Firewoods, wallaba, &c.	580½ tons.	626¼ tons.

Dominica and her limes.

Mr. E. A. Agar stated on April 17th that it had been decided to exhibit at the forthcoming Royal Horticultural Show in June, and the Secretary of the West India Committee was asked to undertake the necessary arrangements. The green lime trade with New York was now getting brisk, and it was hoped that the small lots being sent to London were only an earnest of good business later in the season. The rainfall returns for the island for 1906 were received by the mail. Roughly classified into estates situated on the Leeward and Windward coasts and the interior, the average rainfalls were respectively 79.43, 128.71, and 196.92 inches.

Agricultural matters in Grenada.

Writing on April 27th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton reported that consequent upon the departure of the Governor to St. Vincent and St. Lucia, the Colonial Secretary, Hon. E. Drayton, assumed the administration of the government of Grenada, as senior member of the Executive Council. The cup presented by the Governor to Mr. Seton-Browne at the St. Andrew's Exhibition in February, had been on view at the Stores, Ltd., Grenville, during the past week. There was to be a public meeting under the auspices of the Society, at Woburn on April 29th, when Mr. Anstead, the Agricultural Superintendent, would address the meeting on matters agricultural. Mr. Anstead had been granted three months' leave of absence, and would leave for England shortly. A special general meeting of the Society was to be held in Grenville on May 1st, and the subject to be discussed was the effect of forking and pruning on cacao cultivation. The Society had asked the Government for a grant of £50, so that two more prize-holding competitions might be arranged in 1907. The last, in the parish of St. John, was described by the judges as an undoubted success, and they went on to say, "Now that intelligent interest has been aroused in it, we would recommend that the Government be approached for a grant in order that the competition may be repeated in the parish of St. John, as well as offered in another parish during the year 1907, provided that all prize-winners of 1906 be disqualified for re-entry."

Nevis' agricultural show.

Hon. C. A. Shand referred in his letter of April 17th to the success of their Agricultural Show. Six hundred and thirty-one entries, of which over a hundred and sixty were in live stock, was very creditable, and was evidence of the fact that the peasants were becoming alive to the benefits they derived from these exhibitions. Altogether the prizes awarded exceeded the sum of thirty pounds, and some of the exhibits were of such an exceptionally deserving character that no difficulty was experienced in disposing of the eight diplomas offered by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for special merit. It was a matter for regret that neither Sir Daniel Morris nor Dr. Watts were able to be present at the Show, as profiting by past experience the exhibits were most tastefully displayed, and those marked for sale were disposed of in most instances. The preserves were quite up to the highest standard, and would have attracted attention anywhere. The weather was still dry and water very scarce, rain being badly wanted.

Too dry in St. Kitts.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported on April 22nd that the weather since last advices had been ideal for grinding, but rain was very badly wanted for the young cane crop. The dry weather was also preventing early cotton planting.

The rioting in St. Lucia.

Since the previous mail the weather had been dry until April 27th, when there was a change to rain, and about half an inch fell during the night. Mr. George S. Hudson, writing on April 28th, sent us the following account of the rioting:—"The riots commenced in Castries about the 17th inst. by a strike amongst the coal carriers for higher pay, which the coaling contractors would not concede, or rather, that the original demands were for a rise of 500 per cent. in wages, which was, of course, absurd. At the same time His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief arrived in St. Lucia to be sworn in, and was interviewed by the coal carriers, and so far as I could learn, tried to smooth the situation to the best of his ability. As I have had to stay and protect my estate until the last 36 hours I am deficient in exact news of what has happened on the Castries side, but I believe the strike continued, and His Excellency left for Barbados on the 22nd inst. About noon on Tuesday, 23rd inst., actual rioting broke out in Castries; the Market Place, Barnard, Sons & Co.'s store, Peter & Co.'s store, and two smaller shops were looted by the mob, who threw into the sea such goods as they did not carry away. The newly formed local Defence Corps, composed of 20 or 30 more respectable inhabitants of Castries, were called out; the result was two rioters wounded, and the Defence Corps was overpowered by the mob. Messrs. Howell and Cleeve, of the Colonial Bank, Sergt.-Major Gray, and several others being more or less injured. Mr. Howell had a leg broken, the injuries to others were not severe. After this the mob seemed to have had the upper hand in Castries, but were quieted by the immediate return from Barbados of the Governor-in-Chief, who arranged meetings between the strikers and their employers, which on Thursday resulted in a compromise by raising the wages about 20 per cent., with additional pay for night and Sunday work, and coaling work was resumed and order was restored in Castries. But at Cul-de-Sac, Roseau, and Dennery sugar factories, the Barbadian labourers went on strike, intimidating the more peaceful native labourers, and demanded 4s. per day in place of 1s. or 1s. 6d. The factory fires were drawn by the strikers, resulting in a total loss of much sugar. Mr. Edwin Bennett's house at Cul-de-Sac was stormed, and he was compelled to seek shelter elsewhere with his family. Cane field fires occurred every night, and cattle were killed. Work was more or

less stopped on every plantation in the northern part of St. Lucia, as peaceful labourers were afraid to be found working by the rioters. Soufrière, Choiseul, Laborie, Vieuxfort, and Micoud districts were beyond the zone of lawlessness. On Thursday, Sergt.-Major Hampton, V.C., in command of twenty St. Lucia police opened fire on the rioters in Cul-de-Sac Valley, killing four men, wounding thirty, and taking fourteen prisoners. This stopped the rioting on the Castries side of the island, but at Dennery the rioters were going strong. On Thursday they marched to Castries to interview the Governor, and had the Riot Act read to them in the town, and returned about midnight to Dennery, cutting the telephone line and killing cattle. On Friday morning they interviewed Mr. Hunter, the Manager of the Dennery factory, and demanded higher wages but did no actual damage, and then started a march of six miles to interview me at 'Errard' estate. On their way through Dennery village, fortunately for me, they were diverted into looting Messrs. Minvielle & Chastanet's branch store there, of which a clean sweep was made. In the meantime, His Excellency the Governor had not been idle. The same morning (Friday), the R.M.S. *Solent* had landed 150 police and volunteers from Barbados in Castries, 85 of these were placed on board the R.M.S. coasting steamer *Tees*, and sent to Dennery. The Governor had preceded them in the small steamer *Esx*, unaccompanied, except by two officials, and landing at Fond d'Or Bay assured himself of the safety of Mr. Hunter and his family, and then galloped to Dennery (2½ miles in 11 minutes). Although quite unattended, and with only three helpless policemen in Dennery, he told the mob exactly what he thought of them and advised them to disperse at once. Within ten minutes the *Tees* came into Dennery harbour and landed the policemen, and the mob made no fight but ran. Several arrests were made but no firing took place, and since then some 30 prisoners have been made. Some 100 police remain in this district, but the back of the trouble is distinctly broken. Personally, I feel that the prompt and courageous action of the Governor-in-Chief saved myself and wife in the nick of time from a very 'bad quarter of an hour' with a loot-inflamed mob, and St. Lucia from a very serious trouble. No English man-of-war has arrived in Castries since these troubles commenced. A Dutch man-of-war arrived on Thursday, the 25th inst., and is still in Castries."

St. Vincent's bumper cotton crop.

There was a considerable amount of local interest in the unfortunate happenings at St. Lucia, when Mr. W. N. Sands wrote on April 29th, but they were unable to obtain detailed news of what was going on, as the subsidy to the cable company had been withdrawn. A force of 30 men in charge of Sergeant-Major Concannon left St. Vincent on the 26th in a small schooner to render assistance to the local police and defence reserve. Staff-Officer Capt. Barker also left by the same opportunity. The cotton crop would be over 100 per cent. greater than last season with less than double the acreage in cultivation. Ginning was still in progress, and it now looked as if the output would not be far short of 700 bales (360 lbs. each.) Weather conditions were better, and they were having a few April showers. There had been no soaking rains as yet, so as to enable all available labour to be put on the lands, to prepare them for planting.

The health of Trinidad.

Writing on April 29th, Hon. G. T. Fenwick stated that single cases of malignant fever, said by many authorities to be yellow fever and by many others to be typho-malaria, still cropped up from time to time just when the disease was thought to be disappearing. Meantime the town authorities were carrying out extensive sanitary measures, mainly directed to exterminating the mosquitos. Whether or not the fever was yellow, and whether the mosquito had any share in spreading it, the scare was having the effect of vastly improving the sanitary condition of the town and the removal of the insect pest was a blessing to all. A fresh case was reported on the 26th. The Governor had been advised by his medical attendants to seek expert advice and treatment in England, and he was leaving by the mail with the good wishes of all for his speedy return with restored health. Sir Gilbert Carter would come from Barbados to administer the Government during his absence. No appointment had yet been made, as far as was known in the island, of a Colonial Secretary in place of Mr. Clifford. The fortnight had been extremely dry, with indications of the setting in of the long delayed easterly trade winds. Some planters thought that signs were not lacking of the near approach of the rainy season, but the writer was of opinion that if the trade wind did not set in, they might expect several weeks of dry weather. Some cacao planters were complaining of want of rain, but the sugar manufacturers welcomed its assistance in the rapid reaping of their crops. One or two factories had finished grinding, and others had but a few days to run. The Usine Ste. Madeleine would probably be finished about May 25th. A marked improvement had been shown in the deliveries of cacao during the past fortnight, and receipts on a fairly large scale were anticipated during May. Owing to the strong demand from European centres, prices had advanced for all grades, but more especially for ordinary descriptions. Less anxiety to buy had been shown by American manufacturers, who claimed to be stocked for some

little time to come. Fine estates were quoted at 85s., mixed estates at 84s. and ordinary at 82s., c. and f. Havre. Arrivals from Venezuela had shown a marked falling off and in consequence prices had remained firm.

		SHIPMENTS.				Trinidad. Venezuela.	
Totals at last report		Trinidad.	Venezuela.			Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Mar. 30.—S. S. <i>Martinique</i>	55,302	596	306	April 11.—S. S. <i>Maracas</i>	...	1,416	1,791
.. 30.—S. S. <i>Orinoco</i>	...	260	—	.. 16.—S. S. <i>Orinoco</i>	...	808	—
April 2.—S. S. <i>P. Willem IV.</i>	100	—	—	.. 20.—S. S. <i>P. Maurits</i>	...	2,166	167
.. 2.—S. S. <i>Tagus</i>	...	182	—	.. 22.—S. S. <i>Saba</i>	...	115	—
.. 3.—S. S. <i>Cr. of Castile</i>	200	—	—	.. 22.—S. S. <i>Maraval</i>	...	1,298	475
.. 6.—S. S. <i>P. Willem I.</i>	860	454	—	.. 25.—S. S. <i>Patagonia</i>	...	710	50
.. 13.—S. S. <i>Calabria</i>	...	152	150	Total to date	...	64,165	16,451

Mr. Fenwick added a note on April 30th to the effect that a heavy shower, looking as if it were general, was falling in town as he closed his letter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Barbados and the Grant-in-Aid, 1902.

SIR,—In the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of February 22nd, the Hon. W. K. Chandler in moving the first reading of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Bill is recorded, in speaking of the past history of the £250,000 Imperial grant-in-aid, as saying: "In Demerara and Trinidad they took this money which was allotted to them, and in certain devious ways divided it among the persons who had produced the sugar crop of 1902." Now, Sir, I am not in any way connected with these colonies other than with bonds of sympathy, but I do emphatically resent the imputation conveyed by Dr. Chandler. These colonies used their share of the grant as it was intended to be used, viz., as a temporary measure to keep the sugar industry going until the coming in force of the Brussels Convention, and every sugar planter in the West Indies had a vested interest in it. As matters now are, as you pointed out in your valued *Circular*, anybody growing an acre of canes can obtain the benefit of a loan under the Act for any other industry he may have in hand.

I am, Sir,

A BARBADOS PROPRIETOR.

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest. We have received the following:—

St. John's Parish, Barbados; Short Historical Sketch. By Rev. C. G. Clarke-Hunter. Barbados: Office of the *Barbados Advocate*, 1907. Price 6d. In this small pamphlet of twenty-four pages the Rector tells the story of his Parish and his Church, which stands on the edge of a verdure-covered cliff, about 850 feet above the level of the sea, and overlooking some of the most exquisite scenery in Barbados and the wide Atlantic. The original church was a temporary structure; but in 1676-7 it was rebuilt in stone by Captain Leslie "for one hundred and ten thousand pounds of sugar, with two Isles, one at ye North, ye other at the South, for Colonel Walround and Colonel Codrington for which they allow 20,000 lb. of sugar." This building was destroyed by the hurricane of 1831, and replaced by the present structure, which was consecrated in 1836. The author gives some interesting notes regarding Ferdinando Paleologus, the descendant of the Imperial line of the last Christian Emperors of Greece, who was churchwarden of the Parish and a vestryman for twenty years, and was buried first in Sir Peter Colleton's tomb under the organ loft, and finally in Mr. Heath's vault. We have already recorded how, in 1906, a memorial stone was erected to his memory in the churchyard, the expense being met by subscriptions from certain public spirited Barbadians. Mr. Clark-Hunter's interesting little pamphlet is dedicated to the Hon. Dr. John Sealy, "for many years the honourable bearer through a long and useful life of a name honourably connected with the Parish for more than two centuries."

A discourse of the State of Health in the Island of Jamaica. With a provision therefore Calculated from the Air, the Place, and the Water: The Customs and Manners of Living, &c. By Thomas Trapham, M.D., Coll. Med., Lond., Soc. Hon., London, 1679. A copy of this very rare work has been presented to the library of the West India Committee by Mr. Murray T. Gow, to whom our cordial thanks are due. The book is dedicated to "the Right Honourable John, Lord Vaughan, Knight of the most Honourable Order of the Bath." It is not what might be called a "drawing-room" book, but when the author deals with the Air, the Place, and the Waters, there is less to harrow the feelings of the reader than in the later chapters. There is a description of a "furfaffing Rarity," which we reproduce in the hope that some of our Jamaica readers will be able to identify the tree on which such a superstructure of traveller's tales is reared. "The one is a shining Tree, which about the Month of November bears such starry lights on its Body or Bark, that the Horfe as well as the unknown Traveller is frangely affrighted thereat, 'tis a living as well as thriving Tree. Not such an one whose rotten wood may solve the appearance, neither doth any Gloworm or such an Animal lodge there, to give us the reason of the light, neither yet is it a transient shining made by any reflections of light elsewhere, but it is such as to abide some miles carrying it, and some hours after its separation in a small part of the bark from the Tree itself: For I carrying the fame in my pocket, and after looking for my wooden Gem found its lustre perceiving, so that I read by the light thereof, and by most exact scrutiny I could never observe Worm or liquid Gum super-added, but by the next morn (for this was about midnight), my once lighted bark shews me not nothing else but its ordinary dark self. This Tree did not only once impose on the credulous fancy or disturbed Brain of a single person, but every year shews the like to who lo lifts to view it; besides there be more than one such trees, and in divers places of the Island, of which its observed they shine most sparklingly and vivid in the darkeft night, and especially after a shower of Rain."

NOTES OF INTEREST.

AZORES' TEA. Tea is grown in the Azores, which, if not equal to the fine brands of Indian and Chinese tea, makes, it is said, a very good family article.

WEST INDIAN CLUB. Mr. Edward R. Davson was the guest of the evening at the West Indian Club dinner on May 15th, when he was welcomed on his return from British Guiana.

COMING VISITORS. Sir Daniel Morris is expected to arrive in this country in June, with a deputation of cotton growers, who at the invitation of Sir Alfred Jones will visit the Lancashire cotton mills.

ABOUT SUGAR. The output of sugar in Russia has been fixed at 74,000,000 pouds (1,100,000 tons) for 1907-8. The largest crop in Cuba will be made by the Chaparra Estate, which is expected to turn out 60,000 short tons.

JAPANESE CAMPHOR. The productive power of Japan in camphor is stated by the *Indian Trade Journal* to be:—Formosa: camphor, 41,800,000 lbs., camphor oil, 29,627,000 lbs. Japan proper: camphor, 42,711,375 lbs., camphor oil, 45,434,250 lbs.

"TYGER SKINS." Among the articles of merchandise mentioned in the correspondence of a London merchant with a Grenada firm in 1792 as being desirable for shipment from that island are "tyger skins," the value of which was given as from 12s. to 21s., with a duty of 1s. 10d.

DUTCH BANANAS. The ratification of the Surinam Banana Contract has resulted in an active extension of the banana industry in that country. The Dutch Mail Company is building four steamers for the trade, of which there is every indication of extensive development in that part of the Guianas.

BET SOWING. Speaking of the approaching beet sowings on the Continent, M. Dureau, in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* says, "The position would appear for the moment to permit of the conclusion that under ordinary conditions of production and consumption, a reduction of eight per cent. in the sowings of Europe is not sufficient to relieve the situation at once."

DEPARTURES. The Archbishop of the West Indies left for Jamaica in the *Port Henderson* on Saturday. Among the passengers by the outward mail to Barbados on Wednesday will be Mr. Walter Biffen, B.Sc., who is going to take up the position of Scientific Assistant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies, in the place of Mr. Buttenshaw, who is leaving to take up his appointment in India.

SUGAR IN JAPAN. The Japanese sugar refining industry is experiencing a boom. Eight new companies, with an aggregate capital of \$5,000,000, have been formed, while four existing companies have increased their capital by \$3,750,000. One new \$2,500,000 company proposes to obtain extensive sugar-cane plantations in Formosa, and to set up two large refineries with machinery of the latest pattern, the work alone to cost \$1,500,000.

MOLASCUIT OR...? No man is a prophet in his own country! This is borne out by the fact that at the present moment the cattle food prepared from beet molasses and peat moss is being sold in Grenada and Trinidad. The superiority of cattle foods prepared from cane molasses is so great that it is difficult to understand why the beet product should take the place of the cane in the home of the latter, unless on the assumption of ignorance on the part of the buyer, or superior enterprise!

A NEW SUGAR PORT. *Confectionery* says that it is stated on very good authority that the imports of sugar *via* the Manchester Ship Canal are increasing very rapidly, and that if the present rate of progress continues it will not be long before Manchester bids fair to become the third sugar port of entry of the United Kingdom. The canal officials claim that the growth of this traffic has been the means of cheapening the price of sugar in the Manchester and Salford districts to the extent of nine shillings per ton, and towns beyond the radius have been also considerably benefited.

CANADA & GUIANA. The following figures show the expansion of trade between Canada and British Guiana during the last twenty years:—

EXPORTS FROM CANADA TO BRITISH GUIANA.				IMPORTS TO CANADA FROM BRITISH GUIANA.			
Annual Average	1886 to 1890	...	\$363,078	Annual Average	1886 to 1890	...	\$ 181,734
"	1891 to 1895	...	402,500	"	1891 to 1895	...	265,229
"	1896 to 1900	...	336,934	"	1896 to 1900	...	75,793
"	1901 to 1905	...	472,800	"	1901 to 1905	...	1,917,627

The principal item contributing to this vast expansion in the last five years has been sugar.

TRUE COURTESY. The *Statesman* of Calcutta referring to our criticisms on certain views regarding the West Indies, which it published recently, says: "We shall best reciprocate our contemporary's courtesy by the acknowledgment that the article in question was intended to be a summary of the opinions of a writer in one of the monthly reviews rather than an expression of the views of the *Statesman*. We are quite aware that the West Indian planters have in recent years shown great

enterprise, not only in improving the methods of sugar production, but in utilising the other resources of the West Indies."

REBUILDING. The reconstruction of barrack buildings destroyed by the recent earthquake in Jamaica is estimated to cost £80,000. This total includes a sum of about £39,000, which it is anticipated will be required to cover expenditure on necessary accommodation which can be provided locally. In the meanwhile the Army Council are most anxious to proceed at once with the erection of hutting for the troops and bungalows for the officers. The Army Ordnance buildings at Kingston, £3,200; the hospital buildings, &c., at Up Park Camp, £5,350; and buildings at Newcastle and Greenwich, £2,700, are to begin at once.

HINTS FOR MAY. This Month the Canes will make good Sugar, except a little dark, as they will begin to feel the Spring; and will yield pretty well 'till towards the latter end of it, when you must expect great loss in the yielding, and a weak dark Sugar, except in some particular Parts of this Island. If you are prevented by Showers from finishing your Crop, spend that Time in Planting all your Land that has the Dung made in it, and be careful to plant a large Crop of Indian Corn, from which you'll find great Advantage.—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting. By William Belgrave. A regular bred, and long experienc'd Planter, Of the Island of Barbados, 1755.*

AMERICAN BEET. It is expected that the total beet sugar output of the United States for last year will amount to 475,000 tons, against 195,000 tons in the previous year. This is the largest crop that has been produced in the United States, and is about equal to the cane sugar production of the country. The two together amounted to more than one-third of the sugar consumed in the United States. Twelve new factories were established last year and others are projected. The *New York Journal of Commerce*, from which the above statement is taken, points out that at the rate the sugar business is increasing, all the sugar required will probably, at no distant date, be produced in the country.

THE CONVENTION. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society of France, the President, the Marquis de Vogüe, speaking of the Brussels Convention, stated that if this is not renewed the French market will be exposed to the invasion of German sugars, and it will be necessary to protect it by raising the import duties, for which eventually it would be wise to prepare. Though much in the *régime*, to which the Convention has put an end to, is, he went on to say, regretted, it would be visionary to hope for its return. Efforts should be directed towards increasing the internal consumption. To control the internal market, and to defend it against foreign competition, should be the aim of the sugar manufacturer.

IN PRAISE OF TREACLE. The Members of Parliament have received a leaflet headed "Tory Taxation!!" in which the following appears: "A 6 cwt. barrel of treacle (containing over 50 per cent. of sweetness) is taxed 12s.; a 6 cwt. barrel of treacle (containing under 50 per cent. of sweetness) for the poor man's children! is taxed 6s."; and then in red: "Treacle, for feeding the rich man's prize cattle, pays no tax. Protection with a vengeance!!" Yes, yes; but one minute, please, is not the treacle used also for feeding the poor man's pig? At any rate the issuers of the leaflet appreciate the value of treacle as a feeding stuff. Note that they say "Prize cattle." This is good for molascuit, colco, and similar foods.

BRITISH COTTON. We shall be glad to send to any of our readers who may require them, tickets for the Cotton Growing Exhibition now being held at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, which is open until May 31st, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (1 p.m. on Saturdays.) The exhibition is pre-eminently a ladies' exhibition, though it will be of interest to all our readers, showing as it does the remarkable developments which have taken place in the cotton industry under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association. We are asked to add that "Fownes' best cotton gloves," which are made from West Indian Sea Island Cotton, and are shown at the Exhibition, can now be purchased at most shops for 2s. 6d. a pair.

UNCERTAINTY. The uncertainty prevailing with regard to the intentions of the British Government in connection with the Brussels Sugar Convention is, according to *The British Trade Journal*, beginning to affect cane sugar-growing colonies. If bounties and cartels are to prevail again after the end of September 1908, prospective prices are not such as to induce planters to improve their estates or increase their holdings. Capital will not be attracted, however essential it may be, to lay down new machinery and to equip central factories in view of the keen competition which will result. The sugar planters of the British Colonies must now agitate for an early intimation of the Government's intentions; and if the decision be against the Convention, an extended preferential system of Imperial tariffs will be all the more necessary.

AN OLD INVENTION. Ball and roller bearings for the purpose of diminishing friction are generally looked upon as matters of comparatively recent adoption. In a letter book in possession of the West India Committee containing the correspondence of an old West Indian firm, the following appears, the date of the letter being May 25th, 1792: "Last week I went to see an improvement in the construction of sugar mills which a man here has got a Patent for, and of which letters from St. Kitts and Jamaica,

where trials have been made, speak highly. Instead of Brases, the Gudgeons work in a container in which are small Iron rollers for them to bear upon that move round with the Gudgeons, instead of resisting them as the Brases do and by lessening the friction lessen the power necessary to keep the mill in motion. To you who are short of water this I think may be an object as a smaller stream will suffice, and therefore I mention it." The name of the inventor was apparently Garnett. Can any of our readers in St. Kitts and Jamaica find any record of old mills worked on these lines?

BUCKS' SUGAR BEET. Buckinghamshire is the latest county to experiment with sugar beet. The experiments were conducted by the University College authorities on six different farms. The seed was sown over $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre plots early in May. The land was manured and cultivated as for mangolds and an application of 2 cwt. nitrate of soda, and 3 cwt. superphosphate per acre was made in addition to the ordinary dressing of dung. The roots being stored for a month or so prior to analysis the percentage of dry matter was naturally high. The estimated yields varied from 18 tons 11 cwt. to 24 tons $8\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., the soil being from medium to heavy. The weights given by the Wanzleben variety ran from 12 tons 9 cwt. to 23 tons $5\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The analyses show very high percentages of sugar, Improved White ranging from 15.83 to 17.85 per cent. and the Wanzleben from 15.9 to 18.8 per cent. This is quite equal to the best Continental average, while the yield is greater. In spite of these satisfactory results, beet factories are not springing up in the United Kingdom, the obstacle being the refusal of the Government to give an assurance that a sugar beet industry would be safeguarded from the effects of possible subsidised competition.

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., May 7.—Prince Fushimi of Japan arrived in London.—The Imperial Conference: Mr. Lloyd George and the Preference proposals.—Beet, 9s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., steady.
- Wed., May 8.—The King entertained the Colonial Premiers.—The Imperial Conference: Coast-wise trade, Commercial treaties, the right of the Colonies to make treaties, and trade mark and patent laws discussed.—The Jamaica grant and loan; announcement in the House of Commons.—Beet, 9s. 11d., firm.
- Thur., May 9.—The Imperial Conference: naturalisation and penny postage discussed.—Unrest in India; troops marching to Lahore.—Beet, 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., steady.
- Fri., May 10.—The Queen of Spain gave birth to a son.—The seditious movement in India checked.—Mr. J. Chamberlain's letter to Mr. Chaplin (*Times*, p. 10).—The Colonial Premiers, Mr. Deakin excepted, accepted the honour of Membership of the Privy Council.—Stepney bye-election: Mr. Leverton Harris (C.), 2,299; Mr. Ben Cooper (L. and Lab.), 1,350; Conservative majority, 949.—Beet, 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., quiet.
- Sat., May 11.—General Botha returned to South Africa.—Beet (morning), 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., steady.
- Sun., May 12.—Demonstration of railway employes in Hyde Park.—Beet, 10s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., quiet.
- Mon., May 13.—R.M.S.P. *Atrato* arrived at Southampton at 12 noon.—Beet, 10s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., flat.
- Tues., May 14.—The Imperial Conference held its final sitting at the Colonial Office.—Beet, 10s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., flat.
- Wed., May 15.—Wimbledon bye-election. Rt. Hon. Henry Chaplin (Tariff Reform), 10,263; Hon. Bertrand Russell (L. and Women's Suffrage), 3,299—majority, 6,964.—The Colonial Premiers criticised the proceedings of the Imperial Conference.—Mr. Winston Churchill attacked the *Daily Mail* and Lord Northcliffe.—Beet, 9s. 11d., steady.
- Thur., May 16.—Lord Curzon on the needs of Oxford University at the Civil Service Commission.—Letter in the *Times* from the Bishop of Bath and Wells regarding proposed memorial to Sir James Fergusson in Halfway Tree Church, Jamaica.—Mr. Sydney Olivier, the new Governor of Jamaica arrived at Kingston.—"John Bull and His Grown-up Sons" by Professor Leacock, in the *Morning Post*.—Beet, 9s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., easier.
- Fri., May 17.—The Prince and Princess of Wales visited Aldershot.—Beet, 9s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., steady.
- Sat., May 18.—The Archbishop of the West Indies left for Jamaica in the *Rort Henderson*.

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 till May 31.—Private view of an exhibition of British cotton grown under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association, at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. Tickets from the West India Committee Rooms, free of charge.

DAILY (Sun. excepted).—Mr. West's Animated Photographs of the West Indies at the Polytechnic, at 3 p.m.

May 24.—EMPIRE DAY.—Federal Conference on Education, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

June 13 & 14, Nov. 28 & 29.—Shows of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

June 20.—Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee, 3 p.m.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Arawak.—Congontay or Congoutay is the name given in Demerara to the meal of the plantain. The plantain is peeled when still green, though ripe, and is then cut into strips and dried in the sun. The dried strips are then reduced to meal. For use the meal is boiled to the consistency of good porridge and eaten with milk and sugar.

F. H.—The object of manuring is not necessarily to benefit the land, but (1) To make up what is deficient in the available food supply of the soil for the benefit of the plant. (2) To stimulate the plant by a supply of immediately assimilative food, and thus enable it the better to take up the food of the soil, and (3) To stimulate the bacteria of the soil, upon which its fertility depends, preferably by ammoniacal products. The latter function is especially valuable in heavy clay soils, where the conditions for bacterial life are unfavourable.

Mincing Lane.—Our statement that the New York market price as published should not be taken as a basis of price in sales to Canada was grounded on the fact that the bond value of sugar in New York cannot be calculated directly from it. The full duty on 96° crystals is \$1.68 per 100 lbs., and the bond price is arrived at by deducting this from the published price. As, however, the great bulk of American sugar is either preferential or free, and pays varying or no duties according to its source, it will readily be understood that the bond price cannot be found without a knowledge of the sources of the sugar, and the relative quantities for the period to which the published price referred. Otherwise the latter would only give the basis for calculating the bond price when none of the sugar to which it referred was free or preferential.

Netherlands.—In all cases where it is intended to experiment with cotton cultivation, very small preliminary plots should be planted before any expense is incurred in machinery. A couple of hand-gins and a hand-press would be all that would be necessary for the first season. The hand-gins cost about £12 to £15 each, and the press £25. In the next stage, too, the expenditure on machinery should be kept on the lowest possible scale until it is definitely proved whether the industry is likely to become a permanent one. You can take it that the cost of a small power ginnyery would be as follows:—

10-15-h.p. engine and boiler, capable of running four to six gins	...	...	...	...	£150
Shafting, bearings, pulleys and belting	...	...	...	...	50
Four McArthur single acting power gins, with accessories, at £25	...	...	...	...	100
					£300

As regards a press, in the early stages, two hand-presses would be sufficient; later on, if it was found that the industry would justify the expenditure, a power press of some sort should be put down. A screw-press would cost about £100 to £200, but a suitable hydraulic press could be got for about £125, or a larger one when the industry was more developed, for £260. A hydraulic press is, as a rule, preferable to one worked by a screw. The former is less likely to get out of order, more reliable in action, and also much quicker. Of course, in addition to this the cost of buildings would have to be considered, and there again, in the early stages as little expenditure should be incurred as possible. Doubtless in some places there would be some old buildings that could be utilised. Later on, should larger developments take place, the British Cotton Growing Association, 13, St. Ann Street, Manchester, will be glad to render any assistance in their power in advising as to plant and machinery, and also in looking after the ordering of same.

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. H. F. KERR has been appointed a Nominated Member of the Legislative Council of Jamaica, in the room of Mr. T. H. Sharp, resigned.

During the leave of absence granted to the HON. T. B. OUGHTON, Mr. H. I. C. Brown has been appointed to act as Attorney-General, Jamaica.

SIR HENRY MOORE JACKSON, Governor of Trinidad, arrived in England on May 13th on leave of absence which, we are sorry to say, he was compelled to take owing to ill-health.

MAJOR R. B. TODD, Inspector of Police, Assistant-Superintendent of the Fire Brigade and Adjutant of the Volunteers, Barbados, has been granted leave of absence for six months, from April 7th.

THE HON. A. G. BELL, M.Inst., C.E., Colonial Civil Engineer, 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.

During the absence on leave for nine months of the HON. J. E. GODFREY, M.B., C.M., from British Guiana, Mr. W. F. Law, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., has been appointed an official member of the Court of Policy.

MR. R. H. KORTRIGHT DYETT, Registrar and Provost Marshal, Antigua, has been re-appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands. Mr. William M. Mackison has been re-appointed an Official Member.

Consequent upon the death of CAPT. C. J. DYKE, Aide-de-Camp and Private Secretary to the Governor of Trinidad, Mr. Alfred Taitt has been appointed Private Secretary, and Sub-Inspector W. H. G. Thorne to be acting Aide-de-Camp.

THE HON. C. REES DAVIES, Attorney-General of British Honduras, has left the Colony on six months' leave of absence. Mr. H. T. Price, Senior Member of the Bar of British Honduras, is acting as Attorney-General during his absence.

MR. ROBERT WYATT, Superintendent of Police, British Honduras, has been granted three months' vacation leave of absence from April 4th, with an extension of leave for six months, during which time Mr. James L. Smith will act in his place.

MR. ALEXANDER PORTER, District Commissioner of Belize, British Honduras, is retiring from the Service, and will, it is expected, be succeeded by Mr. H. D. Phillips, District Commissioner of Stann Creek. Mr. Porter has already left the Colony on leave.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of LIEUT.-GEN. JOSCELINE HENEAGE WODEHOUSE, C.B., C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda, in succession to Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert MacGregor Stewart, K.C.B., who has resigned.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from $\frac{3}{4}\%$ on Thursday, April 25th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) 85.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44... ..	100	4%	101-103
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " 1925-42... ..	100	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	97-99
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935... ..	100	4%	104-106
123,670l.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42... ..	100	4%	98-100
1,098,907l.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934... ..	100	4%	106-108
85,479l.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " 1919-44... ..	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	101-103
422,593l.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " Inscribed Stock 1917-42... ..	100	4%	101-103
600,000.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " 1922-44... ..	100	3%	88-87
100,000	20	The Colonial Bank	£6	6%	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{3}{4}$
900,000.	Stock.	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Ord. Stock	100	—	49-52
600,000.	Stock.	" " " " Pref. Stock	100	5%	92-95
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	90-93
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.,	5	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{3}{4}$
46,874	5	" " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref.	5	—	—
329,775l.	Stock.	" " " " 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4%	79-81
335,800	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6%	97-101
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	—	18-21
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7% Preference	100	7%	101-104
31,250	10	" " " " 4% Extension Preference... ..	10	4%	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " " " 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4%	93-95
60,500.	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%	—
33,500.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	99-101
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	5	5%	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary	10	—	10-11 $\frac{1}{8}$
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	8s.	8-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
4,669	10	" " " " " " and "	10	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$
80,000.	100	" " " " " " 5% Deb.	100	5%	100-103

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

In their report for the half-year ended December 31st, 1906, the Directors state that the amount to credit of revenue is £34,203 9s. 7d., against £28,031 13s. 9d. for the corresponding half-year of 1905. The expenses have been £21,611 19s. 7d., against £23,231 10s. 10d., leaving a balance of £12,591 10s. 0d., to which is added £1,547 10s. 6d. interest on investments, and £312 16s. 8d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £14,451 17s. 2d., with which it is proposed to apply in payment of 8s. per share on the first preference shares, being 2s. balance of arrears £3,456 6s.; and 6s. dividend for six months to December 31st, 1906, £10,368 18s. Total, £13,825 4s.; leaving £626 13s. 2d. balance to current half-year's account. The traffic receipts for the six months show an increase of £5,460 19s. 1d. as compared with those for the corresponding period. The shareholders are reminded that in May, 1902, the Dominica-Martinique and Martinique-St. Lucia cables were interrupted and partly destroyed by the eruption of Mont Pelé, Martinique, and that, owing to the subsequent volcanic disturbances, it was thought desirable to postpone the work of repairing them. In March last, the work of restoration was effected, the two cables being joined up into one between Dominica and St. Lucia, instead of being landed at Martinique. The cost will appear in the next half-yearly accounts. The completion of this work re-establishes the duplication of the Company's cables between Cuba and Trinidad. The disastrous earthquake which occurred in January last, in Jamaica, destroyed the Company's office and several miles of the land-lines in and near Kingston. Fortunately the members of the staff, with one exception, escaped personal injury; and, owing to their prompt and energetic action, telegraphic communication was re-established within a few hours. A temporary office was opened at Bull Bay, a few miles outside the town and beyond the limit of the devastated area, thus affording the Governor and public of Jamaica the only telegraphic means of communicating with the rest of the world at the time of the catastrophe and during the events which followed. The Jamaica-Colon cable was also interrupted by the earthquake and has since been repaired. Fortunately, the Company's four cables, which land at the eastern end of the island, were uninjured. Telegrams relating to the Mansion House Relief Fund were transmitted free of charge over the cables of this and connecting companies. Certain losses have been sustained by the staff in Kingston owing to the partial destruction of their homes; and, at the meeting, the shareholders will be asked to sanction payment of them. In accordance with the provision of the Articles of Association, one of the Directors, Henry Holmes, Esq., retires at this meeting, and offers himself for re-election. The Auditors, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., also retire, and offer themselves for re-election.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Court of Directors in presenting the accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1906, express deep sorrow at the death of Sir James Fergusson, which took place in Jamaica on January 14th. They report a continued expansion of the company's business, and an improved financial result. After providing £168,989 14s. 5d. for depreciation of the fleet and property (as compared with £141,412 19s. 11d. in the preceding year) there remains a balance of £40,155 9s. 6d., from which the Court recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum on the Preference Stock. After dealing with their new steamers and the South American and Australian routes, the Directors say that on the West Indian route—as mentioned in the last report—the Transatlantic Mail Steamers have continued their voyages from Jamaica to New York, and the facilities thus afforded continue to be appreciated by the North American, West Indian,

and Central American passengers and shippers. The important question of an adequate payment to the Company by the British and West Indian Colonial Governments for the conveyance of mails by the Transatlantic Steamers has been the subject of prolonged negotiations, and although the Court of Directors are able to report that the Draft Transatlantic Contract on a poundage basis has now been agreed to, the contract has not yet been signed. With regard to the West Indian Intercolonial Service, the importance of affording regular and adequate intercommunication with all the British West Indian Colonies continues to receive the careful consideration of the Court, and representations have been made to H.M. Government, but the Court of Directors cannot, in the interests of the proprietors, continue to link up those islands with a high-class passenger service unless the British Government and the colonies are prepared to subsidise the Intercolonial Service. Pending further negotiations with the British Colonial Office, the contract which was made for the partial resumption of the Intercolonial Service terminated on April 30th last, and the Intercolonial Steamers have been withdrawn from the service. The arrangement for the working of the Company's West Indian Cargo Steamers, referred to in the last report, has been satisfactory, and has led to a better regulation of the cargo tonnage employed on that route. Recognising the desirability of training young men for useful positions in the service, the Court of Directors have already given employment to a considerable number of youths in the steamers of the Company, and they have now under consideration a further scheme for the employment of cadets and boy sailors.

Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., moving the adoption of the Report at the Annual Meeting on May 16th, said that he hoped that in 1907 they would be able to pay a dividend on their ordinary shares. At the meeting a year ago he remarked that they had re-arranged their Transatlantic main line service on a commercial basis, and notwithstanding the fact that the last Government withdrew the mail subsidy of £84,500 per annum the company had been able to retain its hold on the trade, and was able to repel the attack of competitors, who endeavoured to take from them the trade which they had built up and carried on to the satisfaction of the public and of the colonies for nearly three-quarters of a century. It was true that it had been very uphill work, and they had only been able to hold their own by hard work, and by continuing the voyages of their main line steamers from Jamaica to New York. The terms of their late mail contract prevented them from doing this, and it was only possible for them to resume their New York service when the old mail contract terminated. If they were to continue to employ high-class passenger steamers on their main line service to Barbados and Trinidad, it was absolutely imperative that the British Government should recognise the great imperial service that the company had been doing for the Empire for many years past, and more especially during the last two years, during which period they had received the quite inadequate remuneration of about £7,000 per annum for carrying the British mails across the Atlantic. He hoped the Government without further delay would agree to pay the company a fair poundage rate for the mails. A draft contract, as mentioned in the directors' report, had been agreed with the British Post Office for a small payment per pound of mails, but even this for some reason had not yet been signed, so in order to save money in the slack season they had had to increase the interval between two of their West Indian main line mail steamers. In order as far as possible to assist the West Indian Colonies in the difficult position in which they were placed by the action of the late Government, and to give them time to make permanent arrangements, the Court of Directors, after the termination of the mail subsidy in June, 1905, carried on an inter-Colonial service for more than a year without any payment. After somewhat prolonged negotiations they made a contract with the Government in August last for a very much curtailed inter-colonial service, but even this very limited service ceased a fortnight ago on May 1st, the British Government having given them formal notice to terminate the contract. They had to keep in view the interests of the proprietors whilst not overlooking the responsibilities of the company to their old friends and supporters in the West Indies. They had by their actions during the last two years demonstrated their desire to do everything, and more than everything, that could be reasonably expected of a commercial undertaking, but in the absence of financial support they had again laid up their inter-colonial steamers, and they could not see their way to resume the inter-colonial service between the West Indian islands till a new contract had been agreed. Negotiations with the Government were in progress. Referring to the damage caused by the earthquake at Jamaica, the company's office was wrecked, but owing to the presence of mind and energy of the staff at Jamaica, with the valued assistance of the officers and crew of their coasting steamer *Arno*, the company's valuable wharves were saved from destruction by the fire which followed the earthquake—the fire, before it reached the company's wharves, being extinguished before much damage was done. The question of whether mail subsidies were or were not necessary was probably one about which there would be difference of opinion for many years to come. The company had had somewhat extensive experience of all four systems of carriage of mails, namely: Firstly, mail subsidies with fixed dates of sailing and a guarantee of speed. Secondly, mails paid for at an agreed poundage rate with fixed dates of sailing, but without any guarantee of speed. Thirdly, mails paid as private ship letters at 4d. per letter without any fixed dates of sailing and without any guarantee of speed. Fourthly, mails carried free. Either of the first two modes of payment were, in his opinion, fair to the company owning passenger steamers, provided the Government treated all the great mail companies equally. It was doubtful if any country gained by paying a subsidy to ship-owners except for services actually rendered. If the payment for all mails was based on the poundage of mails actually carried, like any other form of excessively valuable cargo, and the rate of poundage was settled in each case with some regard to the nature and value of the services performed, he believed that it would, in the long run, be to the advantage of all concerned, and if the money saved by the Government was spent in improving and cheapening cable communications the necessity for very fast mail steamers would disappear, as very fast steamers were not as comfortable for passengers as large steamers of more moderate speed. Those remarks about subsidies did not apply to any service which was maintained solely on national and imperial grounds, and where (as in the inter-colonial service in the West Indies) there was no trade to justify any service at all on a commercial basis, but they did apply to all cases where there was enough trade to pay a passenger service, provided the speed of the steamers was somewhat modified. Mr. Spencer H. Curtis seconded the adoption of the report, which, after a brief discussion, was agreed to.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) May 15th. "Very dry, rain wanted." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), May 8th. "Heavy rain continues, finer weather much needed." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 10th. "Heavy rains interfering with grinding." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 6th. "Weather is changeable." May 13th. "Weather showery and unsettled." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), May 6th. "Refreshing showers fairly general except in western section." Week ended May 1st. **PORT ANTONIO**: "April 25th to 29th, slight showers, April 30th to May 1st, fine." **KINGSTON**: "April 25th to 30th, fine, May 1st, rain."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. J. Boby), May 13th:—Mr. A. Arias, Mr. and Mrs. D. Alexander, Mr. C. L. Alleyne, Mrs. Alleyne, Mr. E. Balding, Dr. E. Bronstorff, Mr. J. Balleer, Miss A. Bell, Mr. G. Brocklehurst, Miss Brocklehurst, Mr. W. R. Buttenshaw, Miss Belmar, Dr. A. Christian, Miss Cleaver, Mr. W. P. Deacon, Capt. Dickson, Mr. C. Freeman, Mr. H. E. Fenwick, Mr. F. Blacke-Fraser, Mrs. Flanagan, Miss Flanagan, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon and Son, Miss B. Goring, Mr. F. Gall, Mrs. Gall, Mrs. Goodman, Mr. G. W. Grant, Mrs. Greenidge and Infant, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. R. F. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. J., and three Misses Henderson, Rev. H. Hombersley, Miss Hombersley, Mrs. Hayward and Child, Mr. J. S. Heard, Mrs. P. Hill, Mr. H. Hall, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. J. C. Hoad, Mr. W. C. Hutson, Mr. A. W. Jensen, Miss Jürgens, His Excellency Sir H. M. Jackson, K.C.M.G., Lady Jackson, Mrs. F. Johnston and Son, Mr. J. James, Mr. G. Kellard, Mrs. Kellard, Mr. W. Leach, Mr. Leonardi, Mrs. Leonardi, Mr. Bert de Lamarre, Miss Loveluck, Mr. L. C. Leefman, Mr. Loveluck, Rev. Lovibond, Mr. J. Lлевissis, Miss Law, Mr. G. Madge, Miss Mortimer, Mr. C. Mallett, C.M.G., Master Mallett, Miss Mare, Mrs. Marvez, Mr. B. Murray, Mrs. B. Murray and Child, Miss Musgrave, Mr. D. Melville, Mr. C. D. MacPhail, Mr. and Mrs. Malet-Paret and Child, Miss Plissonneau, Miss Renwick, Capt. and Mrs. Roger, Mr. and Mrs. Roden, Mr. J. V. Roberts, Mr. E. R. Smith, Mr. W. L. Smith, Mrs. J. M. Schoener, Mr. B. H. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Schoener and three Children, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Storey, Miss E. Scott, Mr. F. G. K. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. Smellie and two Children, Mr. and Mrs. R. Spence and four Children, The Hon. W. H. Stoker, Mr. A. Scott, Mr. A. H. Spooner, Mr. M. J. Taurel, Mr. and Mrs. C. Twose and Son, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Thomson, Mr. H. Vardy, Mrs. C. de Verveuil, Mr. and Mrs. Walker and two Children, Mr. R. Worke, Mrs. Worke, Rev. Wallace, Mrs. Wallace, Mr. A. Wakefield, Capt. F. M. Watson, Mr. P. A. Wade, Mr. W. Cowling, Mrs. Caddy and Child, Mr. G. Carto, Miss Flood, Mrs. Granger and four Children, Mrs. J. Jordan and two Children, Mr. J. Marshall, Mr. S. Trethewey, Mr. Granger and Son, Mr. G. Hellgreu, Mr. A. Lees, Mr. J. Acquatilla, Mrs. Acquatilla and Child, Mr. F. Agostini, Mr. and Mrs. Charlois and four Children, Mr. Casanora, Mr. Jule Epais, Mr. A. Madeheim, Mr. G. MacKenzie, Mr. J. Purcell, Mr. J. Singh, Mrs. J. J. O. de Jonge van Beek en Donk and Child, Mr., Mrs. and two Misses Maduro Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. Penso, Mr. A. Pietrantonì, and Mr. D. Querido.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena* (Capt. H. J. Boby), May 22nd:—Mr. Boughton Hamilton, two Misses Hamilton, Mr. A. E. Craig, Mrs. J. R. Phillips, Mr. G. C. Leisse, Mr. Alfred W. Low, Mr. Guillaume Torres, Mrs. Torres, Miss Roldan, Miss M. C. Dumbleton, Mr. W. Biffen, Mr. John E. Farmer, Mr. Stephen Warburton, Mr. M. Benado, Miss G. Ashton, Mr. Otto Steffens, Rev. A. E. L. Sayers, Mrs. Sayers, and Mr. George A. Walker.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe) May 5th:—Major Alone, Mr. and Mrs. Archer, Miss Bancroft, Major Barlow, Hon. V. G. Bell, Miss Burke, Capt. Carden, Miss Chambers, Rev. and Mrs. Charles, Dr. and Mrs. Clare, Miss Copeland, Mrs. D. Alcazar, Mr. G. L. Desporte, Mr. J. G. Davis, Mrs. Fawcett, Rev. and Mrs. Graham and seven Children, Miss Marsh, Rev. and Mrs. Martin and four Children, Col. and Mrs. Morgan, Miss Morrison, Mrs. O'Brien, Rev. and Mrs. H. Phillips, Master Donald Pringle, Lieut. Painton, Mr. A. C. Solomon, Mr. W. L. Wigan, Mr. W. R. Knight, and Mr. Samuel Ogden.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), May 18th:—**Jamaica:** His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, Mr. Cavalier, Mr. and Mrs. Few, Miss D. McFarlane, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Master Gabriel D. Z. Granados, Col. C. Kitchener, Mr. G. N. McGrath, Mr. P. Prendergast, Mr. F. G. Smith, Miss Freda Solomon, Miss H. Thorsby, Mr. J. F. Tomlinson, and Mr. A. Trench.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

We understand that the temporary West Indian intercolonial mail service will be resumed almost immediately pending the settlement of an arrangement for a fuller and more adequate service. Until a definite announcement can be made, our readers are advised to mark their correspondence "Per first opportunity." A list of occasional sailings can always be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. The R.M.S.P. Co. announce that after the departure of the "Magdalena" on May 22nd, the next outward passenger steamer will be the "Atrato" on June 12th, subsequent to which date departures will again be fortnightly. In view of this alteration, the next issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR will be published on Tuesday, June 11th.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan 1 to Apr. 25	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to April 25.	1907 1906	April 1 to April 14.	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to April 27.	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to April 29.	1907 1906
Sugar	5985 14,578 Tns.	21,103 28,774 Tons.	1,227 706 Tons.	130,448 102,246 Galls.	182,703 298,450 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...	...	...	...
Molasses	23,376 26,010 Pns.	372 1,302 Puns.	...	...	{ 954 463 Puns. 28 — Trcs. 39 — Brls. }	686 2 Puns.	...	...	...	...
Rum	5,907 7,340 Puns.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	2,283 2,905 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,361 41,439 Bags.	...
Cocoa	17,661 3,300 lbs.	1,980 1,630 Cwts.	...	3,360 11,680 "	...	...	...	...	...
Coffee	3,762 1,674 "	...	3,599,294 3,682,930	...	...	...	...	...
Coconuts	73,600 24,336	584,825 286,000	...	8,524 5,105 Bags.	...	...	...	...	...
Copra	359 828 Bales.	...
Cotton	30 — lbs.	...	...	...	...	1,816 4,882 Bags.	...
" Seed
Asphalt
Oranges	130,012 1,376,830	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bananas	656,970 264,387 stems	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pimento	4,011 769 Cwts.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	19,871 27,932 ozs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2543 2783 Brls.	...
Diamonds	755 564 carats	...	...	...	...	...	...	272 324 1/2-Bels.	...
Rice	2,624,314 34,864 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	317 302 Cases.	...
									32 98 Bags.	

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The Market was closed from Friday evening until Tuesday morning for the Whitsuntide holidays. Business has been checked in some degree by the approaching holidays. The speculative beet Market, which was firm at daily advancing prices up to the close of the week ending May 11th, has since, under the influence of selling orders from the Continent and profit-taking realisations, had a set back, and prices, which at one period marked an advance of 4½d. now show only about 1½d. (for May) advance since the date of our last report.

The latest quotations of 88% beet are:—May, 9s. 11½d.; June, 9s. 11½d.; July, 10s. 0½d.; August, 10s. 0½d., and October/December, 9s. 7½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	Tons
Europe	2,463,700	3,130,000	2,140,000	2,760,000	2,690,000	
United States	356,000	340,000	270,000	200,000	250,000	..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	419,700	300,000	390,000	240,000	400,000	..
Total	3,239,400	3,770,000	2,800,000	3,200,000	3,340,000	..

Quotations of 88% Beet, May 17th:—

9s. 11½d.	8s. 1d.	11s. 7½d.	9s. 3d.	8s. 4d.
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Grocery West Indian.—Since last advices a fair quantity of crystallised has been offered, amounting to nearly 2,000 tons, the bulk of which sold at an advance of 3d. to 4½d. last week, but at the auctions this week, in sympathy with the decline in price of beet and the near approach of the holidays, the demand slackened, although prices showed hardly any change, the range being 16s. to 18s. 3d., according to quality.

Muscovado.—The demand has been moderate. On the spot 200 barrels and 350 bags Barbados have been sold, good to fine at 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d.

Molasses Sugar.—Syrups have been in limited demand. Quotations, 12s. 6d. to 15s. 6d., according to quality.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons
Imports	13,967	27,000	17,000	18,000	8000	
Deliveries	13,632	15,000	13,000	17,000	16,000	..
Stocks (May 11th)	9986	20,000	14,000	14,000	21,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: ... 16s. 9d. 14s. 6d. 18s. 9d. 15s. 9d. 15s. 0d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, May 11th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Puns.
Jamaica	7338	5500	7700	7700	9600	
Demerara	8729	9700	6100	11,800	9900	..
Total of all kinds	7256	21,400	21,700	28,100	29,100	..

The Market has been steady for home trade kinds. A fairly large quantity of Jamaicas have been sold, common to good at from 2s. 8d. to 2s. 11d.; fine and choice would sell readily, quotations: 3s. to 8s., according to quality. In Demeraras a steady business has been done at 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1½d. proof for good Estate marks, prices being occasionally dearer.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, May 11th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Bags.
Trinidad	6832	11,100	15,000	23,900	19,600	
Grenada	2905	10,200	14,800	21,200	11,700	..
Total of all kinds	44,289	72,300	77,100	91,800	84,300	..

The Market continues very firm and the tendency is still to higher rates. Business has been restricted on account of short supplies. The fair assortment at auction was disposed of at an irregular advance of 2s. to 5s. Trinidad quotations are higher, but only a few lots have been sold at 92s. 6d. to 98s. for good middling to fine red quality. About 700 bags Grenada were offered at auction and sold at extreme prices, fair to good fetching 81s. 6d. to 84s. 6d., and fine, 85s. 6d. to 86s. 6d. Fine quality is reported to have been sold privately at 88s. Other West India kinds offered were limited to some few parcels of St. Lucia, which sold at 80s. to 88s. St. Vincent sold at 80s. 6d., and Dominica sold at 80s. to 85s. Some 300 bags of Jamaica sold at auction at very high rates, common to fair at 79s. 6d. to 84s., good, 85s. 6d. to 86s. 6d. Quotations: Trinidad fair collected, 90s. to 92s. 6d., Estate Marks, 93s. to 98s.; Grenada fair quality, 83s. to 84s.; fermented, 85s. to 86s. 6d. Fair Native from other Islands, 80s. to 81s., fermented, 82s. to 88s.

COFFEE.—In the terminal Market a flat tone has generally prevailed and business has been much restricted. A slight improvement in prices, however, consequent on smaller receipts, has been apparent at the close. The spot Market has been firm and most sorts of Central American show an advance of 1s. to 2s. A good quantity of Jamaica was mostly sold at auction at steady rates: low to ordinary at 35s. to 37s., good to fine ordinary, 38s. 6d. to 46s., low to good middling, 48s. to 60s., good bold, 62s. to 68s., and pea berry at 50s. to 63. Santos for May delivery, 27s.

COTTON.—A fair business has been done in West Indian Sea Island, but it has been confined chiefly to Antigua, St. Vincent, and St. Croix. Spinners are indifferent buyers unless they obtain a distinct concession and prices are easier. The sales include St. Kitts at 22½d., St. Croix at 20d. to 22½d., Montserrat at 14d. to 22½d., Antigua at 22d. to 26d., Barbados at 22½d., and a considerable quantity of St. Vincent stained, 8d. to 12d.

ARROWROOT.—Steady. Business done privately, unimportant.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice is quiet; fine, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. Distilled oil, 3s. 1d. Hand pressed, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. Concentrated, £25, with an upward tendency. Now that the price of lemons has fallen in the American market the fruit which was attracted there is again coming to the United Kingdom. The firmness of the market has, however, been maintained.

PIMENTO is quiet. A few bags in auction were bought in at 2½d. for fair. **NUTMEGS** and **MACE**, quiet. **GINGER.**—Quiet. Jamaica in fair supply met a steady demand, and of 467 barrels and 65 bags offered, about 400 packages sold at and since the sales. Prices were again rather irregular, but on average steady rates were paid. Good medium to bold sold at 90s. to 96s., low middling to middling at 84s. to 90s., ordinary to good ordinary at 75s. to 82s., and ratoon at 70s. **COPRA.**—Steady at recent decline. Value of fair marketable qualities, £23 10s. to £24.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

XCIV.



Lieut.-Colonel A. B. R. Kaye.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

June 10th, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6042 CENTRAL.

ON another page we give the text of SIR EDWARD GREY'S statement in the House of Commons with regard to the future of the Brussels Convention. Individual Members of the Government were so deeply committed to a certain policy in this connection before the last General Election that no pronouncement which would prove entirely satisfactory to the sugar-producing colonies could be expected. The only crumb of comfort, so far as we can see, lies in the assurance that the Government does not desire to see a revival of bounties, and it is earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that they will use every means still in their power to prevent the restoration of the bounty system and the re-establishment of cartels, which were proving the ruin of the colonies, detrimental to the manufacturers of sugar machinery, and would—by reducing the available sources of supply—have compelled the consumer in the long run to pay an enhanced price for his sugar. If something is not done the Government will be face to face with a problem, the seriousness of which

cannot be over-rated. We may well leave it to our readers to imagine what our feelings are at this time. The extracts from letters which we have received from Chambers of Commerce from

every part of the Empire, give a significant indication of what may be expected if the old order of things, with bounties, cartels, and protection for foreigners in British markets is re-established.

THE West India Committee have received from the Trinidad Cocoa Planters' Association, a letter calling attention to a statement made by the Secretary of State through MR. HARCOURT (for MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL), in reply to MR. SUMMERBELL on March 27th. In this question, MR. SUMMERBELL asked whether it was a fact that as a result of the importation of coolies, wages had been reduced during recent years, "particularly on cocoa estates where wages some years ago were 60 cents. per day as against 35 cents. per day at the present time, the result being that a number of the native population are unemployed and in poor circumstances." In reply, Lord Elgin said that "the Special Committee recently appointed by the Governor to consider the labour question in Trinidad reported that no general reduction in wages had taken place; any reduction that may recently have occurred on cocoa estates is doubtless due to the failure of the crop." The Cocoa Planters' Association appear to have taken this to mean that Lord Elgin admitted that there had been a reduction of wages, whereas it seems clear—and a visit to the Colonial Office has confirmed it—that his reply was only worded to cover such a possibility, while in no way asserting that a reduction had taken place. As a matter of fact there has been no reduction, 60 cents was and is still paid to skilled workmen for pruning cocoa, and to no others; and planters in Trinidad are always willing and pleased to pay the same wage for the same class of labourers to-day. 35 to 40 cents is, and has been for years past the ruling wage paid to all labourers on cocoa estates in Trinidad. This has been pointed out in a letter to the Colonial Office by the West India Committee, who have been glad of the opportunity of acting on behalf of so important an industry in Trinidad as Cocoa.

IN his Presidential Address to the Members of the Dominica Agricultural Society, the Hon. H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS referred to many matters of importance. Prominent among them were insurance against hurricanes, the need of regular mail communication, the green lime trade, and the establishment of a citrate of lime industry. He mentioned also the advantages of exhibitions, which leads us to remind our readers that the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica propose to make an elaborate display of green limes at the show of colonial fruit at the Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on Thursday and Friday next, June 13th and 14th, when free "Dominica lime squashes" will form a feature. The only rift in the lute was the unfortunate difference of opinion which has resulted in there being now two planters' bodies instead of one in the island. Into the causes which have led to this it is not for us to enter. Nor would it be right for us to interfere. We may, however, be permitted to express the earnest hope that some *modus vivendi* may be arrived at whereby the work of those two very useful bodies, the Dominica Agricultural Society and the Dominica Planters' Association, may be centralised. Dominica is progressing very rapidly, and when the estates opened up by new settlers on the virgin soil of the interior come into bearing the results shown will, we believe, be such that a still further influx of new settlers will follow. We are glad to learn that Mr. H. HESKETH BELL's little pamphlet "Notes on Dominica" is to be revised and brought up to date. In the light of the experience gained since it was first written, revised information as to the amount of capital required by young settlers and the cost of bringing land under cultivation will greatly enhance its value. A matter tending to increase the prosperity of Dominica, the important scheme which is on foot for making a light railway from the mouth of the Layou River to the interior with the object of tapping the timber resources of the island and clearing and opening up lands for cultivation. As an enterprise developed entirely in the island by a group of planters who are endeavouring to establish a new industry which has hitherto received scant attention, their scheme would certainly appear to be entitled to substantial support from Downing Street, and the cordial good wishes of all.

THE recent correspondence between the West India Committee and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the Spirit Surtax, which has been published in our columns, shows that while the injustice of the tax so far as the British colonies are concerned has been still further demonstrated, the official attitude towards it remains obdurate. Every request made for redress, or, at least an impartial inquiry into the matter, has been met by a non-possumus. At the interview between the representatives of the home distillers and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, on March 31st, 1898, at which they protested against the recommendation of the Royal West Indian Commissioners that the differential duty should be abolished, the Chairman of the Central Association of Scotch Malt Distillers went to the root of the matter at once. The abolition, he said, of the differential duty would lead to the importation of an enormous quantity of cheap foreign spirit, which had already become a competitive element of a very undesirable kind. It is not too much to say that the policy of successive Governments has been—and properly—to protect the home distillers from unequal foreign competition. This is, indeed, practical Imperialism, and must surely meet with the approbation of all classes of consumers. But why should the loyal West Indies, which are an integral part of the British Empire, and have from time immemorable supplied Great Britain with sound wholesome spirit, be included in what amounts with industrial spirit to prohibition, and with potable spirit to serious disability? The maintenance of the spirit surtax can only be justified on two grounds. Either it is a protection to the home distillers or a recognition of legitimate claims for compensation. If it be the former why should the fact not be acknowledged by the authorities? If it be the latter, no possible ground can exist for refusing an inquiry into its merits, more especially as we have brought forward strong evidence of the untenable nature of the claims on which the surtax is based. Who shall say that the West Indies have not a genuine grievance in this matter?

LIEUT.-COLONEL A. B. R. KAYE.

Lieut.-Colonel A. B. R. Kaye, Inspector-General of Police of Barbados, who volunteered his services during the recent riots in St. Lucia, which he was largely instrumental in quelling, joined the service in 1879 as Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. He became Captain in 1887, Honorary Major in 1894, and Lieut.-Colonel in the Army in February 1903. He served during the Indian rebellion in the North-West Territory of Canada in 1885 with Boulton's Mounted Infantry, and was present at the Fish Creek engagement and the taking of Batoche, for which he received the medal and clasp. He was appointed Sub-Inspector of Constabulary in British Honduras in 1887, Acting District Magistrate of Orange Walk in the same colony in 1889, and in the same year he became Justice of the Peace and was made Inspector of Police. He served as Acting-Inspector Commandant of the British Honduras Constabulary, and ex-officio member of the Executive and Legislative Council from August 1889 to May 1890, a position in which he was confirmed in 1892. Seven years later he was transferred to Barbados as Inspector of the Police, and he became Inspector-General in August 1901. In British Honduras in 1891-2 he was granted a gratuity and the thanks of the Government for his services during a small-pox epidemic, and for his action in St. Lucia he received the cordial thanks of Mr. Ralph Williams, the Governor of the Windward Islands, as well as of a gathering of the residents at the Castries Club, at which Mr. McHugh, the editor of the *Voice*, expressed to him the gratitude that was felt by the law-abiding section of the people of St. Lucia.

THE BARBADOS POLICE.

We are indebted to that capable amateur photographer, Mr. H. W. Parkinson, for the photograph from which the full-page illustration in the present issue is taken. It represents the return on May 3rd of Lieut.-Colonel A. B. R. Kaye and the contingent of Barbados police from St. Lucia, where they went on April 25th, to assist in suppressing the riots. Colonel Kaye volunteered his services, and he and his men were sworn in as special constables in St. Lucia in order that they might conform with the law of the island. They arrived back in Carlisle Bay, Barbados, at 6 a.m., and disembarked two hours later at the Chamberlain Bridge, where they were enthusiastically cheered by a large concourse of people. Headed by the police band they marched to the Central Station, and were there dismissed after a very successful expedition.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND THE EMPIRE.

The West India Committee in February last circularised the leading Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, asking them to support their request that the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention might be continued. In this letter it was pointed out that the effect of the Convention had been to restore confidence to the West Indian sugar industry and to the sugar refining industry of this country, without bringing about any material rise in price, and it was shown moreover that since the Convention the production of sugar in the world had been larger than it had ever been before, the effect of the agreement having merely been to stamp out unfair competition. The replies from the Chambers of Commerce have been strikingly unanimous, and the extracts which we give below from letters received, will show what an overwhelming mass of feeling there is throughout the Empire in favour of the measure which has secured for the sugar-producing colonies equality of opportunity with foreigners in British markets which had been denied to them for so many years.

Bombay.—The Chamber of Commerce wrote expressing sympathy with the efforts of the West India Committee to promote the growth of the sugar industry in the West Indies.

Calcutta.—The Bengal Chamber of Commerce wrote to the Government of India asking for information as to what action His Majesty's Government contemplated taking in the matter.

Cawnpore.—The Upper India Chamber of Commerce wrote that the policy of the Chamber had always been directed towards the suppression of bounties and the promotion of fair trade in sugar. The Committee of the Chamber recognised in the Brussels Convention a powerful instrument against a reversion to the pernicious bounty system, and should India be given an opportunity of expressing its views on the subject, representations in support of England's adherence to the Convention would be made.

Karachi.—The Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to the Government of India to the effect that the continuance of the Convention would be in the interest of the sugar trade in general and that of India in particular.

Madras.—The Chamber of Commerce addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

MY LORD,—Reports have for some time been current that the present Government is considering whether to discontinue being a party to the Brussels Sugar Convention after September 1908, giving the required twelve months' notice to that effect in the course of the next few months. In case there is any foundation for the reports referred to I am desired to say that this Chamber is decidedly of opinion that the Convention should be adhered to, as it is beneficial to the sugar trade as a whole, having tended to stamp out unfair State-aided competition, against which no unassisted sugar industry could contend.

So far as India is concerned, it is true that legislation imposing countervailing duties on bounty-fed beet sugar had made Indian sugar producers independent of the Convention prior to its coming into force, but the producers do not forget the ruinous losses they were previously suffering, and cannot but sympathise with their West Indian fellow subjects whose only safeguard against the tyranny of bounties is the Convention.

It has sometimes been said that the Convention and the countervailing duties which preceded it have been of no benefit to this country, as they have not prevented a continuous increase of imports of foreign sugar. The explanation of this increase is, that, with growing prosperity, natives of India are more and more substituting refined sugar for the unrefined or costly native-refined sugar which they have hitherto used. At present, India is certainly not in a position to supply the whole of the white sugar which she consumes, but her refining industry is a growing one, and there is no reason why, eventually, she should not supply all her wants locally, provided always that the industry is not deprived of what may be called a living wage through the dumping on India, below cost, of foreign bounty-fed sugar.

As the principle involved, whether in adhering to the Convention to avoid bounties or in legislating to counter-vail them, is to some extent the same, this Chamber submits that if that recently accepted principle is now shown to be liable to rejection at the dictates of party politics it must create a feeling of insecurity, and so deter capital from entering the sugar business in India on the scale required for its proper development and in accordance with legitimate "Swadeshi" aspirations.

I have, &c.,

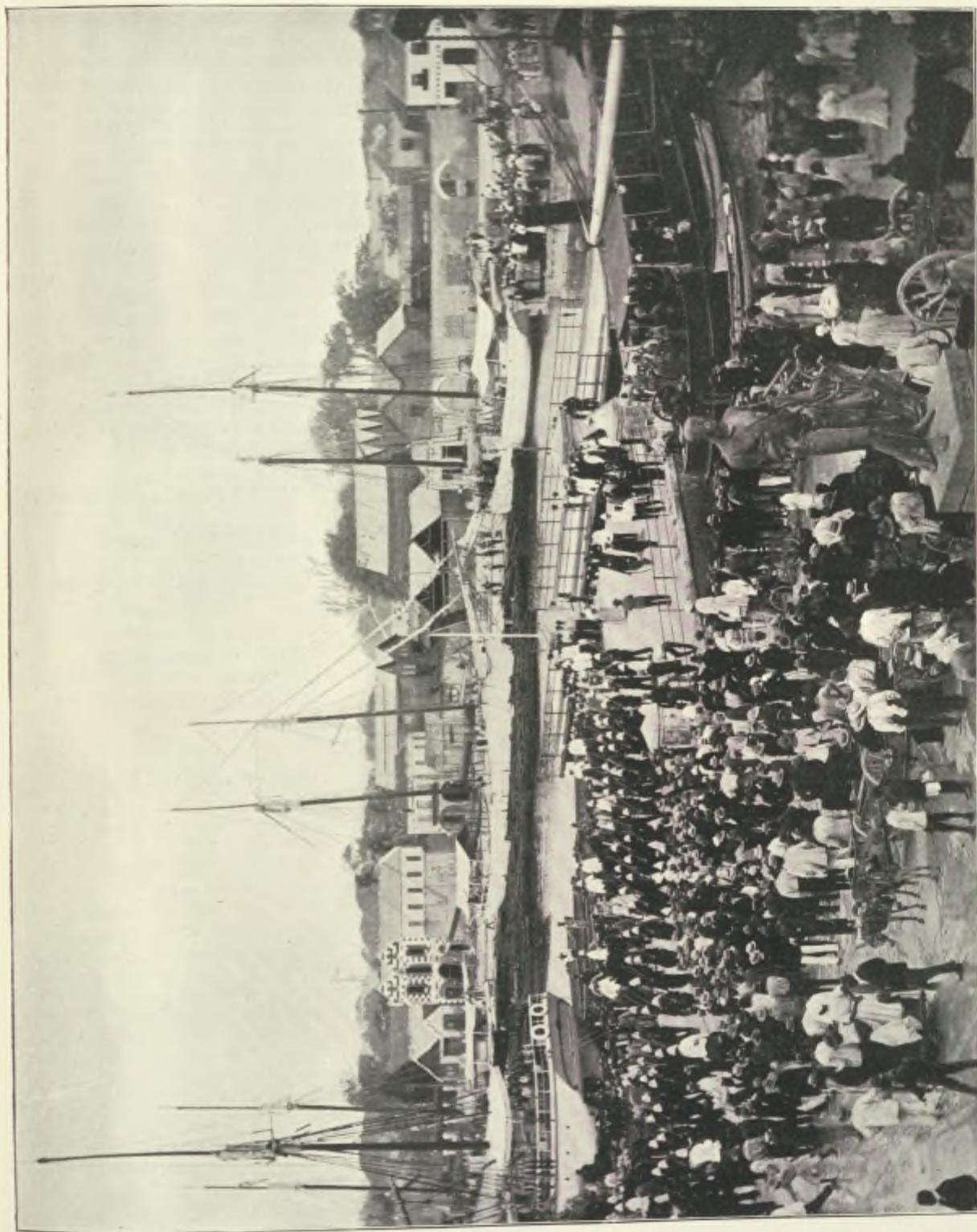
(Signed) V. G. LYNN, *Chairman.*
A. E. LAWSON, *Secretary.*

Ceylon.—The Chamber of Commerce expressed their general sympathy with the aim of the West India Committee to stimulate the sugar industry in the West Indies.

Halifax.—The Board of Trade were in full accord with the West India Committee in desiring the continuance of the Convention, and a letter to that effect was being addressed to the Secretary of State.

Hamilton.—The Board of Trade wrote that it was quite clear that if the Convention was not continued, the result would be the ruin of the sugar industry in the cane-producing countries of the world, unless countervailing duties were imposed on importations from countries which granted bounties either on production or export.

Montreal.—The Board of Trade were in full accord with the West India Committee in desiring the continuance of the Convention, and a letter to that effect was being addressed to the Secretary of State.



From a Photograph by)

[H. W. PARKINSON, Esq.]

THE RETURN OF THE POLICE FROM ST. LUCIA TO BARBADOS,

MAY 3rd, 1907.

Vancouver.—The Board of Trade forwarded to the Secretary of State a letter asking for the continuance of the Brussels Convention in the interests of the West Indian colonies. They also forwarded a letter from Mr. B. T. Rogers, of the British Columbia Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., a gentleman of considerable experience in the sugar industry, the local refinery, besides now owning their own plantations in Fiji, importing direct from Java, Queensland, &c. In this letter Mr. Rogers said:

I would unhesitatingly say that the continuation of the Brussels Convention is absolutely necessary to the continued existence of the sugar industry in the British West Indies.

My opinion should, perhaps, carry all the more weight because I am totally disinterested, although I have full knowledge of the conditions under which these colonies have before had to work. In my opinion if Great Britain should withdraw from the Brussels Convention, grave disaster to the West Indies would certainly result.

Victoria.—The Board of Trade heartily approved of the continuance of the Convention, and would be very sorry to learn that the British Government intended to withdraw from it, in view of the great injury that would accrue to the West Indies. It was hoped, therefore, that the British Government would continue its support of the Brussels Sugar Convention.

Geelong.—The Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures communicated with the Secretary of State, urging that the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention be continued.

Orange River.—The Chamber of Commerce decided to address a letter to the Secretary of State in support of the Convention.

Pietermaritzburg.—The Chamber of Commerce addressed a letter to the Secretary of State communicating the resolution of the Executive Committee to the effect that it was desirable to defend British colonies from the effects of foreign sugar bounties and cartels, and that the Secretary of State should be respectfully urged to continue the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention.

Sierra Leone.—The Chamber of Commerce accorded its cordial support to the West India Committee's movement for urging the continuance of the Brussels Convention by His Majesty's Government.

Singapore.—The Chamber of Commerce and Exchange addressed the local Government, requesting them to convey to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Chamber's disapproval of Great Britain's withdrawing from the Convention.

Penang.—The Chamber of Commerce expressed their deep sympathy with the West India Committee in the matter.

Regina.—The Board of Trade passed a unanimous resolution cordially endorsing the request of the West India Committee, and addressed a letter to the Secretary of State urging the continuance of the Convention.

AERATED WATERS AND SUGAR.

At the annual meeting of the National Union of Mineral Water Manufacturers Association, held at the Hotel Cecil, on May 9th, the maintenance of the sugar tax naturally formed the principal subject of discussion. Much exception was taken to the action of one large firm who just before the Budget had lowered the price of their commodities over 50 per cent. Mr. Ainsworth specifically asked whether the Chancellor might not have been influenced by the untoward action of a firm—aye, a firm who were very clamorous for the reduction of these sugar duties—in lowering the prices of beverages on the eve of the introduction of the Budget? How, the Chancellor of the Exchequer might have asked, could their position be such a parlous one as they represented if they could reduce their prices in this extraordinary way? Why, in Lancashire myriads of leaflets were being circulated offering articles for which they once got a shilling a dozen at fourpence-halfpenny a dozen! This was the most mischievous incident in the history of the modern trade, for it was a distinct encouragement to the Chancellor not to reduce or remove the tax. Another member, Mr. Crick, even went so far as to move that "Inasmuch as the price of goods had been reduced by certain persons 50 per cent. below what it was before the sugar tax was imposed, no further action should be taken in the matter."

A RAILWAY FOR DOMINICA.

In the last few months of Mr. Hesketh Bell's sojourn in Dominica that energetic administrator set up a small sawing plant on the Imperial Road, some 1,800 feet above sea level, and demonstrated the fact that lumber cut and brought down even by head-loads from the interior could be sold at a profit on the coast. This object lesson duly brought fruit. A small firm at once acquired the sawing plant from Government, and the experience thus gained is likely to prove the parent of far-reaching results in the immediate future. A small syndicate of planters has been now formed with the object of making a light railway from the mouth of the Layou River into the interior, in order

to exploit the lumber, clear and plant the land so cleared, and provide at the same time a cheap means of transport for the public and for the produce of the estates near which the line is to pass. The detailed survey recently completed has proved that a light railway can be located among the ravines and mountains of the interior with far less difficulty than has hitherto been imagined. Starting from the coast and following for the first two miles the southern bank of the Layou River, through land belonging to the Hillsboro' and Clark Hall Estates, the line as prospected, then ascends, finding its way through the estates of York Valley and Coffee, and zigzagging through the land of a few small holders till it enters on the heavily timbered upper valley of Layou Park, and so reaches Harris; here it forks, one branch extending southwards through Saltoun and Corona, the other, going eastward over a ridge at a height of 1,400 feet, passes into the land recently taken up from the Crown by Mr. Campbell, and descending in a northerly direction, ends at a point in Vermont, not far from the Laurent River. No formidable difficulties have been met with; for the streams are all bridged high up where they are small, and in laying out the line on the side slopes of the hills no precipices or fields of rock have been encountered. The maximum gradient taken is one in twenty-five, and as from the sea to the highest point the rise in level is continuous, it will be possible to perform the greater part of the traffic work by gravitation, locomotives being required only for returning the empty trucks and for hauling the loads from the two miles beyond the ridge up to its summit. A gauge of 2' or 2½' is proposed, with 20 lb. rails; the bends are laid out with a minimum radius of 40', and with swivel-bogey trucks will easily allow the passage of 24' logs. The scheme has now been submitted to the Colonial Government, which, it is hoped, will see its way to grant certain moderate concessions asked for; the chief of these are the grant of 100 acres of Crown land for each mile of line laid down (the total length as surveyed is 13½ miles), a monopoly within a distance of 5 miles from the line, together with an option for ten years to purchase Crown land in that region up to 7,000 acres, at the present rate of 10s. per acre. It is estimated that the lumber trade (including cord wood and charcoal), which the proposed line would make possible, should yield a highly remunerative return; without this, indeed, there would be no traffic, of course, for several years sufficient to support the line, for the estates growing up in the interior are only just beginning to come into bearing, and can at present furnish little produce except their timber, which, however, is abundant, and of a valuable description. The benefit to the island generally if this scheme be carried through must be immense; for not only will large areas of new land in the interior be cleared and planted, and the export trade greatly stimulated, but as time goes on the line will work its way onwards to the Windward coast, and supply that means of communication across the island for want of which the eastern side of Dominica has always suffered.

THE POLICING OF THE WEST INDIES.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne in a letter from Barbados, which appeared in the *Times* of May 20th, recalled the fact that in October 1905, he wrote a letter to that journal criticising the proposed withdrawal of troops from the West Indies and the substitution for them of a single ship of war, which was deemed sufficient for the policing and protection of the islands. He observed that since that date the inadequacy of the present arrangement had been demonstrated on three separate occasions—namely, during the riots at Georgetown, British Guiana, early in 1906; at the time of the recent earthquake in Jamaica, when the *Indefatigable* was more than 1,000 miles distant; and lastly, during the riots at St. Lucia in the last days of April, at the outbreak of which, on April 23rd, the *Indefatigable* was at Guatemala, and did not leave Jamaica for St. Lucia till April 28th. Mr. Alleyne added:—"I may point out that, had the demand for help come to Barbados some two months ago, when strikes of all kinds were prevalent, it would not have been possible for us to respond, and the position of St. Lucia would have been very serious. Fortunately, everything is quiet here at present, but we are left with the remnant of a handful of police under the command of a sergeant. What is the remedy for this patent and obvious failure? It may not be pleasant to retrace steps and confess an error, but that is the only thing to be done, and both parties in the House have been equally at fault. Instead of a floating and fluctuating force, we must have a permanent one at a fixed point. Every island in difficulty would then know where to telegraph for help, and steamers could be requisitioned to convey them. Barbados would be the best place, as the barracks are still in existence, and opportunities for steamers are more frequent than elsewhere. At St. Lucia also there are barracks enough and to spare, and some fractions of the millions spent on them might be utilized before they proceed to rapid decay. A very large force would not be necessary. What does it take to garrison Cyprus? At this moment there are a large number of the Marines on board the *Indefatigable*, and they are only useless because they are everywhere but where they are wanted to be. If they had been quartered here or in St. Lucia, two of these deplorable fiascos would have been spared us, and the relief to Jamaica afforded much earlier."

A PRESENTATION.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on the 14th ult., a letter from the Dominica Planters' Association to Sir Nevile Lubbock, signed by Mr. H. A. Frampton, Chairman, Mr. E. A. Agar, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Geoffrey Downing, Hon. Sec., was read expressing their full appreciation of the great benefit of the cordial assistance of so influential a body as the West India Committee in bringing prominently before the public the potentialities of Dominica. "It is, nevertheless, in connection with the Royal Horticultural Society's exhibition of colonial grown fruit, held in London in December last, that we now feel this island to be more intimately concerned, and we quite realise that it was chiefly owing to the manner in which our exhibit of citrus fruits was handled by your Committee that Dominica was enabled to gain the gold medal awarded. We cannot, however, express our appreciation of the support and assistance accorded to us by your Committee without singling out the name of Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, your Secretary, who has worked so disinterestedly and with such good will on our behalf that we feel we are under a personal obligation to him. On this account and also because we believe that Mr. Aspinall's efforts will prove of considerable and lasting benefit to this island, we, the members of the Dominica Planters' Association, have determined to present him with a small memento which will serve to express to him in what kindly estimation his services are, and will be, remembered by the planters of Dominica. We are directing the memento, which it is intended should take the form of an inkstand, to be sent to you, and will ask you to be so kind as to present it to Mr. Aspinall on our behalf." Sir Henry Davson, the Deputy-Chairman, said that in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman it devolved on him to express the satisfaction felt by the Committee at the recognition by Dominica of any services they might have been enabled to render to that island. It was the more satisfactory as Dominica was not a sugar-producing colony, and it was a proof of the fact that the Committee was equally interested in all the products of the West Indian colonies. It was a great gratification to feel that the services of Mr. Aspinall, who never spared himself, were fully appreciated, and it afforded him much pleasure to hand to him the testimonial which the inhabitants of Dominica had so gracefully presented.

JAMAICA EARTHQUAKE POLICIES.

Speaking at the General Meeting of the Guardian Assurance Company on May 24th, the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard said that there had been an increase in the loss ratio due to the earthquakes that had taken place. There was first the earthquake in San Francisco, and that was followed by the earthquake and conflagration in Valparaiso, where they had a large number of policies. The conditions of those policies exonerated the company from all claims for fires following upon earthquakes, but, despite that, a large number of claims in this connection had been made on the company. They had refused to pay them with the result that litigation had been commenced against the company. Shortly after the close of the accounts there was an earthquake and fire in Jamaica, and a great many claims were again made against the company. The policies were issued under similar conditions to those in Chili in regard to this class of claim, and the attitude of the company had therefore to be the same, and they had refused to pay, with the same result. Litigation was threatened and would have to be fought. They would very much have liked to have seen their way to meeting the troubles of their friends in Jamaica, for they were in great sympathy with them. If they could have possibly done so they would have paid these claims, but they were not a philanthropic institution—and the whole question must be regarded purely from a business point of view. If they had shown any weakness in the matter it would have had a very detrimental effect upon them as regarded other places and would lay them open to earthquake and fire claims in any part of the world. We may add to this that the people of Jamaica mean to stand firm, and are hopeful of successfully substantiating their claims.

THE RELIEF FOR JAMAICA.

A supplementary estimate for the £150,000 grant-in-aid for the relief of sufferers from the earthquake in Jamaica, has been issued. The grant will be paid over in full to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, and any balance unexpended on March 31st, 1908, will not be surrendered. The expenditure out of the grant-in-aid will be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General. A further meeting of the Mansion House Relief Committee was held on Monday, June 3rd. In the absence of the Lord Mayor, who was suffering from a slight indisposition, Sir Nevile Lubbock took the chair, and a resolution of sympathy with the Duke of Abercorn, who has lately undergone a somewhat severe operation, was agreed to unanimously. It was reported that the fund amounted to £55,579, of which £40,000 had been remitted to the Crown Agents, and after meeting several necessitous cases in this country, there remained an available surplus of £13,840. The total of the fund raised by Mrs. Parker-Smith for the Women's Self-Help Association now amounts to £348 9s., the following

additional subscriptions having been received since our last list appeared: Lady Vallentin per Miss Price £5, and "X. Y. Z." 5s. We hope that our readers will help us to bring the total of this fund up to £500.

SUGAR MACHINERY AND THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

Mr. Robert Duncan, M.P., in a question in the House of Commons, asked for information regarding the amount of machinery exported to the West Indies before and after the Sugar Convention, but Mr. Lloyd-George was unable to give the information asked for, there being no separate record kept by the Customs Department of the exports of machinery for sugar manufacturers. He said, however, that the question of the revision of the classification of machinery in the official trade accounts, would be considered by a Departmental Committee during the autumn. Prior to the Brussels Convention, says the *Times* of May 29th, the sugar machinery industry languished very much, but since the abolition of the bounties many orders have been received for complete central cane sugar factories from various colonies and cane growing countries. There has also been a large amount of work in connection with the extension of factories in the West Indies, Cuba, Peru, Java, &c. Quite recently Messrs. Duncan Stewart & Co. have erected large sugar mills in Cuba, Jamaica, and San Domingo, and they are now busy with the machinery for a complete sugar factory to be erected at Ciego de Avila in Cuba this year, to deal with about 2,500 tons of cane per day. The Mirrlees-Watson Company have been supplying on a large scale crushing plant to Mexico and crystallization-in-motion plant to Cuba, Antigua, and other parts of the West Indies. They have completed or are completing contracts for machinery for producing high quality white sugar on a large scale in Mexico; a vacuum pan plant for Porto Rico; and new plants or additions for Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina, Straits Settlements, &c. In Jamaica Messrs. John McNeil & Co. have recently supplied the plant for two central sugar factories, and Duncan Stewart & Co., Ltd., have fitted up another. In short, this industry was completely restored by the revival in cane growing after the Brussels Convention put an end to the bounties on beet sugar. In the first three years after the Convention (1902-5) the trade revived by 55 per cent. over the three years ending with 1902 (*i.e.* before the Convention). With regard to machinery for sugar refining in Great Britain (which was almost destroyed by the Continental Bounty system) the value of plant supplied to refiners in 1902-5 exceeded by 78 per cent. the value supplied to them in 1900-2. A check has been put, however, on the demand for sugar machinery for the colonies since the impression began to prevail that the present Government would be induced to give notice of withdrawal from the Brussels Convention in September next. In view of such a prospect cane planters hesitate to renew or extend their plant.

THE MEMORIAL TO SIR HENRY NORMAN.

The tablet which has been erected in memory of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, was unveiled by Lord Roberts, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5th. The Norman Memorial has now practically been completed. The first Norman Gold Medal was awarded in July, 1906; the tablet in the cloister of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was unveiled by Field-Marshal Sir George White, V.C., in February last; the tablet for the Cantonment Church at Delhi is now in transit to India; and the tablet in the Crypt of St. Paul's just unveiled, completes the memorial. We could fain wish that it might have been found possible to erect a tablet in Jamaica also, but the available funds did not permit of it, though it is possible that it may be done later. As soon as the accounts of the fund can be finally closed it is proposed to send a copy of them to all subscribers whose addresses can be traced.

DINNER TO SIR ROBERT BOND.

Although Derby day cannot be considered an ideal one for a public dinner—more especially when the favourite is beaten—the large number of members and their friends who attended the West Indian Club banquet to Sir Robert Bond, the Premier of Newfoundland, on June 6th, testified to the great interest taken in this dinner. Sir Nevile Lubbock, Chairman of the Club, presided, and among those present were: Mr. Arthur a'Beckett, Hon. J. H. Allwood, Mr. C. W. Anderson, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. J. R. Boosé, Mr. Harry E. Brittain, Mr. R. H. Buxton, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. H. O. Carter, Senr., Mr. H. O. Carter, Junr., Major Coates, M.P., Brig.-Gen. W. A. Collings, Mr. C. S. Cox, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Capt. Da Costa, R.N., Capt. Evan Da Costa, Mr. K. C. Da Costa, Mr. Seymour Da Costa, Mr. T. F. Dalglish, Mr. C. W. Davson, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. L. de Mercado, Sir Manrico Duckrell, Mr. C. Edwards, M.P., Mr. Morrice Edwards, Mr. T. K. Freeman, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. L. Gibson and Guest, Hon. D. S. Gideon, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. R. K. Gray, Mr. H. A. Gwynne, Mr. F. J. Hannan,

Sir John Gray Hill, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. A. Hutchinson, Capt. J. H. Jellicoe, Mr. R. Bence Jones, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. E. H. Johnstone, Mr. L. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Mr. Claude C. Mallett, Mr. F. Mallison, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. Alfred Mond, M.P., Major G. F. Molineux Montgomerie, Mr. W. M. Morrison, Mr. C. N. Pearce, Mr. T. K. Philipps, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., Mr. G. Hudson Pile, Sir Pery Van Notten Pole, M.P., Hon. Arthur C. Ponsonby, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. L. W. S. Rostron, Mr. R. Rutherford, the Earl of Stamford, Mr. H. J. Stanley, Mr. Philip Somerville, Admiral Stewart, Major J. H. W. Southey, Mr. W. C. Springfield, Mr. Chas. Trevelyan, Lt.-Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. W. H. Trollope, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Capt. C. E. Wilson, Mr. H. S. Wilson, and Sir Frederick Young.

The usual loyal toast having been honoured, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, the Hon. Secretary of the Club, read several letters of regret from those unable to be present, among which was the following from Mr. Chamberlain :—

DEAR MR. GOODE,—I regret that my indisposition will prevent me from attending the banquet which the West Indian Club is giving in honour of Sir Robert Bond, the Prime Minister of Newfoundland.

I have watched with great interest the progress which has been made in recent years under Sir Robert's wise administration by this, the oldest of the British self-governing Colonies; and I hope that the island is now fairly launched on a career of great prosperity.

I trust that the recent difficulties about the fisheries will be satisfactorily arranged, and that this may be the prelude to that union with the great Dominion of the West which, I believe, will ultimately be found most conducive to the permanent welfare of Newfoundland.

I remain, dear Mr. Goode, yours truly,

(Signed)

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Suveret, Valescure, St. Raphael,
May 29th, 1907.

THE CHAIRMAN, in proposing the health of the guest of the Club, reminded his audience that Newfoundland and some parts of the West Indies were the oldest colonies of the Empire between which trade had been carried on for something like three hundred years, the articles of interchange being principally fish and molasses. He believed that this trade would be maintained and increased, and that trade would be stimulated in other directions by the establishment of an all-British steamship service between this country and Newfoundland and across Canada to Australia by the shortest route. He regretted that the West Indies had not been admitted to the Conference. It was a little difficult to see how they could be represented satisfactorily, but he had no doubt that it would be possible to devise means for future Conferences.

SIR ROBERT BOND, who was received with cheers, said there was a way of consolidating the Empire that was sometimes lost sight of, namely, the upholding of the constitutional rights of the self-governing colonies (hear, hear). They might talk about "all red" lines, they might dilate upon the desirability of preferential tariffs, they might favour short line means of communication, but if the bond of affection between the motherland and the colonies was severed, then the ties would amount to nothing (cheers). In order to hold together the outlying portions of the great Empire it would be admitted by all thoughtful men that there was no surer way of doing it than by respecting the autonomy of the various colonies (cheers). In the case of Newfoundland, however, there had been a serious departure from that principle, and it appeared to him that the question at issue was not quite understood. It was one of a great constitutional character, affecting every colony of the Empire. The Americans had taken the position that they were not amenable to the municipal laws of Newfoundland when they came within the jurisdiction of the colony to exercise privileges under treaty. He and his Government had protested in the strongest but most respectful terms against the admission of that principle (cheers). But he regretted to say that last year the colony was not upheld. By the execution of an instrument known as the *modus vivendi* the laws of the colony were partially superseded, and some of them actually abrogated, to meet the demands and pretensions of the American Government (shame). When the colony protested and refused to promulgate an instrument which it believed to be *ultra vires*, what was done? Instructions were sent to one of His Majesty's officers, and the commander of the *Brilliant* was instructed to proclaim that law in the district, and while the magistrates, at the instance of the local Government, issued a proclamation calling on the people to obey the law of the colony, this officer called a meeting and told the people that under this instrument of the *modus vivendi* they were exempt from punishment if they evaded the local statute. Never was a Government placed in a more humiliating position. Dealing with the statement in a paper as to his attitude at the Conference he said that he laid his case before it, not in the dramatic trappings of heated declamation, as one of the City papers, he had no doubt with the best intentions, made it appear, but in the cool, calm logic which best becomes a righteous cause (cheers.) Asked by the Colonial Office to say if he had admitted to a reporter of that paper that the statement which had appeared in it was substantially correct he promptly replied. He did not communicate his reply to the press, expecting that the Colonial Office would do so,* but as they had not he would state there and then that, while in his reply to the letter from the Colonial Office he emphatically denied having

* The whole correspondence was subsequently published as a White Paper.—ED.

admitted to any person that the statement under reference was substantially correct, he intimated also that, in his opinion, if the colony had been treated with a little more courtesy in the preparation and publication of the *précis* of what he did say at the Conference, a misapprehension of the facts by a section of the City Press would have been avoided (cheers). He further intimated that when a statement of considerable length and of vital importance to the colony of Newfoundland was summarised in twenty-five words, it not only left room for conjecture, but gave support to the suspicion that something had happened which it was not very desirable to make public.

The toast "prosperity to the West Indies" was then proposed by that staunch Imperialist Sir Frederick Young, and Mr. Owen Philipps in reply said that the West Indies had had to contend with many misfortunes, some unavoidable, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, and others not. All concerned warmly appreciated the action of the mother country in assisting Jamaica with a grant and loan towards rebuilding Kingston. Such misfortunes as sugar bounties, expensive and often faulty cable communication, and inadequate intercolonial mail communication were, however, avoidable. He hoped that the Government might see their way to secure the continuance of the Sugar Convention with some slight modifications, as all that the West Indies required to put their sugar trade on a sound basis was a fair field and no favour. They could then compete successfully with German beet (cheers). They were all pleased that Sir Frederick Young was able to be with them that evening, as he had devoted so many years of his life to assist forward any movement having for its object the binding together of the British Empire (hear, hear).

The toast of the Chairman proposed by the Earl of Stamford, who said that he himself had been born in Newfoundland, then brought proceedings to a close. The enjoyment of the evening was enhanced by a somewhat irresponsible band, which, however, did full justice to an excellent programme of music.

THE BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, June 6th, Mr. Seaverns (L., Brixton) asked when the next meeting of the Sugar Convention was to take place: whether an opportunity would then be afforded for His Majesty's Government to withdraw from the Convention in 1908; and, if so, whether the Government would consider the desirability of adopting this course.

Sir E. Grey in reply said: The Permanent Commission under the Sugar Convention will meet to-day. His Majesty's Government have intimated to the contracting States, through the Belgian Government, that they consider that the limitation of the sources from which sugar may enter the United Kingdom, whether by prohibition or by the imposition of countervailing duties, is inconsistent with their declared policy, and incompatible with the interests of British consumers and sugar-using manufacturers—(Ministerial cheers)—and that consequently it will be impossible for them to continue to give effect to the provisions of the Convention requiring them to penalise sugars declared by the Permanent Commission to be bounty-fed. (Ministerial cheers.) At the same time we have pointed out that we have no desire to give sugar bounties or to see a revival of such bounties, or to differentiate against beet or foreign sugars. Should the Governments of the contracting States consider that our views can only be met by the complete withdrawal of this country from the Convention, we would be prepared to give the necessary notice on the first possible date. We have, however, intimated that if the other contracting States prefer to exempt the United Kingdom by supplementary protocol from the obligation to enforce the penal provisions of the Convention, this would render it unnecessary for us to give notice of withdrawal at present. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. R. Duncan (U, Govan): Are we right in understanding that the view of the Government is that they disapprove of bounties but will do nothing whatever to get rid of them? (Opposition cheers.) Sir E. Grey: No. If the hon. gentleman will study the answer I have given I must leave him to draw his own inference. Lord Balcarras (U., Lancashire, Chorley) asked whether the communication referred to would be laid on the Table, and when. Sir E. Grey: I cannot say. The future action of His Majesty's Government will depend on the view taken by other States of this despatch. It will probably be convenient that it should not be laid until some conclusion has been arrived at. Lord Balcarras: In view of the uncertainty caused by the answer, would it not be well that the views of the Government should be promptly made public? Sir E. Grey: The whole gist of the despatch is contained in the answer I have just read. If the noble Lord wishes for further information after he has studied the answer I shall be glad to give it.

At the meetings of the Permanent International Sugar Commission which met on June 6th, Sir Henry Bergne, the British delegate, announced the policy of the British Government on the lines indicated by Sir Edward Grey. It not being within the scope of the powers of the Commission to consider the admissibility of the British proposals, an adjournment was made to July to enable the States represented to arrive at a decision as to what reply should be made.

NATURE NOTES.

GRAFTED LEMONS. It does not appear to be generally known, even in Sicily, that the celebrated Sicilian lemon is grown on a bitter or Seville orange tree, grafted to bear the lemon. Scarcely any of the old stock of lemon trees now exist in Sicily. It was found that the lemon as a stock tree was too liable to disease.

BANANA'S HOME. The original home of the banana is the East, and a splendid variety of the fruit is cultivated to a fairly considerable extent on the south-west coast of India. This variety is the well-known Malabar banana or *neutram hai*. It is a large-sized, delicately flavoured fruit, possessing great nutritive value when seasoned, both green and ripe.

THE B 208 SEEDLING. The *International Sugar Journal* says that the statement in their May issue, which was reproduced in the last *West India Committee Circular*, has evoked the following telegraphic reply from Sir Daniel Morris in Barbados: 'Your statement respecting Diamond Cane B 208 absolutely without foundation.' "Till further details arrive from him it might be well," the *Journal* goes on to say, "to suspend judgment, but we may remark that the information was derived from a correspondent stationed on the spot, in whom it has implicit confidence, and he is hardly likely to have made this charge without some definite evidence in support."

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Cacao and beet in America.

The importation of cacao into New York, during 1907, continues to increase, much larger quantities coming from Brazil and Dutch Guiana. The supply from the British West Indies was about 25 per cent. under that of 1905. Four beet sugar factories were operated in Idaho in 1906 with a capacity of 2,650 tons daily, one in Washington of 500 tons, and one in Oregon of 350 tons capacity. According to reports kindly furnished by the owners, these factories produced during the season an aggregate of 72,648,000 lbs. of refined sugar, which is nearly twice as much as in 1905, when five mills were at work. The sugar was produced from 256,520 short tons of beets. Other mills will be opened during 1907. One difficulty the sugar factories have to contend with is in getting the farmers to cultivate beets, which involves more labour than some other branches of agriculture. The business seems to succeed best in irrigated districts.

Citrate of lime in Sicily.

In speaking of the lemon industry of Sicily, Mr. Sydney Churchill states that some proportion of the juice is exported as crude stuff, but the majority is converted into citrate of lime by very primitive means. Within the last few years much stir was made by a new process for the formation of citrate of lime, but this does not appear to have been a commercial success. Hardly any improvements have been made over the process generally adopted of heating the juice in a vat fitted with a rotating mixer, above which a cask is placed containing chalk mixed with water to the consistency of thick milk. The contents of this cask are allowed to run into the juice with which it is mixed by the revolving agitator after the juice has been heated to 60 degrees Centigrade. The mixing lasts from 15 to 20 minutes—until the mixture becomes slightly brown. The acidity is regulated according to the requirements of the trade, more or less chalk being added to the vat. When the heating and mixing are complete, a little milk of lime is added to cause precipitation. The contents of the vat are then run into a shallow tank, over which a canvas filter has been stretched. The citrate is raked over this with toothless rakes, in order to expel the excess of moisture, and is then packed into canvas bags, which are placed under pressure to further remove moisture. Finally the citrate, now fairly solid, is placed in a stove-heated room on boards to dry, when it is put into casks lined with brown paper ready for shipment. This is the ordinary process for the production of citrate of lime, as adopted in Sicily generally. That it is susceptible of great modification and improvement there can be little doubt. Formerly, the chalk for the making of citrate of lime was procured from the United Kingdom; now it is imported from Venice, where marble quarry refuse is calcined and ground for this purpose.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Kingston* which left Kingston, Jamaica, on May 23rd, arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, June 4th, and among her many passengers were Colonel Blagrove, Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. E. Verley, Mr. R. H. B. Hotchkin, Major and Mrs. Marescaux, Dr. Malabre, and Mr. M. C. Solomon. The R.M.S.P. *Trent*, which left Barbados at 5 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15th, reached Southampton at 7.15 a.m. on Monday, May 27th, having on board Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. B. Thompson, Mr. A. de Verteuil, Mr. H. Everington, Mr. Carl

Wieting, Mr. A. M. Lee and Mr. Morris Fletcher.* We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents and others:—

The Central Factories in Antigua.

Dr. the Hon. Francis Watts, Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands, has sent us a very interesting letter, in which he says that matters are progressing satisfactorily in Antigua. The sugar crop is a fair one and appears to be turning out rather better than planters anticipated. The two factories, Gunthorpe's and Bendal's, are doing good and important work, and should enable them to answer many sugar questions with some precision. The output from Gunthorpe's should be fully 4,000 tons or over, this season. Peasant-grown canes are coming forward in unexpectedly large quantities. It will take several years before they can demonstrate the success of the factory system, but each year the position becomes more clear. Owing to the very considerable changes resulting, it is not easy to get a clear view of the position. The season has been a poor one for cotton in many of the islands, but high prices have, in a measure, compensated for poor yields. The quality has been very good. The very short cotton crop in Nevis appears to be due to adverse seasons rather than disease. Antigua will turn out a fair quantity, and the acreage planted for next crop will again show a considerable increase. With the advent of cotton, the buying of peasant canes and emigration, labour has become rather scarce so far as men are concerned, which will perhaps lead to desirable developments in the way of introduction of implements for tilling, weeding and the like. With all this, Dr. Watts thought he had never seen the general prospect so encouraging for Antigua; people can now obtain an abundance of work, there is far less poverty, and the poorer classes look better fed and better clothed; at the same time the storekeepers state that their trade has improved considerably. All this is encouraging and may be taken to result in a considerable degree from following a definite and consistent agricultural policy. Their one fear is the denunciation of the Brussels Convention. If it were not for that, there would be still further considerable progress in Antigua and other islands. The weather was dry and breezy when the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on May 16th, but this had been the case for the whole of the year so far, the rainfall on the usually wet estate of Belvidere being only about 8 ins. for the year to date, and so they were able to push on with reaping at unusual speed. The young crop canes looked very fairly on the whole, but on the lighter lands of the island rain would certainly be very acceptable. Cotton picking was generally over, except in a few cases where the cotton was being left to give its second crop. More attention was being paid to the preparation of the land for this crop, and those planters who could tackle the cultivation of land in crop time were doing so, although the general opinion seemed to be that the seed should not be sown before July. The yield of cotton generally in the past crop had not been good, on the average probably but little over half a bale (the bale being 200 lbs.) per acre, although in some cases excellent returns had been obtained. The quality of the cotton had generally been excellent, and the high prices obtained had to some extent made up for this small yield. The General Legislative Council for the Leeward Islands was to meet in the island very shortly, as soon as various boats could carry the members from their various islands. Under the existing conditions it was no easy task to collect the members from the various presidencies. Quite an exodus had recently taken place from Antigua, some to return, and some to seek new homes in Canada. Among the former were Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Foote.

The Barbados police.

Writing on May 12th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne reported that the Barbados contingent under the command of Colonel Kaye returned from St. Lucia in the *Solent* on May 3rd. They had been warmly thanked for their services by the people of St. Lucia and by the Governor-in-Chief. Theirs was a very creditable piece of work, which spoke well for the discipline and efficiency of the men. They were warmly welcomed in Barbados on their return. The *Indefatigable* arrived at the island in the previous week, leaving a detachment of thirty marines in St. Lucia, but she had returned there to take them up, and would probably be for some time at Grenada. Even if she were reinforced by the *Scylla*, there was no guarantee that either would be at hand exactly where they were wanted. Sir Gilbert Carter and his private secretary had left for Trinidad, where Lady Carter hoped to join them later, as the yellow fever seemed to be abating. Mr. Knaggs was acting as Governor and Mr. Grannum as Colonial Secretary. A motor omnibus had just been started to run twice daily from Speightstown to Bridgetown. There had been a few showers during the fortnight, but though the sky had been often overcast, no heavy rain had come. It was hoped that it was not far off, for it was much needed. Crops were everywhere drawing to a close, mostly at short figures, for the hot suns had dried up the canes and diminished the yield. The young canes were holding their own very well. Cotton picking was still going on, and the late planted fields had been refreshed by the showers. The price of beet had been advancing steadily, and they were cheered at seeing it over 10s. The local market had also improved; muscovado was quoted at \$1.85, dark crystals at \$2.30, centrifugal sugar

* News received by the R.M.S.P. *La Plata*, which arrived yesterday, will be found on page 287.

at \$2.10, molasses at 16 cents and syrups 17½ cents per gallon. The summer term began at Harrison College on May 6th, when 153 boys assembled, a notable increase over the preceding year. From the return of the Comptroller of Customs it appears that in 1906 the imports amounted to £1,192,328 (an increase of £149,766 over 1905), and the exports to £932,966 (a decrease of £2,878). The total value of produce exported was £629,319 as against £696,829.

British Guiana "rubber."

With regard to the mail service, Mr. J. C. McCowan stated in his letter of May 9th, that at the request of the Chamber of Commerce the Governor telegraphed on May 1st to Downing Street asking if anything had been done. On the 9th the following telegram was received from the Colonial Office: "In answer to your telegram of May 1st as regards the mail service, hope to advise you by telegraph in a few days." In the meantime, the intercolonial service had been discontinued. Passengers for Europe were going to Trinidad by the Dutch mail steamer on the 11th, to connect there with the *Trent*. The mails, however, were being sent on to Barbados by the S.S. *Canada Cape*; in the mail edition of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle* some correspondence between the Chamber of Commerce and the Government on the subject of diverting the Dutch mail steamer to Barbados, was given. The representatives of the British Guiana Rubber Corporation have filed a writ against the Governor and the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, claiming the issue to them of the license, \$50,000 damages for withholding it, and alternatively a specific performance of the contract to issue the license or to pay \$240,000 damages. The weather had been too wet, cold and bleak during the fortnight. The want of a sufficient amount of sunshine was telling on the cultivation generally. May and June canes were going to be very short, and with present conditions the crop to come off at the end of the year would also be short of estimates.

Thanks from British Honduras.

The S.S. *Flandria* of the Hamburg-American Line recently brought about 115 labourers from Jamaica for the Stann Creek railway, and it was understood by the Hon. A. R. Usher, who wrote on May 10th, that this scheme would now be carried out as expeditiously as possible. The weather had been dry, and they had had no rain for some months; drinking water was exceedingly scarce in Belize, as it had to be brought about thirty miles by boat from Manatee River. At a meeting of the People's Committee held at Belize on May 3rd, it was resolved to convey to the West India Committee the thanks of that Committee, and the appreciation with which it regarded the action of the West India Committee in connection with the railway question and general development of the colony.

A "Dominica Limes" Exhibition.

The weather was moderately showery and the limes were maturing fast when Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on May 11th. In some districts the cacao was flowering heavily. The Permanent Exhibition Committee had requested the West India Committee to undertake the arrangements for an exhibit of Dominica limes at the show of colonial fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on June 13th and 14th. It was proposed that the display should be given a practical form by the free distribution of limes and Dominica lime squashes.

Grenada's schooner-borne mails.

Writing on May 11th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton stated that they received their colonial mails by S.S. *Sarstoon*, via Trinidad, on the 9th, and the English mail by the schooner *Neposil* from Barbados, on the 10th. Their letters, and as many passengers as she could take, were to be despatched to Trinidad by the *Wear*, one of the coasting steamers, on the 12th. Mr. Anstead, Agricultural Instructor, was to leave for England on that day, and during his absence Mr. George F. Branch would act in his place. A meeting of the Committee of Management was held on May 3rd, when a good deal of work was done. The weather was simply splendid, with just enough rain to keep things cool. A slight shock of earthquake was experienced shortly before midnight on the previous evening.

Jamaican affairs.

The *Jamaica Daily Telegraph* states that it has been practically decided that the Constant Spring Hotel will be kept open during the summer. In the meantime no definite arrangements have been arrived at between Sir Alfred Jones and the Government regarding the taking over of the Constant Spring and Myrtle Bank Hotels. It is rumoured that the Government are holding out for the full option price, despite the damage done to both buildings by the earthquake, and, in view of the fact that a very large amount of money will have to be spent in restoring the building; Sir Alfred L. Jones is not prepared to pay as much for them, as he would, had they been in their former condition. The matter is now in abeyance, but it was expected that when Mr. Olivier arrived on the scene, negotiations would be recommenced, and the deal would be quickly carried through. It was hoped that a speedy settle-

ment would be reached in order that the buildings might be completely restored so as to be ready for the next tourist season. According to the *Gleaner* the Lancashire Insurance Company had paid in full the claim of Emanuel Lyons & Sons, Ltd., for goods destroyed by fire on the wharf formerly occupied by Messrs. Solomon & Ashenheim, destroyed in the fire after the earthquake. Welcome rains had fallen throughout the island, and it was anticipated that effects of the drought would soon disappear. Sir Alexander Swettenham vacated the offices of Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica and its dependencies on May 2nd, and the following valedictory address was issued in a *Gazette Extraordinary* on May 3rd:—

On vacating the Government of Jamaica Sir Alexander Swettenham desires to express his gratitude to the officers of the Administration generally, for the ready and efficient help they have afforded in the Government of the country, and especially to those who showed energy, courage or devotion to duty, in the recent trying calamity.

He wishes to record his testimony to the general good conduct of the sufferers from the catastrophe, his admiration for the great fortitude they have shown in adversity, as well as for the diligence and activity which so many are daily manifesting in restoring their damaged edifices, and re-commencing business, and his persuasion that the experience of most severe trial successfully overcome will prove of inestimable benefit to the community on whose behalf such hearty sympathy and splendid generosity have been testified from all quarters of the world.

Mr. Hugh Clarence Bourne was sworn in as Acting Governor on May 3rd. Mr. Maxwell Hall, in the *Gleaner* of May 3rd, recorded that 135 after shocks of earthquake had been experienced since Jan. 14th. He expected that they would cease at the end of July. Mr. Conrad Watson wrote to say that his cultivation of Sea Island cotton in Jamaica this year would be very small, owing to the severe and unprecedented drought which prevented him from preparing the land for planting, but from the old Sea Island plants which he had seen with a few bolls on, he had come to the conclusion that a very healthy plant could be grown with lint of a fair quality. Mr. Olivier arrived in Jamaica on May 16th, and was sworn in the same day. He was accorded an enthusiastic reception in Kingston, and was presented with an address of welcome by the Merchants' Exchange on May 21st. At a meeting of the Relief Committee on the same day, he laid down the principles on which he thought that relief should be afforded. If a man were put back in the surroundings in which he lived, his pride and capacity for resuming his former life were re-established, and he was made to feel that it was once more worth while to go on. He was not permanently pauperised. Mr. C. C. Farquharson, writing from Westmoreland, informed us that the crops had been very small on account of the severe drought from the middle of November to the end of April, but the rains had commenced to fall and seasonable showers were falling every day. The exhaustive and accurate observations made by Mr. Maxwell Hall, of Chapelton, and published in our columns recently, in reference to Professor Milne's statement that there had not been received a sufficient number of after-shocks to obtain necessary curves to define with accuracy their probable termination, is deserving of that notice which work of accurate and scientific character demands. It is stated that the termination of shocks in Jamaica cannot be expected before the end of July. The value of such determinations are obvious, inasmuch as they allay fear, which always remains in the minds of people generally, after such a disaster as that on January 14th last at Kingston. Mr. H. H. Cousins, of the Weather Office, Government Laboratory, Kingston, states in the Jamaica Weather Report No. 336 for the month of January, 1907, "That in the absence of adequate seismographical instruments it is not possible to give any accurate record of the after-shocks!" It would appear, therefore, that seismographically fitted up stations in the hands of the Government are still wanting, although their upkeep to a place like Jamaica would mean very little, and it would almost seem worth while that money raised for relief would be well expended in this direction, and thus place Jamaica in a line with other countries in the scientific observation of earth disturbances from which she has, and will apparently, suffer as much as any other country.

Beneficial rain in St. Kitts.

On April 30th Mr. A. D. C. Adamson stated that there had been practically no rain since last advices, the maximum fall being about half an inch, and the fall for the whole month being generally under an inch. The 1908 young sprouts were in consequence suffering considerably, and unless rain fell soon it was more than likely that a number of fields would have to be abandoned. Reaping was progressing rapidly; the juice was phenomenally good, and on all sides there were wonderful reports as to the small quantity of juice taken to the ton of sugar. In the neighbourhood of 1,400 gallons was about the rule. Cotton preparation for next season had begun, and some people had put in a few acres, but most were waiting for rain. In a subsequent letter dated May 6th, Mr. Adamson said that a glorious rain had fallen on the 1st of the month, running from 2 to 8 ins.; the state of the young 1908 crop was getting rather serious, but this soak would do any amount of good. Cotton planters were taking advantage of the late rain to the full, and were rapidly preparing and planting land. During the late St. Lucia disturbances it was noted with regret that H.M.S. *Indefatigable* did not arrive till things were pretty well settled, but that a Dutch man-of-war was there some time before. Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported on May 17th, that the weather since the

beginning of the month had been dry and good for reaping. Cotton preparation and planting was then in full swing. A very nice shower had fallen on the previous day, measuring from one to one and a half inches round the island, which was most welcome to everyone. The island had already shipped over 160,000 lbs. of cotton, and there was still more to go on.

The riots in St. Lucia.

Hon. E. DuBoulay stated that at the moment of writing, on May 13th, matters had quieted down to a great extent, and both the coaling labourers and those on the estates were gradually returning to work, though in the nature of things it would be some time before they got back to their former quietude. The aftermath of the disturbances such as the arrest and trial of the rioters, was bound to foster a certain amount of unrest and excitement. Of course the position had been a difficult one with their limited force of police and nothing to fall back upon, and the help sent from Barbados and St. Vincent was very welcome and useful. The *Indefatigable* only arrived when the actual disturbances had ceased. She left a few days after with the Governor-in-Chief, but was now back again, and during her absence some of the marines remained at the island. It was satisfactory to see from the telegrams that another warship had been detailed for service on their station. A movement was now on foot to form a volunteer corps, and it was evident that such a step was absolutely necessary for repression of disorder. The colony was much beholden for the assistance sent from Barbados and St. Vincent, which was of the greatest use. Fortunately, no serious damage was done to the factories themselves, so that they had been able to resume work, and the crops were now drawing to a close. After a spell of dry weather a few showers had fallen.

Exports from Nevis.

Nice showers had fallen, and the island was looking quite green again when the Hon. C. A. Shand wrote on May 12th. The sugar crop had been a great improvement upon last year, but next season Pinney's would have no plant cane. Mr. Shand forwarded the following statement of exports showing the quantity and weight of cotton shipped from St. Kitts-Nevis for the first four months of 1907, from which it appears that 990 bales, of a total weight of 270,168 lbs. were exported. Of these, 426 bales were from St. Kitts, 275 from Nevis, and 281 from Anguilla. It was interesting to note that of them 8 bales of St. Kitts cotton were shipped to the United States and the balance to the United Kingdom. During the same period 4,407 tons of muscovado and 267 tons of vacuum pan sugar, making a total of 4,674 tons, and 178 puncheons of molasses, and 131 puncheons of rum were shipped from the Presidency; 3,247 tons of sugar and 114 puncheons of molasses went to Canada, and 1,312 tons of sugar, 21 puncheons of molasses, and 125 puncheons of rum to the United Kingdom.

Cacao cultivation in St. Vincent.

In his letter dated May 11th, Mr. W. N. Sands expressed the hope that the intercolonial mail question had been settled, and that they would not be seriously inconvenienced for any length of time. They had had nice showers, and there was great activity on estates preparing lands for the various crops. The acreage to be put in cotton would again be largely increased this season. Their cotton exports for the year ended March 31st, 1907, were valued by the Customs at over £18,000, and if the value of the cotton seed were added, the total value of the industry for the last financial year was £18,949. Cacao was not grown on a large scale, the lands of the island being very light generally, and not retentive enough for this plant. Where spots could be found with a good depth of rich soil and well sheltered, cacao thrived fairly well. Previous to the hurricane of 1898, 1,500 bags of cured cacao were exported per annum. The hurricane of 1898, however, destroyed most of the plantations, and those that had somewhat recovered were in 1902-3 severely damaged by the eruptions of ash, &c., from the Soufrière. The cacao plantations near the Soufrière, of which there were a good few, were completely destroyed. Notwithstanding these two set backs within a comparatively short space of time, cacao planting had still gone on, and the exports had shown a gradual increase, for in 1900 only 443 bags were exported, and this year, admittedly an unfavourable one, the exports totalled 1,129 bags of an estimated value of £3,838. Cacao was mostly grown on estates, but the peasantry had planted up a good deal within the last few years, especially those owning lands on the land settlement estates. A large number of cacao plants had been distributed free annually by the Imperial Department of Agriculture to these people, and advice and instruction in planting given. Last year it was estimated that they produced over fifty bags, and provided no catastrophe occurred, a substantial increase was to be looked for from year to year. Taken altogether, cacao was a very important subsidiary industry, and one that could be made still more so with careful attention to the selection of lands, the planting of hardy varieties, and a careful study of local conditions.

Trinidad cacao prospects.

Writing on May 13th, Hon. G. T. Fenwick stated that after an interval of about three

weeks and just as clean Bills of Health were to be issued, another case declared to be yellow fever occurred. This terminated fatally on the 11th, and on the same day yet another case was declared. The day after the heavy shower reported in Mr. Fenwick's last letter on April 30th, the weather set in dry again and continued so until May 10th, when there was another heavy shower. Since then the weather had been wet, and fears were entertained by those of the sugar planters who had not finished reaping their crop that the wet season had set in. Sugar manufacture was well advanced and several factories had closed down, but a few, U.S.M. included, had work to keep them going until the 25th. The improvement in deliveries of cacao recorded in last letter continued, and shipments to date were much the same as at that period last year. The prospects for May and June were, however, more favourable, and three or four days of good rain had vastly improved the condition of the cultivation. A strong demand from European centres continued, and in consequence prices had further advanced. The greater portion of the shipments had been made to Europe. American manufacturers still showed great disinclination to make purchases at present prices. Fine estates were quoted at 86s., c. and f. Havre, mixed estates at 85s., and ordinary, 84s. 6d. Arrivals from the mainland had been very unimportant, and little or no business could be reported.

SHIPMENTS.

	Trinidad.	Venezuela.		Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Totals at last report	64,165	16,451			
April 30.—S.S. <i>Olenda</i> ...	—	—	Canada.	Forward... ..	69,718
May 1.—S.S. <i>Atrato</i> ...	1,306	—	Europe.	May 8.—S.S. <i>Tagus</i> ...	107
.. 2.—S.S. <i>Grenada</i> ...	1,915	450	New York.	.. 8.—S.S. <i>Sarstoon</i> ...	3,467
.. 4.—S.S. <i>Prins der Nidln.</i>	2,332	427	Europe.	Total to date ...	73,292
					17,508

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

What the West Indies did for England.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In a recent *West India Committee Circular*, under the heading "West Indian Interests at Westminster," Mr. Harold Cox, in the House of Commons, on March 11th, is reported to have asked the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies several questions with regard to the amount contributed by Jamaica to the upkeep of the fleet, and towards agricultural establishments in the mother country; he further inquired how much the taxpayers of the United Kingdom had contributed in recent years in relief of the West Indies generally, and asked how much the West Indies have contributed towards relieving the taxpayers of the United Kingdom. Mr. Cox evidently asked these questions with the object of disparaging the West Indies. It is clear he does not know, as you, Sir, have pointed out, that the British Government has for many years made no inconsiderable sum of money through the sale of silver to the West Indian colonies; a fact that the Under-Secretary of State might have mentioned in his reply to Mr. Cox. Neither of these gentlemen is apparently aware of the following interesting facts: After the Restoration, not only had every cwt. of sugar from Barbados and the Leeward Islands to pay eightpence to the Home Government, but an additional produce tax of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was imposed. These duties were at first levied for public purposes in connection with these islands, and were so appropriated until the reign of William III., when they were devoted to entirely other purposes. In 1812 the sums which had been contributed since the accession of the then monarch, George III., had amounted to £1,600,000. The Earl of Chatham got £3,000 a year out of it, and the Duke of Gloucester £9,000 a year, the Secretaries to the Treasury £48,000, and £326,000 for special services; all with the consent of Parliament. In 1655 a troop of horse was raised in Barbados at the expense of the inhabitants, to reinforce Admiral Penn's squadron, and 3,500 volunteers for Cromwell's war with Spain. Again, in 1761, a white regiment was raised and equipped at the colony's expense to aid General Monckton and Admiral Rodney in their attack on Martinique. In 1795 the Barbados Legislature voted £2,000, and hired the armed brig *Lord Hawkesbury* for a space of four months to assist in blockading the French ports. On May 15th, 1798, the Barbados Legislature again voted £2,000 as a contribution towards enabling the British Government to prosecute the war with France, and subscriptions were opened in every parish in the island. Upwards of £13,000 sterling was collected and remitted to the Bank of England for the service of the Government. In November of the same year Jamaica contributed £76,500 towards the war fund. During these wars Barbados contributed £100,000, and also fitted out and manned several vessels for coast defence and protection of their trade. The most noteworthy of these vessels was the *Barbados*, a frigate purchased in 1804 by the merchants of Barbados, and presented to the British Government as the gift of the inhabitants. During the time she was employed as a coastguard she captured three French privateers, a valuable ship from Cayenne, and a Spanish brig, and she rescued several British ships which the enemy had captured. Let us hope that if Mr. Harold Cox had been a Member of the House of Commons in those days, his questions would have been asked with the object of bringing out the foregoing facts, and so enabled him to join in the cheers which such patriotic assistance by the West Indian colonies to the mother country so richly deserved.

Your obedient servant,

FAIRPLAY.

OUR LIBRARY.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence. The West India Committee has been presented with a mezzotint engraving of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, which was engraved by James Ward from the original picture painted for the town of Liverpool by M. Ar. Shee, Esq., R.A., and dedicated to the Mayor, Corporation and merchants of the said town. Those who have made a study of the history of the West Indies will be aware that Prince William Henry, Duke of Clarence, afterwards King William IV., served on the West Indies Station from 1786 to 1789, and was received with the utmost enthusiasm and loyalty wherever he went. He took a prominent part in opposing the abolition of slavery and was entertained at a banquet by the West India Committee. In a letter to the Committee dated September, 1804, the Duke of Clarence, acknowledging a resolution, wrote: "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 unalterably, William."

The *Colonial Office Journal*, edited by Mr. W. H. Mercer, C.M.G., one of the Crown Agents; and R. V. Vernon of the Colonial Office, Vol. I., No. 1. We are glad to welcome the advent of this new quarterly, the main purposes of which are to review recent books and reports relating to the colonies, and to discuss administrative questions. We can see many rocks and pitfalls before the editors, who will find it difficult to avoid entering into such controversial subjects as must always be associated with Colonial Office routine; but in this first number Mr. Mercer, who is well-known as one of the editors of the Colonial Office List, and Mr. Vernon show that they are fully equal to the task which they have undertaken. The Journal is not intended to be in any sense a newspaper, and in referring to current political subjects an endeavour has been successfully made to extract points of a constitutional or administrative interest. By suggesting subjects and raising questions, the editors hope to initiate useful discussions. A note is devoted to the recent riots in St. Lucia, and it is pointed out that the withdrawal of the troops and the abandonment of Castries as a defended coaling depot in 1905, has left them without adequate protection, but that "in almost every instance the local force of police has been able to suppress the disorder, and the part played by Imperial military or naval forces has been limited to the restoration of confidence," an important enough duty, as it seems to us. The recent grant and loan to Jamaica are touched upon, and Mr. Olivier referred to as a Governor who is thoroughly well acquainted with the needs of the colony, and one who is regarded by its inhabitants, as well as by Downing Street, as the right man to deal with the emergency. Among the articles are Transvaal Native Affairs, the Transvaal Constitution, the Manufacture of Stamps, while among the features which will doubtless become regular features, are Railway Notes, Medical Notes, Reviews and Notices, and Business Notes, while several pages are devoted to appointments, and a list of Colonial Officials on leave of absence, which will be extremely useful. We wish the *Colonial Office Journal* every possible success.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE DOUBLOON. This coin will cease to be legal tender in Trinidad and Tobago after September 1st next.

AT BRUSSELS. The Permanent Commission under the Sugar Bounty Convention reassembled in Brussels on June 6th.

COTTON PLANTERS. The proposed visit of West Indian cotton growers to Manchester and Liverpool has been postponed for the present.

THE "INCIDENT." Under the title of "The White Flag in Jamaica," Mr. Ian Malcolm has an article in the *Nineteenth Century* regarding the Swettenham-Davis incident.

LIME JUICE. Milkiness in lime juice, says the *American Bottler*, is due to suspended essential oil, and the juice may be clarified with kaolin, or china, or clay, and filtering.

A W. I. CRICKETER. Mr. Julian M. de Freitas, the son of the Hon. D. S. de Freitas, our esteemed honorary correspondent in Grenada, is captain to the Haileybury College cricket team this season.

JAMAICA EARTHQUAKE. Curiously enough, no record of the Jamaica earthquake was made by the seismograph at the Botanic Station in Trinidad, although well-marked indications were obtained in Europe.

ROMAN DUTCH LAW. The Council of Legal Education has decided to substitute Roman Dutch Law for English Real and Personal Property in the final Bar examination in this country in the case of such students as desire to avail themselves of this alternative.

ST. VINCENT'S STAMPS. St. Vincent, in the West Indies, has discarded the King's head for its postage stamps and has issued a stamp of a new design bearing in the centre the badge of the colony with the familiar motto, "*Pax et Justitia*." As yet only one value has been issued.

QUITE INGENUOUS. A schoolboy asked to say how England obtained our colonies said, "First, she sends out her missionaries. They look about for the best land. When they have found it they call the people to prayer, and when their eyes are fast shut, up goes the Union Jack."

WEST INDIAN COPPER. According to the *British and Colonial Druggist* there is an interesting old mine in Virgin Gorda, one of the Virgin Islands, which consists of several "Stringers" of chalcopyrite carrying copper, and possibly gold. Molybdenum exists, and grey copper ore has been mined.

MERCANTILE MARKS. Fifteen resolutions have been passed by County Councils and agricultural and co-operative poultry societies in Ireland in support of the movement for the marking of foreign eggs and poultry, which is said to be making great progress. Why should not this movement be extended to foreign beet sugar?

AUSTRALIAN BEET. Another attempt has, according to the *Indian Trade Journal*, been made to introduce the manufacture of beet sugar into Australia. The Victorian Government, which has already expended £70,000 in unsuccessful experiments, has decided on starting afresh if 3,000 tons of beetroot per annum can be guaranteed by the farmers.

STILL PAYING. Schweppe's, Limited, the aerated water manufacturers, have declared a dividend of 7% on their ordinary shares. The falling off in the profits had been chiefly experienced in the colonial agencies and branches, where the business had to be carried on under increasing difficulties, owing to legislation and other causes beyond the company's control.

OUR PAMPHLETS. The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* has paid us the compliment of publishing *in extenso* in its issue of May 22nd, Sir Nevile Lubbock's paper "Before the Sugar Convention and After," which forms the first of the new series of pamphlets issued by the West India Committee.

Copies of this pamphlet can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms by members free of charge, and by other than members for 3d. per copy, post free.

OUR VISITORS. The spring has brought with it the usual stream of visitors to this side from the West Indies, and the last fortnight at the West India Committee Rooms has been an exceptionally busy one in this respect. Among those who honoured us with a visit have been Sir Henry M. Jackson, the Governor of Trinidad, Mr. J. Slater, of Demerara, Mr. W. C. Dyett, and Mr. Randolph Rust, from Trinidad, and Mr. Blandy and the Hon. J. Cox-Fillan, from Dominica.

SELF-HELPERS. We are glad to learn that a Self-Help Association on the lines of those in Jamaica and Trinidad, is being formed in Barbados by Lady Carter and a committee of ladies. The association will, says *The Barbados Diocesan Guardian*, rent rooms in a position accessible to tourists and visitors to Bridgetown. Here the members' work will be on view for sale—needlework, lace, paintings, photographs, curiosities, jams, jellies, and in short anything made by the women of Barbados which is found to be saleable, well-made and attractive.

CUBAN TOBACCO. The total crop of Cuba for the year 1906, which, at the outset, was believed would be about 25% less than the year preceding, amounted to 286,299 bales of 46 kilos as against 473,617 bales in 1905, or a shortage of 40%. The average number of bales received at Havana from the interior for the last eight years has been 384,516. The production for 1906 was, therefore, over 100,000 bales less than this. The exportation of cigars, however, has been steadily increasing, and amounted to 256,738 in 1906 as against 204,971 in 1900.

OFF THE BEAT. It might not be generally known that the *Indefatigable*, prior to her arrival in Kingston, was ordered on a special mission to Bluefields. Soon after hostilities had broken out between Nicaragua and Honduras, states the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph*, the British Minister, stationed at the latter place, cabled to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in London, in response to an appeal from the British residents, asking for protection. The *Indefatigable*, which was then cruising in West Indian waters, was despatched to Honduras and subsequently to Bluefields.

OLD MILL HOUSES. At Aldeburgh, in Suffolk, Mr. R. A. Briggs has successfully converted a disused windmill into a country house. It has a dining-room, smoking-room, and three bedrooms. The rooms are, of course, circular, and get narrower towards the top. The smoking-room opens out on to a balcony which formerly carried the wind-indicator. What possibilities this opens up for Barbados when those central factories are erected! Windmills have been put to a variety of uses, such as stables, storehouses and water-tanks, but it is doubtful if one has ever been used as a private residence before.

WEST INDIES HELP. At the last meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, attention was called to the speech made by Sir William Holland, M.P., at the recent annual meeting of the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers' Association, Ltd., in which he mentioned the splendid results achieved by the Association in the West Indies. Had it not been for the fine Sea Island cotton which had been grown in these islands during the last few years, in all probability a good many of the mills using the finer grades of cotton would have been obliged to work short time owing to the scarcity of the raw material.

AN AWAKENING. According to the *American Cotton and Wool Reporter*, a movement is on foot among a number of very influential cotton planters to throw off the bonds of railroad and trust dictation, and begin the handling of the great cotton crop in a manner more in keeping with its worth, and more in the line of giving to the consumers of raw cotton a square deal. The first change will be in baling methods, and the practice of ginning cotton at one point and transporting it to a railway compress 15 or 20 miles away, and paying toll of \$1 a bale for compress, in addition to local freight charges from field to compress, will be rapidly changed.

FRUIT FOR CANADA. The *Maritime Merchant*, speaking of the market in Canada for West Indian fruit, states that the Canadian consumption is at present too small to have direct shipments arriving as frequently as is necessary to obtain a uniformity of ripeness. This is a difficulty which cannot be got over until that country shall have attained a population several millions larger than at present. Until then, our contemporary says, dealers will be compelled to get the bulk of their fruit, whether West Indian, Central American, or Mediterranean through the agency of United States distributors. In the case, however, of oranges and limes there ought to be a growing market in Canada for liberal direct shipments of these fruits, if properly introduced and advertised.

ESSEQUEBO'S COFFEE. The result of so many years of sugar alone in British Guiana has caused a forgetfulness of the part which, as Professor Harrison pointed out in his lecture, other products played in the agriculture of that colony. What, however, was the old position of things in this respect is brought out by a letter to an estate proprietor in Essequibo as far back as 1799. The letter, which is

in French, was from a London merchant to a M. Remy, of Essequibo, and in it the writer says: "If you carry out your intention of buying the estate which adjoins yours, I recommend you not to put it in sugar, but to continue it always in coffee. I am persuaded that the cultivation of this commodity will always be more advantageous to you than that of canes."

BRITISH BEET. According to the *Yorkshire Herald* a project is being matured for the establishment of a sugar factory in the neighbourhood of York. The promoters have secured the option of a good position on the banks of the Ouse, and the works will be in close proximity to the North Eastern Railway. The venture is to be embarked upon at an early date, so soon as arrangements can be entered into with local farmers, who are showing a keen interest in the matter, for a continuous supply of beet. York is looked upon as presenting special features of advantage as the site of a beet sugar industry. Not only is it surrounded by a large agricultural area in which the beet can be successfully grown, but there is also, from the presence of large confectionery firms, a large market for sugar.

WHAT IS WHISKY? The opinion of the Attorney-General of the United States on the subject of "blended" whisky in relation to the Food and Drugs Act of that country, is now published. In effect it is that whisky must be regarded as a natural spirit requiring no addition to the distillation product to furnish its characteristic qualities, that a mixture of two or more different whiskies, whether their difference arise from the character of the substances from which they are distilled, or from the method of distillation used in each case, or from their several ages, would be appropriately termed a "blend." The mixture of a whisky with another spirit which would not by itself be entitled to the term whisky, must be branded as a compound. Any spirit not whisky, made to resemble whisky in appearance and flavour should be labelled "imitation whisky."

A NEW SERVICE. The East Asiatic Company, Limited, of Copenhagen, announce that a new branch of their steamship lines will be inaugurated by the S.S. *St. Jan*, sailing from Copenhagen, Rotterdam, and from London, at the end of June, direct to St. Thomas, St. Croix, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara, and Paramaribo, and other West Indian ports. The new line, which will be a monthly one, will be served by a fleet of new steamers specially built for the trade, and offering first class cabin accomodation. We believe there has not hitherto been a direct service from London to St. Thomas and St. Croix, and this new venture should therefore prove a benefit to shippers. We understand that the East Asiatic Company's present agents, Messrs. Escombe, McGrath & Co., of 3 East India Avenue, E.C., will act as loading brokers for the new line.

SUGAR AND WINE. A serious financial blow threatens the French sugar industry, according to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, in consequence of the agitation and riots among the southern wine growers. Sugar may be legally added to wines in France during fermentation, and the Government now propose to prohibit sugaring altogether for wines of the second pressing, and to raise the present duty for sugar used in first pressings from 40 francs to 65 francs. Duty is levied in France on many millions of gallons of wine more than the vines produce, due in considerable measure to fraudulent adulteration, and the action of the Government is taken with the view of putting down the latter. As the aim of the sugar producers in France is to develop consumption by reduction of taxation, this action of the Government is naturally viewed by them with alarm.

HINTS FOR JUNE. If you have been prevented from finishing your Crop the preceding Month, be fure to do it with all convenient Expedition in this, and dig up the Banks of the Cane Holes, and mould the Indian Corn 'till it is able to bear holeing through for Canes, and plant and fupply every fort of Provisions. Weed clean all that is planted and growing, and proceed to holeing with your able Slaves, whilt your others are weeding and Nurfing all the Provisions and keeping clean all the Guinea Corn that is in open Land, that it may be able to bear a general Cutting to feed your Cattle upon the Pens the greateft Part of the following Month, which you'l be very well able to do, with the Affiftance of the Meat from the Corn Stumps cut down in *January*, if preferved from Abuse. Take down your Mill Points, if you have not finifhed your Crop, and done for before this Month; for this is a Work that ought not to be deferred.—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting. By William Belgrove, a regular bred, and long experienc'd Planter, of the Ifland of Barbados, 1755.*

WARNER'S TOMB. We are very glad to learn from the *Saint Christopher Advertiser* that the tombstone of Sir Thomas Warner, the founder of St. Kitts, the Mother Colony of the West Indies, is to be renovated. Many of our readers must be familiar with the touching lines upon it which begin:—

First Read then weepe when thou art hereby taught,
That Warner lyes interr'd here, one that bought,
With losse of Noble bloud Illustrious Name,
Of A Com'ander Greate in Acts of Fame.

The Legislative Council have been asked to vote £30 for this purpose. St. Kitts—to her credit be it said—has always been proud of her monuments. This action taken during the administratorship of

Mr. T. L. Roxborough, like the clearing of the fortifications on Brimstone Hill under the late Sir Robert Bromley, testify to this fact. In this connection, we are pleased to learn that the Hon. J. J. Comacho, the owner of Carlisle's estate in Antigua, has had the brickwork surrounding the grave of Lord Lavington, the Governor of the Leeward Islands from 1771-4 and 1801-8, decently restored. The spot, is now well defined, though there is unfortunately no inscription to say whose grave it is.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Mon., May 20.—Mr. Deakin left London for Paris and Australia.—The Press commented on a speech delivered by Mr. Winston Churchill at Edinburgh on Saturday.—“Policing the West Indies,” letter in *Times* from Hon. F. M. Alleyne.
- Tues., May 21.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier left London for Paris.—The late Sir James Fergusson; letter in the *Times*, p. 12.—The state of Cuba (*Times*, p. 5).—The “National Convention” rejected by unanimous vote the Irish Council Bill introduced by Mr. Birrell.—Beet, 10s. 0½d.
- Wed., May 22.—Lord Young died.—Beet 9s. 11¼d., dull.
- Thur., May 23.—House of Commons re-assembled after holidays.—Mr. Dunn, K.C., drowned in Dublin Bay.—Beet, 9s. 11¼d., steady.
- Fri., May 24.—Empire Day.—Federal Conference on Education opened by Lord Crewe.—Beet, 10s., steady.
- Sat., May 25.—The King inspected Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans at Sandringham.—Beet, 10s. 0½d., steady.
- Sun., May 26.—Great demonstration of wine growers in France.
- Mon., May 27.—Small Holdings and Allotment Bill introduced by Mr. Harcourt.—Beet, 10s., quiet.
- Tues., May 28.—The King and Prince Fushimi visited Aldershot.—Military balloon accident and loss of two officers in the Channel.—Beet, 9s. 11¼d., flat.
- Wed., May 29.—The Queen and Princess Victoria returned from the Continent.—British journalists visited Berlin.—Death of the Bishop of Newcastle.—Beet, 10s., quiet.
- Thur., May 30.—President Roosevelt, speaking at Indianapolis, spoke on the subject of control of Trusts and Corporations by the Government.—Beet, 9s. 11¼d., quiet.
- Fri., May 31.—Lord Milner, at a meeting at York, seriously criticised policy of the Government in South Africa.—Mr. Chamberlain left St. Raphael for London.—Beet, 9s. 11¼d., quiet.
- Sat., June 1.—Mr. Chamberlain arrived in London.—Mass Meeting of Mahommedans in the Punjab declared their loyalty to the British Government.—Close of Federal Conference on Education.—Beet, 9s. 11¼d., quiet.
- Mon., June 3.—Birthday of the Prince of Wales.—Announcement by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman of abandonment of Irish Council Bill.—Beet, 9s. 11¼d., quiet.
- Tues., June 4.—Colonial Conference Blue Book issued.—Beet, 9s. 11d., quiet.
- Wed., June 5.—Derby Day.—Dinner to Sir Robert Bond given by the West Indian Club.—Memorial Tablet to Sir Henry Norman unveiled in St. Paul's Cathedral.—Beet, 9s. 11d., quiet.
- Thur., June 6.—Permanent Sugar Commission met at Brussels.—Beet, 9s. 11¼d., steady.
- Fri., June 7.—Permanent Sugar Commission adjourned till July.—Opening of International Horse Show.—Beet, 9s. 11d., quiet.
- Sat., June 8.—The King and Queen of Denmark arrived at Portsmouth.—The Prime Minister at Exeter said there was no reason why they should be hustled into a general election.—Beet, 9s. 11d., steady.
- Mon., June 10.—The *Times* reported the occurrence of two cases of bubonic plague in Trinidad.—Beet, 9s. 11d., easier.

COMING EVENTS.

- June 13 & 14, Nov. 28 & 29.—Shows of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall.
- June 20.—Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee, 3 p.m.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Investor.—In 1896 the world's production of gold was about £43,000,000. In 1906 it was £81,000,000 sterling.

R. G.—The Bermuda papers are the *Bermuda Colonist* and the *Royal Bermuda Gazette*. The “Bermuda Pocket Almanack, Guide, and Directory” is obtainable at the offices of the *Royal Gazette*, Bermuda. It can also be seen at the offices of the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., 33, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Koky.—The cocoa-nut has, it is true, been spelt in many different ways, such as cokernut, coco-nut, &c., but we believe that the spelling “cocoa-nut” is correct. This is the spelling given in Nuttall's Dictionary and it is the spelling adopted by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, and used in the Jamaica Blue Book; but we are always open to conviction, and we shall be glad if any of our readers care to give us their views on the subject.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

It will be a relief to the people of Trinidad to learn that the specialists have decreed that Sir Henry Jackson need not undergo an operation after all. He will, however, be submitted to daily treatment for three months, by which time it is expected that he will have so far recovered from his illness as to enable him to sail for Trinidad to resume the government of the colony by the first mail in September.

MR. C. W. ANDERSON, F.R.G.S., First-class Officer, Department of Lands and Mines, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from May 24th.

HON. W. H. STOKER, K.C., Attorney-General, Barbados, has been granted three months' leave of absence from May 1st, during which time Mr. G. A. Goodman, K.C., will act in his place.

HIS HON. P. C. CORK, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Lucia, having left the colony on three months' vacation leave, the Hon. Edward D. Laborde, I.S.O., has assumed the administration of the Government.

COL. S. LUSHINGTON, R.A., Inspector-General of Police, Commandant of the B.G. Militia and B.G. Volunteers, and Inspector of Prisons, has returned to British Guiana from leave of absence and resumed the duties of his office.

SIR GILBERT T. CARTER, K.C.M.G., has arrived in Trinidad to administer the Government during the absence of Sir Henry M. Jackson, and during his absence from Barbados the Hon. S. W. Knaggs will administer the Government of that Colony. The Hon. E. T. Grannum, M.L.C., is acting as Colonial Secretary.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from $\frac{3}{4}$ % on Thursday, April 25th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ %) 83 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

Presiding over the sixtieth ordinary general meeting of this Company on May 15th, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford reviewing the figures given in the report which was summarised in our issue of May 21st, said that the half-year under review yielded the largest receipts for any December half-year since the year 1893 (excluding, of course, the half-year of December, 1898, when abnormal receipts were derived from the Spanish-American war traffic). The greater part of the increase arose from traffic, the receipts from which, as mentioned in the report, showed a satisfactory increase of £5,460 over the results for the corresponding period. In analysing the figures, however, it appeared that approximately 70 per cent. of this increase was yielded by the foreign group of stations, the British section accounting for the remainder. They were thus once again indebted to the foreign stations for the greater part of an increased revenue derived from their message receipts. With regard to expenses, the reduction was mainly attributable to their ship having been engaged on repairing work for 78 days only, as compared with 159 days in the same period of 1905. The Board had much satisfaction in being able to recommend a dividend which finally cleared the first Preference Shares of the arrears of dividend which began to accrue 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years ago. Mr. Kingsford proceeded to eulogise the work of the staff in Kingston at the time of the earthquake. Their clerk in charge, Mr. MacLeod, at great personal risk, succeeded in digging one instrument out of the ruins and with this one instrument established a temporary office in a small hut at Bull Bay, a few miles from Kingston. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was in this way very promptly reopened, thus enabling the Governor and the public to transmit over the Company's route—the only one which was available for several weeks—full tidings of the terrible disaster and of the important diplomatic and other events which followed it. In the most praiseworthy fashion their staff stuck to their work manfully and indefatigably under extremely trying conditions, being for several days without any proper food and sleeping at night in holes dug in the sand by the sea shore. Their homes were partially wrecked and their furniture and other effects destroyed. He then read a letter from Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., bearing tribute to Mr. MacLeod's devotion to his duty at the time of the disaster. The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was seconded by Mr. Henry Holmes and adopted unanimously. A resolution moved by the chairman and authorising the expenditure of £346 in reimbursing the Kingston staff for their losses was seconded by Mr. Von Chauvin, and adopted. Mr. Henry Holmes was re-elected a Director, and Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., Auditors, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff for their exertions, moved by Mr. Thorp, brought the meeting to a close.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) May 29th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co.), May 22nd. "Raining heavily since last message." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 22nd. "There has been no change in the weather." (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co.), May 22nd. "Heavy rain interfering considerably with grinding." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 27th. "Finer weather since last message.." (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co.), June 1st. "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message." June 4th. "Finer weather in last few days." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 8th. "There has been a favourable change in the weather." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 21st. "Weather is fine." June 4th. "Weather showery and unsettled." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended May 29th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "23rd and 24th, fine; 25th and 26th, rainy; 27th to 29th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "24th to 26th, showers, 27th to 29th, fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), May 27th:—Mr. G. A. Taaffe, Mr. T. Martin, Miss E. Martin, Mr. L. Rodrigo, Mr. and Mrs. Proctor Baker, Capt. and Mrs. Mabson, Mr. S. Donohue, Mr. F. Ruiloba and child, Mr. M. Pfufer, Mr. A. Flores, Mrs. O'Reilly, Mr. J. F. Hughes, Mr. W. L. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Burn and two children, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. M. Bevan and child, Mrs. L. Herrera de Paul, Miss M. Paul, Mr. P. Paul, Mr. H. Pam, Col. J. A. and Mrs. Olavarria Matos, Mr. and Mrs. O. Bax Ironside, Mr. and Mrs. Rust and child, Mr. J. H. Phillpotts, Mrs. M. G. de Vergorra and three children, Mr. and Miss Ludowieg, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lewis, Mr. R. K. Moore, Baron and Baroness A. Rosseau, Miss Rosseau, Mr. J. B. Meyers, Mr. W. E. Holmes, Mr. F. J. Baker, Mr. M. Badian, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Koppel and child, Mr. D. Hickman, Mr. F. Pulgar, Mrs. E. B. Eraso, Mr. and Mrs. Herrera Manrique, Mr. F. Travieso, Dr. N. Acosta Polo, Mr. A. Vollmer, Mr. G. Eraso, Mr. and Mrs. Cagninacci and two children, Mrs. Herrera, Mrs. A. Perreira, Miss Herrera, Mr. Beeby Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Scott and two children, Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Reid and two children, Mrs. E. Stollmeyer, Mr. A. de Verteuil,

Mrs. de Verteuil and two daughters, Miss Hobson, Miss Walter, Mrs. Schoener and four children, Mr. W. L. Reid, Mr. Lamotte, Mr. J. Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. Wharton, Mr. Archibald, Mr. W. Brown, Mrs. and Miss Lange, Mr. G. Scott, Mr. S. Batchelor, Mr. W. S. G. Lowmann, Mr. W. Sharpe, Mr. A. Murray, Mr. P. A. Dean, Mr. R. Abercrombie, Rev. Father Sarazin, Rev. Father Francois, Rev. Father Tapon, Rev. Father Rochereau, Rev. and Mrs. Millar and Mrs. Sumchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Ord, Miss Bourton, Mr. and Mrs. Braddon, Mrs. Shields, Mrs. A. Shields, Miss Smith, Mrs. Sumermon and child, Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigues and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. de Freitas, Rev. P. Bruce Austin, Miss Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Braithwaite, Mr. H. Everington, Mr. and Mrs. Anstead and child, Mr. Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. Wieting, Mr. F. Conyers, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mrs. G. Solis, Mrs. C. J. Bowen, Miss Bowen, Mrs. E. G. Sinckler, Mr. and Mrs. Simmonds, Mr. and Mrs. W. Horn, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Scully and child, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher, Miss J. D. Paterson, Mr. J. Morries, Mr. F. Morgan, Mr. F. Mills, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. J. Boby), June 12th:—Dr. J. O'Dowd Egan, Mr. H. Perez Dupuy, Mr. Wm. L. Johnson, Dr. R. Jaramillo, Dr. L. G. Malo, Mr. D. Jaramillo, Mr. E. G. Restrepo, Lieut. W. H. Acton, Mr. G. Carew, Mrs. W. A. G. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. O'Reilly, Miss H. R. Butter, Mr. D. Borrero, Mr. M. Ali, Mr. G. Mundal, Mohamed Dawed, Mr. C. MacKenzie, Mr. R. MacKenzie, Mr. M. Mackenzie, Miss M. A. Hoad, Mr. P. H. Dean, Mr. C. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Mr. D. Cipriani, Mr. R. J. Roberts, Mr. M. Lleras, Mr. R. Llevissis, Mr. R. Browne, Dr. I. Tengeley, Mr. S. V. S. Monk, Mr. W. Rollings, Mr. A. da Silva, Miss J. N. Nolan, Mrs. Bulhoes, Mrs. Wm. O'Reilly, Mr. F. F. Stirling, and Mr. C. Lindsay.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. J. G. Parsons) May 27th:—**Jamaica:** Lieut. Biscoe, Mrs. Biscoe, Miss Biscoe, Miss Booth, Mr. Gear, Mr. D. Hendry, Miss Hicks, Rev. McDougall, Mr. and Mrs. A. Melhado, Rev. and Mrs. Rothnie and child, the Misses Turner, Mr. F. deNalda, Mr. Matt Wann, Mr. C. Winter, Miss N. L. Alves, Pens. Clerk J. H. Williamson, R.E., Mr. Sheffield, Mrs. Gear and child, and Mr. Reydellet.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), June 4th:—**Jamaica:** Mrs. Addison and two children, Miss N. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Allenby, Mrs. Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Bucher and three children, Mr. Bovell, Col. and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. A. C. Bealey, Mr. C. H. Beard, Col. Blagrove, Miss Brunton, Mr. I. Boyd, Miss E. P. Block, Dr. H. Carnajae, Dr. Castle, Miss M. C. Cook, Mr. E. W. Cooke, Mrs. Cochrane, Miss M. Cocking, Mrs. Davidson, Mr. J. K. Dron, Miss Douet, Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Mr. R. G. Ellis, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Miss Payne Gallwey, Miss Olive Gallwey, Miss Gifford, Lieut. G. E. B. Goldney, Mr. C. de M. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and three children, Mr. E. Verley, Mrs. E. Verley and child, Mr. W. Verley, Mr. W. H. Vickers, Miss Wyllarde, Inspector Wedderburn, Mrs. Wedderburn, Mrs. Williams, Miss Williams, Mr. Younge, Lieut. C. D. Haudley, the Misses Hudson, Mr. R. H. B. Hotchkin, Mrs. A. M. Isaacs, Mrs. Knox, Miss Kathleen Kemp, Mrs. Lumb, Mrs. Langlois, Miss Langlois, Mrs. Lockett, Miss Lockett, the Misses Lynch, Master Lynch, Mrs. Loveridge, Rev. G. M. McDowell, Mrs. G. M. McDowell and infant, Master George McDowell, Master Robert McDowell, Major and Mrs. Marescaux, Mr. and Mrs. McLaverty, Lieut. W. I. Maule, Miss Melhado, Dr. Malabre, Mrs. P. O. Malabre and child, Mr. Mayor, Mr. and Mrs. de Montagnac, the Misses Mills, Mrs. W. H. Orrett and four children, Mr. Paxton, Mr. Peet, Mrs. Preston and two children, Rev. Pratt, Mrs. Pratt, the Misses Pratt, Mr. Rankine, Mrs. Roper and child, the Misses Roxburgh, the Misses Sant, Mrs. Henry Scott, Master L. T. Sinclair, Mrs. Sidgwick, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Captain Stoker, Mr. A. W. Taylor, Mrs. F. E. Taylor, Mr. Magnus, Miss D. Church, Mr. A. R. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Lye, and Mr. E. Arrabal.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. A. C. Selfe), June 1st:—**Jamaica:** Mr. A. P. W. Blencowe, Mr. L. G. Desporte, Mr. Fernandez, Mrs. Lyon-Hall, Mr. R. Pierpoint, Mrs. Pierpoint, Mr. J. T. Redpath, Mr. Clifford Sadler, Mr. E. Stinton, Mr. S. A. H. Trumpler, Mr. C. H. Ward, Mr. F. R. Ward, Mr. J. C. Webb, Mr. F. G. Ball, Qr.-Master-Sergt. Gordon, Mr. H. Knight, One Corporal W.I.R., Staff-Sergt. J. H. Smith, Three Sappers R.E.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), June 15th:—**Jamaica:** Mrs. Crooks, Master Crooks, Mr. D. S. Gideon, Miss Eugenia Gideon, Miss Lucille Gideon, Miss Erminie Gideon, Mr. A. A. R. Fairbank, Mr. J. Lawley, Mr. Chas. C. Munton, Mrs. Munton. **Bermuda:** Mr. J. Harvey, Mr. H. J. Lough, Mr. Wight, and His Excellency Lieut.-General J. Wodehouse, C.B., C.M.G.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

As foreshadowed by us the temporary intercolonial mail service has been resumed by the R.M.S.P. Co. pending a decision as to a more elaborate arrangement, particulars of which will be submitted to the colonies. The following opportunities for posting letters are available:—

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
June 12	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada, & Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>	June 11, mdn't.
" 14	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica	Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Savan</i>	" 14, noon.
" 15	Jamaica and Bermuda	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>	" 14, *6p.m.
" 20	Barbados (for Demerara and West India Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	<i>Chancellor</i>	" 19, 6 p.m.
" 20	The West Indies (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Glasgow	" Direct " Line	<i>Crown of Grenada</i>	" 19, 6 p.m.
" 26	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Trent</i>	" 25, mdn't

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
June 19	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Henderson</i>
" 24	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to May 9		Jan. 1 to May 8.		April 1 to May 12.		Jan. 1 to May 11.		Oct. 1 to May 11.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906
Sugar	10,559	10,419 Tns.	24,235	28,844 Tons.	4,182	3,168 Tons.	283,541	342,429 Bgs. & Brls	...	...
Molasses	30,738	35,029 Pns.	372	1,302 Puns.	...	...	{ 1,677 56 57	{ 1,027 Puns. — Tns. — Brls.	...	...
Rum	5,943	7,474 Puns.	373,316	263,201 Galls.	686	2 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	2,284	2,905 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	17,661	3,300 lbs.	8,547	8,042 Cwts.	12,545,490	12,063,370 lbs.	50,517	42,851 Bags.
Coffee	8,249	6,302 "	3,360	11,840 "	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	8,100	24,338	2,075,198	884,045	4,091,794	4,721,177	...	...
Copra	9,923	5,105 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	5,200	11,676 lbs.	...	...	654	863 Bales.
" Seed	3,327	4,999 Bags.
Asphalt	43,693	47,994 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	203,212	4,158,976	...	...	...	...
Bananas	1,889,031	1,950,251 Dochs.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	7,978	11,794 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	21,952	31,097 ozs.	...	...	...	...	2802	2821 Brls.
Diamonds	1,749	564 carats	...	...	...	...	296	337 1/2 Brls.
Rice	2,841,199	234,864 lbs.	...	...	...	...	355	306 Cases.
									36	98 Bags

A LATER HOMEWARD MAIL.

The mails from the R.M.S. *La Plata*, which left Barbados at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28th, and reached Southampton at 7 a.m. on Monday, June 10th, were duly delivered at 2 p.m., when the *West India Committee Circular* was already in the Press. In order, however, that our readers may be kept *au courant* with West Indian affairs we have, at considerable inconvenience to ourselves, stopped the Press in order to give a summary of the news which has reached us by this opportunity. The mail brought us the news of the death of the Rev. Patrick Vincent Flood, the gifted and most popular Archbishop of Port of Spain. The late Archbishop was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of Port of Spain in 1887, and in 1889 on the death of his predecessor, he succeeded to the Archbishopric of the See. He was beloved by all classes and sects, and in him the West India Committee has lost a most esteemed Member. We regret also to learn of the sudden death of Dr. C. C. Greenidge, of Barbados, on May 25th. The news of the impending settlement of the mail question was hailed with satisfaction on every side. Among other important communications received by the mail was a letter from Sir Daniel Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture, with regard to the statement in the *International Sugar Journal* as to the B 208 seedling cane, to which reference is made on page 275 of our present issue. Sir Daniel writes: "I have received an assurance from the Manager of 'Diamond' that there are no grounds whatever for the statement made in the *Sugar Journal*." He also forwarded coloured pictures of the B 208 and the White Tanna



The late Rev. P. V. Flood, O.P., D.D.
ARCHBISHOP OF PORT OF SPAIN.

to show the difference in colour of the two canes. This difference in colour appears to be very marked. We extract the following items of interest from our mail letters and papers:—

A public park for Barbados.

On May 26th the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne wrote that it was some slight satisfaction that the English press was taking notice of the totally inadequate defence extended to the West Indian islands by the presence—or absence—of one man-of-war. It would not be a bit more expensive to have a detachment permanently either in Barbados or at St. Lucia, and would give a far greater sense of security. Mr. Ralph Williams, the Governor of the Windward Islands, had addressed to the Governor a letter of thanks to the Barbados contingent for their assistance at the time of the rioting in St. Lucia. In it he said:—

The services rendered by Colonel Kaye, Captain Howell, Lieut. Cave, and the non-commissioned officers and men under their command have been of the greatest value. The forces arrived, in the colony at a critical moment, and the strength which they furnished as well as the actual services they have rendered have saved St. Lucia from a repetition of the drastic but necessary action which marked the earlier period of the riots. I shall be glad if Your Excellency will express the hearty thanks of this Government to Col. Kaye and the officers, non-commissioned and men of the forces so promptly sent to us, and will tell them that we shall hold them in grateful recollection. I will also ask Your Excellency to receive for yourself and your Government our warmest appreciation of your ready help. As one who has lived among Barbadians for several years, I know how certainly your neighbours may look for aid and sympathy from you, and I know that the stamp of men you can send is second to none in the West Indies. Your Government has added one more link to the welcome chain which attaches me to your colony and people.

Though the drought could not be said to have broken up, good showers, amounting in some places to over 1 in., had fallen; but they had been very fitfully distributed. By far the greatest number of estates had finished crop, most of them at very low figures. The fortunate exceptions were the parish of St. John's, part of St. Lucy's and part of Scotland. The steadiness of beet at about 10s. was very satisfactory, and the writer was told that Mr. Czarnikow did not think it would be to the interest of the German refiners to let it go below that figure. The young crop required a good rain to bring it on, but it was only in a few places that it could be said to be suffering. The fields of late planted cotton only required a succession of showers to make them burst into luxuriance. Sir Daniel Morris had returned from the Windward Islands. The vestry had decided to accept the Government's offer and take over the responsibility for the upkeep of the Queen's House Grounds which they had bought from the Imperial Government for £3,200. It was to be made into a public park, and the Government had also given £1,000 to cover the expense of laying it out as such. The Barbados Telephone Co. had declared a dividend of 4 per cent. for the half year. Selman's estate, St. Thomas, had been put up for sale, but withdrawn, only £760 being offered for it.

British Guiana rubber again.

In his letter of May 24th, Mr. J. C. McCowan, expressed the pleasure with which they had learnt that there was a probability of the intercolonial service being resumed, and that the negotiations in England were proceeding satisfactorily. The stoppage of the intercolonial boats had been an inconvenience. Last mail they were able to connect with the *Trent* at Trinidad with one of the Dutch mail steamers. This time they hoped to do the same with the Canadian steamer, but the majority of passengers took advantage of the *Korona* which left on the previous day for Barbados. The latest development in the dispute between the British Guiana Rubber Corporation and the Government was, that Mr. Pitcairn had gone down to the district, and immediately afterwards a police inspector with a small force of constables were sent down also—it was presumed with a view of stopping any active work on the part of the Company. The law suit referred to in Mr. McCowan's last letter was fixed for hearing on June 13th. Details of the proceedings of the Legislature were to be found in the Mail Edition of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*. The writer regretted to have to report a continuance of wet weather, which had injured cultivation generally. Sugar-making on some estates had been put off, whilst on others it had been retarded considerably, owing to the difficulty in getting canes to the mill. As a result of these continued rains there was a good deal of sickness prevailing in town as well as throughout the colony generally.

The Dominica Lime Exhibition.

Mr. E. A. Agar reported on May 25th, that some showers had fallen during the fortnight, but hardly sufficient for the time of year. The lime crop required more rain, but the sun had benefited the early flowering cocoa. The Imperial Department of Agriculture were to a large extent giving up the system of keeping stud animals in the various islands, but were prepared to import at cost price guaranteed stock of every description for planters' private use. This should be greatly taken advantage of. It was understood that when possible animals would be procured from the Canadian Government Farm. Having had occasion to refer to the *Statistical Abstract for the British Empire, 1891-1905*, published by the Board of Trade, Mr. Agar found that in many instances the Leeward Islands were included under one heading; this of course rendered the work absolutely useless to the

islands in question. He was informed that some years ago this was not so, and certainly the Windward group were throughout treated as separate islands. Empire day passed off successfully in good weather. The school children were entering into the spirit of the thing more than formerly.

Grenada wants rain.

Mr. P. J. Dean wrote on May 24th that they had had a spell of hot, dry weather; rain was wanted, and they had signs of getting it. Produce had been coming in slowly for shipment during May, but with the pickings now it was hoped they would get a fair quantity of cocoa during June to bring up their crop to the estimate. The H.M.S. *Indefatigable* arrived at the island on May 15th, and was to remain till the 30th. The reception at Government House that was fixed for Saturday, May 18th, was postponed, in consequence of the lamented death of the Archbishop of Port of Spain, to the 22nd, and took place accordingly. Mr. C. Falconer Anton, writing on May 25th, said that the H.M.S. *Indefatigable* returned from Barbados on the 16th. On the same day, in the morning, the *Maracas* came in from Trinidad on her homeward voyage, and the schooner *Neposit* sailed for Tobago with the Rev. Mr. Byer and family. A memorial service was held at the Roman Catholic church on the 20th in connection with the death of Dr. Flood, which was attended by the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, and other officials. The Tennis Club held a reception on their court in honour of "the ship" on the 21st, and there was a dinner at Government House on Thursday, the 23rd. A dance was to be given at Government House on the 28th, and a big reception on the *Indefatigable* the day after from 4.30 to 6.00.

St. Lucia quieted down.

Matters had again calmed down when Mr. Sydney Melville wrote on May 27th, as far as could be judged. There was to be a special Sessions on June 11th for trying the prisoners concerned in the riot, and it was to be hoped that exemplary sentence would be passed on the ringleaders. It was satisfactory that the necessity for more ships being on the West Indies station should be kept before the Imperial Government, late events proving how absolutely necessary this was for their protection. The opportune arrival of a Dutch cruiser at a very critical conjuncture of affairs doubtless saved matters from becoming worse, but surely they should not have to rely on foreign help in cases of emergency. The crops were fast finishing, and the weather was showery.

3,000 acres of St. Vincent cotton.

When Mr. W. N. Sands wrote on May 25th, everyone was very busy, as they had had nice rains. Indications pointed to about 3,000 acres of cotton being planted this season, but whether there was sufficient labour available for picking this large acreage seemed very doubtful. The Imperial Department of Agriculture was busy selecting and disinfecting the best seed for export and local planting.

Trinidad.

The Hon. G. T. Fenwick wrote on May 27th that at last a Permanent Exhibition Committee had been appointed, consisting of Professor Carmody (Chairman), the Rev. Dr. Morton (if he would accept), and Mr. Henry Carracciolo, representing the Agricultural Society, and two members to be appointed by the Chamber of Commerce. This would form an active and energetic Committee, and one which might be relied upon to do the best possible with such means as might be placed in their hands. The Colonial Secretaryship was still in abeyance. The Rev. Patrick Vincent Flood, Archbishop of Port of Spain, had died suddenly of pneumonia. He returned in the evening of May 16th from a visit to the North Coast, with what was supposed to be merely a slight attack of bronchitis, and died early the next morning. The obituary notices in the local newspapers would give some idea of the affection and respect entertained for him by the great bulk of the population. The heavy rain reported as Mr. Fenwick closed his last letter did not continue long, and for the rest of the fortnight, though they had had occasional showers, the weather might be said to have been dry. Sugar factories were mostly closed down, and with perhaps one exception (Waterloo) the rest would close up that week. For cocoa the good deliveries of the last month were maintained, and there was every prospect of their continuing for at least another four weeks. The weather was exceptionally good, both for the cultivation and the curing. In spite of these large deliveries the European market had risen rapidly, mainly in response to the strong and continuous demand from the European centres. American buyers were not interested in the present high level of prices, and the quantities shipped to the U.S.A. showed a marked decline. The enquiries for Europe, however, were large enough to take all the cocoa that was coming to hand. Fine Estates were quoted at 88s. 6d. c. & f. Havre, Mixed Estates at 87s., and Ordinary at 86s. 6d. During the last few days arrivals from the mainland have recommenced, and the first few lots have met with strong demand at greatly increased prices.

	SHIPMENTS.		Trinidad.		Venezuela.		Europe.	
	Trinidad.	Venezuela	May 20.—Prins William IV.	2,960	—	29	Europe.	Canada.
Totals at last report	75,292	17,508	..	—	—	—	—	—
May 14.—S.S. <i>Trent</i> ...	922	—	..	—	—	—	—	—
.. 16.— <i>Maracas</i> ...	765	455	..	—	—	—	—	—
.. 20.—S.S. <i>Bolivia</i> ...	2,958	—	..	—	—	—	—	—
			Total to date	80,897	17,992			

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The Market has been devoid of animation since last advices, but considering that the volume of business has only reached small proportions, prices have been on the whole fairly well maintained. The speculative beet Market, after small fluctuations, shows only a fractional change in quotations, but tendency is quiet. Sir Edward Grey's announcement regarding the future of the Brussels Convention, which we give elsewhere, has been received with comparative equanimity by the Market. The latest quotations of 88% beet are:—June, 9s. 11d.; July, 9s. 11½d.; August, 10s. 0½d.; October/December, 9s. 7d.; January/March, 9s. 7½d.; May, 9s. 10d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	Tons
Europe	2,451,650	2,720,000	1,930,000	2,480,000	2,450,000	..
United States	396,000	350,000	250,000	220,000	320,000	..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	349,000	290,000	370,000	220,000	380,000	..
Total	3,197,150	3,360,000	2,550,000	2,920,000	3,150,000	..

Quotations of 88% Beet, June 10th:—

9s. 11d.	8s. 0½d.	11s. 11d.	9s. 1½d.	8s. 0½d.
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Grocery West Indian.—The Market has been steady but inactive. A moderate business has been transacted at full rates. Sales have been made at 16s. 3d. to 16s. 9d. for low to middling crystallised, and 17s. 3d. to 18s. 3d. for good to fine qualities.

Muscovado.—A very good demand from the Clyde has prevailed, but the offerings have been of small extent. 10s. 1½d. is obtainable for West Indian muscovado, floating landing terms.

Molasses Sugar has been in good demand, but owing to the supply being limited, business has been curtailed. Syrups have sold at 11s. 6d. to 16s. for good colour kinds.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons.
Imports	18,636	28,000	20,000	22,000	9000	..
Deliveries	16,385	17,000	14,000	19,000	17,000	..
Stocks (June 1st)	11,891	21,000	16,000	1,600	21,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: ... 17s. 0d. 14s. 6d. 18s. 6d. 15s. 9d. 14s. 9d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, June 1st:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Puns.
Jamaica	7986	6000	8000	8400	9500	..
Demerara	8128	9600	5800	11,500	9100	..
Total of all kinds	23,490	21,800	21,700	27,400	28,400	..

Rum is firm, recent arrivals of Demerara have been disposed of at ¼d. advance for the common kinds, but better qualities are unchanged. Quotations: Demerara, 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2d., proof, Jamaica, 2s. 7d. to 2s. 11d. A good demand exists for home trade kinds of Jamaica.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, June 1st:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Bags.
Trinidad	7738	10,800	15,200	23,400	19,500	..
Grenada	3542	7600	13,700	19,800	14,200	..
Total of all kinds	52,951	65,900	72,600	91,700	84,800	..

The Market has been very strong and common kinds of West India are 2s. dearer. The supply continues limited. Quotations: Trinidad fair collected, 94s. to 95s., Estate Marks, 95s. to 99s.; Grenada fair quality, 87s. to 88s.; fermented, 89s. to 92s. 6d. Fair Native from other Islands, 85s. to 86s., fermented, 86s. to 88s.

COFFEE.—Santos for June delivery, 27s. Jamaica kinds have been steady, and business has been done in small quantities at 35s. 6d. to 45s. for low to good ordinary, and 49s. to 64s. for fair ordinary to middling bold, and pea berry at 50s.

COTTON.—Since last report, about 500 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been sold on the basis of reduced quotations, the bulk being @ 20d.-22d. Buyers are full for the season, and will not pay above the present current rates to stock against next year's requirements. During the fortnight ended June 6th, 109 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Quotations in Liverpool: West Indian cotton, good medium, 8.05d.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 19d.; medium fine, 20d.; fine, 21d.

ARROWROOT.—Quiet, no business reported. There have been no auctions recently.

Stocks in London ...	1907.	1906.	Imports ...	1907.	1906.	Deliveries ...	1907.	1906.
Barrels	5,480	9,095	Barrels ...	6,409	8,948	Barrels ...	4,347	5,575
Boxes and Tins ...	810	1,074	Boxes and Tins	24	138	Boxes and Tins	154	229

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per gallon. Distilled oil, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. per gallon. Hand pressed, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, £25 10s., with an upward tendency. The bulk of the arrivals of Messina and Palermo lemons have been in weak condition, and poor prices have been realised, except for a few sound lots. A shipment of Naples lemons, however, met a ready demand at good prices. The inclement weather has been very prejudicial to the demand for limes, but conditions are now more favourable, and with a spell of warmth matters should improve. The exhibition of Dominica limes at the Royal Horticultural Hall on June 13th and 14th should also stimulate consumption.

PIMENTO.—Quiet. In the fortnight a few bags sold at 2½d. **NUTMEGS.**—Quiet. For large sizes of West India prices are easier, but steady for medium. In the fortnight, sales have taken place: 153's/125's at 5d. to 5½d., 120's/121's at 5½d. to 5¾d., 119's/110's at 5¾d. to 6d., 110's/98's at 6½d. to 7½d., 92's/86's at 8d. to 8½d., 82's/72's at 9d. to 10d., 73's/65's at 10½d. to 1s. 2d., 60's at 1s. 7d., rough and bruised 110's/80's at 5½d. to 8½d. **MACE.**—Steady. In the fortnight West India sold, ordinary, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., fair, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d., good, 1s. 8d., and a few at 1s. 9d. **GINGER.**—Steady, without quotable change in value. **COPRA.**—Market steady. Value of fair marketable Straits, £24, and West Indian sundries, £25 to £25 10s.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

XCV.



The Hon. A. P. Mackey.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

June 24th, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8622 CENTRAL.

PRESIDING over the annual general meeting of the West India Committee on June 20th, SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, on behalf of the Executive Committee, was able to report still further progress, 150 new members having been elected during 1906, as compared with 135 in the previous year, and the membership now amounting to 1,152. The report having already been circulated among members, it is unnecessary to deal *seriatim* with the many matters of importance which have been engaging the attention of the Committee. Moreover, they are also touched upon in SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK'S speech, which is reported on another page. We should like, however, to refer to the proposed endowment fund for the West India Committee. The feeling has been growing among our members that the time is approaching when still more commodious rooms might be obtained for the Committee, which has already outgrown its present premises. With the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, the permanency of this organisation was assured, but it is thought that that assurance

should be strengthened by the formation of an endowment fund. It may be pointed out that the

present subscription to the West India Committee barely pays for the postage and printing of the publications which are sent to members, who, therefore, receive the benefits from the work which we are doing, and the use of the Committee Rooms, if one may say so, free of charge. The Committee would hesitate to raise the subscriptions, but they feel that the income derivable from a substantial endowment fund would do much to enable them to increase the sphere of utility of the West India Committee in many directions. It is hoped, therefore, that when the proposals for the establishment of such a fund are put into shape, they will receive the support of the Press and people of the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras.

THE list of Chambers of Commerce in different parts of the Empire who have forwarded representations to the Colonial Office urging the Government to refrain from denouncing the Brussels Convention for the abolition of Bounties and Cartels created a considerable impression in the House of Commons when read out by MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL at the request of MR. MITCHELL THOMSON. When these representations are supplemented by those received from India, and when their full text is published, as we sincerely hope it will be before very long, they will create a still greater impression on our legislators among whom even the most zealous opponents of the Convention will realise that this is not a matter which concerns the West Indies alone, but the whole Empire. In the present issue we are able to supplement the *précis* of the representations, which reached us from every part of the Empire, by still more of a similar nature from Toronto, Bengal, Hong Kong, and Nelson (New Zealand). Then again, far from the question being confined to the West Indies alone, there is its aspect from the point of view of the British agriculturist to be considered. As LORD DENBIGH pointed out in a letter which appeared in the *Times* of June 20th, the possibility of the re-establishment of Bounties and, still worse, Cartels, must deal a death-blow to the attempts which are being made to start the sugar-beet industry in this country, which would be of immense value to the Agricultural community. All of this must carry weight and help to make the Government realise the prime necessity of securing the continuance of the Convention. Coming now to the position of affairs on the Continent in this connection, it is clear that the Powers are intensely irritated at the action of Great Britain, and the more so, inasmuch as it was through her earnest representations that the International Agreement was arrived at. Thus the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* says, "Our friends the English by their defection, a defection contrary to the interest of their refiners and their planters, and in no way justified by the requirements of their consumers, are about to complicate the sugar question in the gravest fashion, especially from a French point of view. Given the 'Entente Cordiale,' the French industry had a fair right to expect another sort of action." The *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie* says: "The prestige of England in international dealings cannot be increased if international agreements are set aside off-hand by one administration, whereas another Government a few years previously worked with the very greatest zeal to bring them about . . . The British Government are unable to cite any facts showing material damage to British interests through the Brussels Convention . . . They therefore restrict themselves to repeating in a general way that which has over and over again been stated without proof in their party programme respecting the Brussels Convention, viz., injury to British sugar consumers, and restrictions to certain industries employing sugar as raw material. The British Government thereby involve themselves in inexplicable contradictions, as they themselves admit they do not desire either the re-introduction of sugar bounties or the foundation of trusts and cartels. On the other hand they complain that through the Convention some sources of supply have been cut off. These countries supplied bounty-fed sugar. How is it possible on the one hand to declaim against State and private bounties, and on the other hand to complain that the supply of bounty-fed sugar to England has been cut off?" HERR F. O. LICHT in his latest *Monthly Report* goes so far as to say that neither Germany, Austria, nor France will agree to England's request, but that the "continuation of the Convention,

taken for granted the exclusion of England, will be entertained," and he adds significantly that in that case the imposition of adequate duties on English sugar goods (confectionery, jams, biscuits, &c.), cannot be avoided. From these expressions of opinion it becomes clear that the tables are turning. The Continent is waxing wroth, and there is rather more than a possibility that the Continental Powers will not allow England to remain a party to the Convention on the terms dictated by the present Government, but that they will decide to carry on the Convention among themselves, in which case a countervailing duty will most certainly be imposed upon British confectionery entering foreign ports. Surely then it is to the interest of the confectioners, as well as ourselves, to secure the continuance of this Convention, of which the worst that can be said is that it has brought sugar to a price slightly over the cost of production, though it is still below the average price prevailing for ten years before the Convention came into force, while it has widened our sources of supply to such an extent that the world's production of sugar last year was larger than ever before. There is one aspect of the question to which it is hoped that the foreign Powers will give due consideration. A Liberal Government is now in power, and its members feel that prohibition or the imposition of countervailing duties is irreconcilable to their declared policy. In a few years time the Liberals may have given place to a party which holds widely different views. Will it be wise then for the Continental Powers to alter their systems and to dislocate the sugar trade of the world for what can at the outside, unless we are very much mistaken, only be a few years? Would it not be better to agree to the proposals of Great Britain and to accept them as a temporary measure?

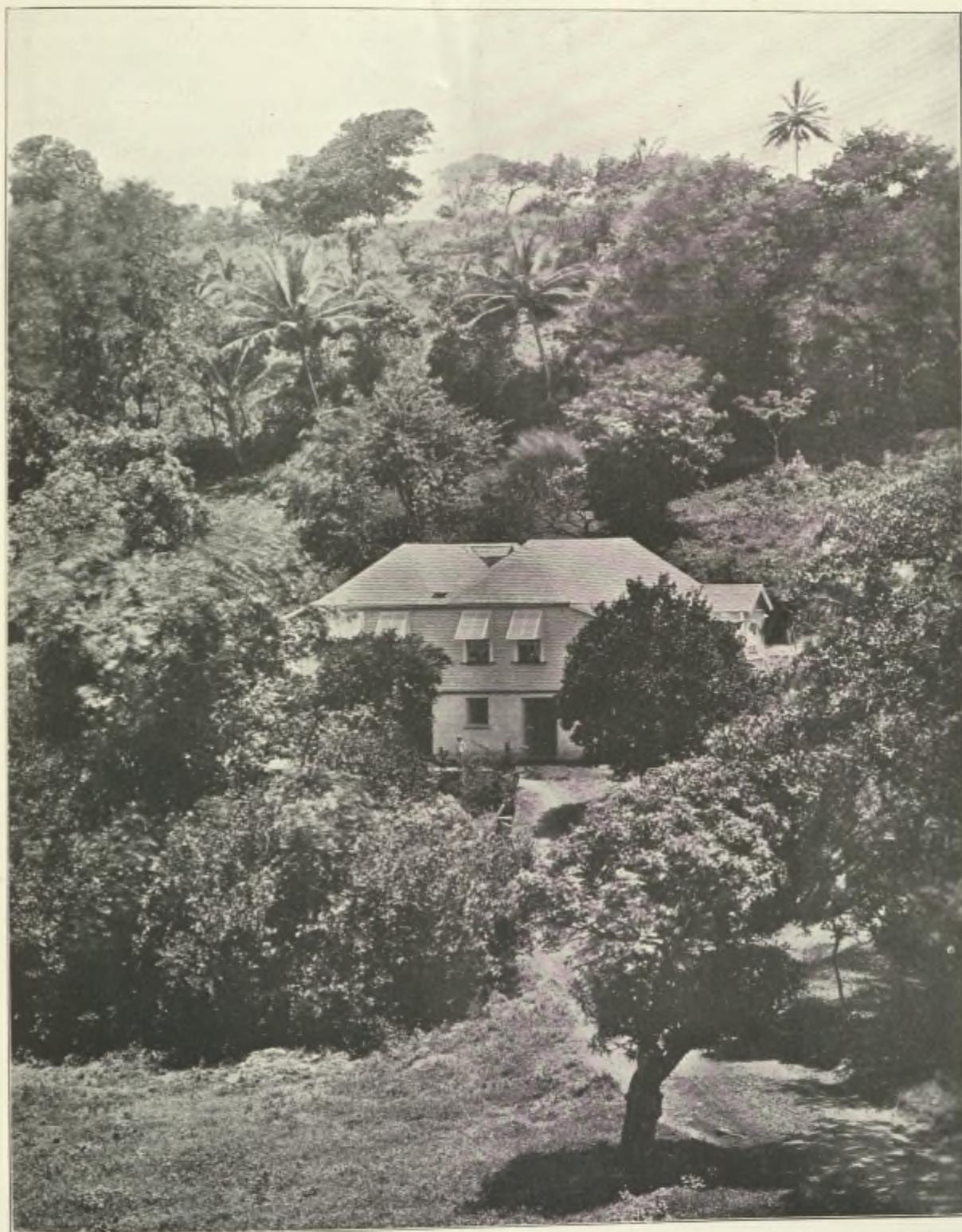
OUR readers will remember that in 1905 an interesting correspondence was opened in our columns by MR. C. KENRICK GIBBONS, with regard to the capabilities of the small fish which abound in the swamps and ponds in Barbados, and are known locally as "millions," for eradicating the mosquito pest. Such well-known experts as MAJOR W. M. HODDER, SIR PATRICK MANSON, and MR. J. H. HART, joined in the discussion, and in a leading article we expressed the hope that practical experiments might be made to test the accuracy of MR. GIBBONS' theory. MR. GIBBONS attributed the complete immunity from malaria which Barbados enjoys, to the presence in the island of these fish, which voraciously devour the larvæ of mosquitoes. Some of these interesting little creatures were sent over to the Zoological Gardens, but met with an untimely death through being put into hot water by an over-zealous assistant. The Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies then took the matter up; some of the fish were sent to different islands for experimental purposes, and now MR. AUSTIN H. KIRBY, Agriculture and Science Master in Antigua, has sent to the Commissioner a very striking report regarding the value of the "millions" which were entrusted to his care. The fish thrived well in Antigua, and when their numbers had increased sufficiently, they were placed in several of the ponds in the island, where conditions were evidently favourable to them. A few were placed, at the beginning of December last, in a tayche in which water is stored for use in the school garden at the Grammar School. This water had always swarmed with the larvae of *Culex* and *Stegomyia*, unless the precaution was taken to keep it covered with kerosene; in fact, they could be obtained from it at any time of the year by simply neglecting that precaution for a short while. Soon after the introduction of the "millions," however, no larvae could be found, and this has been the case for three months, the most careful examination failing to disclose them at any time during this period. This speaks well for the efficacy of the fish in regard to the destruction of the larvae of *Culex* and *Stegomyia*, at any rate. Those of *Anopheles* have never been found in the tayche, so that nothing definite can be said in connection with them. It is very unlikely, however, that any discrimination between the different kinds of larvae is exercised; certainly, those of the two first-mentioned genera appear to be devoured with equal avidity. Observations showed that when "millions" are placed in water already containing larvae, the small ones

are attacked and eaten first. In all cases, the whole of the larva is devoured, being gradually taken into the mouth while the fish remains stationary. The fact that water in which this fish is living remains free from mosquito larvae is due mostly, if not entirely, to the way in which it feeds, and not to what it feeds on. It vigorously attacks small insects that are drowning or resting on the surface, so that, although it has never been actually observed, it must inevitably be concluded that mosquitos attempting to lay eggs on the water are disturbed to such an extent as to prevent them from doing so where "millions" are present; thus, no larvae can possibly develop. The explanation given in the *Agricultural News* as to why *Culex* and *Stegomyia* are found in Barbados, while *Anopheles* is not, namely, that of the choice of breeding places, is supported by the experience of MR. KIRBY. In Antigua, the larvae of the two first-mentioned genera are commonly found in tanks, cisterns, and other receptacles, where water will remain for a time, while those of *Anopheles* have only been observed in shaded streams and ponds. This fact, coupled with the knowledge of the power of *Anopheles* to transmit malaria, goes far to explain the immunity from that disease of any island where the streams, &c., swarm with a larva-devouring fish. This very interesting report of MR. KIRBY appears fully to vindicate MR. C. KENRICK GIBBONS' contention, and we are well pleased to have been able to ventilate the matter with such satisfactory results. We now hope that a further effort will be made by SIR DANIEL MORRIS and his staff to breed the "millions" in malarial neighbourhoods.

FOR the second year in succession the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society for a display of fruit. This was at the seventh show of colonial fruits at Westminster, of which an account will be found on another page. The West Indian Produce Association were also awarded a Gold Medal for colonial preserves, a matter for congratulation to MR. C. A. PHILIP, the Manager. The trade in fresh limes, on the display of which the Permanent Committee of Dominica concentrated their efforts on the present occasion, may be said to have begun in earnest, as far as the English market is concerned, in 1905, when they were shown at the Colonial Exhibition. Since then it has continued to expand in a manner which says much for the merits of this delicately flavoured fruit. In 1906 the demand for it was stimulated by the King accepting a box of limes, and now the planters of Dominica receive further encouragement from the Prince of Wales who has done the same gracious act. Limes have at last, as it seems, come to stay, and we hope that every one of our readers in the mother country will help us still further to popularise them, not only by using them in their own households but by recommending their friends to do the same. The fruit is fragrant and delicious, and it well merits the description of it which SIR GEORGE WATT extracted from an old Tamil work, "The lime is a fit and proper thing to be presented by an inferior to a superior; it is beautiful to behold, cooling and fragrant to the smell." Dominica is now reaping the benefits of her enterprise in participating in these exhibitions; but it is a little disappointing that they are not supported better by other colonies of our group. At a very small expense—the recent exhibition cost Dominica less than £20—it is open to them to make a display which would be fully as practical as that of Dominica of which we are now speaking. To be of benefit, however, such exhibitions must be practical. Some definite object must be aimed at, whether it be to emphasise the advantages of some particular product or products, or to call attention to the attractions afforded by the islands as a field for settlers and a resort for tourists. If it were only from the latter point of view it would, we feel confident, be extremely desirable that each one of the colonies should be represented whenever possible. The next exhibition of this series, under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, is to be held on November 28th and 29th, and we hope that the Permanent Exhibition Committees will give their most favourable consideration to the proposals which we shall submit to them with the object of securing their representation at it.

THE HON. A. P. MACKEY.

The Hon. A. P. Mackey, whose portrait we give in the present issue, is of Irish parentage, but he forsook the Emerald Isle for Liverpool, where he received his education. He first went out to Demerara, to which he is just returning after a brief holiday, in 1876, having previously been for



A COUNTRY RESIDENCE IN GRENADA.

five years in the Liverpool office of Messrs. George Booker & Co., now Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., of which he is the Director in British Guiana. Mr. Mackey is a Member of the Executive Council of British Guiana and Financial Representative for Georgetown in the Combined Court. He is a Director of the Hand-in-Hand Fire Company, and has for many years occupied a seat on the Board of the Demerara Railway Company. He has also on several occasions been President of the Chamber of Commerce.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., on Thursday, June 20th, 1907, at 3 p.m. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and those present included Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Arbuthnot, Mr. L. L. Bell, Mr. Benjamin Brown, Mr. J. Buchanan, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. E. Kynaston, Mr. Alex. G. Low, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. F. H. D. Man, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. Frank Preston, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. Riccalton (W. S. Robertson & Co.), Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. W. Rowstone, Mr. R. Rust, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. H. K. F. Smith, Mr. H. B. Tasker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that it was unfortunate that owing to its being Ascot Cup Day there was not a larger attendance. He expressed his regret, which would be shared by all present, at the very serious losses which had been sustained through the death of many members. They had lost many valuable members of the Committee during the Jamaica earthquake, and notably Sir James Fergusson, who had always been a good friend to the West Indies and had helped them on many occasions, and Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, who was on the point of being elected to the Executive Committee. It was satisfactory that the membership continued to increase, the total at the present time being 1,152, a larger number than ever before. With regard to the financial position, it would be noticed that mention was made in the report of the desirability of forming an endowment fund, a matter which would receive the early attention of the Executive.

Referring to the disastrous earthquake in Jamaica, Sir Nevile said it was hoped that the grant and loan given by the Government, and which the Committee were largely instrumental in obtaining, would go a long way towards making good the losses sustained by the island. As to the cocoa industry, it was satisfactory that prices had remained very remunerative, though the crops in Trinidad had been very bad. As cocoa was now one of the chief products of the West Indies, it was satisfactory that both prices and consumption were maintained at a high level. The Committee had constantly called the attention of the Government to the spirit surtax, and had lately been asking them to investigate the question as to how far the surtax of 4d. was justifiable, by a scrutiny of the excise regulations to which distillers in Great Britain were subject. The Government showed a great unwillingness to have any enquiry whatever made, and it was impossible to avoid arriving at the conclusion that the reason for this was that an enquiry would fully prove that the surtax of 4d. was quite unjustifiable. That a "Free Trade" Government should continue this protection to the home distiller and refuse to enquire into it, was a matter which might well cause surprise.

The defences of the West Indies was a very serious question indeed, and he would read a letter from Lord Elgin on this subject which had recently been received. The Committee had written to the Colonial Office, pointing out that since the withdrawal of the troops and ships there had been no less than three serious occurrences in the West Indies, and on each of these occasions there was no cruiser near the spot, and the colonies had to thank foreign warships for any aid obtained. Mr. C. P. Lucas wrote on June 14th:—

SIR,—I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ult. on the subject of the recent disturbances in St. Lucia, and the arrangements for the protection of life and property in the West Indian Colonies.

Lord Elgin can hold out no prospect that the policy of withdrawing the troops from the West Indies, carried out by the late Government, will be reversed. It is necessary that the Colonies should themselves provide sufficient Police Forces for the preservation of law and order, with the assistance of Militia or Volunteers when occasion demands, and Lord Elgin is giving his attention to the matter from this point of view.

As regards the provision of men-of-war to be available in West Indian waters in case of grave emergency, the Committee are aware that a cruiser is stationed in those waters, and that a second cruiser has been despatched thither for temporary service. His Majesty's Government will not fail to make such provision as the necessities of the situation from time to time demand, but it must be understood that the vessels of His Majesty's navy cannot be expected as a part of their ordinary functions to relieve the police and armed forces of the colonies of their unquestionable and undivided responsibilities in repressing disorderly outbreaks in their respective territories.

The Committee still had to regret that nothing whatever had been done in the matter of cable

communication, and they would continue to impress upon the Government the desirability of the extension of the all-British line from Bermuda to the West Indies. With regard to mail communication, it was satisfactory to be able to say that arrangements had now been made for the transatlantic mail service with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on a poundage basis. Negotiations were still pending in respect to the intercolonial service, and it was hoped that some arrangements would soon be made. He did not think that there was altogether quite a large enough view taken in the West Indies of the importance of a good service, and every island ought, he felt, to stretch a point to get the scheme carried through.

Then as to the Brussels Convention; as they all knew, the Government had recently notified the different powers that after September 1st next year, they would not continue parties to the Convention, unless they were exempted from the provisions contained in the penal clause. He believed that he was right in saying that at that moment there was only one country affected by the clause, namely, Russia, and the only effect was this: the 20,000 tons of sugar from Russia which might come to England, now went to the Levant and India, where Russia competed with Austria, and we got in its place 20,000 tons of Austrian sugar. It was merely a re-adjustment. If 20,000 tons of sugar came here from Russia, we should get practically that amount less from Austria, which at present filled the gap in this country. So far as the consumers were concerned, this was absolutely immaterial, and so, though in principle it was all-important, from a practical point of view this penal clause was of less consequence to the producers or consumers connected with this country. The matter of principle involved in it was of the highest importance, and it was very essential when the Convention was first agreed to, that Great Britain should be party to a penal clause. He did not think that the policy of the present Government could properly be called one of "Free Trade" for one moment, but the outcry against the penal clause was a Cobden Club cry, and some of the party had cried so loud that he presumed the Government felt they must take some action. Protection, as known in this country, meant the protection of British interests in British markets; but it seemed that "Free Trade" meant the protection of foreign interests in our markets. The Convention was the only security which the sugar producers of the world had that they would be allowed to compete on equal terms. Already, the mere talk of its being given up had alarmed people considerably, not only here, but elsewhere. The question that arose was, first of all whether the foreign governments would agree to carry on the Convention without England agreeing to the penal clause, whether they would continue the Convention themselves without England, or whether they would discontinue the Convention altogether. If one could judge by the sugar press, there appeared to be a consensus of opinion, both in the German and French papers, that England should not be allowed to be a party to the Convention without the penal clause, but that it should be carried on by the other Powers. The great fear was that if the Convention were abolished, Hungary might give cartel bounties, subsequently Austria would follow suit, and then Germany, in self-defence, would have to fall into line. Germany had tasted cheap sugar, and it would no doubt be much more difficult for her to re-establish bounties than it was some time ago; but still it might be done. There was, therefore, a great danger and the sense of insecurity would be re-established. If the Committee could see their way to do anything to keep the sugar Convention going, every move possible would be made to do so, but the Government had burnt their boats; they had thrown away the penal clause when their right policy would have been to have negotiated with Russia first of all. The only thing now to do was to sit quiet and see what happened. One thing was certain; both in the French and German papers it was said that if England were to go out of the Convention or be released from the penal clause, France and Germany would at once have to impose duties on English jams, confectionery, and biscuits imported into those countries. It seemed probable that the end of the present attitude of the Government would be to inflict great injury on the British industries just mentioned.

SIR HENRY DAVSON seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, which was carried unanimously. He then moved that Mr. H. H. Dobree, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. A. M. Lee, Mr. F. Lubbock, and Mr. H. F. Previt  retiring by rotation, be re-elected, and that Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. Charles Hales, Mr. G. Moody Stewart, and the Right Hon. J. Parker Smith be elected members of the Executive Committee. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Spencer H. Curtis and carried unanimously.

MR. EDWARD KYNASTON proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Nevile Lubbock for his able management of the meeting and the information which he had given them. He agreed with every word Sir Nevile said about the danger of the re-imposition of bounties, but from his long experience he did not think that bounties would ever again be introduced. In his judgment they had gone for ever. With regard to cartels; if these were re-arranged the result would be most injurious to our British colonies and British refiners. The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and unanimously adopted. Sir Nevile Lubbock, thanking the meeting, said that they might very well have coupled his name with that of the Secretary.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND THE EMPIRE.

The text of the resolutions and petitions from Barbados, British Guiana, Antigua, and St. Kitts, urging, in the strongest possible terms, the desirability of securing the continuance of the Brussels Convention have already appeared in our columns. The following resolution has been introduced into the Legislature of Jamaica: "That the sugar industry in this colony prior to the Brussels Convention suffered from paralysis of credit and lack of confidence on the part of proprietors and capitalists; that during the last quarter of a century the export of sugar and by-products had been reduced from over 70 to under 15 per cent. of the total exports of the colony; that since the Convention credit has been restored, capital becoming available for the extension of the industry here, leading to large importations of British machinery; that the threatened action of the British Government will lead to lack of confidence and capital again; and that the Government be requested to represent to the Secretary of State the gravity of the situation from Jamaica's point of view, urging his lordship, as guardian of colonial interests, to do all possible to safeguard such interests." The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce has also telegraphed a protest to Lord Elgin. In our last issue we gave the purport of letters which we had received from Chambers of Commerce in almost every part of the Empire in support of our endeavour to persuade the Government to refrain from denouncing the Brussels Convention for the abolition of foreign bounties and cartels. The following additional representations of a similar nature have since reached us:—

Toronto.—The Executive Council of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association wrote that the Association was heartily in accord with the principles of the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention. It believed that the Convention had demonstrated its usefulness as a practical means of overcoming the evils to which the system of cartels gave rise, and they also wrote to the Government expressing the hope that they would see fit to favour a continuance of the treaty after its expiry in 1908.

Calcutta.—The Bengal Chamber of Commerce supplemented their letter already recorded by forwarding to the West India Committee the following letter which they addressed on May 17th to the Secretary of the Government of India:—

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3199-27, dated April 16th, 1907, with reference to the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention.

The Committee note that the question of the continued adherence of Great Britain to the Convention is believed to be under consideration in England, but that no information as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government is available. It is within your knowledge that the events which led up to the Brussels Convention were watched with keen interest by the Committee of the Chamber. When the Conference of 1898 appeared to have failed, the Committee strongly supported the policy of nullifying the effect of the bounties by the imposition of countervailing duties. But the Convention was designed to suppress the bounties, and so to achieve the end in view more completely. It has been successful in this object; the bounties have ceased to exist, and few, if any, of the artificial advantages which they conferred upon beet sugar are now enjoyed by the exporters of that commodity.

This being the present position, the Committee would view the withdrawal of Great Britain from the Convention with grave concern; for they recognise that it might be but the first step towards the re-introduction of the bounty system. They have again considered the whole question, but they see no reason to modify the views which they have so frequently expressed in the past. The objections to the bounty system have lost none of their force. For, as the Committee pointed out in 1898, the effect of permitting large importations of subsidised sugars cannot be other than disastrous to the sugar growing and refining industry of this country. That this view is shared by the Government of India is evidenced by the fact that within six years three Acts of the legislature were passed, with the object of protecting the industry by the imposition of countervailing duties. The Convention affords even more complete protection, and the Committee feel confident that the Government of India will support its continuance. They venture, therefore, respectfully to suggest that His Excellency the Governor-General in Council should urge upon His Majesty's Ministers the need, in the interests of India, for Great Britain continuing to remain a party to the Convention.

I have the honour, &c.,
(Signed) H. M. HAYWOOD, *Secretary.*

Hong Kong.—The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce decided to support the representations of the West India Committee, urging the continued adhesion of the Imperial Government to the Brussels Convention, Hong Kong being a large sugar manufacturing centre, while the Brussels Convention had safeguarded the local refineries from having to contend with the heavy imports of bounty-fed beet sugar from Europe which in previous years had been dumped into the Hong Kong and surrounding markets. They addressed the following letter to the Colonial Office through the Colonial Government:—

MY LORD,—I beg to inform you that it has been reported to the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce that the question as to whether or not Great Britain shall continue to be a party to the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention of 1903 is now under consideration by His Majesty's Government who may possibly, we are informed, decide to withdraw from the Agreement, notice of such withdrawal (if decided upon) to be given by September 1st next.

As your Lordship is doubtless aware, the sugar refining business is an important, one of the most important, industries of this colony, and a large trade is carried on in the importation of the refined sugar into China and other neighbouring countries.

Hong Kong being a duty free port, there are no import duties paid on the raw material when arriving, or

export dues on the refined sugar when exported, nor are subsidies of any kind granted to the local refineries which are carried out by British capital entirely as ordinary industrial undertakings.

Prior to the signing of the Brussels Convention the products of our local refineries had to enter into keen competition in all the markets in which they were interested, more particularly those of India and China, with bounty-fed beet sugar produced on the Continent.

Though competition is still encountered in these markets, this is due to the ordinary course of business and must be expected and dealt with as similar competition in every branch of trade, but the unfair advantage which has hitherto been experienced by competition with the State-aided product has, since the signing of the Brussels Convention, been removed.

As representatives of a community which embraces sugar refining among its industries, we are in a position to highly appreciate the advantage which has accrued to British enterprise by the signing of a Convention which places all those engaged in a purely commercial undertaking on the same footing.

This advantage, we feel confident, must be of even far greater moment to many British possessions where the cultivation and treating of sugar is the main industry, and on the success of which the prosperity of these portions of His Majesty's domains so greatly depends.

We would beg to urge upon your Lordship the vital importance which we feel this question involves, not only to our own colony but to many other portions of the British Empire.

We venture, therefore, to express the hope that after careful consideration on the part of His Majesty's Ministers, it will be decided in the interests of the Empire at large that the adhesion of the British Government to the Convention be extended for a further term of years.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) EDBERT A. HEWETT, *Chairman.*

Nelson, New Zealand.—The Chamber of Commerce of Nelson, New Zealand, passed the following resolution unanimously:—"That this Chamber is strongly of opinion that it is in the best interests of the trade of the British Empire that the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention be continued."

SUGAR PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

The statistics set out below regarding production and consumption of raw sugar for ten seasons will doubtless prove useful to our readers for the purpose of reference. It will be noticed that they vary somewhat from those given in the *West India Committee Circular* of December 8th, 1905. As heretofore, they are compiled from the best sources available; but it happens that the various statistics published from time to time have to be altered in the year following a crop, and even in the year after that, as more precise information is available. The statement below, is therefore, made to accord with the last published statistics in each case, a course which will be adopted in future.

Season 1897-8.				Season 1898-9.			
	Tons.	Consumption.		Tons.	Consumption.		
Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1897	955,284		Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1898	909,071			
Beet crop (Europe)	4,831,774		Beet crop	4,982,101			
Cane "	2,864,255		Cane "	3,095,450			
Beet U.S.	40,399		Beet, U.S.	32,471			
	8,691,712			9,019,093			
Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1898	909,071	7,782,641	Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1899	832,172	8,186,921		
Season 1899-1900.				Season 1900-1.			
Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1899	832,172		Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1900	479,610			
Beet crop	5,518,048		Beet crop	5,990,080			
Cane "	3,030,303		Cane "	3,650,416			
Beet, U.S.	72,944		Beet, U.S.	76,859			
	9,453,467			10,196,965			
Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1900	479,610	8,973,857	Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1901	887,589	9,309,376		
Season 1901-2.				Season 1902-3.			
Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1901	887,589		Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1902	1,620,420			
Beet crop	6,750,478		Beet crop	5,561,257			
Cane "	4,081,509		Cane "	4,163,941			
Beet, U.S.	163,126		Beet, U.S.	195,463			
	11,882,702			11,541,081			
Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1902	1,620,420	10,262,282	Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1903	1,628,780	9,912,301		
Season 1903-4.				Season 1904-5.			
Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1903	1,628,780		Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1904	1,235,550			
Beet crop	5,881,333		Beet crop	4,708,758			
Cane "	4,234,203		Cane "	4,594,473			
Beet, U.S.	208,135		Beet, U.S.	209,722			
	11,952,451			10,748,503			
Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1904	1,235,550	10,716,901	Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1905	1,162,670	9,585,833		

Season 1905-6.			Season 1906-7.		
	Tons.	Consumption.		Tons.	Consumption.
Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1905	1,162,670		Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1906	1,072,010	
Beet crop	6,933,649		Beet crop	6,700,000	
Cane	4,920,855		Cane	4,923,046	
Beet, U.S.	283,717		Beet, U.S.	433,010	
	13,300,891			13,128,066	
Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1906	1,072,010		Deduct Visible Supply, Oct. 1st, 1907		
		12,288,881			

The figures of the last one or two crops may be liable to revision when later information comes to hand.

WEST INDIAN RUM.

At a recent meeting of the Liverpool section of the Society of Chemical Industry, Mr. W. Collingwood Williams read a very interesting paper entitled "Some Analyses of Genuine Jamaica Rums." As regards the "common clean" rums, the analysis of 21 samples gave a mean of 366.5 of esters per 100,000, the proportions varying from 88 to 1,058 per 100,000, while seven samples of "flavoured" rums gave from 391 to 1,204 per 100,000, averaging 768.5. Mr. Williams states that while, broadly speaking, rums containing the higher proportion of esters command better prices, the ester content is not an absolute index of quality. Speaking of Demerara rums, he said that although the Demerara process was undoubtedly more amenable to scientific control as an alcohol industry, the product is much inferior to most rums of the Jamaica type. As being the product of the distillation of fermented cane molasses, it is undoubtedly entitled to have the name of rum, but is of relatively poor quality and considerably cheaper than Jamaica rum. In Demerara rum, Mr. Williams went on to say, it appears that one has a more suitable material for blending with flavoured Jamaica rum. The former, although approaching plain spirit in many cases, is of a clean and wholesome type, and is prepared from a legitimate source of rum in a British colony. In order to give Demerara rum the character that it lacks, flavoured Jamaica rum is the very thing required, and it would seem preferable that such an employment should be found for it, rather than it should be sent to Hamburg to flavour potato or beet spirit, and thus illegitimately compete with the Jamaica planters in their own market. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Williams gave it as his opinion that by the addition of suitable culture to the unfermented wash, rums of different flavours could be produced almost at will. We should like to point out that attempts in this direction have been made for some time past, but have not as yet met with the success anticipated. The variation in quality of cane juice and molasses is so great as materially to affect the character of the wash, and with such an uncertain basis of operations, the attainment of consistent results is difficult, and has not been yet effected.

CACAO PEST.

In the Bulletin of the Trinidad Botanic Department, Mr. Hart states that specimens of a cacao tree were recently sent in reported to be killed by some unknown disease. After a primary examination, during which nothing was found to which the death of the tree could be attributed, the specimens were set aside in a suitable dry place for further observation. A few days afterwards they were again examined, when the spores of a fungus were found protruding in large numbers from small pustules on the bark. The spores were agglutinated together in small threads much curled in form, and white in colour to the unassisted eye. Under the microscope the threads were seen to be composed of *non septate* oval hyaline spores. These spores germinated freely in a culture fluid made from the material of an unripe cacao pod which had been carefully sterilised, growth being made in twenty-four hours. Placed in a damp chamber, the bark containing the above spores produced threads of brown septate spores in curled threads in exactly the same form and from the same pustules which produced the hyaline spores. These brown spores placed under culture produced mycelium of character and the growth different to the colourless spores. The form, size and character of these spores resemble the spores of the fungus found on cocoa-nut trees so closely that it would appear to be clear that they must fall into the same group of fungi. The fungus had been referred to the United States Department of Agriculture, who concluded it to be a *Lasio diploдия*, known to attack cacao in Brazil.

GUAYULE RUBBER.

Mr. Max Müller reporting on the rubber industry in Mexico, states that Guayule is a form of rubber extracted from the Guayule plant which grows in enormous quantities in certain of the Northern States of Mexico, especially San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, Durango, and Coahuila. This industry has now passed from the experimental to the practical stage, and is destined to attain con-

siderable importance in Northern Mexico. Little more than two years ago the Guayule shrub was not only regarded as worthless, but was looked on as a veritable scourge by the Mexican landowners. In fact, lands thick with this bush were considered worse than useless, and could have been had for a merely nominal sum, while now many sales of Guayule on the ground have been reported at over five times the price at which the land itself was valued two or three years ago. Holders of tracts of these lands, who had to expend money on them for taxes and other purposes, found them burdensome in the extreme. Now many of the people have reaped fortunes from those same waste lands. For some years Guayule has been known to contain rubber, but it is only within quite a short time that a process has been invented for the extraction of the gum for commercial use. As long ago as 1897, a German named Henry Lemcke, employed under the Mexican Ministry of Fomento, acquired a knowledge of the value of the Guayule plant, known then only to the Indians and a few others who discovered an elastic substance in the plant when chewing it. Mr. Lemcke informed the Mexican Government of his discovery, and also offered it to various companies interested in the rubber industry, with a view to ascertaining whether it was possible to extract a good quality of rubber from the shrub. Chemists and inventors began experimenting with the plant, but it was not really till towards the end of the year 1904 that the buying up of the shrub began, at about 15 Mexican dollars per ton. Speculation immediately began, and such was the number of persons anxious to secure quantities of Guayule large enough to justify them in erecting factories for applying the recently-discovered processes of the extraction of the gum, that buyers have found it very difficult to purchase the plant, and recently contracts for large lots have been reported as high as 100 Mexican dollars per ton. It is not to be expected that the gum extracted from the Guayule will ever take the place of rubber; but it can be used as a substitute in many forms of manufacture, especially in a vulcanized form, and can be mixed in large proportions with rubber. In itself, it is inferior to real rubber, it has very little elasticity, will not bound as true rubber does, and is easily broken. It contains a great deal of soft sticky matter. Fresh Guayule looks very much like old rubber which has been exposed to the air for years until it has lost its elasticity and strength. It requires, therefore, a considerable admixture of ordinary rubber to give it strength enough for common commercial purposes. It has the further disadvantage that it deteriorates more rapidly than real rubber. The Northern part of Mexico is not the only country where Guayule grows. There are millions of acres in Texas covered with the shrub, which has lately also been discovered in the Philippines.

" BRITISH TOBACCO GROWING ASSOCIATION."

It is doubtful if as much attention and care is being paid to the cultivation of tobacco in the British West Indies as might be the case, though in Jamaica and Trinidad it is grown on a commercial scale. Speaking recently at the annual meeting of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Lord Winterstoke, who will be best remembered as Sir William Henry Wills, said that at present their supplies were limited to those from the United States of America, and he noticed with great satisfaction that efforts were being made in various parts of the world to grow tobacco. He had seen samples from various countries, and they all showed more or less of promise in quality of leaf, but they showed lamentable ignorance in the way of putting it up. He pointed out that tobacco required to be properly cured, and he went on to refer to the interesting fact that they had an expert in British East Africa experimenting in the growing of tobacco. British Africa undoubtedly has great prospects as a tobacco-growing country, and already the output in Nyassaland is assuming considerable proportions, while consignments from the Transvaal, it is hoped, will soon be arriving regularly at Liverpool. Africa, Ceylon, the West Indies, and parts of Australia, all have climatic conditions suitable for growing tobacco, and samples have been received which experts pronounce to be equal in quality to the American article. The subject is an important one, and it is not unlikely that as much will be heard in the future of the necessity for British-grown tobacco as for British-grown cotton.

RICE CULTIVATION.

The prairie rice lands in Louisiana and Texas have become, within the last ten years, of very great importance. This appears to be due largely to mechanical cultivation, and it seems that experiments in the same connection might with advantage be made in British Guiana, which has shown itself so admirably adapted for rice. Owing to abundance of water, the prairie lands in Louisiana and Texas have been very heavy producers. Gang-ploughs, harrows, seeders, self-binders, and the different sorts of machinery used in wheat culture in the north-west are profitably used in the rice fields, and with the exception of flooding of the fields, the culture and care of the two crops have much in common. The principal field operations consist of breaking the land with four male gang-ploughs, reaching about 3 in., although 2 in. to 2½ in. is usually deep enough. Disc and spring-tooth harrows are used, and, where necessary, complete

pulverisation is secured by the use of a smoothing harrow. Should the ground be too hard, water is turned on to soften it. The stand is found more uniform where a drill is used, although the rice may be sown broadcast. In moist, warm weather, water is not turned on for from four to six weeks, and then care is taken not to cover the tops. An average season requires three months' flooding. The water is withdrawn from the fields when the heads begin to turn, and the rice is passing into the "dough" stage. This is usually from ten to fourteen days before harvest begins. Three horses with a modern self-binder will harvest from five to twelve acres daily. The same thresher used for oats will thresh rice. Where the farmer supplies the hands the thresher will usually charge two to one-half cents per bushel. Little fertiliser has been used in rice cultivation so far.

THE COLONIAL FRUIT SHOW.



The Badge of Dominica.

At the seventh show of colonial fruit, held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society at their hall at Westminster on June 13th and 14th, the Dominica Permanent Exhibition Committee occupied a prominent position immediately facing the main entrance. The Committee on the present occasion very wisely took into consideration the time of year and confined their display almost entirely to the limes for which the island is famous. As a result the exports of limes from Dominica to this country should, given fairly good weather, show this year a marked increase over those of 1906, which was a record year as far as the English market is concerned. If one can say so of such a brilliantly yellow fruit, the limes shown were in the pink of condition, and their profusion—fifteen boxes and two barrels were sent over—enabled those responsible for the arrangement of them to present to the visitor a *coup d'œil* on entering the hall, which was at the same time striking and effective. The limes were set out in baskets amid which rose a skilfully contrived pyramid of the fruit nearly 4 ft. high. A large amount of literature bearing the badge of Dominica, with the familiar motto *Animis opibusque parati*, as shown on this page, was distributed freely. In it the merits of limes were extolled, and visitors were invited to ask their grocers and fruiterers to supply them with the fruit. To add also to the practical nature of the show, free Dominica lime squashes were dispensed at one end of the stand. There were limes, limes, limes everywhere. Interspersed among them there were, however, other fruits and vegetables, several of which were quite a curiosity to people at home, and also served as a great attraction to the more serious part of the exhibit. There were really fine Pine-apples, Mangoes, Jack fruit, Christophines (Mr. Hamel Smith was also showing this vegetable growing in a basket), Mammee apples, exquisite Mangosteens, bread-fruit reminiscent of Captain Bligh, his disastrous expedition to the South Seas in the *Bounty* and the establishment of the small colony on Pitcairn Island, and Durians, the latter being shown in a preservative fluid in glass jars. The Durians in particular were objects of interest, for not only were they the first specimens of this fruit ever exhibited in London, but they were also from the first tree of its kind which has ever fruited in the New World. They came from a tree, the original plant of which was sent to Dr. Nicholls with one of the Mangosteen, by Sir Joseph Hooker. The pulp is the eatable part of the Durian, and its consistence and flavour are indescribable. In his book on the Malay Archipelago, however, Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace described its flavour as resembling a rich butter-like custard highly flavoured with almonds, but mingled with cream cheese, onion sauce, and other incongruities. It grows on a large and lofty forest tree somewhat resembling an elm in its general character, but with a more smooth and scaly bark. The fruit is round or slightly oval, about the size of a large cocoa-nut, of a green colour, and covered all over with short stout spines. When brought into a house the smell of the Durian is often so offensive that some persons can never bear to taste it. Doctor Paludanus wrote that the natives gave it honourable titles, exalted it and made verses on it. Small wonder then that it attracted so much attention! To revert once again to the limes it may be mentioned that the fruit shown was from the following estates: St. Aroment, Castle Comfort, Colibri, Bagatelle, Everton and Hillsborough, while the Dominica Fruit Grower's Association sent a quantity of limes of their well-known "Atlantis" brand. For the exhibit as a whole the judges awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society to the Permanent Exhibition Committee, and for the finest limes the St. Aroment Estate received the award of a silver Banksian medal. Messrs. Hillier, Brown & Dunn, also showed "Atlantis" limes. The West Indian Produce Association exhibited a great variety of West Indian produce, including limes, oranges, and Jamaica and Trinidad cigars and cheroots, and were awarded the Gold Medal for Colonial preserves. Theirs was by far the largest individual exhibit in the hall, and it did infinite credit to Mr. C. A. Philip, Manager and Director of the Association. It was in charge

of Mr. and Mrs. Hankinson, whose services in connection with the Colonial Exhibition of 1905 will be remembered in several of the West Indian colonies.

It will be borne in mind that at the close of the last exhibition the King graciously accepted a box of Dominica limes, while the bulk of the fruit was sent at his suggestion to the London hospitals. On the present occasion the Prince of Wales honoured the Permanent Exhibition Committee by accepting a box of limes and several Mangosteens. Sir W. P. Treloar, the Lord Mayor, also expressed his appreciation of a similar gift. Several boxes of fruit were sent to the Children's Hospital, and also to the rendezvous of the *Tribune*, whose Manager, Mr. H. S. Perris, kindly offered to distribute them, while all that remained over were sent to the Queen's Fête in aid of the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund at the Mansion House. As usual the Press were generous and kind in their comments regarding this very successful show.

THE LATE SIR ROBERT BROMLEY.



Tablet to the memory of the late Sir Robert Bromley.

It is difficult to realise that more than a year has elapsed since the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis lost Sir Robert Bromley, one of its most capable and popular Administrators. The monument to his memory was erected at St. Kitts some little time ago. It consisted of a Calvary cross and steps in Greek white pentelikon marble from Athens, with a border of similar marble to enclose the grave. As a further tribute to his memory, the people of St. Kitts-Nevis have caused a tablet to be erected at Stoke Church, Notts. It is of classic design, the frame being hand-coloured English onyx alabaster, with a white marble plate on which the inscription is engraved in black letters, surmounted by the Bromley coat of arms and crest in colours. The inscription reads: "In memory of Sir Robert Bromley, 6th Baronet, of Stoke, Newark, and of Ashwell, Rutland, who was born at Stoke on January 4th, 1874, and died on May 13th, 1906, at Springfield, St. Christopher, in the Presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis, where he administered the Government from the 27th October 1904, to the day of his death. This tablet was erected by the people amongst whom he lived in the Leeward Islands as a slight recognition of his great ability and his earnest efforts for the welfare of all classes in the above Presidency." The monument and tablet were executed by Messrs. John Underwood & Son, who are also submitting the designs for the memorial to the late Sir James Fergusson for Jamaica.

COLONIAL NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Lady Musgrave, Lady Sendall, Sir Robert Llewelyn, Sir E. Noël Walker, and Sir W. Haynes Smith, were among those whose names will be familiar to West Indians who attended the annual meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association on June 14th. Lord Ampthill occupied the chair, and Princess Henry of Battenberg, as patroness of the Association, was present. In the report it was stated that the total number of nurses engaged during the year was 167, of whom 121 were in Government service and the rest in private employment. Much had been done of late years to improve the hospitals and nursing conditions in the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, and it was satisfactory to learn from official reports that the matrons and nurses had contributed in no small degree to the improvement. Lord Ampthill said it had been hoped that Mrs. Chamberlain would be present, but unfortunately she was unable to attend. Everybody shared her anxiety with regard to her husband, and all persons, but especially those who thought most of the Empire, ardently desired that great statesman's restoration to health. He regretted that the Association was so small compared with the importance of its object and the vast extent of the Empire. It had only about 120 subscribers, who

contributed £450. Considering how many British people had relations in distant parts of the Empire it was strange that so few of them took an interest. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., moving the adoption of the report, said that the operations of this Association had had the happy result of stimulating the interest of Colonial Governments in the care of the sick. He endorsed Lord Amptbill's appeal for more funds, and added that he would address it not merely to people who had relatives abroad but to the great merchant houses who did business with our Colonies, Protectorates, and Dependencies.* (Applause.) The report was seconded by Sir G. Taubman-Goldie and adopted.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Sugar Trade with India.

Mr. Morley, having been asked by Sir C. Dilke if he could explain the reasons given by the Government of India for the apparent failure of measures defended as likely to improve the trade with India of Mauritius, and the decline in the importation of Mauritius sugar from £1,550,000 in 1904 to £1,174,000 in 1906 compared with the rise in the import from Germany and Austria-Hungary from £1,013,000 to £3,090,000 in the same period, says: I presume that my right hon. friend refers to the remarks made by Mr. Baker, the finance member of the Viceroy's Council, in the Budget statement of last year, as to the effects of the experimental imposition by the Government of India of countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar. The duties ceased to operate at the end of 1903, as Austria-Hungary and Germany, the chief competing countries, had joined the Brussels Convention. I do not find that the causes of the fall in the import of Mauritius sugar were specifically treated by Mr. Baker. In the Government of India's Trade Review for 1905-6 the failure of the beet-crop of Europe in 1904 and the abundant yield of 1905 and 1906 are mentioned as explanatory of the import figures of the last three years.

British West Indians.

Mr. Lonsdale asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to the fact that a number of British West Indians had been held in a state of slavery on the Galapagos Islands; and whether any steps had been taken to procure their liberation. Mr. Runciman, who answered the question on June 17th, said: Rumours having reached His Majesty's Government that a certain number of British subjects were detained at Chatham Island, in the Galapagos group, His Majesty's ship *Shearwater* was at once sent to inquire into the matter. Her commander has now reported that there are 11 West Indian negroes, British subjects, in the employment of a Colombian company in the island, which trades under the name of F. E. Ortiz and Co., the principal industry of which is a sugar plantation. These negroes are stated to have signed contracts with the company to work for one year, and should they at the end of that period owe money to the company, to continue working till their debt be paid. The men owe the company some \$2,300 between them. This money has been borrowed from the company, and is believed to have been lost in gambling. There is little, if any, prospect of the men being able to repay it, and they are therefore not in a position to leave the island. They have not been actually subjected to ill-treatment of a serious nature, and the commander of the British ship impressed upon the Governor his responsibility in the matter, and for their good treatment in future. His Majesty's Government will at once make representations to the Ecuadorian Government on the subject, and will communicate with the Governor of the West Indian islands concerned. But, as the report was only received this morning, there has not yet been time to consider it fully.

Labour in Trinidad.

In the discussion of the Colonial Office Vote in the House of Commons on June 20th, Mr. Summerbell expressed regret that the Government had sanctioned the creation of a wholly nominated board for Port-au-Spain instead of restoring to that town the municipal council which it had, before its dissolution in 1898, enjoyed for a period of half a century. He hoped the Under-Secretary would give a promise that, after the nominated council had been in existence for a year or two, the home Government would reconsider this question with a view to the appointment of an elective council. He wished also to refer to the continued introduction of indentured East Indian coolies into Trinidad. There were already something like 13,000 indentured labourers in the island, whilst at the same time a large number of the residents were unemployed who would be quite willing to accept the work on the sugar plantations provided they received a sufficient wage. They could not get the men of the West Indies to work on the plantations, however, at 1s. per day, which was the amount paid to the coolies.

[1s. per day is the minimum wage. The average labourer earns considerably more. There is, moreover, plenty of employment for those who are willing to work in Trinidad.—ED.]

* We shall be very glad to acknowledge and forward to the proper quarter any subscriptions towards this deserving cause.

The Brussels Sugar Convention.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, June 13th, Mr. Harold Cox asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, if this country, while declining to enforce a penal clause against bounty-fed sugar, still adhered to the Brussels Convention, it would still be necessary for all sugar imported into this country to be accompanied by a certificate of origin; and whether it was proposed to ask this House to continue to provide part of the expenses of the Permanent Commission sitting in Brussels. Sir E. Grey in reply said: In the event of the other contracting States agreeing to exempt this country by supplementary protocol from the obligation to enforce the penal clause of the Sugar Convention, the question how far it would still be necessary or expedient to require imported sugar to be accompanied by a certificate of origin would receive careful consideration. So long as this country continued to take part in the modified Convention, it would naturally contribute its share of the expenses of the Permanent Commission, which are not considerable.

Mr. Harold Cox asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government proposed to ask Parliament to repeal the Sugar Convention Act, 1903, and, failing such repeal, whether it would not be competent for His Majesty's present or future advisers at any time during the continuance of the Brussels Convention to prohibit by Order in Council the importation into this country of sugar which the Permanent Commission sitting in Brussels declared to be bounty-fed. Sir E. Grey: It is premature at present to consider the question of amending or repealing the Sugar Convention Act, and I therefore cannot deal with the legal point raised in the last part of the question, which depends upon it.

Sir E. Sassoon asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that the production of cane sugar in the West Indies and other parts of the world was appreciably increasing, and that our exports of confectionery in 1906 were approximately 25 per cent. higher than those of 1904 and 1905; and whether, under these circumstances, His Majesty's Government proposed to risk the break-up of the Sugar Convention and a reversal to the system of bounties and cartels. Sir E. Grey: I am aware that the total production of cane sugar has considerably increased in recent years (although this can scarcely be said of the production of the British West Indies taken as a whole) and that our exports of confectionery have also increased approximately as stated. As regards the last part of the question, I have nothing to add to the statement I made to the House on the 6th inst. The risk involved in the course taken by His Majesty's Government is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had information of any change of attitude to the Brussels Convention on the part of those foreign States who were favourable to it as it now stood consequent upon the modifications of the terms of the British adherence thereto; and whether, in the interests of the sugar-refining industry and its allied and dependent trades, which were adversely affected by the foreign bounty system, and which were suffering by the prevailing uncertainty whether there would be a return to it, he would give the House at the earliest moment, any information of which he was possessed of any impending change of position on the part of any of the signatory Powers. Sir E. Grey: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. I will bear in mind the hon. member's suggestion, and shall be glad to give definite information when there is any; but I would remind him that no change will in any case take place before September, 1908.

In reply to Mr. Mitchell-Thomson on June 17th, Mr. Churchill said: Representations on the subject of the Sugar Convention have been received from the following Chambers of Commerce and similar bodies in the Colonies, as well as one from the Legislatures of Barbados and St. Kitts; Agricultural and Commercial Society, Antigua; Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, Jamaica; Northside Sugar Planters' Association, Jamaica; Montreal Board of Trade; British Guiana Planters' Association; Chamber of Commerce, Georgetown, British Guiana; Chamber of Commerce of the Orange River Colony; Chamber of Commerce, Pietermaritzburg; Chamber of Commerce, Singapore; Vancouver Board of Trade; British Guiana Board of Agriculture; Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce; Chamber of Commerce, Geelong; Victoria; Charters Towers Chamber of Commerce; Queensland; Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Toronto; Chamber of Agriculture, Mauritius; Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Society, Trinidad. As regards India, I must refer the hon. member to the India Office. Mr. Flynn: Have not all these localities a direct pecuniary interest in keeping up the price of sugar? Mr. Churchill: It is very likely.

Mr. Remnant asked the Prime Minister whether, in the event of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Brussels Convention, it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to take any steps, by the imposition of countervailing duties or otherwise, to check the unfair competition of bounty-fed sugar with sugar which had not received such bounties. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman: The position of His Majesty's Government with respect to countervailing duties and other methods of restricting the sources from which we may draw our supplies of sugar was clearly explained in the statement made to the House on the 6th inst. by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. To that statement I have nothing to add.

NATURE NOTES.

SOUDAN RUBBER.—The following remarks by Sir Reginald Wingate with regard to rubber cultivation in the Soudan are quoted in Lord Cromer's Report on Egypt: "Experiments are being conducted on growing of rubber vines, *Landolphia onariensis*, at Wan. Rubber produced from these vines and treated with citric acid has been submitted to brokers, whose opinions show that it is as good as any rubber on the market. It has not yet been definitely proved that the Para rubber tree, which produced the best known rubber, will grow in the Soudan."

BRITISH BEET.—At the meeting of the Nottingham section of the Society of Chemical Industry, Mr. J. Golding, F.I.C., and Dr. H. B. Hutchinson gave the results of experimental sugar beet growing at the Midland Agricultural and Dairy College. Of four varieties tested, Kleinwanzllben (original) gave the highest yield of sugar per acre, viz., 6,480 lbs. Artificial manures containing nitrogen, potash and phosphate, while they maintained the quality of the root, tended also to increase the total yield of sugar per acre. Stiff to medium soils were found most suitable to the cultivation of the sugar beet, whilst cane land (bog soil) was unsuitable.

SEEDLING CANES.—According to the Annual Report for 1906 of M. P. Bonâme, the Director of the Mauritius Agricultural Society, the cultivation of seedling canes is being more and more extended in that island. At the present time, the Big Tanna, especially the White Big Tanna, takes the lead in most parts of the island, and although this cane ratoons badly, the returns, as plants, are so high as to make up for it. M. Bonâme remarks that, as a general rule, the most vigorous are the less rich in sugar, that some appear to improve by cultivation while others do not, and calls attention to the tendency, recognised in the West Indies, of selected seedlings to deteriorate after several years of cultivation.

TOBACCO AND MANURES.—According to the United States Bureau of Plant Industry, an excess of plant food in the soil where heavy applications of farmyard manure and commercial fertilisers are used, is usually thought to produce variations in the plants. This variation is usually shown by an increase in the size of the leaves, which is generally connected with change of colour, flavour, and other characters. In these cases there is usually a tendency for the type of plant to break up, so that the uniformity of the crop is disturbed. When it is necessary to use large quantities of fertilizers in the growing of a profitable crop, the inclination to variation induced by this intensive system of cultivation must be controlled by the most rigid selection of seed from the type of plants best adapted for the purpose for which the tobacco is grown. The change of soil and climatic conditions, particularly the taking of tobacco seed from southern or tropical conditions to the north, is a fertile source of variations in tobacco. The fixture of a uniform type in this case requires several years of acclimatisation, supplemented by selection of seed from the desirable plants.

COTTON IN JAMAICA.—Jamaica, according to the Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, has not taken up the growing of Sea Island cotton very seriously. The first year's experiments were exceedingly successful, so far as growth and returns were concerned. The acreage was not large, though sufficient to show that the soils would grow cotton exceedingly well and produce large crops. The next year those who first tried the small acreage planted larger fields. Then the cotton worm came upon them, and before Paris green was imported and could be used this pest got a good hold, and afterwards the expense of keeping it down with Paris green became too great. This year only a few have attempted further trials, and only one on a larger scale. No cotton worms appeared, and although there was one of the severest droughts on record, and the largest field was grown in the very driest district in Jamaica, the returns have been fairly successful. A sample of cotton grown by Mr. L. G. Desporte was reported upon by Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland as being clean, good colour, staple moderately fine, fair length and moderately strong. The seed from which Mr. Desporte grew his cotton was grown from seed obtained from St. Vincent. Some Caravonica cotton grown by Mr. Lewis did well.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Enterprising Planters in Java.

Mr. Consul Rose in his report on the trade and commerce of Java for 1906 gives interesting particulars regarding the sugar industry in that island. During 1906 the acreage under cane was 260,810 acres, and the production 1,046,691 tons or 4.01 tons per acre, as compared with 258,391 acres and 1,021,599 tons, or 3.95 tons per acre, in 1905. Four new mills delivered their first sugar during the year while two mills were shut down, so that the area planted by the remaining ones was approximately the same as in 1905. The "yellow stripe" disease still required the full attention of planters. No remedy had so far been discovered, though it had been generally stated that the tops of fully-grown cane gave plants that were less subject to this disease than plants grown from young

shoots. Notwithstanding the fact that the final results for 1906 were due to the seed cane, which generally speaking, gave an abundant cane production, symptoms of deterioration were observed in the principal varieties of seed-grown cane, and some of these, which a few years ago were relied upon by planters for their main crop, were considered rather unreliable, and a certain amount of uneasiness prevailed in cane-growing circles as to what course should be taken should these seedlings have to be abandoned before trustworthy substitutes could be developed by the experimental stations. Considerable improvement had again been made in the equipment of the mills, both by enlarging their capacity and by perfecting their installation. Although cattle disease was only sporadic, the application of rail-tracks for cane transport again made considerable progress. The benefits derived from this method of transport were so obvious, that practically all mills were adopting this system. The cultivation of the cocoa-nut palm was receiving more attention from European planters, and several estates had lately been opened up in the extreme east of the island. The production of copra during 1906 was small, amounting to 45,406 tons, as compared with 95,173 tons in the preceding year, and prices advanced steadily throughout the year. In the island of Celebes the cultivation of maize received much more attention than ever before, and the exports rose from 840 tons to 7,330 tons.

HOMeward MAILS.

The R.M.S. *Port Henderson*, which left Kingston, Jamaica, on June 6th, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, June 19th.* We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by this and other opportunities:—

Hotel enterprise in Bermuda.

Mr. W. T. James, writing on May 27th, said that the condition of things in Bermuda had changed very much for the better. The tourist season which had just closed had been one of the best they had ever had, and it was roughly estimated that over £100,000 was put in circulation from this source last season, which ended about the close of April. The prices which had prevailed for the general crop of the country, namely, onions and potatoes, had been better than for many years, the average prices paid to farmers in the colony being 4s. per box for onions and 20s. per barrel for potatoes. The crop had not been an extra large one, but this had been made up for by prices being considerably above the average. The crop of green vegetables, such as parsley, celery, lettuce, &c., had been the largest on record, and prices had been very good. The lily bulb crop, which would be reaped in a short time, bade fair to run into large figures. They had, of course, felt the loss caused by the reduction in the Navy, but the indications were that they would see more of them in the future than had been the case for the past two years. Altogether the outlook was much brighter, and the country was feeling the benefit of increased tourist business and good crops. Strong efforts were being made to build a large, modern, up-to-date hotel, as it was confidently believed that the tourist business could be largely increased if good hotel accommodation were provided.

Jamaica and the Archbishop.

The Archbishop of the West Indies arrived at Kingston on May 30th, and received a fitting welcome from the inhabitants. Empire Day was celebrated throughout the island in an enthusiastic manner. The party of scientists from the Universities of Chicago and Portland had attributed the cause of the Kingston disaster to the slipping of rocks along fault plains. Some rain had fallen, but it was insufficient to meet requirements, when Mr. Ashenheim wrote on June 6th. The Jamaica Co-operative had announced its readiness to issue, in addition to ordinary policies, policies covering loss or damage by fire caused by earthquake, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions and other convulsions of nature, at the following premiums added to the usual tariff rates: Kingston, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; towns and villages in the island, 1 per cent.; pens and estates, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On June 3rd the members of the General Earthquake Relief Committee presented an address of welcome to the Archbishop of the West Indies on his return to Jamaica. Canon Simms presided and outlined the work done by the Committee, paying testimony to the labours of Mr. Fursden, Mr. Reinke, Mr. Rushie Gray, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Farquharson, and others. On the following day a large assembly of citizens welcomed the Archbishop and Mr. A. W. Farquharson at the Conversorium. Mr. C. W. Ogilvie, solicitor for the insurance companies, had been summoned to London by the companies. The policy holders in Jamaica feel that this is a favourable sign, and policy holders representing at least £400,000 had successfully pressed Mr. Louis Ashenheim, of the firm of Messrs. Corinaldi & Ashenheim, to come to England to make one last effort to see if a compromise can be arrived at.

A new correspondent for Montserrat.

The Hon. Fred Driver, who has consented to act as our Hon. Correspondent in Montserrat,

* News received by the R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, which arrived yesterday will be found on page 313.

Mr. Conrad Watson having gone to Jamaica, wrote on May 31st that the weather had been unusually dry. They had had a few showers lately which had made the island look fresh and green, but they were not enough to enable planters to get on with cotton land preparation.

Nevis' white kid gloves.

Mr. Shand wrote on May 28th that he was indeed glad to learn that there was a chance of resumption of inter-insular communication by mail steamer. Once more a clean sheet was recorded on the criminal side of the court, no cases having been found important enough to be sent on for trial, so the judge would begin to think that Nevis was a white kid glove establishment. It was really wonderful how orderly and well behaved the whole community was. It was feared that the cotton sowings for 1908 would show a material reduction in area as compared with 1906-7, but probably the extra experience might result in a more satisfactory average yield than in the seasons when the great idea was to cram in all the land available. The writer had just come up from a visit to the Nevis Ltd. factory, and was immensely pleased at the admirable manner in which the machinery was doing its work. The oil extraction was excellent, and the cotton seed cake produced and cotton refuse regained from the cotton seeds by the "Linter" would help to swell the receipts generally. All credit was due to the plucky manner in which the company had put their shoulders, literally as well as metaphorically, to the wheel. The island had had some nice showers since last advices, and the sugar crop, which was well nigh harvested, had been an advance on last years.

Cotton planting in St. Kitts.

Cotton preparation and planting were being pushed on when Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote on May 27th. Since last advices the weather had been showery, and May bade fair to go very considerably over the average rainfall. The average at Brighton estate for the last ten years was 4.92, and the writer had so far recorded 8.57, while a mile and a half away nearly 20.0 had fallen. In 1902, 14.75 was measured at "Brighton." It was needless to say that the rain had hindered grinding somewhat, but it was of immense value for next year's crop, and also considerably lightened the work of cotton preparation, and was consequently most welcome. Empire Day was celebrated by a party of the local forces at 8, while at 9 o'clock the children of the schools in Basseterre marched to the bay front and carried out a programme of songs, and were addressed by the Administrator.

Rains in St. Vincent.

The rainy season had set in when Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. wrote on May 27th, and the preparing of lands for cotton was going ahead in fine style, lands now being opened up that had lain fallow for many years.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Montserrat and Dominica Limes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I observe that you devote much of your space to extolling the merits of Dominica limes, while little is said of those from Montserrat. Are not Montserrat limes equally good? If so, is it fair to discriminate between the two varieties?

Yours truly,

CHANCES.

[We are quite ready to admit that Montserrat limes are as good as those coming from Dominica. It is our wish to be perfectly fair to all parties; but inasmuch as Dominica has had the enterprise to participate in the Colonial Fruit Shows, while Montserrat has rested on her laurels won prior to the unfortunate hurricane of 1899, and has not elected to be represented, we do not feel that we can justly be accused of favouritism in this matter.—ED.]

NOTES OF INTEREST.

CABLE BREAK.—Cable communication to Demerara was interrupted on the 17th inst. and restored on the 23rd.

GRENADA.—The Hon. C. Macaulay Browne has succeeded Mr. P. J. Dean as Chairman of the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Grenada.

LETTERS.—There are letters lying at the West India Committee Rooms addressed to Hon. H. F. Carr, Charles Shepherd, W. Greig, and Dr. Q. B. de Freitas. Will these gentlemen kindly notify the Secretary of their respective addresses?

THE DANISH ANTILLES.—It is stated that the negotiations for the acquisition of the Danish Antilles by America have been re-opened. Denmark refused an offer from America in 1870, and it is considered that political and other reasons will prevent Denmark, as it did then, from consenting to the sale.

THE CONVENTION.—At a recent meeting of the Council General of Pas-de-Calais, M. Bachelet urged that the Excise duty on sugar should be raised from 15 to 25 francs, and that in negotiations relating to the renewal of the Brussels Convention, the French representatives should insist upon Russia and the United States giving up their bounties and joining the Convention.

MONEY FOR GROC.—The Canteen Committee of the Navy have suggested an extension of the system of commutation by which sailors are given a money allowance of $\frac{9}{16}$ of a penny daily instead of their ration of one-eighth of a pint of rum; 25 per cent. of the men availed themselves of it. It is now proposed in order to encourage renunciation of drink to increase the allowance to one penny a day.

A REMINDER.—We are indebted to Mr. T. W. Wilkinson for an interesting photograph taken by Mr. H. W. Parkinson of a drawing by Captain H. I. Wilkinson, of a public dinner given by the merchants of Barbados in honour of certain Canadian commissioners who visited the island on February 13th, 1866. The original has, we understand, been presented to the Bridgetown Club.

SUGAR ITEMS.—The *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale* says that the Chamber of Agriculture of Guadeloupe has appointed a Commission with the view of obtaining from the manufacturers payment for canes on the basis of 6½ per cent. of 88° sugar, instead of 6 per cent. as at present. It is also stated that the crop output of St. Antoine, the largest central factory in Mauritius, has been brought up to 20,000 tons.

CHIP DRIER.—According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, at the Usine Esther in the Brazils, the exhausted diffusion chips are dried in the Huillard tower, a description of which appeared in the *West India Committee Circular* of June 6th of last year. Containing 70 per cent. of water as they come from the mill, which is used for partial drying, the chips leave the drier with 35 per cent., and make an admirable fuel.

RECIPROCITY.—Speaking of Philippine sugar, the *Louisiana Planter* says, "We see now what the reciprocity concession to Cuba has done, the way it has broken the Cuban market down to so low a figure that Cuban sugars are now occasionally going to England, notwithstanding their admission into the United States at some 34 cents. per 100 lbs. less duty than other foreign sugars of the same grade. It would be the same way with the Philippines."

PROBLEMATIC.—The Journal of the Jamaica Agriculture Society is responsible for the statement that under the action of the new pure food law the bleached table sugar will gradually go out of the market, and a cheaper and better substitute, in the form of unbleached cane sugars, costing all the way from 1 cent to 1½ cents less, will take place. These sugars are richer in sweetness, and taking into consideration their reduced price, it would not be strange if the cost of feeding bees for the production of wax, or for any other legitimate purpose, were to be from 30 to 50 per cent. less.

OBITUARY.—It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. E. F. Thomas Ross, of the firm of Messrs. Ross & Norton, which took place on the 8th inst. Though he was not personally well known in connection with the West Indian business of the firm, Mr. Ross was at the time of his death one of the oldest surviving members of Lloyds, which corporation he joined as far back as 1856. The business of Messrs. Ross & Norton will be carried on as heretofore by Mr. F. H. Norton, who has given Mr. Percy Lisle Warcup power to sign for the firm.

FOR TRINIDAD.—The new Trinidad Floating Dock, which has been constructed under the supervision of Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews, by Messrs. Swan & Hunter, from designs by Messrs. Clark & Stanfield, has left for Trinidad, towed by a Smit's tug. The dock has a lifting capacity of 4,000 tons, and its length over all is 365 ft. It consists of three independent units bolted together on the sectional principle, each with its own pumping machinery. In regular service it is coupled up into one complete dock, and is only disconnected for self-docking purposes.

FROM "PUNCH."—There is always something going on in Jamaica. In the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph* the eye is arrested by the following headlines:—

"Comet falls into the Sea at
Montego Bay
And Two Men Flogged in Jail Yard
for Stealing Bananas."—*Punch*, June 19th, 1907.

SUGAR IN JAPAN.—It is stated in the *Yorodzu Choho* that in view of the anticipated deficit in the national Budget of 1909, probably sooner or later the matter of a State monopoly of sugar will be brought up by a few of the members for discussion before the committee appointed by the Government to consider the whole problem of taxation. With the view to stimulating the native refineries, a revised rebate law came into force on April 1st last, for two years, granting a certain rebate of Customs duty on raw sugar imported and refined in Japan for domestic consumption or for re-export.

A HINT TO GUIANA.—"Eighteen years ago," says Mr. S. L. Cary, of Texas, "a few of us were

growing one to five acres of rice in some low spot, trodden in the ground by Creole ponies or cultivated with a wood-tooth harrow, harvested with a sickle, threshed with mules and cleaned with a club. To-day, gang ploughs, press drills, 6,000 twine binding harvesters, threshers, and the largest and best mills on earth are placing on our home market the finest rice the world has ever seen; and all this was accomplished by immigration from the North-west of people too poor to live there longer. They brought their poverty, their day's work, their knowledge of machinery, and a laudable ambition to get to the top in any line present."

JAMAICA BANANAS.—Some writers, says the *Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Trades Journal*, have been making very disparaging remarks about the Jamaica banana industry. Whatever may be said, however, the Jamaica banana has come to stay. Although there are many who can afford to pay the price for the Canary product there are thousands who cannot, and, if it were not for the Jamaica fruit, would be unable to purchase bananas at all. As it is, thousands of factory hands and others, especially in the West Midlands and North of England, are able to make a cheap meal off a few bananas, which are a perfect food. Although London takes a considerable quantity of the fruit, the quantity consumed is not to be compared with that consumed in other parts. Where the workers, perhaps, have not such a choice of fruit as the London workers have, the Jamaica banana is much appreciated. Although termed by some a costers' fruit, thousands of shopkeepers have not the class of trade for Canary bananas, and therefore handle large quantities of Jamaica produce, which must mean extra employment and extra profit to others besides street hawkers.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., June 11.—Major-General Sir Arthur Ellis died suddenly at the Royal Opera.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., quiet.
 Wed., June 12.—Rutland Bye-Election, Mr. J. Gretton (U.), 2,213; Mr. W. F. H. Lyon (L.), 1,362; Unionist Majority 851.—Cambridge Tripos lists published Mr. G. N. Watson, Senior Wrangler.—Meeting of the Mansion House Jamaica Relief Committee decided to close Relief Fund and to remit balance of it to Jamaica.—Beet, 9s. 10d., steady.
 Thur., June 13.—Colonial Fruit Show. Dominica awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Gold Medal for Fresh Limes, the West Indian Produce Association the gold medal for preserved fruits, and the St. Aroment Estate, a silver Banksian medal for St. Aroment Estate Limes.—Royal Review at Aldershot.—Grand Bazaar opened at the Mansion House, in aid of the Cripples' Fund.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
 Fri., June 14.—Resolution of protest from the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce at the threatened withdrawal of Great Britain from the Sugar Convention received.—Beet, 9s. 10d., steady.
 Sat., June 15.—The King unveiled a statue of the late Duke of Cambridge in Whitehall.—The Peace Conference at the Hague opened.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
 Sun., June 16.—The Czar of Russia dissolved the Duma.
 Mon., June 17.—Conference at the Colonial Office on sleeping sickness.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., firm.
 Tues., June 18.—Ascot Gold Cup stolen.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
 Wed., June 19.—Lord Elgin presided over the eighth annual dinner of the Corona Club.—Beet, 9s. 8d., quiet.
 Thur., June 20.—Letter in the *Times* from the Earl of Denbigh on the Sugar Convention.—Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee.—Beet, 9s. 8d., flat.
 Fri., June 21.—King of Siam arrived in London.—Beet, 9s. 8d., steady.
 Sat., June 22.—Letters in the *Times* (p. 14) from the Bishop of Trinidad and Mr. Geo. Martineau on the subject of the Sugar Convention.—Jamaica Earthquake.—Letters of thanks from Lord Elgin to the Lord Mayor and Sir William Soulsby (*Times*, p. 14).—The King's Garden Party at Windsor.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 9d., steady.
 Mon., June 24.—Letter in the *Times* from Lord Denman on the Sugar Convention.—Debate in the House of Commons on the Lords.—Beet, 9s. 9d., steady.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Ager.—The Royal Agricultural Society of England was founded in March 1838, and the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana in March 1844.

U.S. America, Hawaii.—In Louisiana planters are keen on the subject of mechanical reaping, and labour is costly there. In the West Indies and British Guiana labour is cheap, but not always obtainable. Porto Rico would be covered by the U.S.A. patent. There might be a scope for such an invention as you refer to in Cuba, when labour is scarce. If some idea could be given as to the amount of work done and cost of running the machine, I would be in a better position to advise you.

Nevisian.—There is certainly danger of hybridization when planting Egyptian cotton seed in the West Indies, and we do not think that you should try the experiment without first consulting the Commissioner of Agriculture, as you would run the risk of doing your neighbours an injury as well as yourself. All the Egyptian experiments which were tried in the West Indies two or three years ago, resulted, we believe, unfavourably, the lint being of a very poor type as compared with Egyptian proper.

Chevron.—The fee payable to the College of Arms for a search for Arms is 5s., and the fees and stamp duty on a Patent of Arms are £76 10s. Many of the colonies have not gone to this expense, though Jamaica received a grant of Arms many years ago, and British Honduras has just been granted armorial bearings with supporters. Through the courtesy of the various Governors and Administrators, the arms or badges of all the West Indian colonies, British Guiana and British Honduras, can now be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

Statistician.—Sugar was first taxed during the reign of James II. in 1685. In August, 1846, the duties on free and slave grown sugars were equalised. The duties were reduced and regulated in September, 1848, but again increased in 1855. They were reduced again in 1857 and 1864; modified in 1867; reduced by practically half in 1870, further reduced in 1873, and abolished from May 1st, 1874. In 1901 the sugar duty was re-imposed, sugar testing 98 being taxed 4s. 2d. per cwt., and all other sugars according to polarisation down to 76, 2s. per cwt.; syrup, 2s. to 2s. 9d. per cwt.; molasses, 1s per cwt. With regard to the history of bounties, you will find a summary of it in the *West India Committee Circular*, No. 225, page 226, a copy of which is being sent to you.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

MR. D. G. GARRAWAY, I.S.O., Comptroller of Customs, British Guiana, has been appointed Chairman of the Excise Board.

MR. W. H. STOKER, K.C., Attorney General of Barbados, has been appointed President of the Central Quarantine Authority in the West Indies.

MR. W. F. SMARTT, L.R.C.S., Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from June 25th.

MR. P. L. DILLON, Comptroller of Customs, Barbados, has been granted three months' leave of absence from May 14th last, and Mr. S. S. Phillips will act in his place during that time.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from $\frac{1}{2}$ % on Thursday, April 25th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ %) 83 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000l.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4%	101-103
375,000l.	"	Barbados - - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " 1925-42 ...	100	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	97-99
194,500l.	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935 ...	100	4%	102-104
123,670l.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4%	100-102
1,098,907l.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934 ...	100	4%	105-107
85,479l.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " 1919-44 ...	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	101-103
422,593l.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " Inscribed Stock 1917-42 ...	100	4%	101-103
600,000l.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " " 1922-44 ...	100	3%	84-86nd
100,000	30	The Colonial Bank	£6	6%	5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$
900,000l.	Stock.	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Ord. Stock ...	100	—	45-50
600,000l.	Stock.	" " " " " Pref. Stock ...	100	5%	88-93
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	90-93
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.,	5	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
46,874	5	" " " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	—	—
329,775l.	Stock.	" " " " " 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4%	75-80
335,800	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ...	100	6%	97-101
165,000l.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	—	18-21
115,000l.	Stock.	" " " " " 7% Preference ...	100	7%	101-104
31,250	10	" " " " " 4% Extension Preference...	10	4s.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -8 $\frac{1}{2}$
70,000l.	Stock.	" " " " " 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock ...	100	4%	93-95
60,500l.	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%	—
33,500l.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	99-101
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5%	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11
34,563	10	" " " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	10	5s.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 $\frac{3}{4}$
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd " " " ...	10	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$
80,000l.	100	" " " " " 5% Deb. ...	100	5%	101-104

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) June 13th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), June 10th. Berbice: "There is a favourable change in the weather." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 12th. "Too much wet in Essequibo, favourable on East Coast." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 13th. "Weather is too wet." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), June 22nd, "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 10th. "Fine, with occasional light showers." June 22nd. "Showery and favourable for cultivation." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended June 12th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "fine." **KINGSTON**: "6th to 10th, fine." "11th to 12th, "light showers."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. F. K. Corbould), June 24th:—Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. and two Misses Agostini, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Alonzo, Mr. J. Anderson, Miss R. Baker, Mr. Martinez Bossio, Mr. S. Barriga, Mr. F. Darley Bentley, Mr. J. Beck, Mr. Behrens, Mr. J. Brierly, Mr. E. Brown, Mrs. J. H. Bridger, Mrs. E. Biddy, Miss Blandy, Mr. G. Bettencourt, Mr. J. Bingham, Mr. N. B. Beach, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Crane, Com. the Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N., His Honour E. J. Cameron, C.M.G., Mr. A. Correa, Rev. Father Desmond, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. de Lisle, Miss de Lisle, Mr. and Mrs. H. Deighton, Mr. R. G. de Gale, Miss D. de Gale, Mr. and Mrs. Date, Dr. and Mrs. Eakin, Mr. D. O. Fraser, Mr. J. Flugger, Master Fergusson, Mr. C. Gittens, Mr. S. Gittens, Mr. and Mrs. Glendenning, Mr. G. Godfrey, Dr. and Mrs. C. J. Gomez, Mr. A. Gaillard, Mr. G. Hum, Miss G. Holt, Miss E. Holt, Mr. S. Hammond, Mr. T. A. Hubbard, Mr. Carlos Jiminez, Mr. Eugenio Jiminez, Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnson, Mrs. M. de Llanos, Mr. A. F. Leyba, Mrs. O. Ludford, Mr. E. F. Livermore, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Misteli, Mrs. T. Miller, Rev. and Mrs. A. Merry, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. J. Murphy, Rev. E. Meanwell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Mignon, Prof. W. Nation, Mr. and Mrs. P. Ongley, Dr. and Mrs. O'Neale, Mr. B. Objha, Mr. and Mrs. J. Peake, Mrs. P. E. Perrot, Miss Pemberton, Hon. G. Laurie Pile, Miss M. J. Quail, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. C. Robinson, Mr. C. N. Rice, Mr. H. T. Ross, Mr. F. A. Robinson, Mr. C. Richter, Mrs. Rebello, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Rodriguez, Mr. W. Roberts, Mr. F. H. Reed, Mr. E. C. Skinner, Mr. Herbert Spencer, Miss L. Sharp, Mr. A. R. Stark, Mr. A. Sommaruga, Mr. A. Sanchez, Mrs. E. F. Stone, Rev. Father Sutherland, Miss Stedman, Mr. and Mrs. D. Slinger, Mr. G. E. St. George, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Smith, Miss Smith, Mr. P. F. Smith, Miss K. Strong, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sergeant, Mr. G. Tracey, Miss H. Maunde Thompson, Mr. A. F. Tunbridge, and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Yelloza, Mr. and Mrs. Ferriera.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), June 26th:—Miss I. Salcedo, Miss A. Sevilla, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Jackman, Miss D. Jackman, Miss L. Man, Mr. A. P. Mackey, Mr. F. J. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Pardo, Mr. L. Norzagaray, Mr. L. A. Arias, Mr. J. F. Elmslie, Mr. M. Taurel, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bascom, Professor and Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. L. Storr, Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Pengelly, Mr. P. Veuschreuder, Mr. S. Felchlui, Miss Monteil, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hollis, Mrs. Krydd, Mr. H. Rose, Mr. Willey, Mr. A. Seminario, Mr. E. Seminario, Mr. Isaac, Mr. Leopold, Mr. P. Chapman, Mr. A. Issa, Mr. H. Haudel, and Mr. G. C. Whelham.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), June 19th:—**Jamaica:** Mrs. C. C. Anderson, Miss H. Buckley, Miss Cork, Mrs. and Miss de Pass, Mrs. Eden and three children, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. Hole and child, Mrs. Hollis and two children, Mr. L. A. Isaacs, Lieut. J. E. Kingchurch, Mr. J. F. Millholland, Mrs. Haggort and two children, Hon. J. W. Mitchell, Miss Agnes Morales, Sir Charles Nicholson, Bart., Mr. C. P. Ogilvie, Lieut. Roome, Mrs. Sanftleben, Mr. W. Emery Stark, Mr. Sherlock, Mr. Lewis Ashenheime, Miss Mary Sharpe, and Miss Daily.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), June 15th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. W. H. Arnold, Mr. Otter Barry, Mr. Arthur Cole, Mr. E. G. Cooper, Mrs. Crooks, Master Crooks, Miss Gladys Dunn, Mr. A. A. R. Fairbank, Mrs. Graves, Mr. Louis Godefroi, Mr. D. S. Gideon, the three Misses Gideon, Mr. L. E. Hervey, Miss C. Head, Mr. C. C. Henriques, Mr. S. M. Jacobsen, Mr. Joseph Lawley, Mr. L. C. Levy, Miss Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Munton, Mr. W. H. Matthews, Mr. P. H. Morris, Miss Nixon, Mr. Joshua Preston, Mr. Walter Preston, Mr. C. H. York Slader, Mrs. Slader, Mr. A. C. Solomon, Dr. Stiebel Totesan, Mr. Sims Williams, Mr. J. Wight, Mr. E. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. N. Breeley, Mr. F. Breeley, Mr. G. Breeley, Mr. S. Breeley, Mr. E. Breeley. **Bermuda:** Mr. J. Harvey, Mrs. Kennely, Mr. H. J. Lough, Sister Dorothy Smith, His Excellency Lieut.-General J. Wodehouse, C.B., C.M.G., Lieut. Josslyn Egerton, Mr. E. E. Cheverton, Mr. G. Denarice, Mr. F. Harwood, Mr. G. Lumbach.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

The East Asiatic Co., Ltd., announce that the .S.S. *St. Jan* will leave Copenhagen on June 25th; Rotterdam, June 29th; and London (South West India Dock) on July 3rd; for St. Thomas, St. Croix, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara and Paramaribo, instead of on the dates previously fixed.

His Majesty's Postmaster-General has now entered into a contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the conveyance of the transatlantic mails, the rate of payment to the Company being calculated on a poundage basis.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
June 26	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada, Demerara, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat Antigua and St. Kitts ...	Southampton Avonmouth	R.M.S.P.Co. I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Trent</i> <i>Port Henderson</i>	June 25, mdn't. „ 28, *6p.m.
.. 29	Jamaica ...	...	...	...	...
July 5	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica ...	†Dartmouth	“ Direct ” Line	<i>Dee</i>	July 5, noon.
.. 5	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Jamaica ...	†Dartmouth	“ Direct ” Line	<i>Sarstoon</i>	July 5, noon.
.. 10	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada & Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>	.. 9, mdn't

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.
 † Letters to be marked per s.s. *Dee* via Dartmouth.
 ‡ “ “ “ *Sarstoon* “

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
July 3	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Antonio</i>
.. 8	The West Indies ...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to June 6.		Jan. 1 to June 6		April 1 to May 26.		Jan. 1 to June 8.		Oct. 1 to June 8.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906
Sugar	16,718	31,160 Tns.	27,058	28,978 Tons.	4,775	4,398 Tons.	342,851	407,802 Bgs. & Brs.	...	...
Molasses	42,960	44,272 Pns.	379	1,302 Puns.	...	...	{ 1,728 56 65	{ 1,539 Puns. 1 Tcs. 2 Hcls. }	...	...
Rum	6,148	7,706 Puns.	509,713	374,322 Galls.	686	2 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasscut	2,509	3,506 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	17,661	3,300 lbs.	11,583	13,442 Cwts.	15,701,030	15,147,170 lbs.	51,887	49,437 Bags.
Coffee	8,967	7,487 "	3,360	16,160 "	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	104,036	50,538	2,783,298	1,187,745	5,021,894	5,928,955	...	...
Copra	12,385	8,308 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	5,200	11,676 lbs.	...	...	890	969 Bales.
" Seed	4,542	5,692 Bags.
Asphalt	53,793	61,442 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	246,312	4,727,226	...	...	...	...
Bananas	2,535,396	2,695,852 Stems.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	8,749	12,899 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	24,911	38,569 ozs.	...	...	...	...	53,887	49,437 Brs.
Diamonds	1,049	788 carats	...	...	...	...	3,657	3,612 1/2 Brs.
Rice	3,205,127	325,739 lbs.	...	...	...	...	353	424 Cases.
									45	103 Bags

A LATER HOMEWARD MAIL.

The R.M.S.P. *Tagus* reached Southampton at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, June 24th, and her mails were delivered in London early in the afternoon of the same day. The story of the fortnight in the West Indies ended June 9th, is a fairly satisfactory one, the sickness in Trinidad not having spread to the neighbouring colonies. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Labour and Cotton in Antigua.

The General Council had concluded its business when the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on June 5th. Crop was progressing rather slowly, mainly on account of the difficulty in getting the labourers to do a fair week's work. On the whole the labourers were better off than they had been for some years, and in consequence they were less disposed for regular labour. Cotton picking was practically over, only a few fields of the second crop remaining. Messrs. Macdonald and Douglass, of St. John's, were looking out for a purchaser for High Point Estate, a good, easily worked limestone loam, quite suitable for good quality Sea Island cotton. Mr. A. P. Cowley, Attorney for Mr. John Maginley, had also some land for sale on Comfort Hall Estate. This land should also be good cotton land. The cane crop looked very fair on the whole but generally a little backward. The planting of seedling canes appeared to be much on the increase. The cane D. 625, seemed to be quite an acquisition, but so far a large enough area had not been planted to give it a thorough trial over the island.

The drought in Barbados.

Writing on June 9th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that Barbados was entirely free from yellow fever, but occasional cases still cropped up in Trinidad, the last fatal one being the daughter-in-law of Mr. J. C. Lynch, of Barbados. All classes were pleased at the promotion of Mr. S. W. Knaggs, but his loss would be regretted in Barbados. On Tuesday, June 4th, in response to a telegram from Lord Elgin, the Legislature agreed to pay a subsidy at the rate of £3,200 per annum to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for a further period of three months. The drought continued in all its intensity, and it had lasted already longer than last year. In 1906 it broke on June 6th, but already they had reached the 9th with no signs of a break. The wind was cool, but the roads and the parched soil reflected the heat to a terrible extent. The young canes were beginning to suffer in many places, and how they kept alive at all was a mystery. There was an entire dearth of fruit and green vegetables owing to the drought, and the price of cane tops for the stock was enormous. The cost of oats, oilmeal, pollard, and every kind of provision had materially increased. While they were in this deplorable position and had just reaped a very short crop, the news came that the Government was threatening to denounce the Brussels Convention. Now every principle of justice and of fairplay, every sentiment of compassion for communities struggling in the face of odds, and badly handicapped by the unfair contest of over a quarter of a century, was swept aside, in order that a fetish might be satisfied—the mere name "Free Trade." It was to be hoped that the feeling of indignation which throbbed in every soul in the West Indies would find an echo in the hearts of the people of England, and that both in Parliament and on the platform this Government would be made to feel the heartlessness of their cowardly act, for it was only because it was at the cost of weak colonies, which they showed their contempt for every day by not properly safeguarding them, that they dared to do this thing.

Improving weather in British Guiana.

Mr. J. C. McCowan reported on June 7th that there was a favourable change in the weather. There had only been one heavy day of rain during the fortnight, and a couple of others with light showers. The rest of the time had been fine and bright, and cultivation was feeling the benefit of the sunshine. The Attorney-General had applied to the full Court for the name of Mr. Patrick Dargan to be struck off the roll of Barristers in the colony. The Court had not yet given their decision in the matter. The Elective Members of the Combined Court had sent in a protest to the Government against their action in the suit of the British Guiana Rubber Corporation. They urged the Government to come to some satisfactory arrangement before the matter was carried into the Courts and the colony put to the expense of law costs.

Dominica's prosperity.

Mr. E. A. Agar, in his letter of June 7th, stated that this year's hurricane insurance proposals were a great advance over the original scheme. Although planters generally still thought the premiums too high, yet many of the smaller points had been conceded. The most important concessions were—separating buildings and cultivation in respect of claims, and allowing well-defined portions of estates to be insured, instead of insisting upon the insurance of the whole. The weather for the past fortnight had been very dry, and this was likely to interfere somewhat with the lime crop on the coast estates; rain should have fallen copiously for the past month to swell the fruit, which was now ripening small and was being retarded in ripening. Mr. E. A. Agar sent a tabulated return showing Dominica's imports and exports for 1906, as compared with the previous year. It would be difficult to find a statement showing more uniform progress and prosperity. Abnormally high prices have, of course, done much towards raising the value of last year's exports, but in almost every case quantities have increased as well; thus, lime products to the equivalent of 1,890,432 gallons of raw juice were exported, as compared with 1,773,980 gallons in 1905. The imports are significant, the increase in values being due entirely to such articles as cannot be produced locally, and the large increase in the imports of manufactured goods points to the well-being of the people generally. A summary of this highly interesting statement will be given in our next issue.

Grenada and the black blight.

In his letter of June 8th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton stated that at a meeting of the Agricultural Society on the 7th the report of Mr. Ballou on his recent visit to Grenada concerning the treatment of black blight and other insect pests was laid on the table and ordered to be printed and referred to the Agricultural Experiments Committee. The question of the introduction of a new variety of sweet potato was also discussed. The Hon. T. D. Tudor was to administer the government of St. Vincent during the absence on leave of Mr. E. J. Cameron, and the Hon. N. I. Paterson was to act as Attorney-General of Grenada. Mr. Tudor proceeded to St. Vincent by the mail steamer on the following Monday. Mr. M. G. H. Martin, who was to be married to Miss Cantin on June 22nd, was to be entertained to dinner at St. George's Club on the 19th. The weather was charming, with nice showers, mostly at night or early morning.

The St. Vincent Carib country.

Mr. W. N. Sands reported in his letter of June 9th that Mr. J. R. Bovell arrived on June 2nd from Barbados in the S.S. *Ozamo*, in order to inspect and report on the Carib country from an agricultural point of view. Mr. Bovell had been sent down on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The writer had been instructed to accompany Mr. Bovell on this visit. Mr. Bovell would report fully on his visit in due course. Planters were all pushing ahead with the preparation for and planting of cotton. The weather had, however, been rather dry, which had somewhat retarded planting. Probably 2,500 to 3,000 acres would be planted in cotton this season.

Trinidad and her Governor.

Trinidad welcomed the news that the doctors were of opinion that Sir Henry Jackson's trouble would yield to ordinary treatment, and that he would be sufficiently recovered to be able to return to the Colony by September. Writing on June 10th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick said that single cases of yellow fever continued to occur, the last being that of a young lady, Creole born, which ended fatally. The symptoms attending the deaths of two black children made it necessary to call a meeting of the Medical Board, with the result that they were officially reported as bubonic plague. Influenza was very prevalent, and the writer had just recovered from a ten days' attack. The weather was exceptionally favourable for agriculturists, alternate sunshine and showers. Cane crops were now all reaped (except two days work for Waterloo), and the dry days were helping the planters to keep down the strong spring of grass. The rains were not heavy enough to interfere much with cocoa drying, while greatly benefitting the cultivation. The shipments for the month of May were two and a half million pounds in excess of those of the month of April, and had it not been for the dock strikes delaying steamers a further excess of a half-million would be shown. The greater portion of this cocoa had gone to the European markets, which for some time had abstained from buying. The good prospects, combined with heavy shipments, had somewhat reduced local prices, but they still remained above the parities of either European or American quotations. Whilst prices were somewhat lower the market had a very firm undertone, and no decline of importance could be looked for in the immediate future. Fine Estates were quoted at 87s. 6d., Mixed Estates 86s., and Ordinary at 85s. 6d. c. & f. Havre. From Venezuela the arrivals continued in increasing quantities, but owing to the quality being somewhat inferior, difficulty had been found in finding markets, and prices in consequence had reduced.

SHIPMENTS.

	Trinidad.	Venezuela.		Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Totals at last report	80,897	17,992	June 5.—S.S. <i>Grenada</i>	938	35
May 27.—S.S. <i>Maraval</i>	1,691	342	.. 6.—S.S. <i>Conway</i>	3,429	350
.. 29.—S.S. <i>Statia</i>	2,679	50	.. 7.—S.S. <i>P. Willem III.</i>	1,750	112
.. 29.—S.S. <i>La Plata</i>	537	—			
.. 29.—S.S. <i>P. Willem V.</i>	246	200	Total to date	93,504	19,414
.. 30.—S.S. <i>France</i>	1,337	333			

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

PIMENTO.—Quiet, 99 bags bought in at-auction, fair, at 2½d. **NUTMEGS** have been in large supply, but have met a slow demand. West Indian have been freely offered, and the bulk was sold, large sizes at 1d. per lb. decline, medium being steady, while small was ½d. lower: 138's/120's at 5½d., to 5¼d., 118's/112's at 5½d. to 6d., 110's/106's at 6d. to 6½d., 100's/90's at 6½d. to 7½d., chiefly at 7d., 82's/78's at 8½d., 75's/90's at 9d. to 9½d., 60's at 1s. 8d., 58's at 1s. 9d., dark, 118's/112's at 5½d., mouldy, 94's/73's at 6d. to 6½d., defective, at 5d. to 5½d., in shell, at 3½d. **MACE** is 1d. lower, 74 packages of West Indian sold, ordinary red, at 1s. 3d., fair red, at 1s. 4d., fair mixed, at 1s. 5d., pale, at 1s. 6d. To effect sales a reduction would have been made of 4s. to 5s., but importers are firm and refuse to make any concession in price. **COPRA.**—Quiet. West Indian for fair merchantable quality is quoted £23 10s. to £24.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY—continued.

SUGAR.—Herr F. O. Licht gives the following figures showing the consumption from September to May, the first nine months of the campaign :—

	1906/7.	1905/6.	1904/5.
Convention Europe	3,198,170	3,137,000	2,803,000 Tons.

The same authority also gives the Visible Supply as follows :—

	1907.	1906.	1905.
Known world	2,786,400	3,146,000	2,257,000 Tons.

The Beet Market was prejudicially affected in the week before last by large offerings of French sugars at low prices, and quotations marked a decline of about 4d., but the French and German figures for the month of May, which were very satisfactory, exercised a good effect on the Market and some part of this decline was recovered. Subsequently a better tone prevailed, this, however, was followed by more selling on further heavy offers of French crystals, and an increase of 50,000 tons in Willett & Gray's estimate of the Cuban crop, and all the improvement was lost last week. The Market since has been very quiet, with a small business passing, but prices, after a slight set back, show recovery, quotations as we go to press (June 24th) being: June/July, 9s. 9½d.; Aug., 9s. 10½d.; Oct./Dec., 9s. 6½d.; January/March, 9s. 7½d.; May, 9s. 9½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Europe	2,070,200	2,470,000	1,730,000	2,250,000	2,240,000 Tons
United States	426,000	350,000	230,000	220,000	320,000 ..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	284,000	270,000	360,000	190,000	370,000 ..
Total	2,780,200	3,090,000	2,320,000	2,660,000	2,930,000 ..

Quotations of 88% Beet, June 24th :—

9s. 9½d.	8s. 2½d.	11s. 8d.	9s. 4d.	7s. 8½d.
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Grocery West Indian.—The Market for crystallised has been firm, but business has been restricted owing to the small quantities offering. The moderate transactions, chiefly consisting of Trinidad kinds, have been made at full rates. Quotations range from 16s. 6d. for ordinary, up to 18s. to 18s. 6d. for good to fair qualities.

Muscovado.—Barbados has brought full values, and sales have been made at prices ranging from 14s. 9d. to 15s. 6d., and for good grocery up to 16s.

Molasses Sugar.—Syrups are scarce, and bright qualities would sell well at from 15s. to 16s., according to quality.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Imports... ..	21,241	37,000	28,000	29,000	16,000 Tons.
Deliveries	18,218	22,000	19,000	24,000	21,000 ..
Stocks (June 15th)	12,667	24,000	19,000	18,000	23,000 ..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised : ...

17s. 0d.	14s. 9d.	18s. 3d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.
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RUM.—Stocks in London, June 15th :

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	8576	6500	8700	9800	9300 Puns.
Demerara	8128	7200	5000	10,500	7700 ..
Total of all kinds	23,180	19,847	22,220	28,017	30,455 ..

The rum market is steady. Imports of Jamaica have been on a liberal scale, but they have met with a fair demand at current rates: quotations range from 2s. 7d. for common, 2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d. for Wedderburn & Plumer's, and 3s. to 8s. for good to fine export qualities. Demeraras are in small supply, and prices are fully maintained: quotations being 1s. 0½d. proof for common, up to 1s. 2½d. proof for superior marks.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, June 15th :—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Trinidad	7769	10,600	17,000	25,000	20,000 Bags.
Grenada	3542	9600	16,700	18,900	14,700 ..
Total of all kinds	52,853	68,000	76,000	95,000	81,000 ..

The market has become rather quieter, and all West India kinds are 1s. lower. There is no business to report, as the general demand has subsided. Quotations: Trinidad, middling, 95s. (nominal), Estate Marks, 96s. to 98s.; Grenadas range for common to fair, 84s. to 87s., good and fine 88s. to 91s. Fair Native from other Islands, 83s. to 90s., according to quality.

COFFEE.—Santos for June and July delivery, 27s. A good demand for consumption has prevailed for Jamaicas, which however are in moderate supply; quotations, ordinary to good ordinary, 35s. to 40s. 6d., fine ordinary to low middling, 44s. to 49s. 6d., middling greyish, 52s. to 53s. 6d., bold, 54s., to 59s.

COTTON.—West Indian Sea Island cotton has been in good demand at steady rates. During the fortnight ended June 20th, 592 bales of West Indian cotton were imported. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool, 7.65d.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 19d.; medium fine, 20d.; fine, 21d.

ARROWROOT has been quiet and little business is reported. Last week twelve barrels of St. Vincent were offered and sold at 2½d.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice is lower, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon, according to quality. Distilled oil, 3s. 1d. per gallon. Hand pressed, 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, £25 10s. The weather which is, comparatively speaking, quite cold and very cheerless, has been all against the demand for green limes, Lemons from Naples are reported to look well, and a satisfactory season is looked for for them.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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TUESDAY, JULY 9th, 1907.

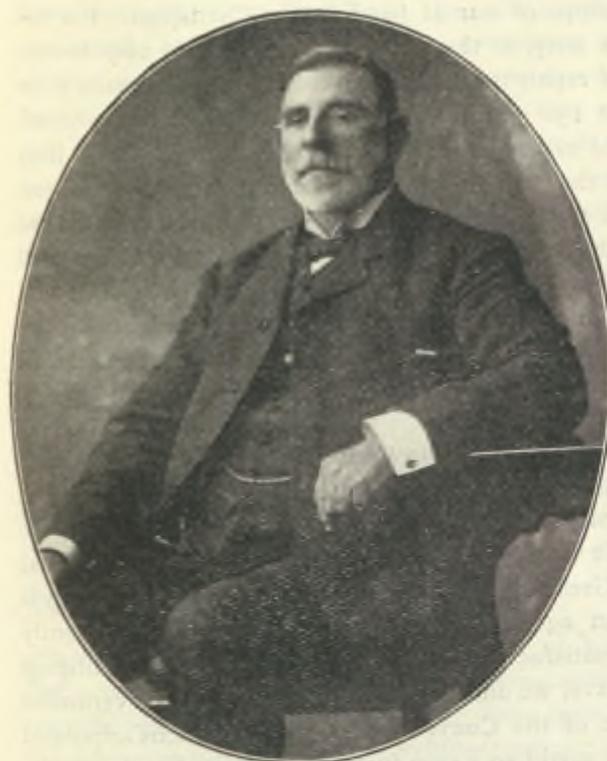
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OUR CELEBRITIES.

XCVI.



The Hon. George Goodwille.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

July 8th, 1907

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

IN view of the fact that the provisional intercolonial mail service comes to an end at the close of next month, our readers will be glad to learn that the proposals for an improved service have so far assumed definite shape that they are at last about to be submitted to the colonies for their consideration. The proposed annual subsidy is to be £25,000, half of which will be provided by the Imperial Government and half by the colonies themselves; the suggested itinerary follows closely the one agreed upon by the mail service Conference held in Barbados on March 20th last, and two new intercolonial steamers "fitted with all modern improvements" are to be built with all reasonable despatch, at an approximate cost of £100,000. We may confidently hope that when the matter is put before them, the colonies will treat it in a liberal and business-like manner, and thus bring about a settlement of a question which has, since the abandonment of the general mail contract in 1905, given rise to much inconvenience and not a little loss. It is hardly to be hoped that the arrangements will prove

entirely satisfactory to all the colonies, but that they will be a great improvement over those at present in force there can be no doubt, and if in working they prove inadequate they should be capable

of modification. Thus, we understand that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has offered for an extra payment of £10,000 per annum, making the proposed subsidy £35,000 a year, to accelerate the speed of their main line transatlantic steamers so as to ensure their arrival out at Barbados on the Monday instead of Tuesday, departing from that port homeward on the Wednesday, but arriving at Southampton as at present, thus allowing a longer interval at the ports of call of the intercolonial steamers, and also guaranteeing the connection with the homeward and outward transatlantic steamers on every voyage. They offered also to place an additional steamer on the main line transatlantic service, making six in all, so as to allow of a more extended itinerary being performed by the intercolonial steamers. This would permit of an interval of about twelve days between the arrival of the outward main line transatlantic steamer at Barbados and the sailing of the homeward main line transatlantic steamer from that port, which would restore to the West Indian colonies the same advantages which they possessed under the old mail contract. (If the transfer were made at Trinidad, the interval would be somewhat less). For these services the Company would, we understand, require an additional payment of £40,000 per annum to cover the cost of employing six transatlantic main line steamers instead of only five as at present, making the proposed yearly subsidy £65,000. Though it may not be possible to convince the Treasury, in their present frame of mind, of how largely a thoroughly adequate and reliable service must benefit the mother country as well as the colonies, the time may come when a more liberal view may be taken of the situation. It is well, therefore, that the fact that such offers as are indicated above have been made should be borne in mind.

A GREAT deal has been made of the despatch of an additional cruiser to the West Indies, and it is probably thought that there are now two ships of war at hand in the Caribbean. For the moment that is the case, but it is for the moment only, as the *Indefatigable*, which is now known locally as the *Ungetatable*, is in such a bad state of repair that she will have to go to Bermuda to be docked for some months and inasmuch as she carries 150 marines, and the *Scylla*, which has relieved her and is herself said to be in a very bad state of repair, only 28, the position will be worse than before. A grave warning has already been sent to the Government by the West India Committee, and the responsibility will henceforth rest not with the late Government, who it is true initiated the policy, but with His Majesty's present advisers, who have so far declined to alter it in spite of repeated remonstrances from all sides. Meanwhile the *Daily Mail* has stated that a special type of armoured cruiser is to be laid down at Pembroke Dockyard for detached police duties and for periodically visiting remote stations. If this is so, it is earnestly to be hoped that the Government will take an early opportunity of making a definite pronouncement on the subject.

DURING the past fortnight the position with regard to the Sugar Convention has undergone very little change. The date for the re-assembling of the Permanent Commission at Brussels has not as yet been fixed and negotiations on the basis of exempting Great Britain from compliance with the terms of the penal clause are still proceeding. It would seem however that while the Continental Sugar press is bitterly opposed to the proposals of Great Britain, the official attitude towards them is altogether more favourable, and the prospects of an agreement being arrived at are consequently brighter than they appeared to be at first. Another satisfactory feature of the situation is the attitude of the confectionery industry, the leaders of which have, we understand, intimated to the Government that they would have no objection to the continuance of the Convention on the conditions stipulated for by Great Britain. We would fain wish that they would go a step further, and realising that in the event of our market being thrown open to bounty-fed sugar, even if it be only Russian, confectionery must then inevitably be penalised with countervailing duties in, or prohibited from entering, continental markets, would withdraw their opposition and approve of the continuance of the Convention in its integrity. On the whole however, the outlook may at the moment be said to be more hopeful.

Figures have already shown that the effect of the Convention has been to widen and increase the sources of the world's supply of sugar, and evidence continues to accumulate as to the advantages which it has conferred on our sugar-producing colonies. The latest comes from Jamaica, where Governor SIR ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM in his report on the Blue-book of the colony for 1905-6 was able to speak more hopefully of the sugar industry than for many years past. The year recorded considerable activity in the extension of cultivation, and also in the cheapening of production by improvements in machinery and by the amalgamation of estates as central factories. Three central factories are already in process of formation, and at least two more are in contemplation. It is clear, says SIR ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM, that increased confidence has characterised the sugar industry as a whole, both in the operations of the planters and in the introduction of capital. It is estimated that in one parish not less than £38,000 worth of new machinery has been imported during the last four or five years. What better example could be afforded of the advantages which have accrued from the Convention? But what of the future? Is the sugar industry of the world, to satisfy the demands of party politics, to be allowed to drift back into that state of instability, with wide fluctuations in value, which characterised it in the pre-Convention days; or is it, in the true interests of all concerned, to be allowed to continue on the lines of real Free Trade which have been secured for it by the Brussels Sugar Convention?

A LETTER from a correspondent in Hayti which has appeared in the *New York Herald*, shows how forcibly that Republic is drifting towards the United States. After alluding to the important bearing the Cuban crisis has on the future of the West Indian Islands, the writer considers that it has a special significance as regards Hayti. "Agriculture," says the writer, "grows steadily less remunerative; commerce naturally follows the same trend; mechanical industries are virtually non-existent in our island; means of internal communication are lacking, and the amount of energy we display in building up a maritime transport service is shown in the half-submerged steamers lying rotting in the harbour here." The writer goes on to say that now that the United States has become the predominant power in the Caribbean Sea, it is inconceivable that Hayti will remain untouched, or that the United States will remain indifferent towards her inexhaustible natural resources. These resources have little chance of being developed by the Haytians, and this is recognised by prominent inhabitants, so much so that M. Frederic Marcellin, the Secretary of State for Finance, has in print advocated an appeal to the United States for "material aid and moral support." Every day brings more and more prominently forward the future relationship of the United States and the Caribbean Isles. With Porto Rico already in their possession, with Cuba in the hollow of their hand, and with Hayti practically their suppliant, the United States have the grasp of the position. At any moment, when it suits them, Cuba and Hayti may pass into their possession, and who is there to say them nay? Meanwhile Great Britain continues to loosen the bonds which hold her West Indian possessions to her. The troops and fleet have been withdrawn, a subsidy for adequate cable communication is refused, and the cheese-paring policy of the Treasury has delayed the promised settlement of the mail question. On the top of all of this comes the threatened withdrawal from the Brussels Convention. Where will it all end?

ONE great obstacle to the development of British trade in British Colonies has been the want of intrinsic knowledge of the conditions and market wants. British manufacturers have had to compete with foreign producers, who have been, from the reports of their own Consuls, and through the enterprise of energetic and intelligent private agents, placed thoroughly *au courant* with trade requirements. We are glad to see, however, that this state of things is not to continue, and we cordially welcome the announcement recently made by the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on this subject as the first fruits of the recent Imperial Conference. MR. LLOYD-GEORGE

stated that as the outcome of the Conference steps would be at once taken to appoint commercial agents to do the work of Consuls in the colonies, acting under the Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade. Our own Consuls in foreign colonies send annually valuable and instructive reports to the Foreign Office, and the new officer of the Board of Trade will do similar work in our own colonies, whose commercial wants and conditions of trade have been more or less unknown to our home producers. Great importance was ascribed, and justly ascribed, by Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE to the new appointments, and the new agents should form allies of the greatest value in the struggle for colonial trade.

HON. GEORGE GOODWILLE.

The Hon. George Goodwille, Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, first arrived in Trinidad in 1867, when he secured a position in the well-known firm of Messrs. Gallie Bros. When they closed their Trinidad house, Mr. Goodwille started on his own account, and from a small shop his business has now attained its present considerable dimensions. He did not, however, devote the whole of his time and energy to his business, but took a deep interest in social and religious work, being teacher and superintendent of the Greyfriars Sunday School for over twenty years. His present ambition is to procure for girls in Trinidad in the matter of education what the boys have enjoyed, namely, a high class secondary school, and he is chairman of a board who have started such a secondary school for girls, and it was on the occasion of his last visit to England that he secured the services of a highly qualified headmistress and graduate of Cambridge. As early as 1887 Mr. Goodwille was of opinion that the colonists should have some measure of representation in the government of the colony, and he took a prominent part in many meetings held in that connection. He is a strong advocate of West Indian federation and the ultimate absorption of the West Indies as a province of the Dominion of Canada; and he is of opinion that under the tariff conditions of Canada greater prosperity would attend the West Indies than would ever be possible under the present system of government by the authorities in Downing Street. In 1897, as a Member of Council, Mr. Goodwille successfully withstood a movement on the part of the Colonial Government to close all the Government schools, which it was proposed to hand over to the denominational authorities.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Since the last list appeared in our pages the following have been elected members of the West India Committee. The first three members were elected at a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, May 30th, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, presiding, and the remainder at a meeting presided over by Sir Henry K. Davson, on July 4th:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
A. C. SOLOMON (Jamaica).	Elder, Dempster & Co.	E. A. de Pass.
C. C. PRICE (British Honduras).	Hon. A. R. Usher.	S. G. Woods.
CROSFIELD & Co.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford.
W. MALINS SMITH (Grenada).	David L. Slinger.	L. Rudolph Mitchell.
GEORGE W. SMITH (Grenada).	L. R. Mitchell.	David L. Slinger.
O. AUSTIN MEYER (British Honduras).	Hon. A. R. Usher.	W. A. Haylock.
A. BEEBY THOMPSON.	Randolph Rust.	R. Rutherford.
CAMPBELL M. HUNTER.	Randolph Rust.	R. Rutherford.
H. HILDEBRANDT (British Honduras).	D. Q. Henriques.	E. L. Marshall.
ESCOMBE, McGRATH & Co.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	E. L. Marshall.
NORWICH UNION LIFE SOCIETY.	E. A. de Pass.	Spencer H. Curtis.
J. J. W. DEUCHAR.	E. A. de Pass.	Spencer H. Curtis.
WILFRID M. WIGLEY (Anguilla).	A. D. C. Adamson.	C. F. Todd.
THOMAS THOMPSON (Antigua).	C. H. Grell.	E. L. Marshall.
VALENCE GALE (Barbados).	L. W. Sampson.	S. Browne.
WILFRED THOMPSON (Antigua).	C. H. Grell.	E. L. Marshall.

The new List of Members will be issued very shortly. 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 CONVENTION.

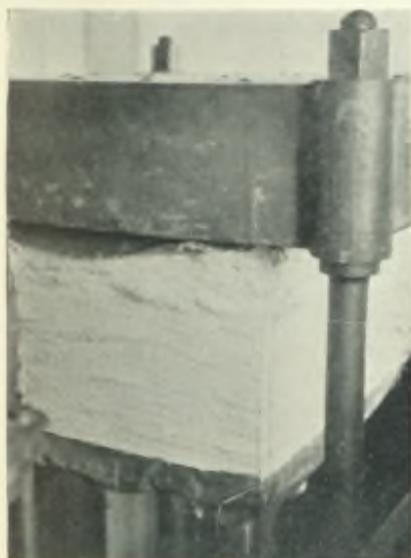
In the two previous issues of the *West India Committee Circular* summaries were given of representations in favour of the continuance of the Brussels Convention for the abolition of foreign bounties and the suppression of cartels from such widely different parts of the Empire as Bombay, Calcutta,



THE COTTON GIN ROOM.



THE SEED COTTON STORE.



BALING COTTON.



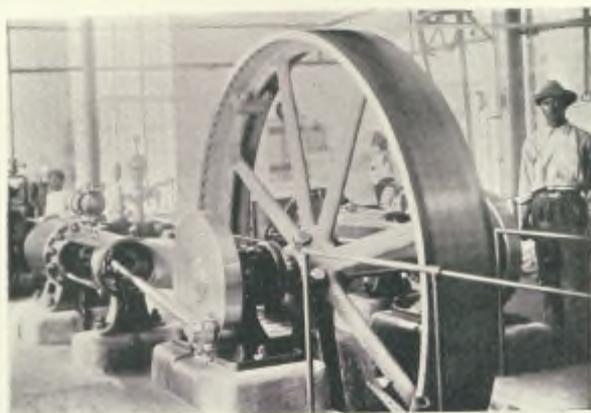
SHAFTING & SEED SHOOTS.



A BALE COMPLETED.



THE FACTORY BUILDINGS.



THE COMPOUND ENGINE.

THE BARBADOS CO-OPERATIVE COTTON FACTORY.

From Photographs by Mr. H. W. Parkinson.

Cawnpore, Geelong, Karachi, Madras, Ceylon, Halifax, Hamilton, Hong-Kong, Montreal, Nelson (New Zealand), Vancouver, Victoria, Orange River, Pietermaritzburg, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Toronto, Penang, Regina. We may now supplement them by the following, which have since been received:—

Auckland.—The Chamber of Commerce forwarded a copy of the following resolution, which was adopted by the Council after careful consideration:—

"That the attention of this Chamber having been called to a statement that the British Government has decided not to continue as parties to the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention after its time expiration, and intends to give notice of its withdrawal—this Chamber desires to express its regret that such action should be contemplated, in view of the assistance the said Convention has been to British sugar-producing colonies, without in any way affecting the sugar-production of the world. This Chamber, being of opinion that the re-introduction of the foreign bonus and cartel system would again injuriously affect the British sugar-producing colonies, respectfully requests in the interests of fair trade that the terms of the Convention may be renewed."

Canterbury (New Zealand).—Mr. H. Antill Adley wrote to advise the West India Committee that the Canterbury Chamber of Commerce was in full sympathy with their representations urging the continuance of the Brussels Convention for the abolition of bounties and suppression of cartels.

Greenock.—At a special meeting of the Greenock Chamber of Commerce on June 20th, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

"That this meeting, having learned that His Majesty's Government has intimated its dissent from the existing terms of the Brussels Convention, involving, if insisted upon, the probable withdrawal of this country from the Convention, strongly protests against this action, and remits to the directors of the Chamber to petition His Majesty's Ministers through the Foreign and Colonial Secretaries to reconsider their decision."

Liverpool.—At the monthly meeting of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, held on June 26th, under the chairmanship of Colonel Goffey, Vice-President, the following resolution was unanimously passed, and it was ordered that a copy thereof should be transmitted to the Premier and to the other Members of the Cabinet:—

"That this Chamber deprecates any action by His Majesty's Government which might prejudice the supply of sugar at free trade prices by the refiners and colonies of Great Britain, and facilitate the resumption or adoption of bounties and cartels by other countries."

Sir Edward Grey's despatch.

We give below the full text of Sir Edward Grey's despatch to Sir A. Hardinge, His Majesty's Minister at Brussels, respecting the International Sugar Convention of March 5th, 1902:—

Foreign Office, June 1st, 1907.

Sir,

His Majesty's Government have had under consideration the question of the steps which it will be necessary for them to take with regard to the participation of this country in the Sugar Convention when the date arrives on which it will be possible for any of the Contracting States to give a year's notice to retire from the Convention under the provisions of Article X of that Instrument. In considering this matter, they have naturally felt themselves bound to give the greatest weight to the interests of consumers and producers in the United Kingdom and the British Colonies, but, subject to this paramount consideration, they have desired to give proper weight to the circumstances and possible wishes of the other Contracting States.

His Majesty's Government have come to the definite conclusion that the limitation of the sources from which sugar may enter the United Kingdom, whether by prohibition or by the imposition of countervailing duties, is inconsistent with their declared policy, and incompatible with the interests of British consumers and sugar-using manufacturers, and that consequently it will be impossible for them to continue to give effect to the provisions of the Convention requiring them to penalise sugars declared by the Permanent Commission to be bounty-fed.

At the same time His Majesty's Government have no desire that there should be a revival of sugar bounties or of sugar trusts or cartels, dependent on the existence of high protective Tariffs, which are now prohibited under the Convention. Nor is there any desire or intention on their own part that any bounties on the production or exportation of sugar shall be given in the United Kingdom or in the sugar-exporting Crown Colonies, or that any preference shall be given to cane as against beet sugar, or to colonial sugars as against the sugars of the Contracting States on importation into the United Kingdom or the Crown Colonies.

The President of the Permanent Sugar Commission at Brussels, having very courteously tendered to the British Delegates the good offices of the Belgian Government in regard to any discussions which might take place concerning the termination or prolongation of the Convention, I have thought it desirable to request you, without loss of time, to bring the foregoing considerations to the notice of the Belgian Government, with a view to their communication to the Governments of the Contracting States.

Should these Governments come to the conclusion that the wishes and intentions of His Majesty's Government, as indicated above, can only be realised by the complete withdrawal of this country from the Convention, His Majesty's Government will be prepared to give the necessary notice on the first possible date.

It is, however, possible that, in the special circumstances of the case, the other Contracting States might judge it to be preferable to accord to the United Kingdom, by a Supplementary Protocol, a special exemption from the obligation to enforce the penal provisions of the Convention. They might be the more disposed to take this course, inasmuch as such an exemption would be unlikely, at all events for a considerable period, to have any material effect of a prejudicial character upon the export trade in sugar from any of the Contracting States. You should point out that it has already been found that the special circumstances of a particular Contracting State make it desirable that it should be exempted from certain stipulations of the Convention. Thus, to Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland there have been accorded special exemptions from the stipulations of the Convention that were not appropriate to the conditions of the trade of those countries.

In the event of the Contracting States agreeing to take the course indicated above, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to abstain for the present from giving the notice of withdrawal which they would otherwise feel it their duty to give on September 1st next.

Should the Belgian Government be willing to exert their good offices in this behalf, I have to point out that, in view of the meeting of the Commission fixed to take place on the 6th instant, it would be desirable that communications should be addressed to the Contracting States as soon as possible.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. GREY.

How Experts differ.

In the May issue of the *British and Foreign Confectioner and Baker* articles by Mr. George Martineau and Mr. S. de Jastrzebski appear on the subject of the Sugar Convention, which deal exhaustively with its pros and cons in its bearings on consumer and producer. In the June number the writers reply to each other, and we commend to our readers the perusal of the articles in question. It is sufficient for us to say that Mr. Jastrzebski has reproduced the well-worn fallacies and unfounded facts of the anti-conventioners and that Mr. Martineau has given his masterly exposition in his well-known logical and convincing style. The latter will probably himself deal with Mr. Jastrzebski's many errors in his last article, but we should like to point out one as an illustration of many. The latter says: "How does Mr. Martineau account for the fact that the consumption of sugar in this country has gone back since the Convention instead of advancing, notwithstanding the increase of population?" As a matter of fact the sugar consumption of England per head of population has been:—

1903-4	86.11 lbs. per head.
1904-5	78.20 ..
1905-6	87.82 ..

The falling off in 1904-5 being entirely due to abnormally high prices from special causes connected with short crops.

Lord Lansdowne on the Convention.

Lord Lansdowne speaking at the General Meeting of the Liberal Union Club on June 28th made some trenchant remarks regarding the attitude of the Government towards the Sugar Convention. They had had quite lately, he said, another example of what he would call Free Trade prudery. He referred to the action of His Majesty's Government with regard to the Sugar Convention. They had learned that His Majesty's Government were willing to remain within the Convention, but that they coupled with that willingness an announcement that it was not their intention to fulfil their obligation to enforce against bounty-fed sugar that penalty which formed part of the original arrangement with the Great Powers concerned. It was the old story. We were ready to worship at the shrine of Free Trade, but we were unwilling to raise a little finger in practical defence of Free Trade, for there never was a more flagrant invasion of Free Trade than the system of sugar bounties coupled with the trusts, the cartels, which grew up on the Continent under that system. These trusts and bounties had the effect of robbing the consumer, of killing legitimate competition, and of disturbing the whole course of trade greatly to the disadvantage of the honest trader, and greatly to the advantage of the gambler and speculator. Was it not remarkable that we were going, apparently, to spend £5,000,000 of British money, or, at any rate, to guarantee that sum in order to emancipate the Boer farmers of the Transvaal from the control of the Rand magnates, and were not willing to make the nominal sacrifice involved by the Sugar Convention in order to check the operations of these great anti-Free Trade combinations.

The Government and the Brussels Convention.

The *International Sugar Journal* of July gives a translation of an interesting article from the pen of M. Georges Dureau, based on a careful study of the question by Dr. Albert Bartens in *Die Deutsche Zuckerindustrie*.

He begins by asking, "Has England been short of sugar under the régime of the Brussels Convention?" Statistics say "No." The quantity of sugar imported has increased distinctly since the application of the Convention. The apparent consumption per head (about which we shall have something to say another time), has, it is true, fallen off;* but the price of sugar has not increased, except for a time, in 1905, when exceptional weather caused a large deficit in the beetroot crop. From 1893 to 1902 the average price of raw sugar imported into England was 10s. 3d. per cwt., and that of refined sugar 13s. 4d. But in 1906 the raw sugar only cost 8s. 9d., and the refined 11s. 7d. There is therefore no question of prices having been raised by the Convention. If the consumption per head of sugar into this country amounted to 1,667,800 tons, a figure never before attained. During the last fourteen years the importation of refined attained its maximum in 1901; in that year the proportion of refined was 61 per cent. and that of raw 39 per cent. of the total. At that time the system of bounties and cartels was flourishing. Since their abolition the importation of refined sugar has decreased; in 1905 it fell to 50 per cent. of the total imports, increasing, it is true, to 54 per cent. in

* It will be noted from a preceding paragraph that the consumption has actually increased, being 87.82 lbs. per head in 1905-6 as against 86.11 and 78.20 for 1903-4 and 1904-5 respectively.—ED.

1906. It was in 1900 that the importation of raw beetroot sugar attained its maximum; its proportion in that year was 81 per cent. of the total importation of raw sugar, cane sugar being only 19 per cent. Since the abolition of bounties and cartels these proportions show signs of being reversed; that of beetroot fell to 57 per cent. and that of cane sugar rose to 43 per cent. The increase of British West Indian sugar was only slight because it was attracted to Canada by the preferential treatment in that country. We have lost our supplies from Argentina, which amounted, in 1901, to 33,317 tons, in 1902 to 40,447 tons, in 1903 to 20,919 tons; a perfectly negligible quantity out of the ten million tons from which we can choose.*

Our supply of beetroot sugar, though it declined in 1905 owing to the short crop, increased in 1906, thanks to the abundant European production, to 554,433 tons, representing 73 per cent. of the total imports of raw sugar. As to Russia and our loss of the supply from that quarter, M. Dureau gives the following figures, but we must add that they do not represent the total quantity of Russian sugar imported, because some came *via* Germany. Going back to 1896, M. Dureau points out that at that time we imported 12,356 tons of Russian raw sugar and 30,036 tons of refined. Again, we ask, what is this compared with the world's production of 10,000,000 tons which is free to come to us? Since then the quantity has declined. In 1903 we imported 1,162 of raw sugar and 4,002 tons of refined. There could not be a stronger proof than that given by these figures. Russia, if she had had a large surplus stock to dispose of, would have poured the sugar into this country before the door was closed; as she did not do so, she clearly had no available supply. All who have any intimate knowledge of the sugar markets and supplies of the world know perfectly well that this was so. From that time to a year ago Russia had no surplus that required any outlet beyond the customary exports to Finland, Persia and the East.

So much for Lord Denman's declaration in the *Times* a few days ago, that the high prices of 1905,—really and solely caused by the reduction of the beetroot crop and the consequent speculations for May and August—were caused by our loss of the supplies from Russia and the Argentine. We evidently had no lack of sugar; we exported more refined sugar in the four years 1903-6 than we did in the preceding four years 1899-1902. Moreover, as Mr. Lloyd-George told us the other day, the confectioners exported, in the years 1904-6, an average of 362,004 cwts. per annum, while in the three years preceding the Convention, 1901-3, the average yearly exports were only 320,917 cwts. M. Dureau winds up this interesting statement as follows:—"To sum up, according to these statistics the sources of sugar open to England under the *régime* of the Convention remained numerous, varied, abundant; and the price of sugar—except during the deficient crop of 1904-5—has not increased. The economic situation of the sugar market of England has been well examined, and we discover no fact which militates in any serious manner in favour of the grave determination which the Government of that country has taken."

COTTON IN BARBADOS.

The Commissioner of Agriculture writes to us that it is desirable to point out that only in very few instances has any cotton been grown as a "catch" crop in Barbados. A large proportion of the crop is grown as a "rotation" crop. In order to explain a purely technical matter of this sort, it may be mentioned that what is known in Barbados as a "catch" crop is a crop that is grown between two crops of sugar-cane when the land is proposed to be replanted in sugar-canes in the same year. A "rotation" crop, on the other hand, is a crop grown on land on which canes are not to be replanted in the same year. In the case of a "catch" crop the cotton would only occupy the land for a few months; whereas, in the case of a "rotation" crop, it would be on the land for nearly, if not quite, a year, and thus admit of several pickings of well-matured fibre. In many cases in Barbados, as also in Montserrat, Antigua and Nevis, cotton is also grown as a main crop that is quite independent of the sugar or any other crop. The prospects of growing cotton as a main crop are, the Commissioner adds, distinctly promising.

BRITISH GROWN COTTON.

The Duke of Marlborough entertained at dinner the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association and some friends of their movement at the Constitutional Club on June 26th. Sir Alfred Jones was the principal guest, and the toast of the Cotton Growing Association was proposed by Mr. Winston Churchill, who said that there had been splendid times in Lancashire during the past three years. There had been unexampled prosperity, and the cotton industry had adopted a progressive and elevated standard in regard to the conditions under which the industry was carried on, and most of all in regard to the relation between capital and labour. No tariff would stand against the skill and perfect execution found in Lancashire. They could beat their competitors on even or uneven terms. One thing, however, might bring the industry down, and that was a shortage in the supply of raw

* The Argentine has now ceased to export sugar and requires all she can produce.—Ed.

material. A short crop followed by an arbitrary "corner," might not only stop the supply, but raise the price of finished articles, so that large districts might be unable to purchase or have the power to take their goods. At that moment they had an example in France, where four Departments had been plunged into distress from economic causes beyond the control of the industries, and that should be sufficient to enforce the serious nature of the work undertaken by the Association—to broaden and multiply the areas of cotton supply and so protect Lancashire against the one serious danger by which it is menaced. If he could do anything to help in that, whether by development of those indispensable railways in Nigeria, or by any other method, he would not neglect one scrap of influence which he might possess to forward that work.

THE NEW COTTON FACTORY IN BARBADOS.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Law and Connell, the engineers responsible for its erection, we are able to give some interesting particulars regarding the Barbados Co-operative Cotton Factory, pictures of which, from photographs by that capable amateur photographer, Mr. H. W. Parkinson, form the subject of our full-page illustration. The factory, which is quite the finest and most complete in the West Indies, is situated on the outskirts of Bridgetown, close to the new Carnegie Library, and is erected on lands acquired by the company, and called Friendly Hall. The ginnery is contained in a building of three storeys, and the internal dimensions are as follows: length inside 100 ft. 3 ins.; breadth inside, 26 ft. 6 ins. Walls 2 ft., 21 ins., and 18 ins. thick. Height from bottom floor to under roof 28 ft. An extension of the main building of 40 ft. inside measurement, which has been built for the oil extracting plant to be added at some future time, contains at present the disintegrator, used for grinding cotton seed. This part of the building is divided from the ginnery by a solid wall of 18 in. thick stone, built from bottom to top as a safeguard in case of fire. At the front end of building is added a wooden frame and galvanised covered way, arranged so that carts may drive under in wet weather, and the seed cotton then lifted by a friction hoist (made in the colony) to the top storey. The baling room is a building with shed roof built on to western side of main building, and connected with a covered way and track of rails to the store-room, this store-room is used for storing the finished bales of cotton and also bags of seed. It was originally the Pier Head Factory building. The engine and boiler room, which is built on to the opposite side of the main building, is 34 ft. long by 32 ft. wide inside. The chimney shaft is 80 ft. high and 2 ft. 9 ins. bore, octagonal outside and circular inside, built of stone and lined with brick, with an air space half its length up. The roof of main building is of steel, 146 ft. long by 30 ft. span, supplied by Messrs. A. and J. Main, of Glasgow. With regard to the machinery, the boiler is a Stirling water tube boiler, with 1,009 square feet of heating surface, fitted with automatic chain grate mechanical stoker, all made by the Stirling Boiler Co., Ltd., Motherwell. The stoker is driven by a small vertical engine, for which Tangyes, Ltd., are responsible. The engines are horizontal compound high pressure engines side by side, with fly wheel between, of 10 ft. diameter by 16 in. face. The cylinders are 12 ins. and 20 ins. bore by 26 ins. stroke; working pressure 100 lbs. per square inch. The exhaust steam passes through a feed water heater and raises the temperature of the boiler feed water from cold to boiling point. The engines and feed water heater, which are also made by Messrs. Tangyes, Ltd., of Birmingham, are a very fine piece of work. The boiler feed pump is a double ram double cylinder pump, made by John Cameron, Ltd., Manchester. The line shafting is 3 ins. diameter, driven off the fly-wheel of the engine by a belt 12 ins. wide. The pulleys are all of wrought iron in halves, and of the unbreakable type. The shafting is placed on the ground floor, and carried in brackets bolted to the house columns, and runs in long self-adjusting bearings. All were made by Messrs. Tangyes, Ltd. The gins, which are twenty-four in number, are erected on the second floor in two lines of twelve each, and are supplied with seed cotton by wooden shoots, having the top end of shoot opening above floor of seed-cotton room. They were supplied by Messrs. Platt Bros., Oldham. There is no overhead belting in the gin room, the belts passing through the floor to the shafting and pulleys below. The baling press is a very powerful hydraulic one, and consists of a very massive press carried by four steel columns, with deep bed plate and top. Two baling boxes are used, so that when one is in the press the other is being filled with cotton. Hydraulic pressure is supplied by three hydro pumps worked off the main line of shafting. The bale is clothed and hooped in the press, the ram is then lowered with the finished bale on the top, the bale is then tipped on to an inclined plane, and received by a trolley, and run into the store-room. The seed from each gin is conveyed to the ground floor by a wooden shoot, and a sack attached to the bottom end of the shoot collects the seed. The factory is run on very economical lines, only three-quarters of a ton of coal being burnt per day of ten hours work. A guarantee for smokeless combustion was asked for, and this has been carried out. The whole of the design, erection of buildings and machinery, have been ordered and carried out by Messrs. Law & Connell, as engineers to the company.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The Origin of the West India Docks.

In the year 1798 the West India Committee took in hand the establishment of definite docks for the West India trade. Up to that time ships had discharged either by lighters or at various licensed quays. Apart from the inconvenience experienced through want of concentration, the loss of produce from theft was a constant source of trouble, and it entailed considerable expense to the Committee in the way of watchmen, prosecutions, &c. In February of that year therefore, a meeting of the West India Committee was held in order that the proposals for the formation of docks might be given practical shape. Subscriptions were accordingly invited to the extent of £500,000, and on the 31st of December the list closed. The scheme of the Committee fixed the Isle of Dogs as the site of the docks, but this met with considerable opposition from merchants and others, who considered that the proposed site would be too far from the mercantile centres. A counter-project was therefore started, with Wapping as the site for the docks, which had the support of the Corporation of London. In January, 1799, a Committee consisting of Mr. George Hibbert, Mr. Milligan and Mr. Simmons, representing the West India Committee, Sir J. W. Anderson and the Remembrancer for the Corporation of London, and Messrs. Thornton, Fisher & Long for the promoters of the Wapping dock scheme was appointed, and at a meeting of the West India Committee on May 31st, 1799, Lord Penrhyn presiding, it was reported:—

"That since the Report made to the General Meeting on the 13 December last, Your Committee, as then directed, has persevered in uniting its Exertions with those of the Corporation of the City of London in order to compleat and carry through Parliament a Bill calculated to put the West India Trade as early as possible in possession of that Accommodation and Security it has so long wanted at the Port of London. That various oppositions to the principle or to the Clauses of the Bill have been done away, several of them the more easily as they were founded on Misapprehension, and that at length a compleat Bill a Copy of which is now laid before the Meeting is submitted to the House of Commons and by a determination of that House referred to a Select Committee appointed for the purpose of taking into consideration the respective Plans for improving the Port of London. That this Bill if approved of by that Select Committee is not likely, as Your Committee understands, to meet with any opposition in its further progress thro Parliament except in as much as it renders it obligatory upon the Ships in the West India Trade to discharge in the proposed Docks when compleatly fitted for their Accommodation, the Clause to that effect being objected to in Petitions from a part of the Mercantile Body, from the Sugar Refiners, and the Wholesale Grocers, the two latter Bodies fairly acknowledging the Loss and Risk which attend the transit of West India Produce further up the River, but apprehending that by the present measures that Loss and Risk may fall upon themselves. That this opposition although apparently directed only against a Clause in the Bill yet is directed in the opinion of Your Committee against that essential Clause without which the measure cannot be effectual in putting an entire stop to the Depredations committed on West India Produce at this Port, and that at an expence not exceeding in the first instance the present heavy port Charges thereon and affording means for their gradual Reduction; that the Reasons alledged to this effect in the Resolution of the General Meeting of the 13th December last have received subsequent strong confirmation in the course of that attentive Consideration of the Subject which has been given by your Committee. That it being made evident to those principally interested in the Importation of West India Produce at this Port that the first Depot thereof cannot be advantageously made higher up the River than at the Isle of Dogs, Your Committee conceives that Consideration to be of far more weight than any temporary Inconvenience which may thence result to some of the Purchasers of that produce."

The scheme of the West India Committee was ultimately adopted by Parliament, and the establishment of the present West India Docks was the result.

CANADIAN EXHIBITIONS.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has circularised the Permanent Exhibition Committees in the West Indies and British Guiana with regard to the Toronto and Halifax Exhibitions, to be opened on August 26th and September 25th respectively, in both of which it is hoped that they will decide to participate. These exhibitions will be of special interest in view of the visit of the Board of Trade Delegation to the West Indies in February and March last. The chief object in view is to increase the trade relations between Canada and the West Indies. To carry this out, the specimens selected should consist of *bona fide* commercial samples, put up so that each one may be capable of being handled and tested by those interested, and accompanied by full particulars as to their origin, shipping marks, the quantities available, and, as far as possible, the prices f.o.b. at the port of shipment. In the case of sugars, rum, molasses, preserves, honey, cacao, coffee, arrowroot, cassava, dried ginger, cashew

nuts, dried peppers, cotton, starches, oils, India rubber, &c., all these will require to be carefully put up in closely fitting glass jars and bottles. In addition it would be useful if some of the dried products were also forwarded in small boxes (about 1 foot cube) with sliding glass covers, so that visitors may be able to handle the contents and satisfy themselves as to their quality and value. It should be understood that none of the exhibits will, under any circumstances, be returned. Those remaining in good condition after the two exhibitions are over will be distributed to the various Boards of Trade in Canada, to be tested and examined by those directly interested in them. It would be useful if, in the first instance, a number were attached to each exhibit, and a list forwarded so that in the event of the labels being damaged, the name of the exhibit could be attached at the exhibition. In packing glass jars and bottles, it is advised that they should all be carefully inspected before shipment in order to detect leakage. It should also be borne in mind that they will be liable to be knocked about in transit; each bottle should, therefore, be carefully isolated by being packed with straw, shavings, or sawdust. The bottles containing liquids should, if possible, be packed by themselves and not in the same case as cured and dried produce, such as cacao, starches, &c. Fresh fruits and similar articles, which it is proposed to exhibit in glass jars, should be placed in a solution of formalin (4 per cent.). This can be made by adding 10 parts by weight of commercial formalin to 100 parts of water. These instructions should prove of great value to exhibitors, and as a result of them a further improvement in selection and packing of the exhibits should be noticed.

AN IMPERIAL TESTIMONIAL.



The Address to Sir F. Young.

The address signed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and presented with a cheque for £1,000 to Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., on June 25th, 1907, in recognition of his eminent services to the Royal Colonial Institute, and thus to the Empire.

There was an immense attendance of Fellows at the annual conversazione of the Royal Colonial Institute at the Natural History Museum, London, on Tuesday, June 25th, when a testimonial was presented to Sir Frederick Young, in recognition of his eminent services to the Institute and thus to the Empire. The testimonial, which was presented by the Duke of Marlborough, in the unavoidable absence of Lord Elgin, who was detained in Parliament, took the form of an illuminated address and a cheque for £1,000.

THE HEALTH OF GUIANA.

The report of the Commission to enquire into the mortality (general and infantile) of British Guiana, covers, as can be understood, a large area of ground. It is a valuable contribution to tropical hygiene, and supplies evidence of an important nature as to the cause of the somewhat high death-rate of that colony, which figures at 28.1 per 1,000 as the mean of ten years (1895-1904). The death-rate of Europeans, other than Portuguese, is, however, only 19.6 per 1,000; the high mortality of the colony occurring chiefly among the poorer classes of the community, the death-rate being fairly low for a tropical country among those in comfortable positions. The high rate among the poorer classes is, in the opinion of the Commission, due to absence of adequate measures of sanitation, overcrowding, carelessness as regards medical attendance, employment of quacks, abuse of patent medicines, &c. The high rate of infantile mortality

among the lower classes is due mainly to neglect and improper feeding. Among the recommendations made by the Commissioners for measures which should be taken with the view of decreasing the rates of infantile and general mortality, and for the improvement of the sanitary conditions of the colony are: (1) Stringent enforcement of the laws and regulations relating to dairies, and to the wholesomeness and purity of milk. (2) The adoption of modern scientific precautions to prevent the spread of malarial fever and of filarial disease, and (3) Instruction in the elements of hygiene in the primary and secondary schools of the colony.

"A NEGRO PROPER, BREECHES ARGENT."

Through the courtesy of the Governors of British Guiana and the various West Indian colonies, the West India Committee now possesses a complete collection of impressions of their official seals, and these are now being supplemented by their flags for display on suitable occasions. It is a curious fact that very few of the West Indian colonies have received a proper grant of arms, and, except in so far as they form part of the official seals, the badges are not recognised by the Herald's College. Jamaica is a notable exception. She received a grant of arms in 1662, and recently British Honduras has also been granted armorial bearings. A presentation copy of them was forwarded to the West India Committee by Lord Elgin on June 17th, at the request of Col. E. J. E. Swayne. They are heraldically described as follows: Per chevron and in chief per pale argent or and azure; in the dexter chief a squaring axe in bend sinister surmounted by a paddle in bend; on the sinister chief a beating axe in bend surmounted by a saw in bend sinister, and in base on waves of the sea a ship in full sail all proper, and a canton of the Union device. Crest, on a wreath of the Colonies a mahogany tree proper. Supporters, on the dexter



The Armorial Bearings of British Honduras.

side a negro proper breeches argent holding over his shoulder in his dexter hand a beating axe as in the Arms,—and on the sinister side a like negro holding over his shoulder in his sinister hand a paddle as in the Arms. Motto,—*Sub Umbra Floreo*.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Jamaica Loan.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to Mr. A. Chamberlain on July 1st, said that the Jamaica Earthquake Loan would be advanced from the Local Loans' Fund by instalments as the money was wanted. The necessary powers would be asked for in the Public Works Loans' Bill of this Session.

Coffee Adulteration.

On June 20th, Mr. Rees asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he was aware that the progressive decline in the consumption of coffee in this country was to some extent at least due to the practically unchecked use of chicory; whether he could see his way so to amend the law as to provide that, when the quantity of chicory in a mixture exceeded in quantity the coffee contained in such mixture, it should be labelled chicory and coffee, the former word being printed in larger type, and, where coffee predominated, the word coffee being printed in larger type, and, where coffee predominated, the word coffee being printed in larger type, or whether he would introduce legislation requiring the use of a label specifying the proportion of coffee and inferior substances contained in every admixture for sale.

Mr. John Burns: My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this question. I am aware that allegations are made to the effect stated in the first part of the question, but I am not able to state how far they are correct. I have received representations to show that the present state of things as regards the sale of mixtures of coffee and chicory is not satisfactory, and I have noted the matter for investigation. I may point out that it was to some extent considered by the Select Committee on Food Adulterations in 1896, who, however, did not see their way to make any special recommendation on the subject. Mr. Rees: Is not this a matter of importance, not only to consumers of coffee, but also to

British planters? Mr. John Burns: I agree with my hon. friend, and I should like to see some favourable opportunity of amending the Food and Drugs' Act in this and many other particulars.

The Earthquake Blue Book.

Correspondence relating to the earthquake at Kingston, Jamaica, has been published as a Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 3560]. It opens with the various messages reporting the occurrence of the disaster, the first being one from Governor Swettenham, received on January 16th. On January 17th the Relief Committee in New York announced the formation of their body. Lord Elgin wrote to the Lord Mayor on January 19th in support of the Mansion House Fund, which was opened with a donation from the King. On January 21st Lord Elgin wrote to the Foreign Office requesting that the United States Government might be informed that there would be no justification for further calls upon the generosity of the United States. The New York Fund was closed on February 1st, and it was decided that all subscriptions should be returned to the donors. The West India Committee wrote to the Colonial Office on February 8th commenting upon the delay in the arrival of a British warship, and appealing to the Government to afford to the people of Jamaica "such Imperial assistance in the form of an Imperial grant and loan at a low rate of interest, of such an amount as will enable them to rebuild the city of Kingston on scientific lines as speedily as possible, and to re-establish the businesses of the store and shopkeepers." On February 14th, the Governor telegraphed that under the new scheme approved by the Archbishop, the grant of £150,000 and a loan from the Imperial funds of £1,000,000 to owners of property was essentially necessary without any guarantee from the local Government. On February 18th the West India Committee forwarded to the Colonial Office the request of the local Relief Committee for an Imperial grant and loan. The need for assistance was further impressed upon the Government by a resolution at a special general meeting of the Committee held on February 21st, and by the Mansion House Committee, who asked that a deputation might be permitted to wait upon Lord Elgin on the subject. A telegram was, however, received from the Archbishop of the West Indies, as Chairman of the local Relief Committee, on March 1st, announcing his departure at an early date, and earnestly urging that no final decision might be made until his arrival. On March 30th the Archbishop reported his arrival, and forwarded a copy of the petition of the people of Jamaica, asking for a free grant of £150,000, or such further sum as might be necessary, and an Imperial loan at a low rate of interest. On May 8th came the announcement that the Government had decided to invite Parliament to make a free grant of £150,000 and a loan to the Colonial Government of £800,000. In acknowledging it, the Archbishop wrote that though the aid thus assured was not quite all that was desired, he trusted that under good management it would go far towards furnishing the needed assistance, and would enable an effective beginning to be made in the restoration of the buildings and the resuscitation of the businesses of the city and the home life of the people, and would serve as a stimulus to all grades of persons to use to the utmost their own powers of self-help. In a letter of May 17th to Mr. Sydney Olivier, the new Governor, Lord Elgin laid down the manner in which the grant and loan were to be applied:—

It is intended that the free grant of £150,000 should jointly with the balance of the subscriptions received from private charity, be administered under a special authority to be constituted by the local Government under the approval of the Secretary of State for the following purposes: (a) Immediate needs of food and shelter in lieu of poor relief to destitute persons. (b) Restoration of the houses of the poorer section of the population. (c) Permanent provision for the destitute, aged, widows, orphans, and cripples. (d) Restoration of homes for the indigent of the middle classes. (e) Help to enable shop-keepers, traders, and others who are without means, to start business, and to enable householders who cannot give full security to avail themselves of assistance from the loan.

As regards the loan to the Jamaica Government of £800,000, it is to be understood that it will be applied mainly if not exclusively to the purpose of restoring or replacing public or other buildings damaged by the earthquake. The Lords Commissioners have stipulated as conditions of the loan that (a) the Colony will relinquish its unexhausted powers of borrowing under the Colonial Loans' Act of 1899; and that (b) no advance shall be made until the Legislature of Jamaica has provided, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State and of their Lordships, for charging the principal and interest of the loan on the general revenues and assets of the Colony with priority over any subsequent charges, and for raising or securing the raising of revenues sufficient for the service of the loan.

A new industry and the Government.

In the House of Lords on July 3rd, Lord Denbigh called attention to the fact that, when the policy of the Government with regard to the Brussels Convention was announced, provisional contracts had been signed for growing 2,000 acres of sugar beet in the neighbourhood of Sleaford, that financial arrangements were in process of completion for the erection of a local factory to employ 120 men in the winter months, and that it had now been found necessary to abandon the whole project owing to the uncertainty created by the action of the Government.

Lord Fitzmaurice said that they had a great responsibility, but they could not change their attitude. After having read two short extracts from the despatch of Sir Edward Grey to Sir Arthur Hardinge, he said that, until communications were completed, it would be impossible for him to make a statement outside the four corners of that despatch. But the noble lord was mistaken in supposing

that, if the policy adumbrated in one of the paragraphs he had read of the despatch were carried out, it would immediately, by the abolition of the penal clauses, introduce the mischiefs of cartel sugar in this country. The abolition of the penal clauses by themselves, no doubt, would have the effect of making it easier than it now was for the sugars of non-Convention countries—such as Russia—to come into this country. But that was a different matter from the far larger question of the introduction of cartel sugars, which formerly were introduced here from countries like Germany. These were questions, however, that could be discussed with greater advantage at a later period of the Session, when he might be able to make a fuller statement than was now possible as to the exact position in which this country would stand when the Government had received replies to the suggestions adumbrated by the Secretary of State. It was quite acknowledged by those who had studied this question that the fact that we prohibit Russian, Argentine, and Danish sugar from entering the United Kingdom did not lessen the available supply of sugar in the world, and that sugar which would otherwise have been sent to this country found its way elsewhere, and thus displaced sugars which, instead of being sent to these destinations, were sent to the United Kingdom. For example, Russian sugar found its way to Persia, and in consequence a certain amount of Austrian sugar was sent to the United Kingdom instead of to the East. The blank which had been made by the diversion of Russian sugar had very likely been filled up in other countries. Although it might be quite truly said that since sugar from convention countries had taken the place in our market of sugar from the excluded and non-convention countries, there had been no actual diminution of supply, it might nevertheless be fairly argued that the Convention had brought about a bad result. If it were asked how, in view of the fact mentioned, the prohibition of Russian sugar in this country could affect the price we had to pay for our sugar or could really limit our supply, the answer was that any interference with the natural flow of commodities along the routes which they follow when left to themselves must involve friction and must tend to make them more expensive. The Secretary of State had recognized that, as this country had set its hand and seal to a document which had brought about great changes in other countries, we must approach those results from the point of view to a certain extent of the effects of our conduct upon foreign countries. That was the main reason why the Secretary of State had attempted to find out whether, without inflicting grievous disturbances upon foreign countries in regard to some of those arrangements which we had ourselves practically encouraged them to enter upon, the Government could not relieve our own consumers of sugar from the worst consequences of this unhappy Convention.

Lord Lansdowne gathered that negotiations were still in progress and that they would know the result before the end of the Session. A Government which showed a splendid audacity in the Land Bill now before Parliament need not, he thought, be too diffident on this question. He now understood that it was the intention of the Government to retire from the Convention as incompatible with the interests of this country, but he argued that the policy of the Government in the matter was contrary to the doctrine of free trade. Surely they had a right to take some notice of the interests of their sugar-producing colonies; but what he specially regretted was that the action of the Government left them open to the imputation that they were deserting Powers with whom the Convention was made.

Lord Ripon pointed out, in reply, that any one of the Powers under the Convention had the right to withdraw from it. He denied that the Government had in any way departed from their settled policy. A full report of the debate will be found in the *Times* of July 4th, page 5.

NATURE NOTES.

SISAL HEMP.—Speaking of sisal, *Tropical Life* says that it wants neither rich soil, manure, nor cultivation; in fact, those who have tried to cultivate the fibre on these lines have only lost their plants as a result of their pains, otherwise on suitable land the failure of a crop has never been heard of. The best soil for sisal seems to be poor, rocky, dry, gravelly soil, or worn out sugar-cane and arrowroot lands, and it seems to be quite happy when planted on rocky land, with no soil to speak of at all. It thrives best where there is limestone.

PINE-APPLE SILK.—According to a report from the United States' Vice-Consul at Newcastle, Australia, published by the Washington Bureau of Manufactures, a fibre well-adapted for the production of a silky kind of cloth can be obtained from the leaves of the pineapple plant. The leaves are soaked until the outer covering can be easily removed, and the soft, jelly-like substance round the fibre pressed away. The dried fibre is of good staple and strength, and of fine texture. "Pine-apple silk," says the report, "may become the fashion."

SOIL BACTERIA.—A bulletin has recently been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture dealing with the conditions affecting inoculation of leguminous crops with bacteria. The *Agricultural News* summarising the results says that lime is of decided benefit in obtaining successful inoculation in

some soils, more especially in soils showing an acid reaction to litmus. Soil extracts serving as culture media often indicate the probable success of inoculating a leguminous crop. Heavy inoculation by a pure culture increases nodule formation if the soil solution is enriched by the excess of culture medium; however, in a favourable soil a light inoculation well-distributed is as effective. Thorough aeration is favourable to nodule formation, and the functions of a bacterium are influenced by the associative or competitive action of the various groups of organisms with which it comes in contact.

JAMAICA'S PROSPERITY.

The report on the Blue-book of Jamaica for 1905-6 shows that on March 31st, 1906, the balance of assets of the colony on the general revenue account was £38,621, while the overdraft on the Crown Agents was reduced from £88,832 to £23,376, and was more than covered by remittances of £45,000 in transit. We have compiled the following table showing the revenue and expenditure for 1905-6 as compared with the preceding five years:—

1901-2	...	...	...	£774,837	£751,699	£32,138 Surplus.
1902-3	...	...	...	856,514	788,847	67,667 ..
1903-4	...	...	...	926,164	822,876	103,288 ..
1904-5	...	...	...	751,562	824,816	73,254 Deficit.
1905-6	...	...	...	841,094	797,009	44,085 Surplus.

The total imports exclusive of coal, coin, and bullion were valued at £1,825,961, being an increase of £237,299 on the previous year's value, chiefly due to increase in prosperity. The exports were valued at £1,843,180, being an increase on the figures of the previous year of £406,455. The report contains particulars of more than usual interest regarding the agricultural industries of the island. Fruit—principally bananas—now represents 55 per cent. of Jamaica's exports. The output of bananas reached the record figure of 14,981,145 bunches, valued at £842,689. Of them, 1,217,901 bunches went to the United Kingdom, 13,703,363 to the United States, and 57,611 to Canada. There has been a steady increase in production in the north-western parts of the island, mainly by small cultivators. The export of oranges continue to be diverted from the United States, where they are faced by a high import duty, to the United Kingdom and Canada, the figures being: to the United Kingdom, 21,640,730; the United States, 44,801,671; and to Canada, 7,479,875. Every effort continues to be made to induce early maturity and to catch the early market, and it is hoped that the restriction of shippers to a single registered mark will secure greater carefulness in the selection and handling. The exports of grape-fruit again show expansion, though such fruits as mangoes and pineapples show a rather disappointing falling off. Annatto reached 457,248 lbs., valued at £5,715, or nearly three times the previous highest record. Cocoa advanced from 23,458 lbs. to 31,066 lbs. As a considerable number of young plantations, which have been established in conjunction with bananas, is coming into bearing, we may look forward to a much more rapid development in this most desirable cultivation. It is to be regretted that a still larger proportion of the banana growers do not adequately realise the profitable opportunity which in so many places banana cultivation offers for establishing cocoa almost free of cost. In the western parts of the island the criollo variety, distrusted in many places on account of its delicate constitution and poor yield, is reported to thrive very well, and its produce is among the best in value. The cocoa-nut industry continued to show recovery from the effects of the cyclone of 1903, though disease has caused some anxiety in the western parishes. The high mountain coffee fully maintained its reputation, though among the peasantry it deteriorated and diminished; but with a falling off in the Brazilian output it should offer opportunities of substantial profits in the future. Ginger continued to give way before the attractions of banana cultivation, and the dry weather in St. Ann's contributed towards the failure of this crop.

Results of the Convention.

Sugar showed a positive increase of 40,623 cwt. in the quantity, and of £5,962 in the value exported, as compared with last year. The year records considerable activity in the extension of cultivation, and also in the cheapening of production by improvements in machinery and by the amalgamation of estates as central factories. In Clarendon three central factories are already in process of formation, and on the north side at least two more are in contemplation. Cane-farming annually takes a more definite place in the industry, and with the lessons which have been taught by experience in other places will no doubt prove a very valuable auxiliary for increasing the output of sugar. It is clear that increased confidence has characterised the sugar industry as a whole, both in the operations of the planters and in the introduction of capital. It is estimated that in one parish not less than £38,000 worth of new machinery has been imported during the last four or five years. The successful working of the two recently established Planters' Associations in the island is in itself an encouraging symptom, seeing how little has been successfully attempted in the way of co-operation in the past, and how much may be effected by discreet combination.

Rum, while showing a decrease of 103,808 gallons, has brought a higher price, the increase in

value over last year being £6,347. The efforts that have been made to protect the genuine article from imitation and from the competition of spurious compounds put on the English market as Jamaica rum have met with considerable success, and the appointment of a special officer to take the necessary action in the United Kingdom has been entirely justified. Experimental investigations in rum manufacture have been zealously prosecuted during the year at the sugar experiment station and at the Government laboratory, with the object of standardising rum at a standard of ethers, and of increasing its flavouring power by the utilisation of material which is at present wasted. These experiments are having the advantage of being tested on a commercial scale in the actual working of an estate. The island chemist is confident of securing very advantageous results.

The condition of the tobacco industry is disappointing. Last year 40,325 lbs. of cigars, valued at £20,312, were exported, as compared with 35,437 lbs., valued at £18,372, in the previous year. Leaf tobacco was represented by 6,554 lbs. valued at £245, as compared with 15,775 lbs., at £612 the previous year, and cigarettes 11,261 lbs., value £1,250, as compared with 23,791 lbs., value £3,289. The total value, therefore, of tobacco exports, namely, £21,807, is somewhat less than last year, £22,273, and although the export of cigars is considerably larger, it is certainly not as large yet as one might reasonably expect; and there should be a large export in tobacco leaf. But the cultivation must be on a large scale if the trade is to attract the dealers, and Jamaica has yet to find the means of developing largely the production of good tobacco amongst the peasantry, and of making the cultivation attractive and profitable to large growers. Attempt has been made to place Jamaica tobacco on the market as a pipe tobacco; the prospects are not discouraging, but at present supply is not equal to demand.

Pimento, like coffee, is a very fluctuating crop, and last year it was a small one, 91,725 cwt., as compared with 154,335 cwt. in 1905. This island being the only source of supply, the value usually varies inversely with the size of the crop. An attempt has been made to regulate and raise the price by a combination amongst the growers, with what permanent results remains to be seen.

The export of cotton amounted to 75,307 lbs. of lint, as against 14,210 lbs. the previous year. Insect pests have been favoured by the weather conditions and have considerably diminished the crop. The failure of cotton-growing enterprise in one or two localities has also been a discouragement, though the causes of failure have been special rather than general, and should not be in any way a permanent deterrent. The question of a suitable rotation of crops on land devoted to cotton cultivation has received a good deal of attention. Considering the place the island once occupied amongst cotton-growing countries, it is to be hoped that the cultivation of cotton on a much larger scale than has so far been attempted here will soon give it an important place in our agricultural records.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Coffee and Cotton in Hayti.

The coffee crop of 1906, although below the average, was 12,000,000 lbs. in excess of the preceding one. Nearly the whole of the coffee produced is exported to Havre. The low prices of coffee in Europe render the exportation of that article from this Republic, under existing circumstances, difficult; and coffee, being the staple produce of the country, the commercial prosperity of the Republic suffers accordingly. In former times Haytian coffee fetched as much as 80 fr. and over per 100 lbs. in France, but at present barely half that amount can be obtained. There has, moreover, been no really abundant crop since the year 1903-4. There would appear to be no signs of the only remedy applicable to the situation, viz., an increase of production, but rather indications that the production of coffee is on the down grade, as it is feared that many small planters (owners of coffee trees) will now dig up the coffee plants and grow plantains, bananas, yams, &c. 3,865,216 lbs. of cotton were exported in 1906, as against 3,287,669 lbs. in 1905, and 3,017,014 lbs. in 1904. Most of it came from St. Marc and Gonaïves. The cotton is shipped principally to Liverpool and Hamburg. The cultivation of cotton is generally abandoned whenever the price of coffee rises. Exporters of cotton from Hayti continue to be blamed for the manner in which they pack and clean their merchandise. The average prices paid for cotton in Hayti during the year 1906 were 40 c. Haytian currency (qd.) per lb.

Agriculture in San Domingo.

Mr. Vice-Consul Rowley reporting on the exports of San Domingo states that sugar, cacao, coffee and tobacco were the principal exports in 1906, and their invoice value represented 88 per cent. of that of all the products shipped from the Republic during the first six months of 1906. Most of the sugar, 107,126,103 lbs., invoiced at \$2,086,560, went to the United States, and 1,250,250 lbs. to the United Kingdom, while 371,941 lbs. was distributed among other countries, most of it going to Germany. Cacao, as usual, found the largest market in Germany, shipments to that country aggregating 9,602,621 lbs., valued at \$638,100, an increase in quantity over consignments during the first half of

1905 of 3,118,635 lbs. There was also an increase in the quantity sent to the United States from 4,323,119 lbs., valued at \$350,681 to 6,125,341 lbs., valued at \$395,362; while the consignments to France decreased from 6,528,169 lbs., valued at \$563,138 to 2,475,983 lbs., valued at \$179,302. Coffee shipments to Germany increased from 356,481 lbs. during the period of 1905 under comparison, to 1,203,444 lbs. during the first half of 1906, valued respectively at \$25,164 and \$76,945. Shipments to the United States, 392,070 lbs., valued at \$34,031, show no appreciable change in quantity or value. The amount sent to France shows a decrease from 529,051 lbs. valued at \$39,792 to 316,527 lbs., valued at \$18,344; 65,607 lbs. were shipped to Cuba, and the remainder of the 2,080,870 lbs. exported was distributed among all other countries. Exports of tobacco, owing to the lateness of the crop, were greatly decreased during the first half of 1906. The shortages in exports are mostly noticeable for the quantity shipped to Germany, which dropped from 3,362,684 lbs. during the first half of 1905 to 744,180 lbs.; that sent to the United States, however, exceeded in quantity the amount shipped during the comparative period by 600,000 lbs., or 1,000 per cent., the exports to that country during the first half of 1905 having been less than 60,000 lbs. The remainder of the tobacco exported went principally to France, representing shipments aggregating 349,174 lbs. The export of bananas to the United States was increased from 357,000 bunches in 1905 to 434,500 bunches during the first half of 1906.

Sugar and rice in Hawaii

During the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1906 says Mr. Consul Layard (the latest period for which custom-house statistics are available), the total export of sugar from the Hawaiian Islands amounted to 333,350 tons, valued at £5,243,281. Of this, 318,108 tons, valued at £4,902,995, was for raw sugar, and 15,242 tons, valued at £340,286, was refined sugar, and of the whole export 333,349 tons, valued at £5,243,275, went to the United States.

The 1906 crop of sugar is reported by the Planters' Association to have amounted to 429,213 short tons (one short ton equals 2,000 lbs.), which is the largest crop these islands have produced with the exception of that for 1903, which exceeded it by about 8,700 short tons. This production is divided among the islands as follows: Hawaii, 137,750 short tons; Maui, 102,960 tons; Oahu, 113,750 tons; and Kauai, 74,753 tons. Until the past year there had been no artificial irrigation of cane on the island of Hawaii, dependence being placed entirely on the rainfall. On the islands of Oahu, Maui and Kauai, almost all the cane is grown on irrigated land. The irrigation works have been constructed at great expense. Considerable progress has been made of late by the Experiment Station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association in the contest with insect and fungus life injurious to sugar-cane, particularly with that pest the "leaf-hopper" (*Perkinsiella saccharicida*, Kirk.).

Search has been and is being made successfully far and wide by the association's experts for enemies of these pests, and to such good purpose that in one case as many as 87 per cent. of leaf-hopper eggs were found to be destroyed in one favoured field. The most valuable of the numerous destroyers which have been imported and are being regularly distributed are the four egg-parasites, *Paranagrus optabilis*, *P. perforator*, *Anagrus frequens* and *Ovotetrastichus beatus*, of which the first two appear to be the most effective locally. In addition to these insect enemies, fungous diseases which attack the leaf-hopper and its eggs are being propagated. If, as it is hoped, these enemies prove to be successful ultimately in combating the leaf-hopper, the result will be enormous gain to the territory, the loss from that pest since 1900 being estimated on the best authority to amount to millions of dollars. Special attention is now being given to the destructive "cane-borer" beetle (*Sphenophorus obscurus*, Boisd.), for which it is hoped to discover some effectual natural enemy.

Rice, next to sugar, is one of the important crops of Hawaii, and extensive cultivation experiments are under progress, especially in the direction of ploughing with disc ploughs instead of the old-fashioned mould board, with success. The report states that in recent years no less than 180,000 immigrants of various nationalities, and of which the Japanese preponderate, have been introduced at a cost to the planters of £1,800,000.

The Madeira Sugar Industry.

A special law was made in 1903, and guaranteed for fifteen years, to stimulate cane-production, the primary object being the manufacture of sugar for internal consumption and export to Lisbon, and secondarily the manufacture of cane brandy for local use. There are at present two up-to-date factories, by far the larger and more important of which is British. This latter produces all the sugar produced, and the larger proportion of alcohol for the treatment of wines. The other factory produces cane brandy and the remainder of the alcohol required by the wine trade. In addition to these there are fifty small rudimentary mills, mostly driven by water and cattle, spread all over the island, which manufacture cane brandy for local consumption. In view of the above-mentioned law of 1903, the two large factories sign a contract with the authorities annually in which they bind

themselves: First, to buy all cane offered them at the very high price of \$16 (£3 11s.) per ton; second, to buy from the small mills at the end of the year, at a high price stipulated by law, any excess of cane brandy they have not been able to sell during the year. In consideration of these responsibilities, the two large factories have the following compensations: First, the monopoly of the manufacture of sugar, and also of alcohol for the treatment of wines; second, the right of importing molasses at a reduced duty of \$6 per ton, out of which a small quantity of sugar is first extracted and the refuse made into alcohol; third, the right of exporting all sugar made from Madeira cane to Portugal free of duty. The duties are very high, all foreign sugar above 20 Dutch standard paying \$160 (£35) per 1,000 kilos. (1 ton) and below that standard \$135 (about £30). It is only owing to these heavy protective duties that cane production can be made profitable in Madeira, as artificial terraces have to be constructed to keep the soil from being washed away and the price of irrigation water is enormous. Up to 1903, when the law was published, all the cane grown annually on the island was only sufficient for eight months' local consumption of sugar and brandy. Under these circumstances it was possible for the two large factories to undertake the purchase of cane at the stipulated high prices, as they had their compensation in the importation of molasses. But the effect of the law of 1903 has been to give such an extraordinary impetus to the plantation of cane that the production has now more than doubled. The result of this over-production has been that very little molasses has been imported, and the manufacturers find themselves in great difficulties, as whilst having to buy a much larger quantity of cane, and being inundated with cane brandy at the end of the year, their compensation of importing molasses has nearly disappeared. This year the only sugar factory on the island will produce sufficient sugar for two-and-a-half years' local consumption, and a large quantity will have to be exported to Portugal. But there is a difficulty about this. According to the law itself it is clear that at least one-half of the sugar consumed locally can be made from imported molasses, without rendering any part of the Madeira cane sugar "subject to duty" when exported to Portugal. The official instructions regulating the application of the law appear to indicate that if any sugar is made and consumed in Madeira from imported molasses, duty must be paid on an equivalent quantity of Madeira cane sugar exported to Portugal; and this, from an industrial point of view, is financially impracticable. Another difficulty also meets the two large factories in their obligation to buy the excess of cane brandy from the fifty small mills. The factories are making a determined stand against what they consider an abuse, and claim that they are only called upon to accept the natural excess of cane brandy, and this only under equitable conditions. As a certain class are using every effort to induce the Government to prohibit the importation of molasses into Madeira, notwithstanding that this importation is guaranteed to 1919, and as the molasses come from British possessions in the West Indies, there is no doubt that it is of importance that the entire law of 1903 should be maintained. All sugar on the island is manufactured still by the Hinton-Naudet process of diffusion of the "megass" by forced circulation, and this process has been still further improved this season, so that all the juice is extracted from the cane with a loss of only about 0.26 per cent.



Photo by]

[Jose Anja.

An Antigua Golf Trophy.

The Cup is inscribed "White Horse Cup," presented by P. Jeffrey Mackie, J.P., of "Lagavulin," Scotland, to the Antigua Golf Club.

HOMeward MAILS. Golf in Antigua.

The first annual competition for the handsome cup presented to the Antigua Golf Club by Mr. P. Jeffrey Mackie, of "Lagavulin," Scotland, was played for on May 9th, and won by Capt. Dew.

Sixteen members entered for the competition. The links, which are situated in the Victoria Park to the south-east of the city of St. John, though still somewhat rough, are being steadily improved. Visitors to the island are welcome to the use of the links during their stay in Antigua. The club owes its origin to Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, now High Commissioner of Uganda, who, since his departure from this colony has shown continued interest in the club by presenting a beautiful cup which is to be played for at an early date.

Barbados and the troops.

At a meeting of the Barbados Agricultural Society on May 31st, the Hon. Foster M. Alleyne quoted Mr. Sydney Olivier's speech on his installation as Governor of Jamaica. "I rejoice . . . and to find here His Majesty's army represented. I rely upon you General Marshall and your officers and men at the present time in the colony to be an example to the colonists in cleanliness, order and smartness. It is of great value to the colony to have His Majesty's troops stationed here, and I hope that we will always have the good strong example of His Majesty's troops here." If such value, he said, was attached to the presence of troops in Jamaica by the Government, why should not their presence in Barbados have equal value? He trusted that the time would not be long before our Governor would be able to make a similar statement. Staple Grove plantation was bought in by the Misses Burton, part owners, for £6,605 on May 31st; and Cane Garden was sold on June 7th to Mr. R. P. Pile, Solicitor, for £3,700. Maxwell's Plantation, Christ Church, was set up for auction by Messrs. Wilkinson & Co., and an offer of £5,400 was made but declined.

British Honduras' Railway.

On June 21st the Hon. A. R. Usher wrote that some rain had fallen during the past week, which was very welcome to the planters and mahogany and logwood cutters. The Government were pushing ahead with the Stann Creek railway, and the road out of Belize and the Manatu Canal were also to be taken in hand shortly, but the labourers recently imported from Jamaica for the former work had been giving trouble, and on June 18th the Volunteers had to be called out, and about 70 or 80 were sent down to Stann Creek to assist the police in keeping order in that place. The s.s. *Flandria* arrived on June 19th with a further 80 to 90 labourers from Jamaica, and it was to be hoped that they would proceed to their work and not follow the example of the men now at Stann Creek.

Dominica's prosperity.

Mr. Douglas Young, the Administrator, should be well satisfied at the progress shown by the table of the imports and exports, which we have received from Mr. E. A. Agar, in which he has compared them with those of 1905. Thus the total value of exports in 1906 were valued at £106,246, as compared with £78,035 in 1905. The principal increases were shown by cocoa, which rose from £25,554 in 1805 to £35,185 in 1906, but this was due to the increased price of the commodity, the actual quantity exported showing a slight falling off from 1,326,052 lbs. to 1,274,672 lbs. The total value of lime products exported rose from £38,901 to £55,174, the total quantity of lime products (reduced to gallons of raw juice) being 1,890,432 gallons in 1906 as against 1,773,981 in 1905, made up as follows:—

	1905.		1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Green limes	13,564 barrels	£4,747	15,799 barrels	£5,530
Pickled limes	642 ..	241	1,615 ..	606
Concentrated lime juice	124,625 gallons	26,483	126,471 gallons	37,941
Raw lime juice	164,475 ..	5,483	174,532 ..	6,545
Lime juice cordial	—	—	222 ..	33
Citrate of lime... ..	—	—	733 cwt.	1,503

The value of the exports of lime oils rose from £1,947 to £3,016. With regard to the direction of trade it is notable that the exports to the United Kingdom and the colonies rose from 76 per cent. to 81 per cent., while with the United States and other foreign countries it fell from 24 per cent. to 19 per cent. On the other hand the imports from Great Britain and her colonies fell from 70 per cent. to 69 per cent., while those from the United States and other foreign countries rose from 30 per cent. to 31 per cent. Pressure on our space alone prevents us from reproducing in full Mr. E. A. Agar's interesting comparative table, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

Jamaica and the grant and loan.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on June 18th, the new Governor took the oath of allegiance as President of the Council, and in his opening speech he set forth the conditions of the earthquake grant of £150,000 and loan of £800,000. The latter, which would be secured on the revenues of the Island, was to be allocated as to £50,000 for the purposes of the Island Government, £50,000 if required, for public purposes specially belonging to Kingston, and £700,000 subject to certain conditions to be lent for the restoration of private property damaged by earthquake or fire. The

conditions under which the latter amount, or any part of it, might be borrowed or administered would form the subject of a special Bill. Proposals for the regulation of building and street improvements in Kingston in extension of the Kingston Building Loan, 1883, and its Amendment Loan, 1907, would also be submitted. As all buildings of brick or stone to be erected in Kingston would have to be made with cement mortar it was proposed that the import duty now levied on cement should be remitted. Speaking of the financial position he was glad to be able to inform the council that the net surplus on the Revenue account amounted on April 1st to £38,622. Comprehensive measures were contemplated for restoring the Public Departments in Kingston. In a message from the Governor to the Council, Sir Sydney Olivier stated that he was strongly opposed to Sir Alexander Swettenham's scheme for removing the seat of the Legislative Council and the residence of the Governor to the old quarters in Spanish Town, and proposed to rebuild the King's House at St. Andrew. The scheme for constructing the whole of the public offices in one building on the Parade, he considered as unadvisable, firstly, as thereby a large proportion of the parade gardens would be occupied, and secondly on the score of expense. He proposed that the three parts of the public works department should be brought together, and that the post office, the treasury, the savings bank, the stamp office, etc., should be under one roof, and in the same block, the several accountant branches, the audit office, and the collector-generals department. The judicial offices would also be grouped together, and the medical office removed to the public hospital. Two blocks of buildings, therefore only would be necessary, and he proposed that they should be erected in a square bounded by Barry Street, Tower Street, Peter's Lane, and Temple Lane, with King Street running through the centre. The necessary legislation for dealing with the Imperial Grant is in hand. The "Kingston Assistance Committee Law" provides that the committee shall consist of a chairman (who shall be the Governor, or such other person as he may from time to time appoint), and a vice-chairman and six other persons to be appointed by the Governor. In addition to the administration of the £150,000, the committee will have the handling of the balance of the Mansion House and other Relief Funds, at present in the hands of the Earthquake Relief Committee.

Nice rains in St. Kitts.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote on June 7th that since last advices there had been a few nice showers, which had benefited the young sprouts immensely, and had also put the land in nice condition for getting ready for cotton planting. Mr. Wade's oil and cane plant was in course of erection at Spooner's, so that before long they would have two plants operating in the presidency.

Cane-farming in Trinidad.

Mr. Edgar Tripp informs us that Mr. O. W. Barrett, of the United States Department of Agriculture, the expert retained by the Agricultural Society for a term of six months, to examine into and report upon cacao and other plant diseases in the colony, had wired that he would be leaving New York on June 12th. Mr. Wyatt, Secretary of the Cane Farmers' Association, in an interview with a representative of the *Port of Spain Gazette*, recently said that so far as he knew, cane farmers' prospects for next season were most promising. The weather was admirably adapted to cane as it was to kindred industries, and tillers of the soil were taking every advantage of it to foster their cultivation. He was of opinion that in the Savanna Grande district, which came more directly under his notice, large reapings should be taken next year if only they were favoured with congenial weather till the end of the year. The acreage for reaping next season was, he thought, in excess of that dealt with this crop, and what he noticed was that farmers were anxious to grow a better class of canes, which they now recognised meant an increased weight per acre, and consequently, more money accruing to them for their year's labour.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

CABLE.—The Trinidad-Demerara cable was interrupted on the 8th.

POLITE.—*John Bull* politely refers to the West Indian planters as "interested monopolists" and "bloated capitalists" who "continue to prate about a supposititious kinship."

JAMAICA.—The *Colonizer*, the matter in which is as bright as its brilliant cover, devotes several pages of the July issue to the prospects afforded by Jamaica to farmers and planters.

IMMIGRATION PROSPECTS.—We learn from Calcutta, that after a most unexampled scarcity, emigrants have suddenly become plentiful, and that those offering themselves are of a most excellent type, as far as can be judged by their appearance.

FREIGHT FREE.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have generously consented to make no charge whatever for carrying the fruit for the recent colonial exhibition from Dominica. Their action in this matter will doubtless be fully appreciated in Dominica.

TOBAGO RUBBER.—A correspondent writes that the Rubber Syndicate of Louis D'Or estate is now making regular shipments of rubber. *Castilloa* appears to be the only tree which really thrives in Tobago. Hevea, *Funtumia* and Ceara have all been given a fair trial, but they grow slowly, and insects attack them though they seem to leave *Castilloa* alone.

BRITISH BEET.—In consequence of the attitude of the Government towards the Sugar Convention, the project for the establishment of a beet sugar factory at Sleaford has been abandoned. This announcement, which was made on June 25th at a meeting of the guarantors at the Royal Show, Lincoln, by Mr. Jessop, has caused keen disappointment among agriculturists in the county.

R.M.S.P. "AVON."—A distinguished party of guests journeyed down to Southampton on Monday, June 24th, and enjoyed a delightful trial cruise in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's new steamer *Avon*. This magnificent vessel is one of the new "A" steamers of the company, and is even more comfortable and luxurious than her sister ships, the *Aragon*, the *Araguaya*, and the *Amazon*, which is saying much.

WEST INDIAN CLUB.—Mr. H. F. Previt e presided over the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, June 26th, at the Howard Hotel. Among those present were: Mr. C. W. Anderson, Lieut. C. W. R. Bovell, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. T. G. Marriott, Mr. E. Astley Smith, Mr. Philip Somerville, Mr. M. C. Salomon, Mr. E. Sturridge, Captain L. G. Tebbs, Mr. J. S. Westwood, and Mr. Charles Wilson.

IF THE CAP FITS!—We earnestly appeal to the consciences of those few members of the West India Committee who are still in arrears of subscription for the current year, and we hope that on reading these lines they will realise what an immense amount of trouble they are causing to the Honorary Treasurers as well as to the permanent staff by their failure to meet their dues at the proper time. The subscriptions may either be forwarded to the Secretary direct or through the Hon. Correspondents.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.—The list of honours conferred on the occasion of the King's birthday include Mr. Sydney Olivier, the Governor of Jamaica, who is made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George and the Hon. F. J. Clarke, Member of the Executive Council and Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, who becomes a Companion of the same Order. Mr. Frederick William Collier, late Postmaster-General of British Guiana, and Mr. Edward Hyde East Maclaverty, late Senior Collector of Revenue, Jamaica, have been appointed to the Imperial Service Order. To each of these gentlemen we offer our most sincere congratulations.

TRADE WITH CANADA.—The joint report of the delegates from the Canadian Boards of Trade who recently visited the West Indies states that the transportation question has probably more to do with the development of trade relations with the West Indies than any other of the many problems existing. As regards sugar, a suggestion was made there that the Canadian colour limit should be raised from No. 16 to No. 18 Dutch Standard, so that sugar of the latter colour should not pay any extra duty when entering Canada. The delegates were impressed with the fact that cacao is a beverage more suitable for general use in Canada than has been realised hitherto, and that an increased trade with the West Indies in this respect might be done. A larger market than at present exists should also be found for fresh limes.

OUR VISITORS.—Among our visitors during the past fortnight have been Mr. P. C. Cork, Administrator of St. Lucia, who is actively endeavouring to find settlers for the island, Mr. Edward J. Cameron, Administrator of St. Vincent, who received a great send off from that colony on his departure for his holiday, Commander W. H. and Mrs. Coombs, the Hon. William Fawcett, Director of Public Gardens, Jamaica, who has during a short holiday been making enquiries in the City with regard to the market for vanilla with a view to the development of its cultivation in Jamaica, Mr. G. Laurie Pile, Mr. Samuel Manning, Mr. E. Astley Smith, Mr. George W. Malcolm, Mr. Cyril Henriques, Mr. J. F. Scully, the Hon. J. Cox Fillan, Mr. Randolph Rust, who we were glad to see was in greatly improved health, and Mr. George Williams.

OBITUARY.—It is with great regret that we have to chronicle the death of Mr. W. E. Pasea, well known as a planter in British Guiana, and a member of an old Trinidad family, which took place in London on the 23rd ult. Mr. Pasea had been in indifferent health for some time, but it was hoped that a trip to England would set him up. He was at the time of his death in charge of the operations of the syndicate recently formed on this side to develop a lime industry in that colony. In checking the list of Members of the West India Committee, we found that the name of Mr. Robert H. S. Smith, of Trinidad, was omitted from the unusually heavy obituary list of 1906 in the Annual Report. Mr. Smith was a partner in the well-known firm of Smith Bros. & Co., of the Bonanza, and was a respected member of the West India Committee.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN.—The Principal of Birmingham University has received a letter from Mr. J. Chamberlain, in which he says: "I am getting better, although recovery is very slow. I have followed the political situation with great interest, and have been surprised and encouraged to find how much progress has been made in my enforced absence from public work. I think people generally have been induced by the recent Conference to see what I have long seen—the necessity of drawing closer to the colonies,

unless we would drift apart, and probably by the next Conference in 1911 they will be prepared to make whatever sacrifice is necessary in order that the British Empire may be in fact what it has been for so long in theory. That closer union will make for our common prosperity and for the peace of the world is my firm conviction, and I shall think my life well spent if I can see that my anxiety in this respect is shared by the majority of my fellow countrymen."

JULY.—Move your Still-pond Dung where you intend to use it, and you may at your Leisure carry the remaining Offals of the Still-House, and lay over it, and turn all the Dung that is made, that it may be well mouldered and digested; for no Dung ought to be used before it is thus prepared, if we would guard against the Blast and the Grub: besides, by such Dung you'll secure a regular Spring; whereas the indifferent Spring which is commonly raised, will be liable to be prejudiced by the Fermentation of undigested Dung. If you have any Buildings to repair or erect, or Coppers, &c., to hang, it is best to do it this Month, or before the wet season of the Year comes in, for at that Time all Workmen are very troublesome, especially Masons who take off the Labourers to attend them, which will interfere with your other Business. Before to keep close to your Holeing with your able People, as the other Gang may be sufficient to mould your Pens every Fortnight and carry on your light Labour: by the close of this Month you ought to have half your Crop holed, and three Fourths of your Dung made, as you are never to neglect moulding your Dung-Pits of all Sorts that it may come on in its Proportion and proper Time, therefore remove now all your home Dung-Pits of their first Round and repeat in the same Pits, as they should be made full Twice in a Year, except the Still-pond. This Month you having fed your Cattle intirely upon the Pens, that Round of Dung must be extremely well tinctured, therefore out of that round save your Stable Litter for your next Round of Pens as you must always lay some Stable Litter over each Pen when you mould them, for your Horse Stable may be enabled to afford it by being well supplied with dry Trash, and the Horses well fed. A Pit of Stable Dung properly Moulded may be near the Stable, or the Stable Dung thrown on the other Dung every other Day to raise a Fermentation.—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting. By William Belgrave, a regular bred, and long experienc'd Planter, of the Island of Barbados, 1755.*

OUR LIBRARY.

We have received for review the undermentioned volumes:—

Through Jamaica with a Kodak. By Alfred Leader. Bristol: John Knight & Co.

Sunshine and Sport in Florida and the West Indies. By F. G. Aflalo. London: T. Werner Laurie.

The World's Commercial Products. A descriptive account of economic plants of the world and of their commercial uses. By W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., F.L.S., and S. E. Chandler, D.Sc., F.L.S. With contributions by T. A. Henry, D.Sc., C. E. Jones, B.Sc., F.L.S., and E. H. Wilson.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., June 25.—Conversazione of the Royal Colonial Institute. Presentation of testimonial to Sir Frederick Young.—Debate on the House of Lords.—88% Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Wed., June 26.—The Government's resolution for reducing the power of the House of Lords carried by a majority of 285 (432 against 147).—Meeting at the Mansion House of the Bread and Food Reform League.—Encernia at Oxford.—Duke of Marlborough entertained the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Thur., June 27.—The King laid the memorial stone of the extension of the British Museum.—The Oxford pageant commenced.—Beet, 9s. 8½d.
- Fri., June 28.—Official celebration of the King's birthday.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., quiet.
- Sat., June 29.—Manifesto from Trades Union M.P.'s on the Colonial Conference and preferential trade (*Times*, p. 14).—The Lord Mayor entertained the members of the Savage Club.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 8d., quiet.
- Mon., July 1.—Dominion Day.—The King opened the Union Jack Club.—Henley Regatta.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., steady.
- Tues., July 2.—Sir Joseph D. Hooker appointed a member of the Order of Merit.—Henley Regatta.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., quiet.
- Wed., July 3.—The Lord Mayor entertained the Bishops at the Mansion House.—Beet, 9s. 7d., steady.
- Thur., July 4.—Garibaldi Centenary.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., easier.
- Fri., July 5.—Sport Nautique de Gand won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley Regatta.—Jarrow bye-Election, Mr. P. Curran (Lab.), 4,698; Mr. Rose-Innes, K.C. (U.), 3,930; Mr. Leigh Hughes (L.), 3,474; Mr. J. O'Hanlon (Nat.), 2,122.—Labour gain.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., steady.
- Sat., July 6.—Lord Mayor entertained the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Bankers.—Letter from Mr. Chamberlain read at a Unionist demonstration at Handsworth (*Times*, July 8th).—Beet (morning call), 9s. 6d., quiet.
- Mon., July 8.—Proposed South African Products Exhibition (*Times*, p. 7).—Mr. Chamberlain's birthday.—Beet, 9s. 5d., quiet.
- Tues., July 9.—House of Commons; Discussion on the Sugar Tax.—Beet, 9s. 5d., steady.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Crusoe.—Tobago was at one time in possession of the Dutch; but the island was handed over to the French in 1662.

Planter.—You appear to be under a misapprehension as to the cause of the prejudicial effect of prolonged manuring with sulphate of ammonia alone in lime-free soils. It is not due to the exhaustion of the soil so much as to the acidity produced which interferes with the action of the nitrifying bacteria and thus produces sterility.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from $\frac{1}{2}\%$ on Thursday, April 25th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) $84\frac{5}{8}$.

The Guiana Gold Company, Ltd.

The third general meeting of this Company was held on June 17th, Mr. Charles Dawson presiding. Mr. Braddon, the Company's manager, gave an account of the development and dredging work which had been done, and spoke confidently of the future of the Company. It was decided to subscribe the balance of the capital, £12,000, with a view to the extension of plant. The Directors' Report was duly adopted, and Messrs. E. R. Davson and C. T. Allen, the retiring directors, re-elected.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), July 10th:—Mr. K. Weisemann, Miss Greig, Dr. D'Arcy Irvine, Mr. A. Marxer, Mr. J. E. Adams, Mr. A. T. Blamey, Mr. P. Jeffrey, Dr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mr. Moyelle, Mr. J. J. de Jong van Beek en Donte, Rev. D. T. Querido, Mr. R. F. Cooper, Mr. A. J. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Smith, Mr. B. T. Hall, Mr. S. Quinn, Mr. G. Klammer, Mr. L. J. Riley, Mr. F. Blanche-Frasia, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Greenidge, Mr. C. Dewindt, Mr. T. F. Renton, Mr. W. Inglis, and Mr. A. Simpson.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. F. K. Corbould), July 24th:—Mr. S. C. Ashler, Miss M. Lingwood, Dr. and Mrs. Scheuldt, and Mr. T. H. Irving.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), August 7th:—Miss E. M. Packer, Miss A. D. Pac, and Mr. W. E. Lewis.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. A. C. Self), July 3rd:—**Jamaica:** Miss Archer, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. C. S. Chamberlin, Mrs. Cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Doorley, Miss Douet, Mrs. Harvey, Master G. Harvey, Mrs. Lillie, Miss Lillie, Mr. M. Malcolm, Miss Agnes McGregor, Master McPherson, Mr. W. H. Orrett, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Pittam, Mr. Relph, Mr. and Mrs. Southbey, Lady Swettenham, Mr. Stockley, Mr. and Mrs. Verney, and Mr. J. Walker.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), June 29th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. H. Arias, Mr. W. E. Appleton, Mr. C. D. Black-Hawkins, Mr. W. H. Bolt, Mr. P. Connard, Mr. Crawford, Miss Ruth Capper, Mr. R. C. Fairbairn, Mr. P. Fletcher, Mr. T. Guardia, Mr. H. G. De Lisser, Lieut.-Col. F. R. Loveband, Mr. Evonder Lübe, Mr. F. McPherson, Mr. E. P. Nuttall, Mr. J. H. Peggs, Mr. H. M. Radcliffe, Mr. C. E. Soares, Mr. H. M. Vickers, Miss M. H. Vickers, Mr. H. E. Wortley, Mr. W. J. Hatchard, Mrs. Rowlands, and Mr. R. W. Thompson.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Royal*, July 13th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. L. Asbenheim, Hon. V. G. Bell, Miss Jessy Davis, Hon. W. Fawcett, Mr. Eric G. Gordon, Mr. Hallows, Major R. W. H. Jackson, Mr. H. E. Lukach, Lieut. J. T. B. Mayne, Rev. W. Noble, Mr. C. W. Parish, Mr. R. M. Peat, and Mr. F. M. Trefusis.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
July 10	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada, & Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>	July 9, mdn't.
" 11	Barbados (for Demerara and West Indian Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	<i>Mira</i>	" 10, 6 p.m.
" 11	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Nicaraguan</i>	" 10, 6 p.m.
" 11	Barbados (for Demerara and West India Islands, Jamaica excepted)	Glasgow	" Direct " Line	<i>Crown of Navarre</i>	" 10, 6 p.m.
" 13	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>	" 12, 6* p.m.
" 19	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara ...	Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Statia</i>	" 19, noon.
" 24	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada, Demerara, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, and Antigua ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>	" 23, mdn't.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
July 17	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>
" 22	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Magdalena</i>

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) June 27th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." June 29th. "Fine rains generally throughout the island." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 24th. "Showery and unsettled." June 28th. "Weather is too wet." July 5th. "Weather showery and unsettled." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 1st. "Heavy rains beneficial to cultivation." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended June 26th. **PORT ANTONIO:** "20th to 22nd, fine." "23rd to 26th, heavy rains." **KINGSTON:** "Occasional heavy showers."

A LATER HOMEWARD MAIL.

We are sorry to disappoint those of our country readers who like to receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR before the departure of the outward mail. Owing to the vagaries of the existing mail arrangements it has been impossible to do otherwise, the mails from the R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* on the present occasion having only been delivered in London at 7.30 last night. For the same reason we have been compelled to summarise very briefly the contents of the letters received from our Hon. Correspondents, further extracts from which will be given in our next issue. In **Barbados** rain was still badly needed and provisions were very scarce. The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, commenting on the arrival of the *Scylla*, pointed out that in England it would no doubt be thought that two cruisers were now available. As a matter of fact she would only relieve the *Indefatigable* which was to proceed to Bermuda to be docked. Three thousand labourers were, it was said, to leave shortly for Panama. On June 18th, the writer proposed, and Dr. Chandler supported, a resolution in the Legislative Council protesting against our threatened withdrawal from the Brussels Convention, which was duly carried. On June 7th, the French schooner *La Jalousie*, of Cayenne, was lost off Ragged Point, and 27 out of 49 souls on board perished. Commemoration was celebrated at Codrington College on June 12th. Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing from **British Guiana**, said that the judgment in the case of the British Guiana Rubber Corporation had been reserved. The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society had passed a resolution of thanks to Professor Harrison for his lecture delivered before the West India Committee. A small Committee of the Agricultural Department had reported that the B 208 seedling cane grown at Pln. Diamond was indeed the true cane of that designation. The weather, especially in Berbice and Essequibo, was still too wet. Mr. E. A. Agar, writing from **Dominica**, expressed disappointment at the quantity of limes taken by the London market. (Considering the unseasonable weather this is not surprising). The Permanent Exhibition Committee had decided to make a feature of limes at the Toronto Exhibition. The weather was still unprecedentedly dry. In **St. Lucia** the trial of the rioters, wrote Mr. S. D. Melville, was still proceeding. The Hon. E. Du Boulay left for France by the French mail on the 8th. Some fine showers had fallen. Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. and Mr. W. N. Sands both made the important announcement that the former firm, hoping to receive support from the unspent balance of the Eruption Fund, had decided to make a start with cultivation in the Carib country, **St. Vincent**. The weather had been very favourable and cotton prospects were exceedingly bright. Mr. T. D. Tudor, was administering the Government. No further cases of plague had occurred in **Trinidad** when the Hon. G. T. Fenwick wrote on June 24th, but cases of yellow fever continued to appear just as the colony seemed to be free from infection. As a result some difficulty was experienced in shipping cargo. Mr. Tripp informed us that Dr. O. W. Barrett, the expert in cacao disease had arrived. The Agricultural Society had appointed a committee to confer with the R.M.S.P. Co., with a view to lowering the freight for bananas.

HOMEWARD PASSENGERS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), July 8th :—Mr. and Mrs. Andrade, Mr. R. Andrade, Mr. J. E. Adler, Hon. W. Barnard, Mr. F. Barnard, Mr. J. Bentson, Mr. J. Birchenhall, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Borde, Mr. J. E. Bothwell, Mr. J. M. Brewis, Mr. A. Brooks, Mr. C. Brown, Mr. J. T. Britton, Mr. H. A. Boswell, Mr. G. Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bugle, Mr. J. Bullen, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cadogan, Mr. H. Cadogan, Mr. and Mrs. J. de Cairos, Mr. O. Carrera, Mr. and Mrs. Cazaux, Mrs. and Miss Cipriani, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cornish, Mr. W. Clubb, Viconte Dejean, Mr. A. Dewar, Mr. A. E. Dykes, Mr. and Mrs. M. Favarer, Mrs. I. Favaron, three Misses Fergusson, Mr. and Mrs. Fleming, Mr. N. Ferreira, Mr. R. B. Fombona, Mr. L. Forget, Mr. C. Gilbert, Mr. W. H. Godden, Mr. Goldsmith, Hon. G. Goodwille, Mrs. G. Goverlsen, Mrs. G. Grigsby, Mrs. E. Gros, Mrs. J. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hearn, Mr. H. E. Howden, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hill, Mr. J. R. D. Hill, Mr. J. D. Hill, Mr. H. Hownsome, Mr. W. L. Jones, Mr. J. Johanssen, Mr. P. Jacobsen, Miss H. Jacqueson, Miss L. Jacqueson, Mr. C. James, Mr. C. Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kay, Mr. and Mrs. G. Kent, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kolster, Mr. N. Koh, Mr. J. Lafitte, Mr. F. A. Layne, Mr. R. Leitch, Mr. E. Lippelt, Mr. L. H. Lovelace, Mr. Luxmore-Ball, Mrs. MacAdam, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Martin, Mr. H. S. Martin, Rev. and Mrs. MacGill, Mrs. F. May, Mr. J. McEwen, Mr. W. McKie, Mrs. C. Melizan, Mr. F. Merricks, Miss J. Merloa, Mr. P. K. Mondul, Mr. A. B. Mondul, Mr. C. Mondul, Mr. J. Mondul, Mr. M. Nauté, Mr. Nicholson, Sir Ernest Northcote, Lady Northcote, Mr. E. Norton, Mr. P. Olsen, Mr. S. Olsen, Mr. P. Prehm, Mr. G. M. Perck, Dr. P. E. Perot, Hon. G. Ponsooby, Miss Pringle, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ribeiro, Miss Ribeiro, Mr. J. J. Ribeiro, Mr. E. Rosenthal, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Reid, Miss D. Reid, Mr. F. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Scherer, Mr. T. Scott, Mrs. F. Seymour, Mrs. Shand, Rev. W. M. Springer, Mr. Justice Swan, Miss A. Taylor, Mrs. Vyfluis, Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright, Mr. T. Wallace, Mr. W. Wilson, Mrs. F. A. Winter, Miss Winter, Dr. and Mrs. Wolseyley, and Miss K. Wright.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to June 21		Jan. 1 to June 20		April 1 to June 2.		Jan. 1 to June 22.		Oct. 1 to June 24.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1906/7	1905/6
Sugar	29,570	29,412 Tns.	13,488	35,280 Tons.	6,040	5,009 Tons.	377,952	425,826 Bgs. & Brls	...	...
Molasses	48,831	53,833 Pns.	372	1,032 Puns.	...	...	{ 2,816 181 178 }	{ 1,260 Puns. 148 Trcs. 69 Brls. }	...	...
Rum	6,133	8,498 Puns.	583,272	478,179 Galls.	686	72 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	2,511	3,191 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	27,661	3,308 lbs.	17,116	20,241 Cwts.	16,508,870	15,924,240 lbs.	54,245	30,600 Bags.
Coffee	11,389	8,356 "	3,360	10,160 "	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	104,036	50,538	3,531,313	1,442,795	5,137,594	6,571,205	...	...
Copra	12,909	8,308 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	5,200	15,036 lbs.	...	...	890	991 Bales.
" Seed	4,549	5,092 Bags.
Asphalt	57,217	61,442 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	296,112	5,467,851	...	...	...	...
Bananas	3,286,300	3,487,193 Stems.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	10,018	13,837 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice	3,692	3,773 Brls.
Gold	30,219	40,596 ozs.	...	...	...	...	368	430 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	1,949	788 carats	...	...	...	...	307	389 Cases.
Rice	3,559,437	406,339 lbs.	...	...	...	...	45	107 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The Market, which in the early part of the fortnight showed some improvement in quotations, consequent upon a better trade demand, has during the past week, owing to the pressure of sales, mainly August, both here and in Hamburg, exhibited a declining tendency, and the tone is decidedly flat. Quotations of 88% beet mark a decline of 4½d. to 5d. for old and 2d. to 2½d. for new crop, as compared with quotations last mail. Quotations being: July, 9s. 5d.; August, 9s. 5½d.; October/December, 9s. 4½d.; January/March, 9s. 5½d.; and May, 9s. 7½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	Tons
Europe	2,071,300	2,470,000	1,730,000	2,260,000	2,250,000	
United States	419,000	340,000	230,000	210,000	320,000	..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	246,000	240,000	420,000	220,000	390,000	..
Total	2,736,300	3,050,000	2,380,000	2,690,000	2,960,000	..

Quotations of 88% Beet, July 8th:—

	9s. 5d.	8s. 4½d.	10s. 5d.	9s. 8d.	7s. 10½d.
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Grocery West Indian.—The Market is quietly steady and without any change in prices. The supplies continue on a limited scale. Quotations: 16s. 6d. for ordinary, up to 18s. for better qualities, and 18s. 6d. for fine. **Muscovado.**—Owing to lack of orders from Canada, Scotch refiners are not eager buyers. Supplies offering are of small extent, 89% sugars are sellers at 10s. and 96% sugars at 11s. **Molasses Sugar.**—A steady Market, but very little doing. Quotations, without change, 15s. to 16s., according to quality.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons
Imports	23,153	40,000	29,000	31,000	18,000	
Deliveries	19,622	24,000	21,000	26,000	23,000	..
Stocks (June 29th)	13,173	25,000	18,000	19,000	23,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: ... 17s. 6d. 14s. 9d. 17s. 6d. 16s. 0d. 15s. 0d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, June 29th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Puns.
Jamaica	9251	7600	8900	9900	10,400	
Demerara	6975	6700	5100	9800	7500	..
Total of all kinds	23,676	20,400	22,500	28,000	26,400	..

The Market is without change. Quotations: Demeraras, 1s. 0½d to 1s. 2½d. proof: Jamaicas, 2s. 7d. for common, up to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and 3s. to 8s. for good to fine export qualities. The Pure Jamaica Co., Ltd., capital, £50,000, has gone to allotment.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, June 29th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Bags
Trinidad	7381	10,900	18,200	25,400	20,900	
Grenada	3774	8700	17,800	18,400	12,400	..
Total of all kinds	49,215	68,700	80,700	96,100	79,500	..

The Market has been quiet, and prices for all kinds of West India are 1s. to 2s. lower, with a slow demand. Quotations are nominally: Trinidad middling, 93s., Estate Marks, 95s. to 97s.; Grenada, 84s. to 88s. Fair Native from other Islands, 82s. to 88s.

COFFEE.—Santos for July delivery, 27s. 4½d. There is a good steady market for home trade kinds, which are scarce.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended July 4th, 587 bales West India cotton were imported. About 400 bales West Indian Sea Island have been sold, chiefly Barbados, Antigua, and St. Croix. Prices are steady, but spinners' requirements are limited at present ruling prices, and if a much larger quantity came forward they would expect a considerable concession. Fortunately, the crop is practically all marketed. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool, 7.85d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, at 19d.; medium fine, at 20d.; fine, at 21d. per lb.

ARROWROOT.—Quiet. None in recent auction, and sales privately have been unimportant.

Stocks 29th June ...	1907.	1906.	Imports ...	1907.	1906.	Deliveries ...	1907.	1906.
Barrels	6,044	8,569	Barrels ...	7,311	9,823	Barrels ...	4,685	6,976
Boxes and Tins ...	777	1,060	Boxes and Tins	24	178	Boxes and Tins	187	283

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice quiet, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon. Distilled oil firm, 3s. 1d. to 3s. 2d. per gallon. Hand pressed firm, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, steady £25. The almost wintry weather has practically killed the demand for green limes.

PIMENTO.—Quiet, fair quality quoted at 2½d.

NUTMEGS.—Quiet, West India in good supply, out of 330 packages offered 260 sold at steady rates to ¾d. per lb. decline. Sales made 58's at 1s. 9d., 65's at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., 66's at 1s. 2d., 67's/69's at 9d. to 9½d., 75's at 8½d. to 9d., 76's at 8d. to 9d., 77's/83's at 8d., 84's/88's at 7½d. to 8d., 90's at 7d. to 7½d., 101's/148's at 5d. to 5½d., 150's at 4½d.

MACE.—Steady. West India 99 packages offered of which 96 sold at fully 1d. decline, fair palish, at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., pale and fair palish, at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., pale and reddish, at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., fair and good red, at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., broken and pickings, at 1s. to 1s. 2d.

GINGER.—Very flat and unsaleable. The supplies are now fully equal to last year's. The inclement weather has checked the demand from mineral water makers and quotations are purely nominal.

COPRA.—Sundried of fair merchantable quality is quoted at £23 to £23 10s., and finds a ready sale, but the tendency of the market is on the easy side.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—The Market has been very quiet, the arrivals having been very small. No auctions have taken place and little has been done privately. **HONDURAS:** Importers' stock is reduced to a small shipment recently landed; prices remain firm, and the prospects for the autumn trade are very good. **JAMAICA:** Logs of fair sizes or figury would show good results. **GRENADA:** Shipments of sizeable logs may be safely made. **Cedar.**—Stocks are low and there is a satisfactory demand, especially for large wood. **Logwood.**—HONDURAS, owing to continued delay of shipments against sales already made, importers still decline to entertain further business, and values remain nominally unchanged. **JAMAICA:** On the spot is limited in quantity and held for £5 7s. 6d., landed terms. For arrivals, £4 15s., c.i.f., would be accepted.

RUBBER.—At the present time very little rubber is received from the West Indies. The species grown is Castilla, and very few estates are yet in bearing. A little lot of black sheet was sold last Friday in auction at 4s. per lb. When larger quantities arrive and the preparation is a little more perfect, it is probable that higher prices will be realised. It is a strong rubber and very much liked, but as yet is not coming in sufficient quantity to test the market.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

XCVII.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SERTHING LANE, LONDON,

July 22nd, 1907

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



Sir William Jameson Soulsby, C.B., C.I.E.

IN their representations to the Colonial Office the West India Committee have always maintained that three would be the smallest number of cruisers which could adequately police and safeguard the West Indian islands and British Guiana. On July 22nd MR. E. ROBERTSON made the announcement that that number of such vessels, namely, the *Indefatigable*, the *Brilliant*, and the *Scylla* were to be permanently stationed on the North American and West Indian station, and that the fourth cruiser squadron, consisting of three first-class armoured cruisers, would periodically visit the West Indian islands. He added, however, that the *Brilliant* would be detached to Newfoundland during the fishing season. As that lasts from May to November, the West Indies will only, at best, have their three cruisers for six or seven months in the year, and as docking has to be provided for, it is by no means certain that even two will be always available. It will be remembered that the *Indefatigable* carries an extra number of marines; but from advices which have

reached us it would appear that this plan has not proved a striking success. The space available is

altogether inadequate for the 150 men in addition to the crew, and as a result of their being cooped up within such confined limits, there has been a considerable amount of sickness and ill-health. In the circumstances, the suggestion of the HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE that the marines should be quartered on shore at Barbados seems to be worthy of most careful consideration. Now that the Government have taken a step in the right direction, we must, we suppose, be thankful that something has at last been done to remove the sense of insecurity and isolation, even though it may only take the form of the permanent addition of a single cruiser at present. This is not however all, for in reply to MR. MITCHELL THOMSON, a member of the executive of the West India Committee to whom our friends in the West Indies have cause to be grateful for the zealous manner in which he watches their interests in the House of Commons, MR. ROBERTSON added that the question of laying down special vessels for the purpose of showing the flag in outlying portions of the Empire and the performance of detached police duties, would not be lost sight of. We are heartily glad to receive this assurance, as we have always felt that this question was not merely one of policing the colonies, but of maintaining the prestige of British rule, which has, alas, been a declining quantity for many years past in the West Indies, some of which, especially, have been undergoing very rapid Americanisation. There is not a visitor returning from the West Indies who does not tell the same tale. Our readers have only to glance at the books, which so many of them write on their return to realise that this is indeed the case. Heaven forbid that our colonies should ever declare for the United States, but it is no use blinking at facts, and if the Government takes any action which may lead to the re-establishment of continental bounties and cartels, the feeling of bitterness which is already smouldering may burst into a flame which will require most careful skill and judgment if it is to be extinguished. We hope, therefore, that we may interpret the decision of the Cabinet with regard to the stationing of cruisers in the West Indies as meaning that they are alive to the extreme importance of doing all in their power to draw closer the ties which bind these colonies to the mother country.

MR. ALFRED J. WEST, who, earlier in the year, paid his second visit to British Guiana and the West Indies, with the object of taking animated photographs of their life and scenery, gave his opening entertainment to an enthusiastic audience at Portsmouth last week. He again achieved a conspicuous success, and he is now daily showing his pictures to crowded houses at the seaport town. In September his new series of views will be shown in their entirety at the Polytechnic in London, and from those of them which we have seen already we are satisfied that they will prove of unique interest. In their historic associations the West Indies have an asset of immense value, and the views which MR. WEST has taken of such places as Brimstone Hill, Pigeon Island and Diamond Rock will revive many memories of the glories of the eighteenth century, and, we may feel sure, induce many people during the coming winter to visit the scenes of the exploits of such heroes as Rodney, Hood, and de Grasse. Then again his pictures of scenery are admirably chosen, while those of life with the accompaniment of the characteristic sounds which MR. WEST'S assistants have studied and mastered with such ability, are a never-failing source of pleasure and diversion. On the principle of combining instruction with amusement MR. WEST now includes in his series pictures illustrative of the principal industries of the West Indies, and it will, we think, be a revelation to many to see what a really serious affair the manufacture of cane sugar has become in the larger factories, what massive machinery is used, and what elaborate processes are involved. Cacao, too, is not forgotten, and a striking set of films show the shipment of pitch from that wonder of the world, the Pitch Lake at La Brea, in Trinidad. In this way MR. WEST is doing for the West Indies an immensity of good. It has been the endeavour of the West India Committee to bring before the British public the potentialities of our West Indian colonies, not only from an industrial point of view, but also as a hunting-ground for the tourist and a health resort to the invalid. MR. WEST'S entertainment will do

much towards this end. We shall be very much surprised if, while carrying conviction to the public of the commercial value and scenic beauty of the West Indian colonies, the entertainment does not still further enhance the very high reputation Mr. WEST already possesses not only as an artist in animated photography, but also as a practical apostle of Imperialism.

IN its issue of the 12th inst., *Confectionery* paid us the compliment of reproducing the leader on the subject of the Brussels Convention, which appeared in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of June 25th. In traversing the points put forward, our contemporary alludes to what we said on the subject of the injury to the confectionery trade bound to result from our withdrawal from the Brussels Convention, through the duties which would inevitably be placed by the Continent on British confectionery since it would be assumed to be made with bounty-fed sugar. It says that the French preserve-makers are at no pains to hide their desire to encroach upon British manufacturing industries, and that they openly acknowledge that they are enabled to nourish their designs in consequence of the good results to them of the Brussels Convention—we presume in the direction of cheap sugar. This is one way of looking at it, but might it not be said with greater force that in the same way the Continental beet sugar-producers were enabled by the operation of the bounties and cartels to which the Brussels Convention put a stop, to undersell their competitors in the markets of the United Kingdom. Might not the Continental confectioners and preserve-makers, in the event of the abolition of the Convention, establish cartels of their own, and compete with our home-producers in their own market and in the colonies? French fruit is notoriously cheaper than English, and a protected preserve industry which would result from the imposition of duties on British jams, would enable makers to dump their surplus production at a figure defying competition in British markets. What would our confectioners have to say to that? Speaking of the resolutions of the various Chambers of Commerce in different parts of the Empire, urging upon the Government the continuance of the Convention, our contemporary fears that these bodies are beginning to import political ideas into their commercial considerations, and adds that their views must accordingly be looked upon with suspicion. If ever there was a subject which was purely commercial, and on which Chambers of Commerce were entitled to speak with authority, it is surely that of the Brussels Convention. The pity of it is that it has been made the subject of political capital in Great Britain. That this is recognised and is deeply resented in our colonies is shown by the resolution of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which we give on another page. "The cane sugar industry," it runs, "should the Brussels Convention be denounced, will be sacrificed for the sake of class interests to the exigencies of party government . . . against which gross injustice to His Majesty's sugar-growing colonies, this society most strongly protests." The Continental Powers have invariably looked at the matter purely in its proper light, viz., the economic, and we cordially agree with *Confectionery* in deprecating any political association with it. It is not, however, the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire which have done this. We sincerely trust that the time will come, and it will be a notable time in the history of Great Britain, when its commerce and industries will be governed by true economic policy, independent of party and sect.

PROMINENT among those islands of the West Indies which are capable of immense agricultural development is St. Lucia. For too long this island has lived upon its reputation as a coaling station, with the result that the fertile interior has attracted less attention than it deserved, and the prosperity of the colony become wrapped up in the Port of Castries. Not very long ago we pointed out in our pages, at the instance of MR. GEORGE S. HUDSON, some of the opportunities afforded by St. Lucia for the profitable investment of capital. We are now glad to learn that MR. PHILIP CLARKE CORK, the Administrator, is endeavouring, during his holiday in this country, to

find some suitable and energetic young men, possessed of a capital of from £1,500 to £2,000 each, to take up land with a view to cultivating cacao, cotton, limes, rubber, &c., industries for which the climate and soil of this hitherto somewhat agriculturally neglected colony appear to be eminently suitable. A great advantage of the island is its accessibility, it being only a twelve hours' sail from Barbados. The cacao produced in St. Lucia at present amounts to about 10,000 bags per annum, a figure capable of great expansion. Some *Castilloa elastica*, or South American rubber trees, tapped over a year ago, yielded rubber of the value of 5s. per lb. for biscuit and 3s. 9d. per lb. for scrap, and recent experiments showed that Sea Island cotton could be grown on the coast land, of which there is a considerable quantity available, yielding an excellent long staple. Cocoa-nuts grow well, and the destructive disease—heart rot—is unknown in St. Lucia. Much of the interior land belongs to the Crown and is being offered for sale at the rate of £1 per acre. The Colonial Engineers Department is now engaged in surveying roads for the purpose of opening up some of the most fertile of the lands. MR. CORK advises young men possessed of the requisite capital, and to whom the advantages as set out above appeal, to pay a visit to St. Lucia in the first instance and to consult the officers of the Agricultural Department, who will be found ready and very willing to tender the best possible advice. Labour conditions are favourable and there is an agricultural school for training lads, one or more of whom can generally be obtained to assist on the plantations. The intending settler is advised to gain experience on an established plantation before attempting to start on his own account, as it is desirable that he should have a knowledge of tropical agriculture and the management of native labourers before making a permanent settlement. It is often found possible, however, for the settler to take up lands adjacent to the estate of the planter from whom he is "learning the ropes," and he can thus be not only gaining experience but also developing his own estate at the same time. A few Englishmen have already settled in St. Lucia in recent years and are growing cacao with success. There is room, however, for many more, and we shall be very much pleased to put any one who may contemplate becoming a St. Lucia planter in touch with MR. CORK, who may be relied upon to give him the best possible advice as to how a start should be made.

SIR WILLIAM JAMESON SOULSBY, C.B., C.I.E.

Sir William Jameson Soulsby has been the private secretary to no less than thirty-two Chief Magistrates of the City of London, beginning in the year 1875. In that capacity he has had the collection and management of seven Mansion House Funds connected with the West Indies, namely: the Jamaica Fire Fund in 1883, realising £7,867; the St. Vincent Hurricane Fund in 1886, £1,359; the Montserrat Floods Fund in 1897, £1,091; West Indian Hurricane Funds in 1898 and 1899, realising £46,121 and £7,329 respectively; the St. Vincent Eruption Fund in 1902, £65,769; and the Jamaica Earthquake Fund in 1907, £55,447. He has thus been instrumental in collecting a sum of no less than £184,983 for these colonies. It was fit and proper, therefore, that he should be included among those who have received the thanks of the people of Jamaica for the assistance rendered to them after the terrible disaster of January last, and we are pleased that his services have been recognised in this manner. Born in 1851, he was educated at the City of London School and King's College, London. After leaving the latter seat of learning he was admitted to the Bar as a member of the Middle Temple. He is now one of His Majesty's Lieutenants of the City of London, and a knight of several foreign orders. Queen Victoria made him a Companion of the Bath in 1896 and in 1901 a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire, while, in the Coronation year, King Edward VII. conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood. Though a most accessible official, Sir William Soulsby is a strenuously hard worker. He is also extremely popular in the City of London, with which he has for so long been closely identified.

THE HISTORIC "PIGEON ISLAND," ST. LUCIA.

Near the north of St. Lucia stands the small but historic Pigeon Island which guards Gros Islet Bay. It was from this little island, which was a strongly fortified outpost of St. Lucia, that Rodney watched the movements of the French fleet off Martinique prior to the memorable battle of April 12th, 1782, when he dealt a crushing blow to de Grasse and the French fleet. When war broke out in 1788,



THE HISTORIC PIGEON ISLAND, ST. LUCIA.

From a Photograph by Mr. Alfred J. West.

Rodney strongly impressed upon the British Government the necessity of taking St. Lucia, upon which he had long cast a favourable eye, as being an ideal naval base. A powerful body of troops was landed at Grand Cul de Sac bay. Count d'Estaing, who opposed them, was beaten off, the island was captured and until the end of the war it remained British. On February 19th, 1782, Sir George Rodney, after an absence of some months in England, resumed his command in the West Indies. Gros Islet bay was again selected for the rendezvous of the fleet, and here in the early part of March he took up his station with thirty-six sail of the line. Pigeon Island, which is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, has two hills, and it was from the parapets of a fort on the lower of these that he watched de Grasse's fleet. Our illustration is from a photograph by Mr. Alfred J. West, which will form one of those to be exhibited at the Polytechnic in the autumn.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The next election of members to the West India Committee will be held on Thursday next. Full particulars regarding membership and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. It is hoped that readers will bring the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR before the notice of their friends, and will help forward the work which we are doing by bringing forward candidates for election.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

On July 12th, a Parliamentary paper [Cd. 3565], was issued by the Colonial Office giving the full text of the representations received from various parts of the Empire urging the continuance of the Brussels Sugar Convention for the abolition of Bounties and the suppression of Cartels. They include communications from the West India Committee, the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society, the Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association and Northside Sugar Planters' Association of Jamaica, the Montreal Board of Trade, the Planters' Association and Chamber of Commerce of British Guiana, the Legislature of Barbados, the Orange River and Pietermaritzburg Chambers of Commerce, the Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis, the Committee of Commerce of Barbados, the Barbados Agricultural Society, the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, the Vancouver Board of Trade, the British Guiana Board of Agriculture, the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, the Geelong Chamber of Commerce, the Charters Towers (Queensland) Chamber of Commerce and Mines, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, the Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Society of Trinidad, the Maryborough (Queensland) Chamber of Commerce, the Inanda (Natal) Agricultural Association, the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and the Auckland (New Zealand) Chamber of Commerce. Resolutions and representations still continue to reach us, and since this Parliamentary paper was published the following have come to hand:—

Invercargill (New Zealand).—Mr. Richard Allen, the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote on May 27th that although the Committee had some doubts as to whether such a matter fell within the scope of their functions, they came to the conclusion that the arguments adduced in the West India Committee's letter of February 14th were so strong that, if they could be of any assistance in securing the continuance of the Sugar Bounty Convention, it was their duty to comply with the request. They accordingly addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and expressed the hope that the West India Committee might be successful in securing what they desired:—

SIR.—This Chamber having been advised that it is stated the British Government have decided not to continue as parties to the Brussels Sugar Bounties Convention of 1903, it has been made plain to my Committee that if such were the case, and foreign countries could revert to the granting of bounties as formerly, it would very seriously affect the welfare of the industry in the West Indies.

This Chamber also considers that the withdrawal of the Convention would be an injury to the refining industry in the Colonies as well as Great Britain.

I am, therefore, instructed to respectfully bring the views of my Chamber under your notice, and to urge that in the interest of the Colonies, and especially our West Indian brethren, you may see your way to continuing as parties to the Convention.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RICHD. ALLEN, Secretary.

Jamaica.—At the half-yearly general meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society on June 21st, the following resolutions, moved by Mr. Robert Craig and seconded by Mr. Joseph Shore, were adopted unanimously:—

That the Jamaica Agricultural Society views with regret and apprehension the probability of the Government of Great Britain withdrawing from the Brussels Sugar Convention, thereby again enabling foreign countries, by the restoration of bounties on beetroot sugar, and possibly the cartel system, to exclude the cane sugars of His

Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas from the markets of Great Britain, and it may be, to consummate the ruin of the sugar industry in his loyal and long-suffering sugar-growing colonies.

That after a struggle for fair play, and for existence, over a period of nearly thirty years these colonies, five years ago, obtained an open market for their sugars in the mother country, and as the result of the abolition of bounties, confidence in the future of the industry was being restored, and capital has been forthcoming to carry on estates and the manufacture of sugar on the most approved systems of machinery and appliances.

That under the unfair operation of bounties—a form of protection altogether at variance with a profession of Free Trade—the cane sugar industry, should the Brussels Convention be denounced, will be sacrificed for the sake of class interests to the exigencies of party Government and to the benefit of aliens, against which gross injustice to His Majesty's sugar-growing Dominions, this Society most strongly protests.

At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange on June 21st, Mr. Simon Soutar moved, and Mr. C. E. de Mercado seconded, the following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously:—

That this Council learns with regret that His Majesty's Government intend to give notice of withdrawal from the Brussels Convention unless it will allow of the unrestricted importation of bounty-fed sugar into Great Britain.

That the advent of the Convention revived, and in a great measure restored, the formerly decaying sugar industry of this island, led to the introduction of improved methods of cultivation as well as to the development and extension of the sugar interest in the colony generally, no less a sum than £200,000 having already been spent in the colony on improved machinery and increased cultivation.

That believing in the continuation of this Convention, which has been of considerable advantage to the British public as well as the British sugar-planter, arrangements have been made under which further large sums have been appropriated for the extension and development of the industry in this island, which will in a great measure be jeopardised should this retrograde policy be adopted.

That this Council desires to impress upon His Lordship, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the great damage, injury, and loss the withdrawal from the Convention and abrogation of the present arrangements must entail upon this colony, and would urge upon His Lordship the necessity of protecting the common interest by seeking to prevent such withdrawal by every means in his power.

Newcastle (New South Wales).—Mr. E. Flynn, the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote on June 10th that his Chamber had addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, strongly urging that the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention of 1903 might be continued.

CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR.

The following table giving the consumption of sugar in the principal European countries which were signatories of the Brussels Convention during the nine months from September, 1906, to May, 1907, is based on figures given in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* :—

	1906-7.	1905-6.		1906-7.	1905-6.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
France	426,537	431,263	4,726 decrease.	Belgium	53,162	54,391	1,229 decrease.
Germany	823,646	795,335	28,311 increase.	Great Britain...	1,246,915	1,267,475	20,560 ..
Austria-Hungary	403,359	379,591	23,768 ..	Holland	76,426	71,917	4,509 increase.

PAPER FROM THE COTTON PLANT.

Up to now producers of cotton have left unutilised the stems of the plants from which the cotton has been picked. These, which amount to about one ton per acre, have been overlooked as being of no commercial value. A method, however, has just been discovered which may solve the problem. The vegetable product which has been considered unutilisable is converted into pulp, and this, in turn, into paper. The first experiments were a failure, but a mill has now been successfully designed which allows of all qualities of paper being turned out, from those rivalling the best linen rag papers to the inferior qualities employed by newspapers. Herein lies not only an additional source of gain for the planter, but a security is afforded against the enormous supply required for the press being imperilled by the growing want of wood pulp, the more so as the Governments of Canada and the United States are on the point of energetically opposing deforestation. Cotton paper may be the salvation of the press. An idea can be formed of what the new industry will supply if it is remembered that the actual return of cotton tree stems reaches ten to twelve millions of tons per annum. Besides paper, sub-products of an important commercial value will be obtained, such as alcohol and primary materials for the manufacture of gun cotton and smokeless powder.

DOMINICA'S GREEN LIME TRADE.

BY A. K. AGAR.

The export trade in green limes from Dominica, which for many years was of an extremely speculative nature, at last seems to have settled down on a firm basis—at any rate, for estate limes. By far the larger portion of the island's output goes to New York, and we will, therefore, discuss this section of the trade first; and it can be sub-divided into two classes—estate limes, and fruit bought from the peasants and shipped by middlemen.

The refreshment bars in New York have long been accustomed to the limes in various drinks, appreciating the superior flavour and the economy in using as compared with the lemon, owing to the greater acidity of the lime. As at first limes were only used for this purpose, and as the consumption of cooling drinks depended almost entirely on the weather, in the early days of the trade shipping the fruit to the States in the spring months was nothing more or less than a gamble. If they arrived in hot weather they were worth anything from six to twelve dollars a barrel; if in cold, they were often a dead loss. In the summer months the supply fully met the demand, and account sales rarely showed more than a small profit. Now, however, owing to the trade being better organised, and the demand having spread beyond New York, as well as the discovery of the numerous other uses of a lime, exporters of green limes who keep in touch with their market are practically assured of a fair profit, and to them debit notes are things of the past. Several shippers take up contracts with the New York brokers with mutually satisfactory results, and there is a system of co-operation between some of the planters which is securing for those interested a rapidly increasing business, which is likely to spread far beyond its present limits now that the planters of Dominica are beginning to realise the necessity of co-operative methods in these days of competition.

So far, we have been talking of the trade in estate limes, but there is, unfortunately, a smaller export of peasants' limes during the spring months when prices may be high and good green limes scarce on the trees. With a few exceptions, these limes are not up to the standard of estate fruit, as the peasants, with their natural lack of foresight, will pick anything on the chance of finding sale for it, and the middlemen—or some of them—buy the fruit, poor as it is, and trust to luck to make a profit on it, with the natural result of lowering the general standard of Dominica limes. Only a system of Government inspection of fruit for export will remedy this, and there seems to be no probability of that coming to pass.

Limes for the New York market are usually wrapped in coarse brown paper, though the co-operative association already mentioned and one other firm use fine white paper, stamped with their trade marks, in the hot months, and fruit is packed in ventilated barrels holding from 1,200 large to 1,800 small limes each. Needless to say, every lime is—or ought to be—handpicked from the tree, and treated with the greatest care. They ought to remain for three or four days at least to allow them to quail, and to give any bruised fruit time to assert itself before the limes are finally packed.

The trade with America is increasing in a very satisfactory manner, but the exports to the London and other home markets, though small at present, are showing signs of a much faster rate of development. Had there been any reliable steamer communication with England in the first half of 1906 the trade would have been firmly established by now. Limes were asked for, but opportunities of shipping were few and far between, and it was only at the end of June that arrangements were made for the coastal steamer *Yare* to meet the home-going mail steamer at Barbados so that regular shipments could be sent. This year small lots have been sent fortnightly since early in March with most encouraging results, and larger consignments are now being made to meet the demand created by the approaching warm weather. The London market is not likely to be remunerative in any large quantities except between March and September or October, till the British public has become thoroughly well acquainted with the lime, and no longer sees one in a shop window and condemns it as a small lemon. So far, practically only estate limes have been used for this trade, and it is to be hoped that we will always be able to say the same. The English market prefers the fruit to be packed in boxes, and a popular size is a flat box measuring 2 ft. by 1 ft. 6 in., with a division in the middle, holding from 220 to 250 limes.

An effort is being made to tap the Continental markets, and the Canadians are just beginning to make enquiries about limes. With the possibility of these, and the certainty of the development of the English and American trades, there is an extremely promising outlook for the lime planters of Dominica if business-like methods are employed. Constant care must be taken that only the best fruit is used, and that exports are kept up to a high standard. It is a well-known axiom that a case of fruit is judged by its worst specimen; and one can go further than that still, and say that a country's reputation can be spoilt by one shipper of indifferent produce. Let the exporters of limes from Dominica always ship good selected fruit in suitable and attractive packages and they can work up a trade that ought to rank high among the exports of the West Indies.

CACAO CULTIVATION.

At a meeting of the Council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on July 2nd Mr. Herbert Wright, the well-known cacao expert of Ceylon, read an interesting paper on the cultivation of the cacao tree. This, he said, was the product of the wild forests of Central America, and thrives among trees which are able to protect the tender cacao plants from undue exposure to rain, wind, and heat. With a mixed type of vegetation this plant gives the best results. A mixed cultivation could be

recommended, because by this means a more or less permanent soil rotation was effected, and a check might be given to the rapid spread of a disease. Plants belonging to the legume tribe were the best for shade purposes, as they had the power of improving the soil and of absorbing nitrogen from the air. Young cacao plants could be shaded with banana, tapioca, castor oil plants, &c., but these should be allowed to die down after a few years. In plants not protected by wind-belts the yield over three years was 8,240 fruits per acre, while where there was a wind-belt the yield was in some years 14,161 fruits per acre. The speaker dealt with various rubber trees which might be used as shade trees, and spoke of Para rubber trees as having been found to give most useful results as protection for the cacao plant in Ceylon. Fair yields should produce rubber at £50, and cacao at £8 and £12 per acre per annum; while the cost of upkeep of both classes of trees is actually less than either singly, owing to the shade keeping the winds in check. Wherever cacao grew in Ceylon rubber was successfully cultivated.

THE JAMAICA COMMITTEE'S THANKS.

The following resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Jamaica Earthquake General Relief Committee held at 82, Duke Street, Kingston, Jamaica, on June 25th last:—

RESOLVED THAT: The Members of the General Relief Committee desire to place on record the grateful appreciation by the people of Jamaica of the promptitude with which the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London opened a Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the earthquake of January 14th last, and of the generous assistance secured by his influence; and they desire the Lord Mayor to make known to their fellow subjects, the people of Great Britain, the heartfelt gratitude of the people of Jamaica generally and of the sufferers in and around Kingston particularly, for the generous response made to the Lord Mayor's appeal.

That His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies having informed the Committee of the valuable and sympathetic assistance given by Sir William Soulsby in connection with the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the earthquake of January 14th, 1907, the members of the Committee unanimously desire His Grace to convey to Sir William Soulsby their cordial thanks for the effective aid thus rendered to the suffering people of this community.

That this Committee recognises with gratitude the valuable services of the West India Committee and its Secretary, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, in obtaining subscriptions to the Relief Fund, and in the important aid which they have given in all matters connected with the recent earthquake and fire.

CUBA AND ANNEXATION.

The question of annexation of Cuba by the United States has been dealt with in a carefully thought out article by Mr. E. E. Paxton in the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser*. He gives reasons, based entirely on the sugar question, why this cannot be consummated in the near future. With Cuba annexed, Cuban sugar would necessarily be admitted duty free into the American market. At the present moment there are approximately only half a million acres of land in sugar cultivation in the island of Cuba, while there are at least five million acres suitable for cane cultivation in the island. With only choice lands used, six million tons of sugar might be produced, or more than double the present consumption of the United States. Cheap production, together with low marketing charges, nearness to American capital and the labour supply of Europe, would, in a very short time, double production under the stimulus of annexation. The actual consumption of sugar in the United States during the year 1905 was 2,632,216 long tons, of which there was admitted free of duty 1,056,069 long tons, made up as follows:—

	Long tons.		Long tons.
Domestic beet	230,722	Hawaii	376,497
Cane	334,522	Porto Rico	124,928

At the present time the production of beet sugar is carried on in thirteen States of the Union. There are at present in operation fifty-five factories, with twelve new plants in course of construction for the coming campaign. The operation of these factories gives employment to a vast number of growers, constituting a considerable proportion of the population of the States where the industry is carried on. The average profits of the beet business are moderate under normal sugar prices, but have been sufficient to encourage a steady development of the industry during the past few years. The bulk of the 334,522 tons of cane sugar produced on the mainland in 1905 was grown in Louisiana, at a cost of not less than 2½ cents. per pound. Now, the annexation of Cuba would mean the annihilation of all those interests in the course of a few years. It would be a question of life or death to the cane or beet sugar and tobacco industries carried on extensively in at least twenty-six different States and Territories of the Union, having a representation of over half of the United States Senate and a large representation in the Lower House. "Is it," says Mr. Paxton, "possible that these representatives in Congress will sit idly by and let their constituents be utterly ruined in order to give protection to Cuba as the result of a revolutionary force instigated by a few planters and speculators?"

Another serious problem connected with Cuban annexation which would confront Congress would be the loss of revenue. The total revenue collected from sugar imported from Cuba was approximately \$33,000,000 during the calendar year 1905. The total amount collected from all foreign sugar was, in round numbers, \$50,000,000, or 19 per cent. of the entire revenues from import duties of the United States. The annexation of Cuba would at one blow wipe out \$33,000,000. In a few years no foreign sugar would be imported, resulting in a loss to the Treasury of the total amount now derived from sugar importations.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The yield of the Sugar Tax.

In reply to Mr. Hunt on July 15th the Chancellor of the Exchequer said: The net amount of the Customs revenue collected during the financial year 1906-7 in respect of the articles enumerated in the question was:—Sugar, £6,250,834; tea, £5,588,288; figs, £64,652; plums, £65,087; raisins, £215,859; cocoa, cocoa husks, cocoa or chocolate prepared, and cocoa butter, £246,990; coffee, £175,216; currants, £121,721; chicory, £48,550.

The defences of the West Indies.

On July 15th, Sir Gilbert Parker asked what decision the Government had come to regarding the re-stationing of ships in the West Indies and how many cruisers would be kept in West Indian waters. Mr. E. Robertson: The *Indefatigable*, *Brilliant*, and *Scylla*, 19-knot cruisers, are to be permanently stationed on the North American and West Indian stations, and during portions of the year the fourth cruiser squadron, consisting of three first class armoured cruisers, will visit the West Indian islands. The *Brilliant* is detached to Newfoundland during the fishery season.

Labour in San Thomé and Principe.

In reply to Mr. Cathcart Wason on July 9th Sir Edward Grey said: The latest statistics show that during the last ten months of 1905 3,373 labourers entered the islands of San Thomé and Principe, but we have no information as to the numbers entering in the last two months of that year or as to the distribution between the two islands. Under the old regulations no arrangements were made for the repatriation of the labourers, but under the regulations of 1903, which are now in force, this state of things has been changed. The first contracts entered into under these regulations will not expire until next year. Sir Gilbert Parker: Have any ever returned? Sir Edward Grey: I am not aware. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson: Does the same condition apply to the island of Principe as to San Thomé? Sir Edward Grey: I will enquire.

The Government and Bounties.

On July 8th, Mr. Harold Cox asked whether the statement in the despatch to his Majesty's Minister at Brussels to the effect that the Government had no desire that there should be a revival of sugar bounties, was intended as a general declaration of policy with regard to bounties; and whether the objection here expressed to sugar bounties given by foreign countries was to be accepted as also applying to shipping bounties provided at the expense of this country. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman: My hon. friend will see, if he turns to the despatch, that the declaration in question was concerned with sugar bounties alone. The attitude of his Majesty's Government towards bounties in general is, I think, very well known to my hon. friend, and there is no reason, so far as I am aware, why I should enter into the question now.

Some useful Sugar Statistics.

The following tabulated statement, showing the total imports of unrefined and refined sugar into the United Kingdom, in each of the years 1893-1906, inclusive, and the average declared value (exclusive of duty) of such imports has been issued by the Board of Trade at the request of Sir Gilbert Parker:—

Years.	Total Imports of Sugar.		Average declared value of imported Sugar.		Years.	Total Imports of Sugar.		Average declared value of imported Sugar.	
	Unrefined.	Refined.	Unrefined.	Refined.		Unrefined.	Refined.	Unrefined.	Refined.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Shillings per cwt.	Shillings per cwt.		Cwts.	Cwts.	Shillings per cwt.	Shillings per cwt.
1893 ...	16,032,113	11,550,540	14'30	18'36	1900 ...	13,234,932	19,243,187	10'45	12'82
1894 ...	14,306,004	13,944,792	11'67	15'52	1901 ...	13,387,143	21,256,846	9'53	12'18
1895 ...	17,609,997	14,145,143	9'73	13'30	1902 ...	13,221,492	18,365,417	7'62	10'56
1896 ...	15,743,676	14,776,929	10'59	13'58	1903 ...	12,648,679	18,588,720	8'69	10'72
1897 ...	13,553,527	15,830,759	9'18	12'29	1904 ...	14,683,940	17,605,503	10'17	12'26
1898 ...	14,692,906	16,520,254	9'60	12'31	1905 ...	14,656,643	14,693,801	11'66	14'85
1899 ...	13,121,709	17,809,121	10'47	12'57	1906 ...	15,257,886	18,096,163	8'96	11'56

Some interesting Sugar Questions.

In reply to Mr. Fell, on July 9th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said: So long as the law

remains unaltered there would be no duty on any sugar which might be manufactured from beet in this country. But if any such manufacture should in fact take place, it would become necessary, in view of our obligations under the Brussels Convention as well as for the protection of the revenue, to impose an Excise duty upon sugar manufactured in the United Kingdom.

Sir G. Parker asked the President of the Board of Trade what percentage of the total importation of raw sugar in 1900 was represented by beetroot sugar and what percentage by cane sugar; and what proportion of the total importation was represented by beet sugar and cane sugar respectively in 1906. Mr. Kearley in reply said: Imports of unrefined beetroot sugar amounted to 77·4 per cent. of the total imports of unrefined sugar in 1900, and to 72·0 per cent. in 1906; the great bulk of the remainder consisted of cane sugar.

Sir G. Parker then asked the President of the Board of Trade what was the world's total production of sugar; how much Russian sugar was imported into this country in 1902, and what was the importation at the present time; and what was the amount of sugar imported from the Argentine in 1902, and how much was imported from the Argentine at the present time. Mr. Kearley: The total world's production in the season 1906-7 was estimated at about 14,000,000 tons. The official statistics do not enable any precise statement to be made as to the amount of the imports into this country of Russian sugar in 1902, much of which came through Germany. The imports from the Argentine in that year amounted to 4,045 tons of unrefined sugar and 350 tons of refined sugar. The importation of sugar from both Russia and the Argentine has been prohibited since September 1st, 1903.

The Debate on the Sugar Duties.

Owing to the limited space it is not possible to give more than a brief summary of the debate in the House of Commons on July 9th on Mr. Harold Cox's motion for the addition of a new clause to the Finance Bill, providing that as from October 1st the duties imposed by the Finance Act of 1901 should be reduced by one-half. A full report will be found in the *Times* of July 10th. Mr. Harold Cox began by arguing that there was no longer a necessity for retaining taxation imposed for the purposes of the South African war, and then dealt with the argument that the maintenance of the sugar tax at the present level was desirable in order that provision might be made for old-age pensions. He went on to denounce the tax on sugar as most vicious, being a tax on a very valuable form of food and on the raw material of important industries. It also contained an element of protection; and, if it was justifiable, how could a corn tax be denounced as hopelessly wrong?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, addressing himself to the Opposition, asked whether they really proposed to vote for the remission of a tax which was introduced by Sir M. Hicks Beach as part of the general scheme for broadening the basis of taxation. Defending the Government against the criticisms of Mr. Cox, he declared that their hands were not tied by pledges, either in regard to this tax or to old-age pensions. At the same time, everybody, he supposed, regarded the sugar duty as oppressive and bad, and he agreed that it ought to be got rid of at the earliest possible moment. But he was not prepared to reduce the revenue for the year by a million and a half, and so to cause a deficit. The duty he regarded as a necessary but transient evil; but it brought in six millions a year, and before abolishing it he would have to arrange for filling the gap which its disappearance would create. By his "pioneer" Budget he had paved the way both for the reduction of indirect taxation and for a policy of social reform. It was, however, necessary to proceed by steps. The acceptance of the clause would mean the dislocation of his whole Budget. Therefore he must resist the demand that had been made. Recognizing, however, that the tax was vicious in principle, burdensome in its incidence, unequal in its operation, he was of opinion that it ought not to be a permanent part of our fiscal machinery; and he assured the supporters of the Ministry that the Government would reduce, and, if possible, remit it as soon as the financial situation permitted.

Mr. F. E. Smith reminded the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he was one of those who voted for the remission of the duty in 1905; and said, if the right hon. gentleman gave no actual pledge during the general election, he had certainly by his Parliamentary action encouraged his supporters to promise that the duty would not be continued. One hundred and fifty members on the Ministerial side were pledged to vote for its abolition—150 plain, honest men, whose word was their bond, no doubt. Mr. Cowan, Liberal member for the Guildford Division of Surrey, said that he should support Mr. Harold Cox, and Mr. Stephen Gwynn announced that the Nationalists would take the same course. A similar declaration was made on behalf of the Independent Labour group by Mr. Snowden, who declaimed against the taxation which the very poor had to bear, and complained that so far nothing had been done by the Government to relieve the working classes. A duty such as this ought not to be continued in order that money might be got for establishing old-age pensions. For that purpose the Chancellor of the Exchequer should look in other directions. It was known that the Government Whips had been uneasy about the result of the debate, but he supposed that Mr. Asquith would be successful in imposing his autocratic will upon the House. That, however, he said

emphatically, would not be the end of the matter, and he went on to declare that the Budget was the chief cause of the ignominious defeat of the Liberal candidate at Jarrow.

Many other speeches were delivered by Liberal and Labour members, of whom some explained that they felt bound to vote for the new clause, while others, being satisfied with the statements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that, while they adhered to their election pledges against the tax, they would vote with the Government. The position which these members took up was that, though they were pledged, they were not bound to give effect to their undertaking at an inopportune moment. The settlement of the question could be deferred. The debate, which, as the *Times* describes it, had been prolific in explanations, excuses, taunts, and recriminations, lasted until half-past 10 o'clock, when the division was taken. The House awaited with the keenest interest the declaration of the numbers. They were—for the new clause, 175; against, 312; so the Government won by a majority of 137. The Ministerialists welcomed the announcement with a burst of cheers.

A further Debate on the Sugar Duties.

On July 16th in the discussion on the Finance Bill Mr. Gretton moved the following clause:—"As from the first day of January, 1908, the duties imposed by section two of the Finance Act, 1901, and by the first schedule to that Act, shall each be reduced by one-half in respect of British and British colonial grown sugar." His proposal would not increase the cost to the consumer in this country, whether he were manufacturer or householder, but would tend to reduce it. Under the Brussels Convention there had been a considerable revival of the sugar industry in the West Indies. It was an industry that could be vastly extended in many parts of the Empire, and they should see to it that it was not extinguished by the reversal of our national policy. They had been taunted last night with having no concrete proposal for colonial preference to present. Here was a definite concrete proposal for colonial preference, and a proposal which would apply also to sugar grown in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The great sugar industry on the Continent had been developed by a system of giving preference to the home grower. In this country certain persons had made serious experiments in Lincolnshire with a view to starting the cultivation of beet sugar. It was found that beet could be economically grown here, and these persons were prepared to invest a sum of money sufficient to establish a factory on an economic basis. But the whole experiment had had to be abandoned in consequence of the attitude of the Government in regard to the Sugar Convention. No further progress could be made unless the Government made some change in their policy. He pointed out that beet sugar was a very profitable crop, that it could be grown practically continually on the same soil, and that its cultivation would be extremely suitable on small holdings. In order to encourage the growth of sugar in this country, he thought the Excise duty on home-grown sugar should not be more than half the amount of Custom duty imposed on imported foreign sugar. The Speaker pointed out that, as there was no Excise duty on sugar in this country, the remarks of the hon. gentleman on that point were not in order. Mr. Gretton urged that some preference should be given to colonial sugar, so as to encourage the production of sugar within the Empire. Sir F. Lowe seconded the adoption of the clause.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that, as the Speaker had pointed out, there was no Excise duty on sugar grown in this country, and, therefore, the part of the proposed new clause which referred to British home-grown sugar was meaningless. Such a duty could only be imposed by authority of Parliament. So far as he was concerned, he had not hostility, but sympathy with the movement for the extension of the growth of beet sugar in this country subject to proper fiscal regulations. The real point was the treatment of British colonial sugar; and as to that this country was bound by the solemn obligations of the Brussels Convention to give its lowest tariff rate to all sugar imported from the contracting States and to give no preference to sugar grown in the British colonies. It was not true to say that the Convention had come to an end. It had not even been denounced. Sir F. Lowe: Can the right hon. gentleman say when it is going to come to an end? The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he could not say; it depended on a great number of people. At any rate, it could not come to an end until September, 1908, when the five years during which the Convention was to last would terminate. The Finance Bill dealt only with the finances of the country up to March 31st next; months before the Convention could possibly come to an end. He therefore could not ask the House of Commons to agree to such a breach of faith with the parties to the Brussels Convention as was implied in the proposed new clause. Mr. Austen Chamberlain said his hon. friend moved the new clause not because he thought it could be accepted by the Government, but because it was the only way open to him for raising the question of the treatment both of colonial-grown and home-grown sugar. The Government had given notice that, if the signatories to the Brussels Convention were not prepared to relieve them of a certain part of their obligations, they would denounce the Convention. The Government should go further with their action and should release themselves from the condition not to grant preference to sugar produced in our colonies. He was not concerned with whether the

Government were inclined to preference or not; of course, the present Government would not give a preference if they could; but he did say that, except for special reasons such as existed when the Convention was signed, and he was not sure that even then the reasons ought to have prevailed, there should be no clause in the conditions which would bind us in our relations with our own colonies. When we were revising the Convention, and at the earliest moment, we ought to strike out of the protocol whatever limited the discretion of the Government in this respect, even though the Government had no intention of acting otherwise than as the protocol allowed. Of course, there was no Excise on British sugar, but there was the expression of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's views that he would be bound to impose such a duty if sugar should be produced in this country, and that, of course, prevented proceeding further now. He, however, reminded the right hon. gentleman of the special concessions made by the Inland Revenue with the purpose of encouraging the cultivation of tobacco in Ireland, and asked if he would take up a similar attitude towards the production of British sugar as a conclusive experiment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer pointed out the distinctions between the two cases, but undertook to consider any proposition of the kind. Sir E. Sassoon supported the clause in the interest of West Indian trade. Mr. Harold Cox remarked upon the inconsistency of members on the other side of the House, who supported him a few days ago in his endeavour to get rid of the sugar duty and yet supported the present amendment. If the duty were abolished there could be no preference; but they were urging a thing which, if conceded, would set in motion a force which would make getting rid of the sugar duty an impossibility. At any proposal of the kind there would be an outcry from the colonies that we were robbing our own flesh and blood. This preference had been tried and had failed. It was in full force in 1842, and at that time we paid double as much for West Indian sugar as for Brazilian sugar. Yet production was not stimulated and our exports to the West Indies declined, and finally, when preference was abolished in 1846, colonial feeling ran so high that there was even a public meeting in Canada calling for annexation to the United States. Hon. members might say that the duty was small now, and no such important results could be apprehended. But that argument cut both ways. He called attention to a remarkable and sudden change in the attitude of hon. members now as to the benefit to the British consumer. They were now pleading for the colonial producer. Mr. Stuart Wortley pointed out that in the Sugar Convention the fiscal liberty of the colonies was safeguarded. The amendment was withdrawn.

NATURE NOTES.

ARKANSAS RICE.—The rice industry, says the *Louisiana Planter*, has developed in Arkansas to a far greater extent than most of those familiar with the industry have any idea of. Professor R. J. Nelson is the author of a Bulletin recently issued by the Arkansas Experiment Station, in which he says that from 450 acres in 1905, the area planted in rice reached 5,000 acres in 1906. At the Station, rice was sown at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre at different dates from April 20th to May 16th, and the earliest sowing produced the maximum yield of 77.76 bushels per acre. The irrigation period of this crop was 84 days. The Honduras variety of rice produced at the rate of 61.84 bushels, and the Japanese 52.44 bushels of rice per acre, the average being $57\frac{1}{2}$ bushels.

CACAO OR RUBBER?—According to the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, a number of Mexican planters are thinking of substituting cacao and cocoa-nuts for rubber on their estates. A certain number of properties, primarily prepared to be planted with the latter will also receive the former cultivation. This, says our contemporary, is an interesting fact at a time when the production of rubber and its cultivation is going on unceasingly, and when the increasing consumption can with difficulty be met by the production. It is right to point out, however, that at least for cocoa-nuts the high price of the product forms a good reason for returning to it. The cultivation and preparation also of cacao and copra are less delicate and less troublesome than those of rubber.

THE CANE B 208.—The *International Sugar Journal* for July refers again to the question of the authenticity of B 208 at Pln. Diamond in British Guiana. Dealing with the strong criticisms of the statements which appeared originally in the *Journal* in the British Guiana and Demerara papers, it contradicts emphatically the assertion that Professor Harrison was responsible for the charge, and, while accepting responsibility for publishing the statement, promises at an early date as possible, when our contemporary has heard from its informant on the subject, either to defend the position or revoke its disparagement. As regards the impossibility of the White Tanna, which is a reddish cane in Mauritius, being confounded with B 208, which is a pale yellow cane, the *Journal* points out that Mr. Deerr, who was intimately acquainted with the White Tanna in Mauritius, and illustrated it in his work as a reddish cane, subsequently identified light yellow canes in Demerara as White Tanna. Meanwhile, the Departmental Committee appointed by the Governor of British Guiana to enquire into the identity of the B 208, has reported that after an examination of the seedling in cultivation at

Plantation Diamond under the name of B 208, they are of opinion that there has been no mistake as to its identity as such. The report is signed by Mr. E. W. F. English, Acting Director of Science and Agriculture, Mr. A. W. Bartlett, Government Botanist, and Mr. R. Ward, Agricultural Superintendent, and is dated June 6th, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Carriacou's Trade.

We have received from the Secretary of States for the Colonies a copy of the Report of Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner of Carriacou, for the year 1906. The revenue amounted to £3,869, and expenditure to £4,517. Cotton, which has always been cultivated in the island since the old cotton days, and cotton seed headed the list of exports, valued at £6,635 and £1,297 respectively. Sheep and goats, cattle, poultry, eggs were also exported; but no figures are available as to the total exports, as a large quantity of which no record is kept goes to Grenada daily. The marked increase shown in the value of exports of cotton products, over those for 1905, is due to several causes. Firstly, to the increased value of the staple in the English markets; secondly, to the fact that the cotton crop of 1905 was one of the smallest on record; and thirdly, to the increased acreage planted this year in both Marie Galante and Sea Island cottons. On the other hand, there is a very considerable falling off in the exports of sheep and goats, poultry and eggs. The reason for this is also easily explainable. During the prolonged dry season of 1906 stock of all kinds became so attenuated as to be unfit for shipment. Combined with this is the rapidly growing desire of the cultivator in Carriacou, where he owns the land, to plant it with more permanent products than corn and cotton. He, therefore, naturally views with disfavour the method of his less thrifty neighbours, who, keeping vastly more stock than their acreage entitles them to do, find it a very convenient plan, when annual crops are reaped, to let loose hordes of goats and pigs to prey on the labours of others. Stock trespass laws are accordingly now rigorously enforced, with the result described above. It is therefore highly probable, as years go on, that the goat industry of Carriacou will show a further falling off. This, however, cannot be regarded as an evil, looking at it from an agricultural point of view. The cotton factory now comprises a saw gin for Marie Galante and other short staple cottons, and a roller gin, of the Asa Lees type, for the Sea Island variety. Both gins are driven by a small oil engine. The prices charged for ginning are so calculated as just to cover the cost of working expenses. Realizing this, the people, chiefly allottees on the Government lands, have now come to regard this little factory with pride as their own institution, which to all intents it really is, and they take great interest in the upkeep and working of it. During the year under review upwards of 136 bales of Marie Galante and 33 bales of Sea Island cotton, chiefly the produce of small cultivators, were cleaned and baled at this factory. The weight of the bales was 300 lbs. each. Following up the idea of preserving the main ridge of the island from deforestation, the purchase of North Belle Vue Estate, 115 acres, was successfully accomplished in June of this year, and a preliminary survey of the property carried out by Mr. J. Landreth Smith, Acting Superintendent of Public Works. Peasants in this neighbourhood are eager to become purchasers of such lands as are not to be classed as "forest reserves" whenever arrangements in this connexion shall have been completed.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Cotton growing in German colonies.

Mr. Consul-General Oppenheimer states that a determined effort is to be made to utilise as far as possible the German colonies in Africa for the cultivation of cotton, and it is significant that among the few members invited to accompany the Imperial Colonial Secretary on his forthcoming visit of inspection are several leading manufacturers representing the textile industries of Saxony. It is hoped that by the cultivation of cotton in the German colonies considerable capital may be saved to the benefit of German interests, which under present circumstances goes abroad, and that the cultivation of cotton will also prove an inducement to intending emigrants to select German colonies for their new home.

The rice industry of the United States.

In view of the fact that the American rice crop is to a large extent dealt with in New Orleans, it may be of interest to refer briefly to the history of the industry in the United States. Rice was first planted in Virginia in the year 1647, but the experiment was not a success until 1694. In the latter part of the eighteenth century rice was cultivated in a primitive manner in South-West Louisiana and in the vicinity of the city of New Orleans. The methods employed, however, were so crude that the crop did not become of commercial importance until after the Civil War. For several years the production was small, gradually increasing until in the years between 1870 and 1880 the annual average reached 71,000,000 lbs. in weight. In 1880 there were 22 rice mills in operation. In 1905

the number of these establishments had risen to 74. An impetus to the rice industry and culture was given in 1896, when the barren lands in South-West Louisiana and South-East Texas were irrigated. The adoption of modern machinery for the cultivation and harvesting of rice, following on the irrigation system, caused such a saving in the cost of production that it has made it possible for American rice to compete in the world's markets with the product of countries enjoying cheaper labour. The consumption of rice in the United States steadily increases, and its merit, as an article of food, is recognised throughout the country. The sale per capita in the year 1905 was 5.48 lbs. as against 4.24 lbs. in 1900.

Agriculture in Santo Domingo.

The climate and soil being well suited for the production of cane sugar, the average output since 1885 has been from 20,000 to 50,000 tons, the extent of land devoted to the growing of the cane being about 183,754 acres, divided between 14 estates. It will be seen that most of the estates are owned by Americans, not one being British. The sugar is shipped in the raw state, there being no refinery in the Republic. 80 per cent. of the production polarises 95° to 96° ; 12 per cent., 81° to 83° , and the residue yields molasses of 42° , which is used in the country for making rum. Owing to the low market price of raw sugar, the sugar industry here is in great danger of becoming a thing of the past unless a radical change takes place. At the present price many of the planters are barely able to pay the interest on the large loans they have had to contract to keep up their plantations and meet other sundry heavy expenses which a sugar plantation is bound to have during a sequence of bad years, always with the hope that better times must come and prices must improve. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and the planters are becoming tired of borrowing money with so little chance of matters improving; hence if some advantage is not given to Dominican sugar imported into the United States, the outlook of this industry is anything but bright.

The production of cacao is yearly increasing, owing to the suitability of the soil and the climate. If the export of this article continues to increase in the same proportion as it has been doing during the last few years, it will become the staple article of export. The cacao plant requires to be planted in a deep rich soil, and bears four years after the seed planting, and is in full production in eight years. The present groves are nearly all in the hands of native planters, though since the beginning of 1905 a few plantations have been started by foreigners, and large tracts of land, suitable for the growing of cacao, have been bought by American citizens during 1906. To demonstrate the growth of this industry, the export in 1891 was about 1,000 tons, whereas in 1906 it had risen to 16,283 tons, or, say, 16 fold (1 ton equals 2,028 lbs.). Each full-bearing tree is said to yield about 35 to 40 per cent. profit per annum to its owner. Coffee is also grown in many parts of the Republic with more or less success. This depends, however, largely on the market price and the failure of crops in other parts of the world.

Fruit is very scarce and of wretched quality as compared with that from the other West Indian islands, bananas costing more than bread; pineapples, which are exported by thousands from Porto Rico and neighbouring islands, such as Martinique, Cuba and Jamaica, are considered a luxury.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

In order that our country readers may not be inconvenienced by the late delivery of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, we have been compelled to hold over until our next issue the items of information received from our Hon. Correspondents by the R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*. We shall, however, be glad to send a copy of them to any of our readers who may apply for them and who will send a stamped and addressed envelope for this purpose. In our last issue we gave a brief *précis* of the news contained in the letters received by the R.M.S.P. *Orinoco*, and we now give fuller extracts from them, as well as from letters received by later opportunities.

Antigua and party politics.

In a letter dated June 24th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner expressed the opinion that the immediate result of the announcement of the Government's policy with regard to the Convention would be a cessation of capital expenditure on the improvement of the West Indian sugar industry, and with a period of uncertainty and possibly disaster ahead, many would sever their connection with an industry dependent for its existence on party politics of Great Britain. The principal topic amongst planters was the labour question, and certainly in his thirteen years experience in the island, the writer had never known labour as well off as at present and more difficult to get to work. The Panama Canal, the increase of peasant grown cane, the favourable seasons for provisions, and the area in cultivation due to cotton were all important factors, and planters were keenly competing with each other for such labour as offered itself, and the worst of it was that the higher the wages the less the offerings of labour. The matter would probably result in a reduction of the cultivated area, unless the

successful introduction of labour saving appliances relieved the situation. Crop was being kept back by the inability to get the canes cut fast enough. The present state of things was of great assistance of course to the Government, for with such an increased circulation of money the revenue was now very nearly up to the expenditure, a state of things that had not occurred in Antigua for many a year, the gaol was almost empty, and even the reformatory was crying out for more raw material. Some solution of the mail difficulty was still awaited; the Royal Mail steamer calling at the island once a month and not connecting with the ocean steamer at Barbados except with a delay of some days, did not help them in the least, and letters would continue to be sent *via* Canada and New York rather than by this route.

Barbados and the Cruisers.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, writing on June 23rd, said that they were still without the heavy rain of two to three inches of which they were in need; but they had had during the fortnight a succession of light showers, very unevenly distributed, some districts being much more favoured than others. The rainfall for the month promised to be very far short of that of last year, and that of the first six months would be very short. Provisions of all sorts would be very scarce, and stock-feed had risen to an alarming price, owing, it was said, to strikes in America. Shipments of sugar up to the date of writing amounted only to 19,513 tons of sugar and 45,700 puns. of molasses. There seemed to have been a scarcity of steamers, for the wharves at Bridgetown were still crowded with hogsheads which could not be despatched. Notwithstanding this, there would be a vastly smaller amount shipped than last year, nearly every estate showing a large shrinkage. The wind was high and probably kept off the rain, but it made the temperature cool and pleasant. H.M.S. *Scylla* had duly arrived, and it would probably be thought in England that they had two ships of war at hand. That, however, would last but a very few weeks, for the *Indefatigable* was in very bad repair, and must go to Bermuda to be docked for some months. They would then be in exactly the same state as they were before, only worse, for whereas the *Indefatigable* had 150 marines on board, the *Scylla* had only 28. This plan of keeping marines cooped up for a long time on a tropical station was the worst possible, both for the men themselves and the islands which they were supposed to serve. They disliked it intensely, and it was not healthy for them, and many of them frequently went to hospital on shore. In quarters on land they could have the air and exercise and recreation of which they stood in need, whereas, as before pointed out, their services would be much more available. Everything seemed quiet in St. Lucia, and the trial of the rioters was proceeding. On June 18th, being the first meeting of the Legislative Council after hearing the Government's policy as to the Brussels Convention, Mr. Alleyne moved the following resolution:—

That the Legislative Council of Barbados have heard with extreme disappointment and apprehension that His Majesty's Government have intimated that they can no longer remain a party to the Brussels Convention, thereby opening a door to the renewal of bounties and cartels, and involving serious loss, and possibly ruin, to the West Indies.

Dr. Chandler supported the resolution, and it was, of course, carried *nem. con.* The speeches will be found in the *Advocate* of June 30th and the Report of June 22nd. At the monthly meeting on June 28th a similar resolution was to be passed by the Agricultural Society, and Mr. Elliot Sealy was to take charge of one in the House of Assembly. The annual commemoration at Codrington College was kept on June 12th. After a bright service and the Holy Eucharist in chapel there was a luncheon in the hall, when the toast of the College was proposed by the Chancellor, and responded to by the Principal. On June 7th the French schooner *La Jalousie*, of Cayenne, was lost off Ragged Point Light-house. Of 49 souls on board 27 perished. It was reported that 3,000 of the population of Barbados had engaged to go to Panama next month. This was a further drain on their labour, which they would feel badly in the busy months. Yet the Executive took no steps to check it, as the writer believed was done in Jamaica and other places. The races were fixed for Wednesday and Thursday, June 26th and 27th, and were looked forward to with great keenness, the sport promising to be good. Captain Owen, R.N.R., had returned from Jamaica. The *Tagus* came in at eleven o'clock on the 11th, bringing in a very large number of passengers from Trinidad. The inspection by the medical officers lasted till 5 p.m., and she did not sail for England till next morning.

British Guiana and the Rubber Corporation.

In his letter on June 21st Mr. J. C. McCowan stated that at a meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society a vote of thanks had been passed to Professor J. B. Harrison for his lecture delivered at the West India Committee Rooms on April 25th last. Decision was given by the full Court on June 12th to the effect that nothing had been proved in the charge against Mr. Dargan to justify his name being struck off the roll of barristers of the Colony. The action against the Government by the British Guiana Rubber Corporation was commenced on June 13th, and had been concluded, decision being reserved. The Secretary of State cabled out that the action was to be

defended. More of this matter would probably be heard later on in the Combined Court. The sugar market had declined in sympathy with the drop in prices in the United Kingdom and the United States, and with a broken cable buyers were not inclined to offer more than 2.25. The weather, whilst not unseasonable for the time of year, was still too wet for present requirements, especially in Berbice and Essequibo. Had they not had the heavy rainfall of the past few months the present weather would be perfect.

The Dominica lime trade.

When Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on June 21st the weather, at any rate on the leeward coast districts, still remained unprecedently dry, but on June 22nd Mr. Agar stated that good rains had fallen generally. The Permanent Exhibition Committee had decided to exhibit in Toronto in August, and again a speciality would be made of limes. The London market was disappointing; no complaint could be made as to the prices received, but the quantity still remained so ridiculously small.

Jamaica and the long drought.

The scheme for the building of a sea wall with a railway running along the front had been the subject of a conference between the Governor and wharf-owners, no decision being arrived at; considerable difference of opinion existing as to the location of the railway. Subsequently, however, in a message to the legislative council, Sir Sydney Olivier gave his views as to the scheme which should be adopted, at an estimated cost of £13,750. This includes the widening of Port Royal Street, the paving of the entire street with brick, and the laying of a single track of rails. The proposed sea-wall and esplanade were to be abandoned on the grounds of expense. Mr. J. Barclay, the secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society had drawn up a report on the effects of the late drought on the crops of the island. As regards bananas, the cold spell at Christmas and continuous drought right on till May or June, had seriously injured the fields in all parts, except St. Mary, inland, the Valley of Portland, and the irrigation districts, where the crops still showed fair quality. In other parts the output had been reduced by at least two-thirds. Owing to the great scarcity of breadstuffs, green bananas were being used as food to a great extent. The spring crop of cacao, with the exception of St. Mary and Portland, had practically failed. In these parishes it had been 25 per cent. short only, and a fine large "full" crop was expected. In the other parishes the prospects of the full crop were poor. With good June rains, there should be on the whole a fine large crop of coffee, although late. Cocoa-nut trees generally had been checked in bearing, but had responded quickly to the first rains. There was no doubt that poor results would ensue in oranges, grape fruit and limes, no matter how favourable the weather might be from June on. In the north and middle Manchester, and the uplands of St. Ann, crops would be about medium, but in south Manchester, and the lower districts of St. Ann, there would be practically no crop. Irrigated oranges would be at their best, good fruit and early. The direct effects of the drought had been to shorten crops of sugar and rum by a third less than they gave promise in December, but as otherwise there would have been a large increase, the year's exports will compare favourably with former years. The mortality among cattle from want of feed and water will run well into five figures.

Nevis' cotton exports.

The Hon. C. A. Shand wrote on June 20th that since his last advices the weather had been dry, and they were in want of moisture to soak the land thoroughly prior to planting the cotton crop for 1908. He appended a statement showing quantity and weight of cotton shipped from St. Kitts-Nevis for the period of January 1907 to May:—

Shipped to	Bales.			Weight (lbs.)			Total number of bales.	Total weight lbs.
	St. Kitts.	Nevis.	Anguilla.	St. Kitts.	Nevis.	Anguilla.		
United Kingdom ...	456	323	287	159,782	73,607	57,666	1,066	291,055
United States...	8	—	—	2,210	—	—	8	2,210
Total ...	464	323	287	161,992	73,607	57,666	1,074	293,265

It would be noted that the exports of lint cotton from Nevis up till the end of May amounted to 73,607 lbs. The average price, as far as the writer could ascertain, had been about 1s. 11d. per lb., so that assuming the total output this season to reach, as was expected, 80,000 lbs., the value of lint plus seed would exceed £8,000. The Nevis, Ltd., Factory had refined a small amount of oil, which was selling readily locally, presumably for cooking and other purposes. It was sincerely hoped that next crop might be a bumper one and bring more grist to the mill. It was understood that 1,800 acres of cotton would be planted for 1908, which, considering the deplorable falling off this year, was not much of a come down. The Administrator, Mr. Roxburgh, had paid a visit to the island a week previously. He was a capital man in every way, and was immensely popular with all classes of the community.

Cotton planting in St. Kitts.

The rainfall for the month to June 27th, the date of Mr. A. D. C. Adamson's letter, had not been up to the average of the last ten years, though there had been a lot of small showers, which had helped on the young crop materially. Cotton planting was then in full swing, and though no definite figures were yet available, it was thought that the acreage would go a long way over last year's by a good deal.

Trial of the St. Lucia rioters.

The assizes for trial of rioters were being held when Mr. S. D. Melville wrote on June 24th. Everything was very quiet, and the *Scylla* was there for a few days. Some fine showers had fallen.

The St. Vincent Carib Country.

Mr. W. N. Sands wrote on June 24th that the weather had been very favourable for planting operations during the past fortnight, and the cotton seedlings had made a good start. The seed had been germinating excellently. It was too early in the season to form an estimate of the area being planted, but it was quite likely that it would amount to 2,500 to 3,000 acres. The "cotton fever" was pretty high in the island just then, and nearly everybody seemed to have got it. Besides becoming the premier industry of the island, it was to be hoped that cotton would be the means of checking the over-production of arrowroot, and the maintenance of remunerative prices for this staple product. The news of the past week had been the decision of Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co. to push ahead with the cultivation of the lands of the Carib country. Of course, a lot would depend on the nature of Mr. Bovell's report, but the decision appeared to be a wise one. A manager had already been appointed, and operations started. His Honour T. D. Tudor was acting as Administrator. The Permanent Exhibition Committee were endeavouring to get together a representative collection of samples of the commercial products of the island to send to the Toronto and Halifax Exhibitions to be held this year.

The health of Trinidad.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on June 22nd, said that Mr. O. W. Barrett, the cacao expert, arrived on June 21st, and was to meet the Cacao Committee on the 25th. The Agricultural Society had appointed a Committee to confer with the representatives of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company with a view to a reduction of the freight for bananas. 1,065 acres had already been planted in bananas, which would during the coming year produce 260,000 bunches, or 10,000 bunches each mail, and the cultivation of the fruit was steadily increasing.

Writing from Trinidad on June 24th, the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick said that the weather was all that agriculturists could desire, frequent showers with intervals of hot sun. Cane cultivation everywhere looked very promising. The rains had somewhat retarded crop operations, and a large quantity of cacao was held up in the country districts awaiting opportunities for transportation to town. Owing to the unfortunate outbreak of bubonic plague on the departure of the last Royal mail, they had been without shipping facilities during the fortnight, the French, Dutch and Hamburg-American lines refusing to call for cargo. Shipments under these circumstances had only amounted to 3,000 bags, but the Royal Mail Steamer *Caroni* and the Packet boat *Orinoco* would between them take 10,000 bags before the end of the month. Prices remained the same as when last writing, and whilst no new business was reported at existing quotations, sufficient old orders remained to be filled to keep the market steady. Fine Estates were quoted at 87s. 6d., Mixed Estates at 86s., and Ordinary at 85s. 6d. c. & f. Havre. Arrivals from Venezuela had been nil, owing to quarantine restrictions.

In a letter dated June 29th, Mr. Edgar Tripp stated that the Permanent Exhibition Committee had been constituted as follows: Nominated by the Governor, Hon. W. C. L. Dyett and Mr. Edgar Tripp; by the Chamber of Commerce, Hon. George Goodwille and Mr. H. Hoffman, and by the Agricultural Society, Mr. H. Caracciolo and Mr. H. McLelland. The Committee met the day following their appointment. The first resolution was one to invite the Government Professor of Chemistry and the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens to become members of the Committee, it being realised that without these two gentlemen the usefulness of the Committee would be considerably decreased. Proposals to take part in Canadian Exhibitions this year and in the Franco-British Exhibition in London, next year, were considered. It was decided that the Colony should exhibit at Toronto and Halifax in August and September next. The question of participating in the London exhibition was left over. No fresh case of yellow fever had been reported for a week. The two referred to last mail were convalescent, so that they might be said to be free of it for the moment. Very heavy rains had been falling, which might wash what remained of it away. Mr. O. W. Barrett met the Cacao Committee on June 25th. It was decided that the first field of his operations should be the Montserrat district. The Hon. C. de Verteuil, a member of the Committee, kindly placed a house there at Mr. Barrett's disposal, so that his investigations could be carried on under the most favourable

conditions. The work had already commenced, and the results would be watched with great interest. It was expected that the R.M.S. *Cavoni*, sailing on July 1st, would take nearly 10,000 bags of cocoa.

SHIPMENTS.			
Totals to last report	93,504	bags	Trinidad 19,414 Venezuela.
June 11.—S.S. <i>Tagus</i>	1,182		Europa.
„ 19.—S.S. <i>Maracas</i>	1,920		999 New York.
Totals to date	96,606	.. ..	20,413 Venezuela.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR. Tropical Produce in Liverpool.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—The Liverpool University Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics has been requested by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to organise an Exhibition of Tropical Produce on the occasion of a visit to this city of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in September next.

The idea of the Exhibition is to afford an object lesson in the production and preparation of the staple articles of tropical trade, and as time is exceedingly short to organise such an Exhibition, it is earnestly hoped that all interested in the trade in the Tropics will assist by the loan or gift of exhibits.

We desire more particularly to obtain samples of all kinds of tropical produce in their commercial state with the fullest possible particulars as to country of origin, botanical source, methods of preparation, native and local names of the produce and of its botanical source, and also statistics concerning the volume of business done in each particular form of produce. In addition to this, we are anxious to get exhibits of the botanical sources of all forms of tropical produce, photographs representing scenes in tropical agriculture and industry, diagrams and models relative to tropical agriculture and industry, and examples of apparatus used in the tropics in connection with the cultivation or preparation of produce.

Any exhibits kindly lent will be most carefully looked after, and we shall be happy to defray the cost of carriage to and from the Exhibition. The Exhibition will, by the courtesy of the Liverpool Cotton Association, be held in the old Cotton Exchange, Brown's Buildings. Exhibits should be addressed to the Director of the Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics, at the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, B 10, Exchange Buildings. They should be sent so as to arrive if possible between the 15th of August and the 1st of September. No exhibit after the 5th of September can be displayed. It is particularly requested that firms or individuals kindly providing exhibits will advise me of their intention to do so at the earliest possible moment, giving full particulars as to the nature of the exhibits. All letters, but not exhibits, should be addressed to the Director of the Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics, Room D.L., Public Museums, Liverpool.

Yours faithfully,

MOUNTMORRES,

Organising Secretary.

Liverpool, 17th July, 1907.

[We are much afraid that our friends in the West Indies will receive this intimation, which has only just reached us, too late. We hope, however, that individuals and firms dealing in tropical produce in this country will be able to help Lord Mountmorres, who might, we venture to suggest, also be able to borrow some of the exhibits from the Colonial collections at the Imperial Institute.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

The Handbook of Jamaica for 1907, comprising historical, statistical, and general information concerning the island, compiled from official and other reliable records. By Jos C. Ford, of the Jamaica Civil Service, and Frank Cundall, F.S.A., Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica. London: Edward Stanford, 6s., cloth gilt, 7s. 6d. When the disaster of January 14th occurred this volume, which is printed and published by the Government printing office in Kingston, was near completion; but a large amount of type already set was rendered useless and consequently there has been some delay. The compilers—we note that Mr. Frank Cundall succeeds Mr. A. A. C. Finlay as one of the editors—have, by adding addenda and corrigenda, made it as complete as possible. The historical section has now been reduced to tabular form. The headings are "Governors, Events in Jamaica, Events abroad and Rulers abroad," and in this capable summary of Jamaica history we can trace the skilful hand of Mr. Cundall. A brief bibliography of the colony has been added, and short obituary notices of prominent men who have died during the past year, now form a feature of the book which affords a fund of useful, as well as interesting, information regarding the colony.



The Caravel, the "Nina."

Through Jamaica with a Kodak. By Alfred Leader. Bristol: John Wright & Co., 6s. nett. "The American evidently appreciates and values Jamaica more than we English people do." Such was Mr. Leader's impression derived from a visit to the island in 1905, when he found that the proportion of American visitors to English was at least six to one. Mr. Leader's book, which is profusely illustrated, will do something towards helping to adjust matters in this respect, because there is nothing that attracts tourists more than pictures. The photographer has chosen his subjects well; in the pictures of life the grouping is excellent, and in those of scenery Mr. Leader has overcome the difficulties of light and shade, which in the tropics is not such a simple task as it may seem. His interiors, as for example, Rose Hall on page 79, are excellent, and it is

clear that he judged his exposure to a nicety. Mr. Leader stayed at Y. S. estate and Tryall, and was therefore able to obtain a much clearer insight into Jamaica life than if he had been hustling from one hotel to another. In an introductory note the Archbishop of the West Indies says that the volume will prove very acceptable to those who desire to get, within moderate compass, a correct impression of the island and its people; and this expression of opinion we can fully endorse. In all there are nearly 200 illustrations in the book, which is well printed on art paper. It has also a coloured map of the island.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

TRINIDAD DOCK.—The floating dock for Trinidad, which was launched near the end of May, is expected to arrive at her destination about the middle of August.

LETTERS.—There are letters lying at the West India Committee Rooms addressed to Prof. Longstaffe, Mr. Chas. Shepherd, Mr. Ludwig Schoener, Hon. H. F. Carr, and Mrs. Welsh (of Trinidad).

CUBA SHORT.—Private advices from Cuba state that, owing to the prolonged drought which has seriously interfered with planting and to labour troubles, the next crop will undoubtedly be short, and a million tons were spoken of as the outside figure for it.

THE W.I.P.A.—Limes were very much in evidence at the Exhibition of Summer Foods and Drinks which was held at the *Tribune* Rendezvous last week. They were shown by the West Indian Produce Association, which also made a feature of Limalade, their new marmalade made from limes and pure cane sugar.

HERALDRY.—In the description of the arms of British Honduras one of our compositors allowed his Imperialistic feelings to run away with him, and described the mahogany tree as being on a wreath "of the Colonies", instead "of the colours", and we must plead guilty to having allowed this error to stand uncorrected.

W. I. CLUB DINNER.—Those present at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, July 10th, were:—Mr. J. W. Clark, Commander Hon. W. H. Coombs, Mr. E. R. de Montagnac, Mr. Noel de Montagnac, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. E. C. Skinner, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall.

OUR VISITORS.—Among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been Mr. C. Guy Wyatt, Mr. J. Cox-Fillan, Mr. C. Henriques, Mr. W. Morris Fletcher, Mr. R. H. Ormsby (British Honduras), Mr. W. H. Farquharson (Jamaica), Rt. Hon. J. Parker Smith, Mr. P. Cork, Administrator of St. Lucia, Mr. D. S. Blake, and Sir Charles J. Tarring.

OBITUARY.—It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Robert Challenor, the news of which reached us by cable on July 16th. Mr. Challenor was one of the oldest and most respected merchants in Bridgetown and Speightstown, Barbados, and agent of Messrs. Antony Gibbs & Son. He was a prominent member of the local branch of the West India Committee from its inception until the day of his death.

SUGAR IN NATAL.—The working of the Natal Government Railways for 1906, says the *British Empire Review*, shows the immense strides the sugar industry has taken in that country. The amount of sugar cane carried over the railways during the year was no less than 123,226 tons, an increase of 76,000 tons, or 168 per cent. on the previous year. The fruit industry, too, seems to have developed in a remarkable degree, the returns showing an increase of 35 per cent.

SUGAR IN FRANCE.—The yield from sugar taxes is estimated in the French Budget at £5,647,888 for 1907, of which £340,000 represents the refinery tax. In 1906 the yield was estimated at £5,992,052. These figures show a decrease of about £334,000, but, as a matter of fact, the decrease is considerably larger, and exceeds £670,000, as the refinery tax figures for the first time in the Budget for 1907. The yield from sugar taxes, not including the refinery tax, amounted in 1905 to £5,321,888.

THE USEFUL CAT.—The value of the domestic cat in connection with bubonic plague has been set forth by Lieut.-Col. Buchanan in the *Pioneer Mail*. When a cat census was taken of certain villages in India which enjoyed exceptional immunity from plague, and of others which had suffered severely, it was shown that those villages which stood immune in the midst of the pestilence actually harboured an exceptional number of cats. We presume that they exterminated rats, the plague disseminators.

YELLOW FEVER.—Between 1872 and 1902 the total mortality from yellow fever at Rio was seldom less than 800, and was often over 2,000 and even 4,000 per annum. The *South American Journal* states that the extermination of the mosquito by "brigades," under the command of Senor de Oliveira Borges, in 1903-4, reduced the mortality to 48, and in 1906 it was only 42. Yellow fever has now, it is stated, ceased to be endemic or epidemic in Rio. Equally satisfactory results were obtained in ships in the port.

MOLASCUIT.—Mr. Robert Wallace in his book, "Farm Live Stock of Great Britain," makes several references to molascuit (Hughes' patent), the sugar-cane cattle food. He says that this food, consisting of 80 per cent. of pure cane-sugar molasses soaked into 20 per cent. of selected cane-fibre (three-fourths of which is digestible) is convenient to handle as a food stuff, and is well liked by all classes

of farm stock. He points out that treacle in some form is indispensable as a preventative of stomach staggers resulting from over feeding.

TROPICAL MEDICINE.—The *Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* states that the formation of a School of Tropical Medicine in the United States is contemplated, and preliminary steps are being taken for the purpose. Some favour the idea of the School being situated at New Orleans, some at New York. The question, says the *Journal*, as to whether the School is to be situated in New Orleans or New York may not be a matter of vital interest from a scientific point of view, but for the sake of the patients under treatment there can be no doubt that they would be under more favourable conditions for recovery in the more northern city.

TRADE WITH CANADA.—One day recently, says the *Maritime Merchant*, three steamers arrived at Halifax from the West Indies to Pickford and Black, bringing altogether 38,087 packages of sugar, besides other cargo. In the morning the steamer *Boston* arrived from Jamaica with 9,300 bags of sugar, 100 puns. of rum, 200 bags of pimento, 1,000 bags of cocoa-nuts, and 200 bags of cacao. In the afternoon the steamer *Orinoco* arrived with 9,000 packages of sugar and 1,400 packages of molasses, and the *Talisman* from St. Kitts with 19,787 bags of sugar. The arrival in port of so much West India produce on a single day was remarkable.

COTTON SEED OIL.—Speaking of the increased dearness of cotton seed oil, the *Indian Trade Journal* considers that this is due, apart from the increased consumption, to two circumstances connected with the new cotton crop—first, the great acreage which has been planted this year, and secondly, the cold snap, which made it necessary to plant the same land in many cases twice and in some cases thrice over. This means an altogether unprecedented demand for seed in the cotton belt. The increased use of oil cakes as manure both in India and abroad, the expansion of exports, the progress that has been made in preventing the heating of Indian cotton cake, and the steadily growing demand for oleaginous foodstuffs in substitution for ghi (clarified butter), all point to cotton seed crushing as offering large profits.

PATROL SHIPS.—The *Daily Mail* states that the Admiralty have decided to make provision in the next shipbuilding programme for the laying down of a new type of armoured cruiser at Pembroke Dockyard. The recent earthquake in Jamaica and the riot at St. Lucia, during both of which events no British warship was immediately available for the purpose of rendering aid or restoring order, have convinced the Admiralty that a new class of ship of appreciable fighting power, suitable for detached police duties and for periodically visiting remote stations, is necessary. It has therefore been decided to build a type of vessel intermediate in size between a second-class cruiser and the ships of the *Duke of Edinburgh* class. The vessel will be protected by side armour, and will mount 7.5 in. guns. She will have a speed of 23 knots per hour and relatively large bunker accommodation.

FROM GLASGOW.—A new central cane sugar factory which a Japanese company—the Meiji Sugar Manufacturing Company of Tokio—have decided to erect in the island of Formosa has been ordered from the Harvey Engineering Company, Limited, of Glasgow. This factory, which is to be fitted with all the latest improvements in the way of machinery, will be capable of making 80 tons of sugar per day, part of which will be grey sugar for refining purposes, and part yellow crystals for direct consumption in Japan. Since the coming into force of the Brussels Convention, a number of central sugar factories have been constructed by the above firm for various parts of the world, a good indication of the extensions in the cane sugar industry due to the abolition of beet bounties. We understand that an order for a factory in Japan has also been placed with Messrs. John McNeil & Co.

A WEDDING.—The marriage of Mr. Maurice Malcolm, son of Colonel Malcolm, of Poltalloch, and Miss Henrietta Fairfax Copeland, daughter of Mr. R. P. Copeland, of Kibblestone Hall, Staffs., and sister of Lady Swettenham, wife of Sir Alexander Swettenham, was solemnized at All Saints, Ennismore Gardens, on July 10th. The bridegroom met Miss Copeland in Jamaica, while she was helping her sister in relieving those who suffered by the recent earthquake. The Rev. W. R. Inge, D.D., performed the ceremony. The bride, who wore white brocade draped with old family lace, was attended by four bridesmaids—Miss Malcolm, Miss Dorothy Wood, Miss Arkroyd, and Miss Capper—who were dressed alike in pale pink silk voile, and wore large picture hats adorned with pink roses. Lady Swettenham assisted in the reception of the guests after the ceremony in the Hyde Park Hotel.

MARINE SOCIETY.—A large number of guests of the Marine Society, an organisation which in the old days was closely connected with the West India Committee, visited their training-ship *Warspite*, moored off Greenhithe, on July 5th, when Mr. Owen Phillips, M.P., Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, made a formal inspection of the ship and the boys on board her, and Lady Romney, in the absence of Mrs. Phillips, presented the prizes. Mr. Phillips referred to the good work which the Marine Society had done in giving the boys an opportunity of making a start in life, and he hoped that one and all would do their utmost to keep up the good name of the ship on which they were educated, and thus justify the Society in continuing to extend to other boys a helping hand. The Society was one of the oldest in the country, having been established just over 150 years,

throughout which period, without practically any Government assistance, it had been performing a great work for the Empire.

COAL IN HONDURAS.—There is good reason to believe, says the *Colonial Guardian*, that coal, as well as gold, exists in the southern portion of British Honduras. A Latin-American, residing in the Stann Creek district, used to bring gold dust regularly from that part of the country to Belize to sell, but no one could ever induce him to reveal the place from which he obtained the metal. Since his death gold has been discovered in Silk-Grass Creek. In 1886 Mr. Wilson, an English mineralogist, who was employed by the Government to inspect the southern districts, declared that there was abundant evidence of the existence of coal. Our contemporary suggests that with so unprecedentedly large a surplus in the Treasury, it would be a wise step to again ask the Legislature to vote a sum of money for the purpose of securing the services of an expert mineralogist to inspect the country east as well as west of the Cockscomb Mountains.

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 10.—Mr. H. Cox' amendment to the Finance Bill for the reduction of the Sugar duties by one-half, defeated by a majority of 137 (for 175, against 312).—Sir A. Billson died in the House of Commons.—A. A. Lynch, convicted of high treason in 1903, granted a free pardon.—Sir William Broadbent died.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Thur., July 11.—King and Queen in Ireland.—Beet, 9s. 5d., dull.
- Fri., July 12.—Sir W. Laurier left Liverpool for Canada.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Sat., July 13.—Eton v. Harrow Match, Harrow won by 79 runs.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Mon., July 15.—Debate in the House of Commons on the Vote of Censure moved by Mr. Lyttelton.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
- Tues., July 16.—Mr. Gretton's proposals in the House of Commons as to reduction of duty on Colonial sugars.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., firm.
- Wed., July 17.—£50,000 damages awarded to Lever Bros., Ltd., in the libel action against the *Daily Mail*, *Evening News*, and *Daily Mirror*.—Lord Mayor opened Empire Education Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall.—Beet, 9s. 7d., steady.
- Thur., July 18.—Deputation of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Beet, 9s. 9d., steady.
- Fri., July 19.—Colne Valley Election: Mr. V. Grayson (Soc.) 3,648; Mr. P. Bright (L.) 3,495; Mr. G. C. Wheeler (U.) 3,227 (Socialist gain).—Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Sat., July 20.—King and Queen visited Lord and Lady Lansdowne at Bowood.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Mon., July 22.—Letter from Mr. Chamberlain to the Western Counties Tariff Reform Association (*Times*, p. 14).—Report of proceedings of the International Sugar Commission published (C.D. 3,607).—Review of the Situation in Germany (*Times*, p. 19).—Beet, 9s. 9½d., firm.

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.

- Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures. (Further particulars will be given later).
- Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

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 Tuesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

R. C. McK.—Puerto Rico is the Spanish spelling of the United States' West Indian island. It is now officially spelt Porto Rico. This change was made before the President's spelling reform decree was promulgated.

M. Inst., C.E.—The volume of trade of Trinidad considerably exceeds that of Jamaica. Her imports—taking the mean of the last five years were £2,756,000, and exports £2,568,850, as compared with £1,801,710 and £1,803,070 respectively of Jamaica.

Loquat.—The origin of the name Tobago is not known. Père Labat did not hold that its derivation from *Tobac*, or tobacco, was correct. Honduras is the Spanish "depths." The country was so called, owing, probably, to the difficulty experienced in finding a good anchorage.

Molly and Mona and Master William Wilders, Mr. A. G. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Pedro R. Bastardo, Miss Dolores Pinango, Mr. W. E. Lewis, Mrs. and Miss Philipps, Mr. G. Catto, Mr. John L. L. Taylor, Mrs. D. C. Mackie, Mr. Robert J. Yarr, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Smithies, Mr. Jesse Grell, Mr. F. H. Morris, Mr. J. S. Young, Mr. E. Leach Hartley, Mr. C. W. Nicholson, Mrs. L. B. de Cardemas, Mr. and Mrs. Hayne and family, Mr. William Swayne, and Mr. George Lamotte.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), August 7th:—Miss E. M. Packer, Miss A. D. Packer, Mr. Adolf Klare, Dr. J. C. Milne, Mrs. J. I. d'Albuquerque, Mr. Andrew Skeeden, and Mr. G. Vogel.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), July 16th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. A. Beattie, the Misses Clark, Miss Clark, Mrs. Castle and two children, Mr. O. V. Calder, Miss Z. Cocking, Dr. and Mrs. Vaughan Cornish, Mr. and Mrs. Hood-Daniel, Miss H. de Mercado, Mrs. W. G. Farquharson and child, Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Miss Farquharson, Mr. C. S. Foot, Mrs. Gibb and three children, Miss E. M. Gibson, Mr. L. Godefroi, Mrs. Graves, Mr. L. E. Herney, Miss Da Costa, Mr. Farah, Mrs. Hopkins, Mr. D. Horn, Mr. J. Horn, Miss Howson, Mrs. Isaacs and two children, Mrs. Knox, Mr. J. Lawley, Miss Lilian Leahong, Mrs. March, Mr. T. M. Martin, Mrs. Morris, Master Morris, Miss Owden, Miss Hilda Phang, Mr. and Mrs. Pierpoint, Miss Parkinson, Hon. Dr. J. Pringle, Mr. J. Preston, Mr. W. Preston, Dr. and Mrs. Shackleton and two children, Mr. S. F. Sinclair, Mr. Workley, Miss A. C. Smith, Miss Cecilia Tilley, Mrs. Verney, Mrs. and Miss Vickers, Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Walker and child, Mr. C. H. Ward, Miss Willans, Mrs. Young, Mr. W. Freear, Mr. Alfred McMaster, Mrs. Rowe, Mr. M. Alexander, Mr. C. Hanna, Mr. S. Pitt, Mr. W. Benn, Mr. A. Clodd, and Mr. F. G. Ball.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Selve), July 13th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. L. Ashenheim, Major H. M. Alone, W.I.R., Mr. G. B. Ascroft, Hon. V. G. Bell, Mr. E. A. H. Bailey, Mr. Bloomfield, Rev. John Burn, Mrs. Deniston, Miss Jessie Davis, Mr. R. G. Ellis, Hon. W. Fawcett, Mr. Eric G. Gordon, Mr. H. Greenwood, Mr. P. H. Greg, Mr. F. Gorin, Mr. C. B. Gull, Mr. C. Maxwell-Hall, Miss Maxwell-Hall, Major R. W. H. Jackson, Master G. Kelly Lawson, Mrs. Langlois, Captain Lyon, Miss Lyon, Lieut. J. T. B. Mayne, R.A., Rev. W. Noble, Miss Margery Olivier, Miss Brynhild Olivier, Mr. R. M. Peat, Miss G. Pearman, Mr. T. R. Pinnock, Lieut. Painton, Mr. C. W. Parrish, Miss K. O. H. Pearman, Mr. Allison Smith, Mr. C. D. Snell, Mrs. Totesan, Mr. F. M. Trefusis, Mr. W. A. Tanner, Mrs. Tanner, Mr. F. Fletcher, and Mr. W. H. Shaw.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), July 27th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Clark and five children, Mr. F. Cobb, Master Harold Charley, Mr. N. B. Favell, Mr. P. Fox, Miss Frith, Master E. Farquharson, Mr. H. G. Gibbs, Master W. Gossett, Master G. Griffiths, Mr. L. Isaacs, Master S. Isaacs, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. James, two Misses James, Mr. James, Mr. A. M. Jones, Mr. J. S. Knowlson, Rev. W. Kerr, Master R. Kerr, Master E. Kerr, Mr. W. J. H. Leete, Mrs. Matthews, Mr. Walter Matthews, Master H. Mais, Mr. H. MacManns, Miss Pipkin, Master E. Pengelley, Master C. Pillinger, Mr. J. Rawle, Master M. Sturridge, Mr. C. E. L. Tottenham, Master Vernon Turner, Master Kenneth Turner, Miss May Turner, Mr. E. Mortimer Woolf, Master T. Williams, Master R. Williams, and Mr. A. J. Harkness. **Bermuda:** Miss Butterfield, Mr. J. Coxfillan, Mr. H. C. Cos, Mr. J. T. Gilbert, Mr. E. Harvey, and Mrs. E. Prior.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

The proposals for the improved intercolonial mail service on the lines foreshadowed in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR are to be forwarded to the colonies for their consideration by the R.M.S.P. *Tags* to-morrow. The following opportunities for posting letters are afforded after the departure of the mail to-morrow. In each case letters should be marked per S.S. "———" the name of the vessel being given.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
July 27	Bermuda and Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>	July 26, 6 ¹⁵ p.m.
Aug. 1	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Jamaican</i>	.. 31, 6 p.m.
" 2	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, & Jamaica	Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Conway</i>	Aug. 2, noon.
" 2	Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica	Dartmouth	" Direct " Line	<i>Salybia</i>	.. 2, noon.
" 7	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>	.. 6, mdn't.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
July 31	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Henderson</i>
Aug. 12	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

TIMBER.—**Mahogany.**—The Market continues very quiet, the principal feature being the arrival of a steamer with a cargo of African wood which, owing to the light stocks, will be very welcome. **HONDURAS:** Importers' stocks are now practically exhausted, as all but the smallest and most inferior wood was sold at the last auction. The Market remains firm with a good demand. **JAMAICA:** Sizeable or figury logs would now sell readily. **GRENADA and ST. VINCENT:** Logs of good sizes, sound and fairly straight, would now sell well. **Cedar.**—**CUBA, HONDURAS, &C.** Stocks are low and the demand is fairly good. **TRINIDAD, ST. LUCIA, &C.:** Logs of good sizes and fairly sound are in moderate demand. Sales reported of Honduras Mahogany ex *Savan* from Belize, 168 logs at from 5d. to 1s. 4d., averaging 5¹¹/₁₆d. per foot. Sales of Cedar ex *Savan* from Belize, on private terms. **Logwood.**—All logwood very quiet, and the tendency of Hayti kinds is lower. No sales to United Kingdom to report. Value, north side, £4 15s., straight ditto, £4 2s. 6d. to £4 5s. Roots: Fustic in better supply and in less demand. Prices have declined to £4 5s., c.i.f.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY—continued.

SUGAR.—Herr F. O. Licht gives the following figures showing the consumption from September to June, the first ten months of the campaign:—

	1906/7.	1905/6.	1904/5.
Convention Europe	3,606,058	3,511,480	3,099,388 Tons.

The same authority also gives the Visible Supply as follows:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.
Known world	2,346,196	2,616,921	2,004,430 Tons.

The sugar Market, which was depressed in the early part of the fortnight, began to show signs of improvement at the beginning of last week, but although there was much more steadiness the advance was confined to 1d. for old and ½d. to ¾d. for new crop; subsequently, however, in consequence of bears showing a disposition to cover their commitments, and no pressure being exercised to sell by the Continent, prices of 88% beet have advanced to July, 9s. 9½d.; Aug., 9s. 9d.; October/December, 9s. 6½d.; January/March, 9s. 7½d.; May, 9s. 9½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Europe	1,735,050	2,080,000	1,440,000	1,900,000	1,990,000 Tons
United States	360,000	320,000	220,000	180,000	320,000 ..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	245,540	180,000	400,000	190,000	350,000 ..
Total	2,340,620	2,580,000	2,060,000	2,270,000	2,660,000 ..

Quotations of 88% Beet, July 22nd:—

9s. 9½d.	8s. 7d.	11s. 1d.	9s. 8½d.	7s. 11½d.
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Grocery West Indian.—Crystallised in first hands continue very scarce and commands full prices; the sales have chiefly consisted of low bright yellow Trinidad at 16s. 6d. to 17s. **Muscovado.**—Business restricted on account of short supplies. Barbados realised 15s. to 15s. 6d. in public auction last Friday. Quotations for 80%, 9s. 6d. to 9s. 9d.; 96%, 10s. 3d. to 10s. 6d. **Molasses Sugar.**—Fairly steady at unchanged prices. Some Mexican syrups sold at 12s. to 12s. 6d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Imports... ..	24,990	43,000	30,000	34,000	18,000 Tons.
Deliveries	21,130	26,000	22,000	28,000	24,000 ..
Stocks (July 13th)	13,499	26,000	17,000	18,000	22,000 ..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: ... 17s. 6d. 14s. 9d. 17s. 6d. 16s. 3d. 15s. 0d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, July 13th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	9176	8600	10,000	10,800	10,900 Puns.
Demerara	6707	6500	5500	9800	7100 ..
Total of all kinds	23,264	21,300	24,100	27,600	27,500 ..

The Market is unchanged. Quotations: Demeraras, 15s. 0½d. to 15s. 2½d. proof; Jamaicas, 2s. 7d. for common, up to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and 3s. to 8s. for good to choicest export qualities. In the reference to Pure Jamaica Ltd., in our last Summary, it should have been explained that the nominal capital of the company is £150,000, and that it went to allotment on applications for 50,000 £1 shares.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, June 29th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Trinidad	7599	11,700	19,800	26,700	20,700 Bags.
Grenada	3202	10,700	17,500	19,100	12,600 ..
Total of all kinds	46,713	71,000	82,800	100,100	78,700 ..

The Market is quiet, and prices are easier, but there is rather more enquiry at the decline. Grenadas are 2s. to 3s., and Trinidads 5s. lower, a good portion of the latter having sold at 88s. to 90s. for good to fine qualities. Quotations: Trinidad good middling, 88s., Estate Marks, 89s. to 94s.; Grenada, common to fair, 82s. to 83s., good to fine, 84s. to 86s. Fair Native from other Islands, 81s. to 87s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Santos for July delivery, 28s. 6d., and is steady at the improvement. The Market generally is quiet. Only very moderate quantities have been offered, consisting mostly of ordinary to medium qualities, and the demand for these has been restricted, but prices show no marked change, although the tendency is to easier rates.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended July 18th, 296 bales West India cotton were imported. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool, 7.75d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, at 19d.; medium fine, at 20d.; fine, at 21d. per lb. A good business has been done in West India Sea Island; about 400 bales having been sold at steady prices. Sales include the following islands: Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Nevis, St. Martin, Antigua, St. Croix, and Montserrat.

ARROWROOT was not represented at recent auctions, and privately few sales have occurred. Quotations of St. Vincent, 2½d. to 2½d., good to fair, 2½d. to 3½d.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d. per gallon. Distilled oil, steady, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 3d. per gallon. Hand pressed, steady, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, easier, £24 10s. With the advent of warmer weather the outlook for the green lime trade is altogether more promising.

PIMENTO.—Quiet, 204 bags at auction bought in at 2½d. to 2½d. **NUTMEGS.**—West India in good supply, prices steady to a shade easier; 200 packages West India sold at last public sale: small, 138/120's at 4½d. to 5½d., 120/112's at 5½d. to 5½d., 102/106's at 5½d. to 6d., 90/94's at 6½d. to 7d., 88/78's at 7d. to 8½d., 74/70's at 9d. to 9½d., 68's at 10d., 66's at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d., 64's at 1s. 4d., fine 110's at 6d., long 110/106's at 5½d. to 5½d., dark 117's at 5½d., defective, 4½d. to 4½d. **MACE.**—Steady; 64 packages West India in recent auction sold: good, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d., fair, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., ordinary, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d., pickings, 1s. to 1s. 1d. **GINGER.**—Very inactive. The trade demand is suspended, and as holders show no inclination to encourage buyers by lowering prices, there is a deadlock in business for the time being.

COPRA.—The Market is rather easier. Quotations of fair merchantable West India, £23 10. to £23 15s. **RUBBER.**—The Market during the past fortnight has fluctuated, but on the whole has been strong to an advance of 1½d. to 2d. per lb. for Para. Quotations at the close being: hard cure fine spot, 4s. 10½d.; soft cure fine, 4s. 8½d.; Mandos scrappy negrohead, 3s. 11½d. For plantation the market was stronger, in sympathy with Para grades, and competition was brisk. Fine biscuits, sheet and black, were about 2d. per lb. higher last Friday. One or two exceptionally fine lots of biscuits sold from 5s. 7d. to 5s. 8d. Scrap unchanged, and dark crepes and blacks rather difficult to sell.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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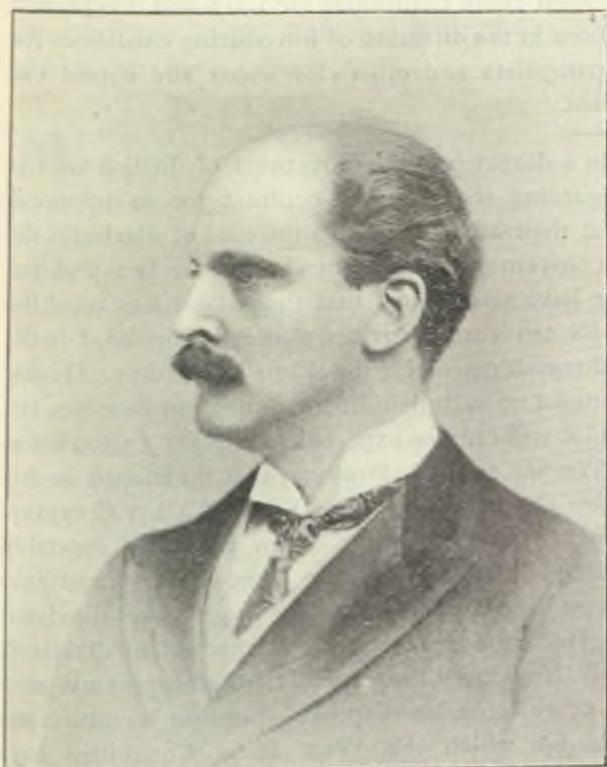
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OUR CELEBRITIES. XCVIII.

The West India Committee Rooms,
15, SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON.

Aug. 5, 1907

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



Sir Francis John Hopwood, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

THE course of negotiations with regard to Sugar Convention for the abolition of foreign state bounties and the suppression of cartels, have, so far, fully justified the hopeful view which we have taken all along as to the prospects of that International agreement being maintained. The permanent Commission re-assembled at Brussels on July 25th, and it at once became evident that the contracting Powers were disposed to consider favourably the proposals of Great Britain that while continuing a party to the Convention she should be exempted from compliance with the terms of the penal clause, that is to say, from prohibiting or counter-vailing Bounty-fed sugar. M. CAPELLE, the President of the Commission, pointed out that compliance with Great Britain's request would compromise the interests of the other contracting countries, and if, therefore, their consent were given it would be necessary that there should be certain guarantees that no sudden change should be made in the arrangements, but that if it were found that too much bounty-fed

sugar were entering the United Kingdom the arrangements should be modified. An Act or

protocol embodying these conditions was then drawn up, and it has since been sent to the high contracting powers for their consideration with the request that a decision may be arrived at early in August. In a few weeks, then, we shall know for certain whether the Convention is to continue and the stability of the sugar industry maintained, or whether the threatened denunciation will take place and the former state of uncertainty with violent fluctuations in prices and the narrowing of the sources of supply to the prejudice of our producers and consumers alike restored. At present everything seems to point to the continuance of the Convention. It is true that the sugar industry on the Continent has manifested hostility and openly expressed opinion that Great Britain should not remain a party to the Convention, but the Governments seem to take a different view. Moreover, we are in a position to confirm the rumour that Russia has signified her wish to join the Convention. This is a factor of extreme importance, for if her request be acceded to—Russia's note arrived too late for discussion before the Commission adjourned—it should effectually remove any fears among the high contracting powers that they will be injured by our market being flooded with bounty-fed sugar. The Argentine has ceased to be an exporting country; she needs all the sugar she can produce, and more. Therefore, if Russia is admitted to the Convention, the high contracting powers will merely be granting to Great Britain a 'barmecide' concession in releasing us from compliance with the terms of the penal clause.

A PAMPHLET entitled "British Guiana and its Resources," by Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., which forms the third of the new series of pamphlets issued by the West India Committee, has been posted to the members of that body. The object is to call attention to the great opening which the "Magnificent Province" undoubtedly affords to capitalists as well as to settlers. With the pamphlet has been posted the list of Members of the West India Committee for 1907, and it is pointed out that it is only by continued support of members in the direction of introducing candidates for election that the Executive are able to issue these pamphlets and otherwise widen and extend the sphere of the operations of the West India Committee.

ON another page we give the text of Lord Elgin's despatch to the Governors of British Guiana and those West Indian islands concerned, regarding the proposed contract for an improved intercolonial mail service, which is recommended for their acceptance. In the case of Barbados the purport of this despatch was communicated to the Governor by cable in view of the fact that the House of Assembly would expire on July 30th. We have since learnt that that island has voted the annual contribution of £3,500 towards the subsidy for ten years, provided that it is stipulated in the contract that she shall be the headquarters and port of transhipment for the whole of that time. Having regard to the length of the period covered by the contract no such definite guarantee can be given, but the Secretary of State has made it clear that Barbados will only be expected to pay her £3,500 for so long as she remained the port of transhipment. We are assured, however, that no change in this respect is contemplated either by the Colonial Office or the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. In the interests of Barbados, it is, therefore, much to be hoped that the new House of Assembly when it meets in November will vote their share of the subsidy, for otherwise a transfer to Trinidad, which is willing to contribute such a sum as would compensate for any natural disadvantages of that port, would seem to be inevitable. The issue lies between Barbados and Trinidad, and as no definite decision can be reached until November, we trust that arrangements may be made for the service to be begun—if the other colonies approve—pending a settlement. It will be recognised that the two main points for which the West India Committee have persistently contended from the year 1905, when the mail trouble first arose, have been conceded. The necessity for a regular fortnightly intercolonial service fixed by contract has been recognised, and the colonies are now being fully consulted and given an opportunity of expressing their views regarding a matter which so closely concerns them. In thus yielding to the wishes of the colonists the

Colonial Office is acting in a spirit which befits a Department of State representing their interests, and we venture to think that the mutual understanding thus indicated augurs well for the future, and that it will tend to promote the development of the colonies, which must necessarily be checked if rulers and ruled are at variance, and show mutual suspicion of each other. Coming now to the proposed new service it must be admitted that while it marks a distinct advance on the one at present in force, it is not altogether satisfactory, and that, if adopted, it will still leave something to be desired. Inasmuch, however, as it is now under consideration in the colonies, and a decision will have been arrived at before the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is in the hands of our colonial readers, no good purpose will be served by our criticising the proposals at any length in our pages. With regard to the subsidies it seems to us that the allocation of the £12,500 among the various colonies has been arranged on an equitable basis, though we feel that in view of the indirect benefit which Trinidad must derive through the establishment of regular communication through Barbados with British Guiana and the islands, she might be expected to contribute a small amount towards the total subsidy. The itinerary does not differ very materially from the one which was put forward at the Conference which was held in Barbados on March 23rd last; but a call at Nevis which was not contemplated is now included, and St. Lucia is put on the Northern Island route instead of the homeward mails from that island being carried by the Demerara steamer to Barbados. The result of this arrangement is that St. Kitts will only have two sma' and very wee hours, namely, from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m., and Nevis from 10 p.m. until midnight in which to answer their correspondence. Surely this very unfortunate position of affairs should be capable of adjustment. That the service as a whole will, however, be more acceptable than that to which the colonies have recently been accustomed cannot be gainsaid, and it will certainly form a good basis on which to build up a still better arrangement when funds admit, as they should do, if the West Indies enjoy that period of prosperity which we may expect to witness in the not distant future.

MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co., of St. Vincent, are to be congratulated upon their decision to endeavour to re-establish cultivation in the Carib Country in that island. It will be remembered that this district was buried in sand and ashes, and the fresh water Carib Canal on which it was dependent for its water supply, filled up by the eruption of the Soufrière in 1902. A local committee, appointed in 1904 by SIR ROBERT B. LLEWELYN, the then Governor of the Windward Islands, to report upon certain suggestions for the disposal of the unexpended balance, which then amounted to over £30,000, of the fund raised for the relief of sufferers from the eruption, strongly recommended "that on the MESSRS. PORTER satisfying the Government of their intention to re-establish their Carib Country estates, substantial aid should be given them towards replacing the canal." This recommendation was endorsed by the West India Committee, who on several occasions brought the matter prominently before the notice of the Government. During their visit to St. Vincent in January last, MR. J. ARTHUR HUTTON and MR. E. LOMAS OLIVER, the delegates of the British Cotton Growing Association, were strongly impressed with the suitability of the Carib Country for cotton cultivation, and as the result of the joint representations of the West India Committee and the British Cotton Growing Association, the question of opening up the Carib Country again came within the region of practical politics, MR. J. R. BOVELL, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, having been commissioned to visit and report on the country. This he did in company with MR. W. N. SANDS, the Agricultural Superintendent of St. Vincent, and though his report is not yet before us, it is to be assumed from the action of MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & Co., that it is of a satisfactory character. We never held the view that because this firm was a wealthy one it was entitled to no share in the Relief Fund, more especially as this was asked for to enable them to carry out a public work from which the whole island would benefit, and we still feel that it would be the wish of the subscribers to the fund

that out of the unspent balance, which now amounts to £29,300, some financial assistance should be afforded to enable the work of re-establishment of cultivation being carried out in a thoroughly effective manner. The history of the Carib Country is romantic and interesting. At the time of its discovery St. Vincent was inhabited by the Caribs, who, through their warlike propensities, proved a serious check to colonisation. When the island, after being neutral for many years, was taken by Monckton in 1762, the Caribs refused allegiance, and troops had to be brought from North America to suppress them. This they succeeded in doing in 1773, when a treaty was signed allotting to them the lands "from the River Byera to Point Espagnole on the one side, and from the River Auilabou to Espagnole on the other side." During the French revolution in 1795, the Caribs again got completely out of hand. They burnt the cane-fields, plundered the houses, and murdered many colonists. In June, 1796, SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY suppressed the rising, and the bulk of the Caribs were deported to the island of Rattan, off Honduras. In 1802 Governor HENRY WILLIAM BENTINCK granted occupancies or possessions during His Majesty's pleasure of 5,262 acres of the Carib lands to different persons who had been engaged in the war, and an act was passed in 1804 declaring that by the late rebellion the Caribs had forfeited all claim to their lands, and that they were consequently re-vested in the Crown. In 1805, however, the remaining Caribs, not having shown any disposition to give further trouble, were pardoned, on the distinct understanding however, that no right to any of the lands formerly occupied by them could be recognised, and they, thenceforth remained in the island in peace and idleness until the survivors were wiped out by the disaster of 1902. Such is, briefly, the history of the once highly fertile district of the north-east, which is now to be put once more into cultivation. The rehabilitation of these lands will mark a most important step in the agricultural development of the island.

THE increase of trade which has taken place between Canada and the West Indies during the last few years has been due, not merely to the preferential terms granted by the Dominion, notably in the case of sugar, but also to the retaliatory tariff which Canada adopted against Germany. This latter had the effect of practically shutting out German beet sugar, thus leaving the field open for West Indian sugar growers, although recently it has been decided that for a limited period a small quantity of beet sugar will be allowed into Canada under the British preferential tariff. What will be the result if Germany withdraws the differential duty which was the cause of Canada's surtax? Not only will the latter at once be removed, but there is every reason to believe that Canada will enter into preferential arrangements, as provided for in the present Canadian tariff, with Germany. At present the permission of the Imperial Government has to be given for such a step, but there is little doubt that Canada would, if necessary, get over this difficulty. The rapidly increasing production of Canada means the necessity for securing advantageous markets for its produce, and we shall be very much mistaken if that country allows Imperial sentiment to stand in the way of commercial progress, and permits its ties of relationship to the mother country to interfere with commercial development. If Canada cannot enter into satisfactory trade relations within the Empire she will undoubtedly do so outside it, and in that case the West Indies will lose much of the advantage which the Canadian tariff designs for them. As matters now stand, Canada, while giving tariff privileges to the West Indies, has asked for nothing in return beyond the advantage of a contiguous market. The West Indian Customs tariffs are mainly for revenue purposes only, and consequently no great scope for reciprocity in this direction exists; but the time appears to have come when something should be done in return for the market which Canada has provided for West Indian sugars and fruits. It is true that nothing like the full advantage of the preferential rate has been obtained by the West Indian planters for their sugar; but this is not the fault of the Canadian Government. Limited consumption, want of power on the part of the refiner to deal with muscovado sugar in any quantity, and, we are afraid, lack of combination on the part of the sellers, have resulted in the price benefit of the preference going in



From an Illustration in The

[Pocket Guide to the West Indies.

A LINK WITH THE PAST,
All that remains of Kyk-over-al. British Guiana.

From a Photograph by Mr. F. V. McCONNELL.

most instances entirely into the hands of the refiners. As consumption increases this condition of affairs will pass away, and we feel that the time has come when the desirability of something being done on the part of the West Indies in return for Canadian preference might with advantage be considered, so that the promising commercial relationship which has sprung up between these two colonies of the Empire may be cemented.

SIR FRANCIS HOPWOOD.

Sir Francis John Stephens Hopwood, who succeeded Sir Montagu Ommamney as Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in January last, is the son of Mr. James T. Hopwood. He was born in 1860, and entered the legal profession as a barrister-at-law of Lincoln's Inn. In 1882 he became a solicitor, and three years later he was appointed Assistant Law Clerk to the Board of Trade. In 1888 he was Assistant Solicitor to the same Department, and in 1892 Private Secretary to the President of the Board of Trade. In the following year he was made Secretary of the Railway Department, and in 1901 Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade, a position which he occupied with unflinching tact and ability until he took up his present appointment. Sir Francis Hopwood founded the hospital and medical service for Canadian and Newfoundland fishermen. He was Hon. Secretary to the Chairman of the House of Commons Committee on the Jameson raid. He has been British delegate to two International Railway Congresses, and he was also a member of the London Traffic and Transvaal Constitution Commissions. Sir Francis Hopwood is Registrar of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

KYK-OVER-AL, BRITISH GUIANA.

Columbus, after sighting Trinidad in 1498, on his third voyage, passed the mouth of the Orinoco. In the following year Americo Vespucci coasted along Guiana, and in 1500, Pinzon, after discovering the Amazon, passed along the whole coast of Guiana to the Orinoco. Owing, however, to the hostility of the cannibals the Spanish did not settle in the country, and it was left to other Europeans, who managed to make friends with the savages, to do so. In 1595, Sir Walter Raleigh visited Guiana in search of the El Dorado, the mythical city of gold, and after the publication of his "Discoverie of Guiana," English, French, and Dutch traders often visited the coast. One of the earliest known settlements, in what is now British Guiana, was made by the Dutch on a small island at the confluence of the Cuyuni and Massaruni rivers. In or about the year 1620 they built a fort there, and called it, from its commanding position, Kyk-over-al, or "Look over all." This settlement has long since been abandoned, and the only trace of it which now remains is the ruined gateway which is depicted on another page. The photograph, from which the picture is reproduced, was taken by Mr. Fred V. McConnell, who knows as much, if not more, about the interior of British Guiana than any one else in this country, and it forms one of the illustrations in the recently published "Pocket Guide to the West Indies." To tourists, such relics of a bygone age as this gateway have a deep interest, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that such a historic monument of the early days of the country, now British Guiana, will be carefully preserved from the ravages of tropical vegetation.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, July 25th, Mr. R. Rutherford presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
Rev. HERBERT DALTON, D.D. (Barbados).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	J. W. D. Thorp.
W. ROBERTSON (Trinidad).	Adam Smith.	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.
Major ERNEST CHOWN, R.M.L.I.	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	R. Rutherford.
Lieut.-Col. A. B. R. KAYE (Barbados).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	W. P. B. Shephard.

The new List of Members of the West India Committee has now been published. It contains upwards of 1,160 names, a number which still falls far short of that which it is hoped to attain. In this connection it may be mentioned that forms of application for membership may be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

SUGAR IN FORMOSA.

The sugar industry of Formosa is being largely developed, mainly by the Japanese, and the bulk of the sugar exported in 1906, amounting to 1,283,793 cwts., went to Japan. Mr. W. M. Sandison, of a firm of British sugar engineers, who has recently visited the island, in giving his impressions of the larger raw sugar factories now working, which are, however, much smaller in size than the average sugar

factories in Cuba, Java and Hawaii, states that too much money has been expended on elaborate buildings (brick and woodwork), and too little on machinery or on means for bringing the cane quickly to the factory and feeding the mills rapidly. The cane contains a large percentage of fibre, 14 per cent. on the average, which ensures steam raising on an economical basis if good megass furnaces are introduced. The mills as a rule seem to have given dissatisfaction by not quite coming up to their rated capacities, which is attributable to the hard quality of the cane. It would seem that with such a large percentage of fibre a better extraction of the sucrose would be attained by the adoption of the "maceration" process so much in vogue in modern sugar factories; one, if not more, of the larger schemes now under consideration will carry out this practice on the "sprinkling" but not on the "bath" method, although the tendency would seem to be towards the adoption of so-called 11-roller mills, viz., really 3-roller mills on one bed-plate plus a 2-roller preliminary breaker or crusher without macerator. None of the mills, so far, have been fitted with this preliminary crushing arrangement, though certain of the existing mills are 5-roller, in which two of the rolls to a certain extent effect preliminary breaking up of the cane but not to the same extent as the specially fluted rolls now so much employed in Cuba and elsewhere. The foregoing Formosan mills carry out double or triple crushing, more or less efficiently; preliminary crushing and maceration would probably bring them on an equally efficient basis with the better class mills in other parts of the world. Some modern green megass furnaces are in operation with forced draught, and the steam boilers employed are of various types—tubular, double, elephant—but the water tube type will make its advent next season; vertical double and triple effect evaporators are in use, also vacuum pans, usually of the ordinary coil class, but also of the calandria or straight tube type. One or more of the coming new factories will be equipped with pressure clarification apparatus and that of the Toyo company will have automatic time weighing appliances and fixed filtration of the juice through cloud sand filters after subsidation. The centrifugal sugar curing machines in most instances are of the belt driven type, but the water driven kind are also used, whilst electrically driven machines have not hitherto been adopted there. Drying of the sugar after centrifugalising is usually carried out.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND THE EMPIRE.

The West India Committee continue to receive representations from Chambers of Commerce and kindred associations in favour of the continuance of the Sugar Convention.

Cairns, North Queensland.—The following letter from the Chamber of Commerce was received on July 29th:—

SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of my Chamber, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Feb. 14th, 1907, in reference to the threatened denouncement before Sept. 1st of the current year, of the Sugar Bounty Convention. My Chamber has great pleasure in acceding to your request, and a letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reference thereto, as per enclosed copy.

My Chamber though heartily supporting your stand in this matter, yet feels that the threat will not be put into execution. Surely some of the more reasonable members of the present Liberal Government—who opposed the Convention in the first instance, and who, probably, through economic ignorance, failed, immediately after the Convention, to appreciate the true cause of the rise in price of sugar in England at that time, must now realise the weakness of their position and arguments, and will be loth to revive the controversy.

Moreover, it seems almost certain that France will be disinclined for a repetition of what occurred prior to the Convention, and it has been abundantly shown, even in Germany, where opposition was originally very strong, more good than harm appears to have resulted to the growers of beet and the fabricants, while the public in that country have undoubtedly been the gainers.

Under such circumstances it seems to my Chamber that there is much reason to believe the British Government will leave matters as they now stand. In any case my Chamber assures you of its sympathy in combating any proposal that might tend to bring about the return of a vicious system which Protectionists and true Free Traders alike should not countenance, and which cannot possibly be of real and lasting benefit to the sugar consumer of the United Kingdom, as has been clearly set forth by many capable men in your country, and backed by undeniable facts.

North Queensland, June 14th, 1907.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) P. H. M. CRANE, Secretary.

In the letter to the Secretary of State, which it is hoped will be published, the Secretary writes that his Chamber feels that in Free-Trade England—if free-trade is true to name—British fair play should at least give the British sugar-maker and refiner equality of opportunity with the foreigner in the markets of the United Kingdom.

Glasgow.—The West India Association have addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In this letter, which is signed by Mr. H. Crum-Ewing and Mr. J. R. Greig, and dated July 9th, they say:—

Having been brought closely in touch with the whole question in 1897, we know you to be fully aware that, in the event of the re-establishment of the Bounty System, the Sugar Industry, and with it the West Indian colonies generally, will undoubtedly relapse into that critical and almost hopeless condition out of which they have been gradually emerging during the past few years.

We would venture to point out that circumstances have entirely changed since you, Sir, and Sir David

Barbour were unable to agree with Sir Henry Norman's recommendations in the Report of the Royal Commission for the following five reasons, namely:—

1. The loss to the British consumer that would arise from any rise in the price of sugar.
2. The inconvenience to trade that would be caused by the imposition of countervailing duties.
3. The uncertainty whether any such measure would permanently save the industry in the West Indies.
4. The inexpediency of raising questions connected with the interpretation of the most favoured-nation clause, which might have the effect of weakening its force.

We believe you will agree with us in thinking that now the Bounties have been abolished without the inconvenience of countervailing duties, or any trouble arising in regard to the most favoured-nation clause, and the benefits derived by the West Indies are apparent, these reasons no longer exist.

Further, we would mention, on behalf of the sugar machinery engineers of Glasgow and the West of Scotland, all of whom are members of this Association, that since 1903 they have had a very large increase of business with a proportionate increase in employment of labour, but that already in fear of the denunciation of the Convention, projected schemes for new, and improvements to old factories are hanging fire; while those proprietors who have lately erected new machinery and otherwise expended capital in the sugar industry are regretting their action.

To you, Sir, who know what this question means to almost every man, woman, and child in the West Indian colonies, and who studied their grievances on the spot, and sympathised with their distress, we feel we need offer no apology for thus addressing you at such length.

COTTON IN JAMAICA.

In 1904, says Mr. Barclay in the *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, serious attention began to be paid to cotton growing in Jamaica. The Government then received a grant of £100 from the British Cotton Growing Association, and the Association also sent out Egyptian and Sea Island cotton seed. Later they sent out as gifts one steam gin and four hand gins. Five pound grants were made for experimental areas grown in different parts of the island in districts where an additional main crop would be of advantage. Several planters also put in larger cultivations. These cultivations were all very successful, and were so encouraging that in 1905 larger acreages were put in. In 1904 there had not been the slightest sign of any pests, but in the larger cultivations of 1905 the cotton worm put in an appearance. Before stocks of Paris green could be procured the pest had such a hold that it became a very expensive matter to fight it, and, in fact, some of the cultivations had to be abandoned. If insecticides had been provided and there had been time to experiment with these before the pest got beyond control, and to find which best suited the conditions, which probably was not Paris green but rather arsenate of lead, it would have been possible to combat the pest on its first appearance on a large scale and get it under. But the fine results of the 1905 crops had made planters too sanguine. Last year only a few planters cultivated cotton, and there was not the slightest sign of an insect pest. For years back it has been remarked that there are caterpillar years when these pests not only have attacked cassava and other crops, but sometimes have been in such quantities as to go on even to guinea grass. But nobody does anything to check them; they disappear, and nothing is seen of them again for several years. These have not been observed so closely as to enable regular cycles to be named, whether it is for four or five or six years, but it is put at five. But the prospective cotton grower should, like the grower of every other crop, be careful and cautious, forewarned and forearmed. He should provide himself with the materials to combat pests whenever they appear. "The growing of Sea Island cotton," says Mr. Barclay, "has provided us with a fine crop for districts subject to drought. We have level lands with rich soils, districts dry enough for the cotton picking season, and—in spite of people who shake their heads and talk of the want of labour—plenty of labour for cotton picking. But it will want organisation."

RUBBER AND CAMPHOR IN MALAYA.

According to the report of the Director of Agriculture for the Federated Malay States for 1906, that year was a prosperous and in some directions an exceptionally progressive year for agriculture in those States. With regard to rubber, the report states that whereas in December 1905, the total acreage of rubber planted in the Malay Peninsula was probably less than 50,000 acres; in December 1906, it was 99,230, so that during the year the acreage was practically doubled. The number of trees, which was probably under 7,000,000 in 1905, is now 12,980,756. The output of dry rubber, which was about 150 tons in 1905, increased in 1906 to 412 tons. The following table gives statistics relating to rubber in Malay up to December 31st, 1906:—

	Federated Malay States.	Straits Settlements.	Johore.	Total.
Number of estates ...	242	5	7	254
Total acreage ...	85,579	11,341	2,310	99,230
Opened during 1906 ...	42,154	4,098	1,355	47,607
Number of trees planted up to Dec. 31st, 1906 ...	10,745,002	1,987,954	147,800	12,980,756
Number of trees tapped ...	441,488	27,076	48,350	516,914
Dry rubber extracted ...	861,732	13,560	47,724	923,016

The report also states that experiments have been made with the propagation of camphor by means of cuttings. The first trial of some thousands of these was not successful owing to lack of supervision, but more have been struck, and it is hoped to be able to produce a stock of young plants. While not recommending that the cultivation of camphor should be taken up over large areas, the report points out that the price of camphor is exceedingly high, and the prospects of high profits are excellent. The growth of the trees at the experiment station is most encouraging, and compares very favourably with trees of the same age in Ceylon, even at higher elevations, which are supposed to be more suitable for camphor cultivation. Some 300 trees at the experimental plantations at Batu Tiga, growing only a few feet above sea level, have in two years attained a height of from 12 to 14 feet.

THE RAMIE INDUSTRY.

The *Statesman* of Calcutta publishes a letter concerning ramie fibre, giving figures in connection with ramie cultivation which will be of interest to those of our West Indian planters who contemplate cultivating this valuable product. The figures given are for 3,000 acres in India, they include cost of hand-stripping, and are based on the price of fibre in London being £15 per ton. The estimate is calculated on the out-turn for five years.

Plantation started with Roots.

Years.	Area planted up each year.	Outlay each year.	Out-turn. Rates per acre per annum.	Out-turn. Total probable tons per annum.	Value at £15 per ton.
		£	Tons.	Tons.	£
First	200	3,159	1	130	1,950
Second	200	4,819	1	330	4,950
Third	400	7,207	1	666	9,900
Fourth	1,000	13,867	1	1,406	21,990
Fifth	1,200	24,620	1	2,600	39,000
Sixth	Conservation ...of 1,000 acres	26,448	1	3,000	45,000
	Total ...	80,120			
	Net profits...	42,760			
	Grand total .	£122,880			£122,880

The writer of the letter, Mr. A. M. Hart, states that there is a good deal of misapprehension on the subject of freeing the fibre of its outer brown cuticle, and the general opinion is that this must be done by machinery, and that until satisfactory and inexpensive decorticating machines are put on the market, it is useless to push the cultivation of ramie. This, he says, is a mistake. The fibre is better stripped and decorticated by hand than it can be by machinery. Moreover, for a good many processes for which ramie fibre is coming into use, it is not necessary to decorticate the fibre at all, and brown ramie ribbons can be used. We much fear, however, that the labour question will be an insuperable obstacle to the establishment of the industry, generally speaking, in the West Indies, until the machine decortication question has been solved.

RUBBER TAPPING.

In the *Tropical Agriculturalist* for June Mr. Ivor Etherington summarises the report of the experiments in tapping rubber, carried on at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. In one instance groups of 40 trees were tapped, on mornings only, by single and full herring-bone methods, during twenty-five days. In two groups of single cuts, 1,216 and 1,823 fluid ounces of latex were obtained; in the full herring-bones, 1,703, 2,816 and 3,385 oz. latex were obtained, giving a total for the five groups of 154 lbs. dry rubber. The trees averaged 37 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. and 38 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in girth. There was a period of rest of four months given the trees, and the average gross yield per tree was 2 lb. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. In herring-bone tapping, daily tapping showed a better result than on alternate days. The result of a year's working clearly showed that morning was better than evening tapping, that trees can be tapped twice within the period of a year, but that the interval of rest should not be less than five months. No advantage in respect of yield was given by the spiral over the herring-bone tapping, and considering the small advantage of the double over the single incisions the experimenters came to the conclusion that the single cut with small trees would best economise the bark. The conclusion is arrived at that the Para rubber tree responds to shock, and that the tapping instrument capable of making the cleanest and quickest incision is the ideal one. One important result of the experiment is that concerning the production of caoutchouc in proportion to the yield of latex. The latex in the bark is quickly renewed after a period of tapping, but the production of rubber is much slower. In a trial of spiral tapping on a tree girthing 112 in., from the first period of tapping, 531 fluid ounces of latex (half added water, or 265 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. pure latex) was obtained, giving 9 lb. rubber; from the second period of tapping, one month later, 433 ozs.

of latex gave only 4 lb. 15 oz. of rubber—a remarkable difference. Mr. Ridley, who is in charge of the experiments, states that it is of the greatest importance to the cultivator to avoid tapping at the wrong season, when one is liable to interfere with the special physiological processes in the trees then performing their functions. The bark of the tree does not recover as well from wounds during the resting period as between December and March, nor does it appear that the return of caoutchouc is as good. Too frequent or prolonged tapping is not only injurious, but it produces a latex very inferior in its rubber-producing qualities, and this can only be due to actual bark injury. Brazil rubber-trees are only tapped at one period of the year. The longer period of rest may well represent well-matured or well oxidised caoutchouc, and partly explain the preference for Brazilian rubber.

THE BRAZILIAN COFFEE CONVENTION.

The past twelve months, says the *South American Journal*, have been a decidedly interesting as well as critical period for the coffee industry of Brazil, and, on looking backwards, it can now easily be seen that whatever faults there were in the Government valorisation scheme, it was only some such measure that could have saved the coffee growers from a very serious crisis. The crop has turned out to be so large—larger even than was anticipated—that had it not been for the protection afforded by this measure it is clear that the price of coffee would have been down to a ruinous level. Coffee is, and always has been, the main product of Brazil, and the country's prosperity has been and is greatly bound up with the fortunes of that commodity. It is a crop which gives the market continual surprises, for its eventual dimensions are difficult to estimate in anticipation. In 1905-6 the crop gave 10¼ million of bags, and, when it was seen that a much larger one would result for 1906-7, the planters urged on the State Governments the necessity of doing something for their protection. Then it was that the authorities inaugurated their policy of what is known as the valorisation of coffee; that is, they have become buyers and holders of coffee in order to maintain the price at a certain level. A tax of 2s. 6d. per bag has been put on the export of coffee from Brazil in order to pay the interests on loans and charges for carrying the coffee, which loans amount, it is said, to some £5,000,000 sterling. The scheme came into existence on the assumption that the crop would be from 12 to 13 millions of bags, and that, if two millions were bought, it would have the desired effect of keeping the price up, but as the crop was 19¼ millions, an excess over any previous year of more than four million bags, eight million bags are said to have been purchased instead of the two originally intended, representing a value of 15 millions sterling. For the moment, therefore, the position of coffee has been saved, but the question now arising concerns the future, which must all depend on the size of the next two crops. In this connection it may be recalled that, after the previous heavy crop of 1901-2, the trees were weakened and the soil impoverished to such an extent that four small crops followed before full vigour was restored. This is the view of those who support valorisation, and it is true that from 16,276,460 bags in 1901-2 the crop dropped to 12,993,560 bags in the following season, and to 10,597,000 bags two years later. If this experience is repeated, all will be well, but otherwise a serious position might easily ensue. In the meantime a new loan is on the point of being brought out, and is meeting with considerable criticism in advance.

THE INTERCOLONIAL MAIL SERVICE.

The West India Committee has received from Lord Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch which has been sent to the Acting-Governor of Barbados, and *mutatis mutandis* to the Governors of British Guiana and the Windward and Leeward Islands, by last mail, forwarding a copy of the draft contract for the West Indian Intercolonial Mail Service, which is being recommended for acceptance by the Colonies concerned. In the case of Barbados it was necessary to communicate the purport of the new contract by telegraph, owing to the fact that the House of Assembly of that colony would expire on July 30th. Lord Elgin's despatch reads as follows:—

Downing Street, July 23rd, 1907.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, with reference to previous correspondence, the accompanying draft of the proposed new contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the West Indian intercolonial mail service, which it is proposed shall run from the beginning of September next. The contract provides for the establishment for a period of ten years of a regular fortnightly service between Barbados, British Guiana, the Windward and Leeward Islands, provisional particulars of which are set out in the schedules to the draft contract.

2. The service is to be performed by two new steamers to be built by the Company at an approximate cost of £100,000 and these steamers will be fitted with all modern improvements. The subsidy to be paid for the service will be £25,000 a year.

3. The agreement embodied in the contract is the result of the most exhaustive consideration and of long negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, with the details of which I do not propose to trouble you; and though I recognise that, in view of the reduction of the subsidy to £25,000, it would be unreasonable to hope that the new service will prove as satisfactory as that which came to an end in 1905, I consider that the facilities afforded by the new service to the colonies collectively should prove as great as can reasonably be expected.

4. You will see that the contractors are prepared to undertake to use their best endeavours in order to secure that the intercolonial steamers shall always connect with any transatlantic packet service which may be maintained by the Imperial Post Office, and that they definitely guarantee this connection not less than four times out of five. In this connection I have to inform you that a contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on the lines which were indicated in my despatch No. 21 of February 12th last, and in which you have concurred, has recently been signed. It has not been deemed possible to press the Company to guarantee a connection with the transatlantic service in every case, as, in order to do so, it would be necessary for them to place three instead of two new steamers upon the service, and to this they would not agree except in return for a higher subsidy than it is possible for His Majesty's Government to approve.

5. The subsidy of £25,000 will be paid as to one half by the Imperial Government and as to one half by the colonies of Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward and Windward Islands. His Majesty's Government are not prepared to contribute a greater amount than £12,500 a year towards the cost of this service, though indirectly, through grants-in-aid, the Imperial contribution may be somewhat larger, and as an annual contribution of £12,500 a year is as much as the colonies in question can afford, I can see no method of raising the additional funds which would be required in order to obtain a better service than the Company are able to provide in return for the present subsidy. I am convinced that the colonies of Trinidad and Jamaica are too remotely interested in the new service to allow of my asking them to contribute towards its cost.

6. I am of opinion that the half of the subsidy payable by the colonies should be apportioned as follows, viz. :—

Antigua	£ 800	St. Kitts-Nevis	£ 450
Barbados	3,500	St. Lucia	900
British Guiana	5,000	St. Vincent	400
Dominica	400		
Grenada	900	Total	£12,500
Montserrat	150		

7. This apportionment appears to me as equitable and reasonable a one as can be devised, and I do not consider it possible to reduce the contribution payable by Barbados below £3,500 a year. I am of opinion that the new contract will provide the colonies concerned with a reasonably satisfactory mail service, having regard to the amount of the subsidy payable and to the other circumstances of the case, and I do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by inviting a full expression of your views by despatch, especially as it is most desirable that the new arrangement should come into force as soon as possible. In view of the fact that the House of Assembly will expire on the 30th inst., I have found it necessary to communicate to you the purport of the proposed new agreement in my telegram of the 23rd inst., and have asked that the proposals should be communicated to the House of Assembly and the necessary vote invited. I earnestly trust that the House of Assembly will agree to the vote, as I consider it essential to the interests of the colonies concerned that the new service should be established, and I can hold out no hope that it will be found possible to reduce the proportion of the subsidy which Barbados is asked to contribute. In this connection I have to point out that the terms of the contract contemplate that the port of transhipment should be either at Barbados or at Trinidad. For the present it is proposed that Barbados should continue to be the port of transhipment, and it would be more convenient that this arrangement should be maintained. If, however, the legislature of the colony refuses to vote their share of the subsidy it will become necessary to consider in what manner the funds requisite for the maintenance of the service can be provided. The money required could doubtless be obtained if it were decided to transfer the port of transhipment to Trinidad—as I have reason to believe that in that case the amount in question would readily be voted by that colony. I trust that before this despatch is in your hands I shall have received a telegram from you informing me that the necessary vote has been passed: but if on receipt of this despatch you desire to put before me any further points which may appear to you of vital importance, and which you would wish embodied in the contract, you should do so by telegram. I cannot, however, give any assurance that it will be possible to comply with your wishes.

8. It is my earnest desire that the new contract may be brought into force on or about the 1st of September next.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) ELGIN.

The Barbados House of Assembly agreed to contribute £3,500 towards the subsidy, subject to a guarantee being inserted in the contract to the effect that she should remain headquarters of the company and port of transhipment for the whole of the ten years. To this it has been found impossible to agree. It has, however, been pointed out that Barbados will only be expected to pay the £3,500 per annum for so long as she remains port of transhipment, and furthermore that in the event of the subsidy being forthcoming, no change in the headquarters or port of transhipment is likely to be made.

Proposed Time Tables of Intercolonial Service.

DEMERARA BRANCH ROUTE.—FORTNIGHTLY.							
	Arrive.		Depart.		Arrive.		Depart.
Barbados ...	—	...	Tuesday, 3 p.m.	St. Vincent...	Monday, 8 p.m.	...	Monday, 10 p.m.
Demerara ...	Thursday, 6 a.m.	...	Saturday, 6 p.m.	Barbados ...	Tuesday, 8 a.m.	...	—
Grenada ...	Monday, 10 a.m.	...	Monday, noon.				
NORTHERN ISLANDS ROUTE.—FORTNIGHTLY.							
	Arrive.		Depart.		Arrive.		Depart.
Barbados ...	—	...	Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Nevis ...	10 p.m.	...	M'night
Grenada ...	Wed'day, 11 a.m.	...	Wed'day, 1 p.m.	St. Kitts ...	Saturday, 5 a.m.	...	Saturday, 7 a.m.
St. Vincent...	9 p.m.	...	M'night	Antigua ...	1 p.m.	...	4 p.m.
St. Lucia ...	Thursday, 6 a.m.	...	Thursday, 9 a.m.	Montserrat ...	8 p.m.	...	10 p.m.
Dominica ...	5 p.m.	...	9 p.m.	Dominica ...	Sunday, 8 a.m.	...	Sunday, 6 p.m.
Montserrat ...	Friday, 7 a.m.	...	Friday, 9 a.m.	St. Lucia ...	Monday, 6 a.m.	...	Monday, 5 p.m.
Antigua ...	1 p.m.	...	5 p.m.	Barbados ...	Tuesday, 6 a.m.	...	—

NOTE.—Under these tables the outward mails for Grenada and St. Vincent are conveyed by the Northern Islands steamer, scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, and the homeward mails from Grenada and St. Vincent are despatched on

the following Monday by the steamer returning from Demerara. The British Government to have the option of making Trinidad the port of transfer instead of Barbados, in which case the above provisional tables would be re-arranged to give the best service possible under the altered conditions.

LORD LAVINGTON'S TOMB.

Ralph Payne, Lord Lavington, was one of the most popular Governors who ever controlled the destinies of the Leeward Caribee Islands. So greatly did he endear himself to the Antiguans that when his first term of office, which began in 1771, came to an end in 1774, they petitioned King George III. to reappoint him. He returned to Antigua as Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief in 1801, a position which he continued to hold until 1808, when he died in the island, and was buried on his estate which was then called Lavington's but is now known as Carlisle's. Lord Lavington was very hospitable and fond of splendour. The writer of "Antigua and the Antiguans" recounts that he had an immense number of attendants, but he would not allow any of the black servants to wear shoes or stockings, and consequently his ebon footmen used to stand behind his carriage as it rolled along, with their naked legs shining like pillars of jet from the butter with which, in accordance to His Excellency's orders, they daily rubbed them. His Christmas balls and routs were conducted upon the highest scale of magnificence. In spite of the high esteem in which he was held, no inscription now marks his tomb, which is situated in the middle of a field of waving sugar-canes and beneath a sapodilla tree of great antiquity. To the credit of the Hon. J. J. Comacho, the present owner of the estate, be it said, the brickwork surrounding the grave has been decently restored and the spot therefore clearly defined. Is it too much to hope that the Legislative Council of Antigua will see their way to vote a small sum of money to defray the cost of replacing the inscription, the plate on which it was given having been lost; it is said, by theft. In the old cathedral of St. John's—which was destroyed by an earthquake on Sunday, February 8th, 1843, immediately after morning service—there was an elaborate monument



Photo by]

Lord Lavington's Tomb.

[José Anjo.

Though recently restored, this tomb of one of the most popular Governors of the Leeward Islands, which is situated in the middle of a cane-field in Antigua, bears no inscription. It is suggested that the Legislature of the island might vote a small sum of money to enable this omission to be made good.

to Lord Lavington. He was represented in sitting posture, in court dress, with his plumed hat lying at his feet, and two female figures reclining on either side of a small sarcophagus, the one on the left representing Astrea, with her scales by her side, and the other, the genius of the island, mourning the loss of a favourite Governor. On the base of the monument there was a brief biographical description. Our thanks are due to Mr. José Anjo for the photograph from which our illustration is reproduced.

THE KINGSTON MILITIA COMPANY.

The first annual report of the Kingston Company of the Jamaica Militia Rifle Corps is in our hands. The rules and regulations of the company were drawn up and approved of by the Governor in May, 1906, and sixteen members of the Kingston Rifle Club took the oath of allegiance, thus becoming the nucleus of the company, and part and parcel of the organised defence force of the island. The report states that C. S. Sanguinetti and C. F. Dunn were nominated as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant respectively, the nomination being confirmed by the Governor. The annual course of musketry took place during the first three months of the year, forty members earning the corps' capitation grant. All passed with a high average. Rifle Leader Hodge and Rifleman Murray scored 207 and 201 respectively out of a possible 220 points; the former taking the gold cross rifle awarded by the corps—scores of over 190 points having been made by six members. The Inter-colonial Cup presented by Sir J. A. Swettenham, was won by Jamaica with the score of 700; four members of the corps were included in the Island Team. Silver cups were presented to the corps by Sir J. A. Swettenham, Colonel the Hon. C. J. Ward, Mr. Clarence Lopez, Mr. F. N. Martinez, and Mr. Andrew Greenhalgh. The work of the company in assisting the police in their onerous duties following the earthquake was referred to in generous terms by the Governor. The high efficiency of the corps is a subject of congratulation, and we hope to see representatives competing at Bisley in the near future.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

West Indian Defences.

On July 23rd Sir G. Parker asked what proportion of each year the ships which are to cruise on the Atlantic coast and West Indian waters would be allocated to cruising in the West Indies. Mr. Lambert: This question so entirely depends on administrative arrangements connected with the training service that a precise reply is hardly possible, but probably the Fourth Cruiser Squadron will visit the West Indies for the same period, and at about the same time of year, as the former permanent North American and West Indian Squadron.

British commercial agents.

In reply to Mr. Harold Cox, who asked the President of the Board of Trade on July 29th, whether it was part of the duty of British commercial agents in foreign countries to supply information which would assist British manufacturers to compete with foreign manufacturers; and whether it would also be the duty of the commercial agents whom it was proposed to send to the Colonies to assist British manufacturers by similar means to compete with colonial manufacturers. Mr. Lloyd-George said: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With regard to the second part of the question, it is intended that, when commercial agents are appointed in the Colonies, it shall be their duty to do all in their power to supply information which shall be of use to British traders.

Trinidad labourers at Panama.

Mr. Starkey asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies on July 23rd why no provision had been made in the Isthmian Canal labour contract for the repatriation of those Trinidad labourers who do not become destitute while working on the canal; and why no provision was made under the Isthmian Canal labour contract for the Trinidad labourers to be accompanied by their wives and families. Mr. Churchill: There is an undoubted ambiguity in the contract upon the point noted by the hon. member. The form of contract was drawn up, not by the Trinidad Government, but by the Isthmian Canal Commission, whose recruiting agent assured the Trinidad Government that the men would be repatriated at the expiration of their contract. I am informed that it has lately been held that the Courts in the canal zone have no jurisdiction against the Isthmian Canal Commission for breach of contract. This contract, therefore, cannot be enforced. No recruiting has been carried on in Trinidad since November last. In answer to the second question of the hon. member, I am informed that wives and families were not taken because none of the men applied to take them. The majority of the men were not natives of Trinidad, but had come there in search of work from other parts of the West Indies.

Russia and retaliatory duties.

On July 25th Mr. Harold Cox asked the Secretary of State for India if he could give the

figures showing how much Indian tea was imported annually into Russia before the imposition of retaliatory duties upon Indian tea by the Russian Government in consequence of the action of His Majesty's Government with regard to Russian sugar, and how much Indian tea has been annually imported since; whether Indian tea imported into Russia *via* Manchuria was exempted from these retaliatory duties; and how much Indian tea has passed into Russia *via* Manchuria, and how much by other routes. Mr. Morley, in a written reply, said the imports of Indian tea into Russia by all routes before and since the imposition of the surtax in September 1903 have been as follows:—

Calendar Years.

	1902. lbs.	1903. lbs.	1904. lbs.	1905. lbs.	1906. lbs.
Direct from India	4,002,448	3,904,719	8,778,634	10,796,940	12,278,524
Re-exported from the United Kingdom ...	2,886,445	3,079,514	3,567,419	2,877,885	8,249,985
Total	6,888,893	6,984,233	12,346,053	13,674,825	20,528,509

The surtax was applied only to tea imported by the Black Sea or European frontiers. The trade returns do not give the information asked for in the last part of the question.

[It will be remembered that one of the arguments adduced by our opponents against the Sugar Convention was that duties imposed by the Russian Government on Indian tea, in retaliation for the prohibition of Russian sugar, had seriously injured our Indian Empire. We have already shown that the principal Chambers of Commerce in India are in favour of the Sugar Convention, and Mr. Harold Cox has now knocked the bottom out of the argument by eliciting the information that the imports of Indian tea into Russia have increased by more than 200 % since the duties were imposed.—ED.]

Another debate on sugar.

On the report of the vote for the Foreign Office on August 1st, Mr. Bonar Law directed attention to the policy of the Government with respect to the Brussels Sugar Convention. Apparently the introduction of bounty-fed sugar was to be allowed without restriction. Under the Convention sugar using industries had benefited and no burden had been imposed upon consumers; in fact the average price of sugar for the past four years had been lower than the average price for the ten years preceding the Convention. In addition there had been an increase in the quantity of sugar produced in the British Empire, and the West Indies had benefited directly. All these good results would be endangered by the policy of the Government, which had already checked the movement for the development of a beet-sugar industry in this country. The Government, he represented, were disturbing without justification, industries that were getting on very well, and they were doing this merely for the purpose of enabling sections of their supporters to keep rash pledges made at the time of the general election, when the sugar question was the subject of so much misrepresentation. Sir E. Grey in reply said that the motive of the Government in taking the line they were following was to protect our sugar trade, which was placed in a rather precarious position by the Brussels Convention. They did not wish to see our market restricted at the will of Powers whose interests did not coincide economically with our own. The hon. gentleman complained of the instructions given to the British delegates at Brussels, and said that by our action we had done everything possible to upset the Convention. It almost seemed to him as if the hon. gentlemen wished to see it upset, provided it was done by the British Government. He intimated that very serious consequences might follow; that Continental nations, irritated at our having withdrawn from the Convention, would proceed to impose countervailing duties on the sugar products exported from the United Kingdom. He supposed that in such a contingency the hon. gentlemen saw some provisional argument in support of his own theories of fiscal policy. But, before any such thing as that took place, he must wait until the Convention was actually broken up; and that had not taken place, nor did he know, as far as one could gather from the meetings of the last Sugar Commission, that there was a probability that the Convention would be broken up.

NATURE NOTES.

JAMAICA BANANAS.—The Mercantile News Bureau has issued a circular calling attention to the value of the banana as an article of diet, and stress is laid on the fact that a banana can hardly be too ripe. "Ninety-nine persons in a hundred," it says, "would reject a banana when at its best, as having passed the stage of ripeness." The circular is accompanied by an illustrated leaflet, in which a variety of scenes in connection with the Jamaica banana industry are depicted. Various recipes are also given for dishes into which bananas may enter with advantage.

BRITISH BEES.—The trade papers of the United Kingdom, according to the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*, are voicing the grievance of apiarists who complain that the best colonial honey is being put up and labelled "British honey," and they say that colonials claim that it is British honey. "In one

sense, it is," says our contemporary, "but in the trade sense it is not. All we can say about Jamaica honey is that it never leaves here labelled so. Not that we would not be proud of the term British, but we are content with the designation Jamaica honey. Our honey is one product we can be somewhat proud of, for not only do we stand high in quantity, but we are first on the list of British colonies for quality."

CACAO CULTIVATION.—At a meeting of the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society on May 1st, the Agricultural Superintendent, Mr. R. D. Anstead, delivered an address on the "Effect of Forking and Pruning on Cacao," in which he expressed himself an advocate of deep and thorough forking periodically of the whole fields, within two feet of each tree, so as not to disturb the big roots; with, at the same time, a dressing of pen-manure completely covered down; in fact, of manuring the land and not the trees. Usual directions were also given as to pruning, more trees being said to be lost on a cacao estate by bad pruning than any other cause, and the use of cement in the proportion of one of cement to two of sand was recommended for filling up holes in the trees.

AUGUST.—Having cleaned all your Provisions and supplied and cut the last Piece of Guinea-Corn you intend for Seed, and moulded up the Stumps, as none are to be cut after July, left the Worm take it, your chief Employ is to keep to your Holeing; some Planters do begin to plant Canes in this Month, but those early planted Canes seldom make a good white Sugar, nor is it common to have a kind Spring from their Stumps when cut to supply you with Plants, if you reserve them for that Purpose. You may have 30 Acres of Land in Pigeon Pease and Benairs, as they agree well together in the same Piece. 100 Acres in Guinea Corn, 50 Acres in Potatoes, planted at different Times to be dug regular before they Spoil, 10 Acres in Yams, 15 Acres in Eddoes, 5 Acres of Cafavy, and the 20 Acres of Plantain Walk to maintain the White and Black Families of this Plantation, which it will do with very little or no Expence from another Market.—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting, By William Belgrave, a regular bred, and long experienc'd Planter, of the Island of Barbados, 1755.*

THE B 208 CANE.—The *Agricultural News*, the official organ of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, dated June 26th, taxes us with making "a somewhat similar statement" to one which appeared in the *International Sugar Journal* with regard to the origin of the B 208 cane. As a matter of fact, our paragraph was merely an extract from a note on the subject which appeared in the *Journal*. We have refrained from commenting upon the question at issue, believing that that act of courtesy is due to the *Sugar Journal* pending the receipt of a further expression of opinion from their correspondent who was responsible for the statement. We cannot help saying now, however, that it seems to us that too much has been made of this matter of the B 208. If it is a good cane—and it certainly seems to be that—it will surely be just as sweet by any other name, and we are sorry that the occasion should have been taken in some quarters as the opportunity for an attack of a personal nature, when a few words of explanation might have prevented irritation. Incidentally we may add with regard to the statement of the Commissioner of Agriculture that the White Tanna cane is hardly known outside Mauritius, that we were under the impression that this cane was identical with the Yellow Caledonia of Hawaii and the Malabar of Fiji.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Brazil and Guiana.

Mr. Vice-Consul Fletcher reports that a railway is projected from the town of Manáos to the British Guiana frontier, the concession for which will be offered to the public.

Texas Cotton.

Raw cotton is the chief article exported from Texas, and Galveston is now undoubtedly the most important port in the world in this respect. During the first six months of the present cotton season, *i.e.*, from September 1st, 1906, to March 1st, 1907, out of 6,361,897 bales exported from the United States, Galveston contributed 2,647,663; New Orleans coming next with 1,516,274 bales. Doubtless the total exports from Galveston of the cotton year will go beyond 3,000,000 bales, worth, perhaps, £35,000,000. It is stated that the territory contiguous to Galveston is by no means fully developed. Two years ago this territory was gone over by a committee of Manchester spinners, and their estimate was that scarcely more than half the cotton area was in cultivation, and that by scientific cultivation the production per acre could be doubled. Indian territory and Oklahoma have been filling up since then and Texas also, and yet there is room to double the capacity of the cotton region dependent upon Galveston.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Magdalena*, which left Barbados at 8 a.m. on July 10th, arrived at Southampton at 7 a.m. on Monday, July 22nd. Among a large number of passengers were the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, C.M.G., Sir Henry and Lady Bovell, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. Berkeley, Mr. P. J. Dean,

Mr. Gay C. Edghill, Colonel and Mrs. Lushington, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kerr, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mr. and Mrs. V. Gale, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. E. C. Mangot, Hon. W. S. Robertson, Mr. G. A. Yearwood, Hon. Carl de Verteuil, Mr. D. M. Simpson, and Mr. W. F. Sellers. The Imperial Direct Line's R.M.S. *Port Henderson*, arrived at Avonmouth on July 31st. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua and the Convention.

The Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on July 6th, that at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the previous day a resolution was passed regarding the Government's action with regard to the penal clause of the Convention. A memorandum had been drawn up stating in what manner and to what extent the Brussels Convention had been responsible for the recent revival of prosperity in these sugar producing islands. The good work of Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Gerald Strickland and Dr. Watt was only now beginning to tell on the finances of the island, and there was every prospect of the revenue and expenditure of Antigua meeting in the near future. It was equally probable that but for the Convention they would have continued to sink until not even a cotton grower would have dared to invest his capital in so derelict a place. The weather had been seasonable, and the young cane crop generally looked promising. Some estates had finished reaping, but the difficulty of getting canes cut and the general disparity between the supply of estate labour and the demand for it, had kept back most estates a good deal, and it would be August before crop was finished all round. Cotton land was being prepared all over the island, but one could not form much idea as to probable acreage so far. A gentleman in touch with many of the planting body did not think the total acreage would greatly exceed that planted last year, and this might quite possibly be the case, with a rather late reaping season for canes and a very uncertain supply of labour. Dr. Watts read at the meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 5th, a most interesting paper on the comparison of mill work on the basis of mill juice retained in the megass per 100 of fibre in the megass, and the interesting fact was shown that the canes at Gunthorpe's this crop had contained an average of about 15 per cent. fibre and $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of sucrose. Mill juice retained per 100 fibre in megass varied from about 80 in the case of double crushing and maceration, to 130 with good single crushing, and to 170 and over in the generality of mills on muscovado estates.

Motor-'buses in Barbados.

Writing on July 6th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that welcome rain fell at last on June 26th, and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. was distributed all over the island. Unfortunately it was the first day of the races, and the course was turned into a marsh in consequence. In the country the land was so thirsty that not a trace of the rain remained next day, and even the cracks were not filled up. The total rainfall for June was only about half what it was last year. Since then there had been some light showers, but the high winds still prevailed, and they would gladly see another downpour. The young crop had very much improved, and the opportunity had been seized to plant cotton, Indian corn, imphee and other provisions. Everyone in Barbados received with pleasure the news that the King had conferred on the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Hon. F. J. Clarke, the honour of the C.M.G. Dr. Chandler and his family proceeded to England by the mail. Numerous visitors came to the island for the races, but all those arriving *via* Trinidad had to submit to inspection. There were also polo matches, a gymkhana, and a subscription ball at the Life Assurance Rooms. The motor omnibus between Speightstown and Bridgetown had proved such a success that another one had been ordered, and there was little doubt that in a very short time others would be running to different parts of the island. The horses were quickly becoming used to the sight of motors. H.M.S. *Indefatigable* was leaving in a few days for Bermuda to be docked for repairs. Thus they would only have the *Scylla* in those waters, with twenty-five marines.

The British Guiana rubber case.

In a letter dated July 5th, Mr. J. C. McCowan stated that decision had been given by the full Court in the case of the British Guiana Rubber Corporation against the Governor and Commissioner of Lands and Mines, in favour of the defendants, the action being dismissed with costs. The full text of the judgment was given in the newspapers. It was stated that the investigations of Colonel Kuper and Mr. Foot in the matter of collecting and cultivating rubber in the district through which they went, had not led to encouraging results. Colonel Lushington, R.A., had retired from the command of the local police force, and left for England by the mail. Nothing was doing in the sugar market at the moment, and the price of crystals was quoted at \$2.30 to \$2.27 $\frac{1}{2}$. Estates had now closed down. Heavy showers were reported almost daily from the different districts, and on the whole the weather during the fortnight had been too wet. In their fortnightly report Messrs. Wieting & Richter say: The year 1907 still maintains its reputation as the wettest on record. The rainfall during the first six months of the year has been phenomenal and has averaged about 90 ins., rather more than a

full average year's rainfall. Pln. Marionville, Wakenaam, with a record of 123 ins. for the six months easily heads the list, as far as the sugar estates are concerned. The back dam rain gauge on Pln. Cornelia Ida recorded 110 ins., and the average rainfall on the West Coast of Demerara shows 95 ins. The gauge at the Boerasirie Stop-Off recorded 152 ins. for the half year; the highest previous record during a corresponding period since the gauge was erected in 1886 was 117 ins. in 1890. The weather still continues dull and unsettled, and it is by no means certain that the rainy season, which has lasted since the beginning of December last year, is nearing an end. Rain fell on 26 days during June, and the soil was kept in a cold, sodden condition unfavourable to growth of canes. Under ordinary conditions a strong vigorous growth prevails at this period of the year, but owing to adverse weather experienced, there is little appearance of this vigorous growth at present. Some of the more advanced canes have a stunted ripe appearance, and the majority of the December canes are very backward, and have most of their growing to do yet, whilst the time available for growth is now very limited. The results obtained from the mid-year reaping have been satisfactory and generally speaking yield of sugar has been considerably in advance of quantity estimated. On the large majority of estates it is calculated that the yield of sugar during the long reaping season, September to December inclusive, will be from one quarter to one half ton sugar per acre short of quantity originally estimated. The yield of sugar obtained from the D 625 seedling has been one of the marked features of the mid-year grinding. This seedling has given a heavy weight of canes per acre and a fine yield of sugar, although juice has been of poor quality. Returns so far to hand show a yield of from two to three tons sugar per acre. The D 109 has not done so well on the average, although it has given some heavy yields, and it runs the D 145 very hard for second place. B 208 takes fourth place, as shown by the statistics at the disposal of the writer. It has given excellent juice, but grown on heavy soils, a light weight of canes. One great advantage of D 625 is that it grows well in heavy soils, which very few of the seedlings will do. Never at any time during the past thirty years has labour been so difficult to obtain. Rates of wages have been steadily advancing, but notwithstanding every inducement offered to labourers, work on the sugar estates is constantly in arrear. Factories have only worked four to five days per week, and replanting, supplying and tillage work generally has been delayed, and in some cases it has had to be left undone.

Dominica's revenue.

The revenue and expenditure returns for the last financial year had now been published. In his letter dated July 6th, Mr. E. A. Agar stated that the revenue amounted to £34,148 19s. 1½d., an increase of £1,649 17s. over that of the preceding year, while the expenditure amounted to £31,054 10s. 2d., as against £35,524 7s. 9½d. in 1905-6. A surplus to revenue showed prosperity, but with conditions as they were in the island, it would appear that to invest that surplus in public works would prove more remunerative than to place it in the Crown Agents' hands—and it was understood that the latter was the policy of the present Government—at any rate to a large extent. Good rains had fallen at the beginning of the past fortnight, doing the country an enormous amount of good; the lime trees in most districts were again in full flower, in spite of the present crop having hardly begun to ripen. Latterly it had been fine.

News from Jamaica.

The first meeting of the Assistance Committee took place on the July 9th. His Excellency the Governor being in the chair. The Archbishop of the West Indies was appointed vice-chairman, and it was decided to invite the Mayor of Kingston to sit on the Board. Mr. Fursdon was appointed Secretary at a salary of £350 per annum, and Mr. R. L. Wood, Chief Clerk and Accountant at a salary of £250 per annum. Offices were secured at the corner of East Street and Charles Street. Professor d'Albuquerque, of Barbados, had reported the results of the Examination for the Diploma of Agriculture in Jamaica. The five candidates, Messrs. L. L. Carrington, C. S. Lindo, S. Dailey, P. L. Irving and T. A. Dixon, all passed satisfactorily. Col. Dalrymple-Hay, D.S.O., will be giving up the command of the 2nd Battalion West India Regiment next month, when he will leave for England. Col. L. S. Blackden will assume the command. The decision of the Legislative Council to extend the railway along Port Royal Street, if certain arrangements can be made was still being warmly discussed among the merchants and other business men in Kingston, and the whole question was to be threshed out at a meeting at the Merchants Exchange on the 19th.

Drought in Montserrat.

The weather was giving much anxiety when the Hon. Fred Driver wrote on June 28th. There had been a serious drought, much more serious than it looked by rainfall returns, because the rain had all fallen in light showers, which had done little good, and which had soon been dried up by the high winds that had prevailed for the past month or so. For the past week they had had a half gale of wind. On the night of the 26th there was a good rain (averaging .70 inch) which had brightened

things up a bit and started many people planting cotton. Everybody was anxious to begin planting, because experience had proved that early planting was best in Montserrat. The Governor was in the island on a visit, having arrived in the s.s. *Orinoco* on June 26th.

Nevis and the Sugar Question.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society a strongly worded protest was passed unanimously against the action of the Imperial Government with regard to the Brussels Convention, and a copy had been forwarded for transmission to the Colonial Office. In his letter of July 6th, the Hon. C. A. Shand reported that since his last advices the weather had been exceedingly variable, some parts of the island having had good showers, whilst others were still in want of moisture. A general down-pour would be beneficial. Cotton planting was being proceeded with, and although the area to be planted was less than last year, the preparation had been more carefully attended to, and it was to be hoped that the results might prove much more satisfactory. The factory (Nevis, Ltd.) was going strong, and Montserrat had sent, or was sending, sixty tons of cotton seed to be treated, the meal to be returned to the growers in Montserrat.

The St. Vincent Carib Country.

It is satisfactory to learn from Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co.'s letter of July 8th, that the land in the Carib country is already responding splendidly to cultivation, and that there seems every prospect of history repeating itself, and that abnormal yields, as was the case after the 1812 eruption, are again in sight. Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on the same date, said he was leaving that day for St. Lucia, his services having been asked for in connection with the efforts being made to establish the cotton industry there.* They had had plenty of rain, and all crops looked very promising so far. Nothing definite had yet been settled about the transfer of the cotton factory to a local syndicate, but an offer of £1,500 had been recently submitted to the Government. An effort had been made to manufacture "Fancy" molasses for the Canadian market by some planters, in order to make something out of sugar-cane growing, but owing to the absence of the necessary instruments locally to test the syrup before being shipped, shipments had not been satisfactory. It was hoped that the Imperial Department of Agriculture would come to the rescue and instal a polariscope, &c., at the Agricultural School.

Trinidad Cacao shipments.

The Hon. G. T. Fenwick wrote on July 8th that a despatch had been received from the Secretary of State acknowledging the resolution passed by the Immigration Committee on April 16th last, and stating that existing arrangements as regarded the Trinidad Emigration Agency in Calcutta would be continued. Clean bills of health were issuable on the 6th, but on the day of writing the Surgeon-General reported another case, a bad one, of yellow fever, so quarantine troubles would continue for the time being. There had been no fresh cases of plague. The weather continued as reported by last mail—frequent showers, many of them heavy, with intervals of hot sun. It suited the canes admirably, though planters found some difficulty in keeping them clean, and cocoa curing and stripping were seriously hampered. There having been no recurrence of bubonic plague, the steamship companies had resumed their calls, and shipments during the first three days had in consequence been very heavy. In sympathy with London prices had declined, and the market was easier than when last writing. Fine estates were quoted at 86s., mixed estates at 85s., and ordinary at 84s., c. and f. Havre. From Venezuela the arrivals had been small, but with the slack demand prices for this grade had also eased off. In his letter dated July 8th, Mr. Edgar Tripp expressed the sincere hope that permanent arrangements would be made for a regular and satisfactory intercolonial mail and passenger service, for although Trinidad would probably continue to be served, whatever happened, by the ocean boats, the loss of communication with the other islands, and of the resulting trade must be considerable. During the time that Trinidad was the headquarters and transfer station, quite a good supply trade was done with the smaller colonies by the wholesale merchants. A satisfactory indication of improved health conditions was found in the fact that the Dutch Royal Mail steamers had resumed taking cargo from the port. The *Prins Maurits* took over 4,000 bags in the previous week. The Joint Service (Royal Mail and Direct Lines) seemed to have divided up the extra large shipment which was expected to go by the *Caroni*. Mr. Frederick John Scott, senior partner of the firm of F. J. Scott & Son, died on July 1st, at the age of eighty-two. Mr. Scott's firm was for a great many years, and until the company decided to establish its own branch in Trinidad, the agent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and also the representative of firms abroad having large interests in the colony. Up to the last, the old gentleman attended to the calls of business. As doyen of the Consular Body, whose position and privileges he was always most keen to uphold, he was regarded with affectionate respect by his *confrères*, in testimony of which they united in November, 1905, on the occasion of the completion by him of fifty years as Consul for Spain, in waiting upon him at his residence and presenting him with a congratulatory

* With the same object we have arranged a meeting between His Honour P. C. Cork, the Administrator of St. Lucia, and Mr. J. A. Hutton, Chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association.—ED.

address and an inscribed souvenir of the unique event. For his services as Spanish Consul, the Order of Cavaliere of the Order of Isabel the Catholic was conferred upon him. He had also been Consul for Italy for over thirty years, receiving the decoration of Cavaliere Ufficiale of the Crown of Italy. Mr. Scott occupied a seat as unofficial member of the Legislative Council for some years. A gentleman of the good old time and manners; a courtly and generous host; a model head of a large and devoted family, and an earnest Christian, Frederick John Scott will be missed not only in the old home where his life was spent, but in the busy haunts of men down town.

		SHIPMENTS.				
Totals at last report		Trinidad.	Venezuela		Trinidad.	Venezuela.
June 23.—S.S. <i>Oruro</i> ...	11	96,606	20,413	July 2.—S.S. <i>P. Willem III.</i>	3,359	839
.. 25.—S.S. <i>Orinoco</i> ...	1,510			.. 3.—S.S. <i>Cheruskia</i> ...	1,554	456
.. 27.—S.S. <i>Prins Maurits</i>	300			.. 3.—S.S. <i>Yanariva</i>	3,966	—
July 1.—S.S. <i>Maraval</i> ...	1,329					
.. 2.—S.S. <i>Garoni</i> ...	3,722					
				Total to date ...	112,357	22,499

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Codrington College.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIRS,—I am compiling a history of Codrington College, and I shall be grateful if anyone can give me any information as to the names of those who acted at any time for Principals Rawle and Webb, or for any of the tutors between 1846 and 1886. I am also anxious to obtain the loan for a short time of the booklet published by Principal Rawle in 1847. There must be some copies in Barbados, although unfortunately it is not to be found in the College Library.

Codrington College, Barbados.

June 18th, 1907.

Your obedient servant,

T. HERBERT BINDLEY.

Dominica Lime Trade.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I have just been presented with a box of Dominica limes, and though the bulk of them were of fair quality, I was much disgusted at the number of miserably poor and blighted fruit which it contained. I cannot believe that the long journey was responsible for the condition of the fruit, as the box instead of containing approximately 200 limes contained 290 or more, which it would not have held if the fruit had been even fair sized. I hope that you will have something to say to the people of Dominica on the subject, as the shipment of such fruit is calculated to cast derision on the lime industry to say the least of it. I have had some experience in the fruit business, and in this as in any other industry want of care in packing and in the thousand and one details of shipping cannot fail to do harm.

July 20th, 1907.

Yours truly,

CITRUS.

[We are bound to say that our correspondent has good grounds for complaint, judging by the specimens of the fruit which he has sent us. The limes submitted to us were in a miserable condition, and we found that ten of them only weighed $5\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Such wretchedly small fruit should not have been sent over. We cannot too strongly impress upon shippers the extreme importance of carefully selecting the fruit. There is no greater mistake than to suppose that *anything* will do for the London market. The policy of shipping fruit in this condition is an extremely selfish one, and it is to be hoped that the agricultural bodies in Dominica will take the matter in hand.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

Map of Trinidad. Scale, 4 miles to 1 inch. Trinidad: Muir, Marshall & Co., 64, Marine Square, Port of Spain. This map, which is mounted on canvas, folds into such small dimensions as $5\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$. It will, therefore, be found extremely convenient for carrying in the pocket. The main roads and railways are clearly defined, and the ports of call of the island steamers are marked.

The World's Commercial Products. A descriptive account of economic plants of the world and of their commercial uses. By W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., F.L.S., and S. E. Chandler, D.Sc., F.L.S. With contributions by T. A. Henry, D.Sc., C. E. Jones, B.Sc., F.L.S., and E. H. Wilson. London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons. While this work was appearing in serial form, reference was frequently made to it in our columns, and it has already proved extremely useful on several occasions. Although the products of the plant world are of enormous commercial importance, it has hitherto been impossible to obtain an inexpensive illustrated book written in England, and affording a general summary of information concerning the useful plants of the world and their commercial utilisation. The volume under review presents this information in English for the first time, accompanied by a wealth of illustrations, twelve of which are in colour, and the remainder well produced by the half tone process. Mr. Freeman is well known in the West Indies, where he spent several years as Scientific Assistant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and he has also visited other parts of the tropics, while his position as Superintendent of the Colonial Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute is in itself a guarantee that he is in a position to speak with authority on the subjects with which he deals; while Dr. S. E. Chandler, who is his colleague, has also a wide knowledge of tropical commercial products. The chapters which deal with rice, sugar, cocoa, coffee, fruits, rubber, cotton, &c., will be of particular interest to West Indians, and we cannot help feeling

that the chapter devoted to maize might be studied to advantage, as we believe that the West Indian colonies might grow all they require, instead of importing it, as they do at present. Specialists and the general reader alike will find "The World's Commercial Products" a useful publication, the study of the illustrations in which is in itself an education. Additional value is given to the book by the plates showing the districts of the world in which the commodities dealt with are produced.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE WICKED FLEA.—The plague which has ravaged the native population of India for ten years and caused nearly 1,500,000 deaths, is now ascribed to a tiny flea called *Pulex cheopis*, a parasite on rats.

LETTERS.—There are letters lying at the West India Committee Rooms addressed to Hon. H. F. Carr, His Honour Mr. Justice J. E. Hewick, Prof. Longstaffe, Mr. M. Malcolm, Mr. Charles Shepherd, and Mrs. Welsh (Trinidad).

GERMAN SPIRIT.—The German "Spiritus ring," formed in 1899 for the purpose of controlling the alcohol industry of that country, and representing 95 per cent. of the alcohol production, and which expires on September 30th, 1908, will be renewed for a further period of ten years from that date.

RUBBER EXHIBITION.—Mr. Harold Hamel Smith, the enterprising editor of *Tropical Life*, is endeavouring to organize a rubber exhibition in London. He has received the support of Lord Mountmorres, Director of the Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics, and of Mr. Herbert Wright, the late Controller of the Government Experimental Station of Ceylon.

FRUIT IN INDIA.—The report of Mr. Howard upon the recent fruit growing experiments at Pusa has been published. The fruits grown successfully include various species of citrus, including oranges, also custard apples, plums, peaches, guavas, lichis, mangoes, figs, and pomegranates. The growing of bananas is to be started shortly. The cultivation of pears has so far failed, the trees having died off.

ANTIGUA SATISFIED.—Mr. R. H. Malone, the Secretary of the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Antigua, in a letter expressing sincere thanks to the Committee for the trouble and interest taken in connection with the Antigua exhibits at the Liverpool Colonial Exhibition, says that his Committee is very well satisfied with the result of Antigua's first attempt at exhibitions in the Mother Country.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.—Lord Elgin, in a letter to Sir Daniel Morris, has expressed his approval of the action taken by the Commissioner of Agriculture in connection with the visit of the Canadian delegates to the West Indies, and appreciation of his successful efforts in the matter. Lord Elgin added that he hoped that this visit would result in an improvement of trade relations between Canada and the British West Indian colonies.

JAMAICA RUM.—The Customs authorities, according to the *Wine Trade Review*, have now directed that in future rums landed in this country from Jamaica, or from countries with evidence of Jamaica origin, are to be officially recognised in all documents as rum from Jamaica, and that all permits issued for such rum shall be similarly designated. In addition, it is directed that the Jamaica description is not to be applied to blended rum when any other rum than that of Jamaica enters into the blend.

OUR VISITORS.—Mr. D. S. Blake, Mr. P. J. Dean, Mr. Gay C. Edghill, Hon. J. Cox-Fillan, Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, Mr. W. Morris Fletcher, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. William Greg, Mr. Samuel Manning, Rev. O. S. Ormsby, Captain W. W. Rhodes, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. Schoener, Mr. D. M. Simpson, Mr. C. L. Walker, and Mr. G. A. Yearwood, have been among the visitors from across the water to the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight.

NOTHING NEW.—Mr. Tyrer, in his presidential address at the annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, referred to the work recently done in connection with cyanogenesis, or the production of prussic acid in plants, among others the bitter cassava. It will be interesting to our readers to know that the late Mr. E. E. Francis, when Government Chemist of British Guiana, wrote a paper on this subject, which was published in *Timchri*, the journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of that colony, at that time edited by Mr., now Sir, Everard Im Thurn.

QUARANTINE.—At a meeting of the Central Quarantine Authority for the West Indies, under the presidency of the Hon. W. K. Chandler, held at Barbados on June 12th, it was decided that the disease which has been within recent years prevalent in Grenada and Trinidad and there known by the name of "eruptive fever," was small-pox. It was also laid down that the words "infected premises" meant (i) any premises in which the patient was residing during any of the six days preceding the date on which he was taken ill; (ii) the premises on which he was taken ill; and (iii) any premises occupied by him from the time he was taken ill until effective screening from mosquitoes took place.

ANIMATED VIEWS.—Mr. A. J. West had a "dress rehearsal" of his new cinematograph programme at the Portland Hall, Southsea, on the 13th inst., at which 350 officers and men of the Japanese cruisers

Tzukuba and Chitose, were present. The second part of the programme consisted entirely of pictures taken by Mr. West during his recent tour in British Guiana and the West Indies, which were exceptionally well received. These included sugar estate views and pictures of a triple Arawak wedding in British Guiana, a series of films taken inside the crater of the St. Lucia Soufrière, views of Kingston, before and after the earthquake, and the windward coast of Barbados. Mr. West, in the course of the evening, addressed the audience on the possibilities and historical associations of the West Indies.

VENEZUELA AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

Through the courtesy of the proprietors of *Punch*, we are enabled to reproduce Mr. Linley



A SPOILT PET.

Le Petit Belge: "Please, Sir, your monkey's taken my bag!"

Uncle Sam: "That's so! Ain't he cute?"

[On the subject of Belgium's unpaid claim upon Venezuela for £400,000, *The Times* says: "A moral responsibility lies with the United States for the behaviour of the State towards which she has shown a special solicitude."]

Reproduced by kind permission of the proprietors of "*Punch*."

Sambourne's admirable cartoon which appeared in its pages on July 23rd, on the subject of the relations between Belgium, Venezuela, and the United States. To our friends in the West Indies in general, and to those in Trinidad in particular, whose trade with Venezuela is crippled by the 30% surtax which President Castro declines to remove, this cartoon will forcibly appeal. The British Government have been constantly appealed to to take action in the matter, but in spite of the fact that the impost complained of has been declared by successive British Ministers to be illegal and contrary to treaty obligations, it still remains in force. The surtax is a direct infraction of the Treaty of 1825, concluded between England and the Republic of Colombia, which was afterwards, in 1834, adopted and confirmed by Venezuela and Great Britain. May it not be that, as in the case of Belgium's claim, Uncle Sam passively controls the situation? Our Government had an opportunity of redressing the grievance when the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela with regard to the delineation of the boundary of British Guiana was being adjusted, and again when the allied naval forces of England, Germany and Italy blockaded Venezuelan ports. Nothing was done, and Uncle Sam smiles.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Tues., July 23.—The Prince and Princess of Wales opened the new out-patient department of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., easier.

Wed., July 24.—Sugar Duty; letter in the *Times* from Mr. C. N. Nicholson, M.P.—Beet, 9s. 9d., steady.

- Thur., July 25.—The Permanent Commission under the Sugar Convention met at Brussels.—Mr. J. P. Murphy, K.C., died.—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—Radio-Telegraphic Convention (*Times*, p. 12).—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
- Fri., July 26.—Reported from Brussels that the signatory Governments were desirous of finding a solution which would admit of Great Britain remaining a party to the Convention.—Letter in the *Times* on the Sugar Duty School at Frognal.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Sat., July 27.—The Brussels Commission: The President said that if the British proposals were taken into consideration some guarantee would be necessary to prevent any sudden change, and to render possible a revision in the event of the new arrangements exceeding the expectations of the high contracting parties.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Mon., July 29.—The King went to Goodwood.—The new Cunard liner *Lusitania* (32,500 tons), completed her trial cruise, her steam trials showing a speed of 25.6 knots.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Tues., July 30.—House of Commons voted £50,000 to Lord Cromer.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., steady.
- Wed., July 31.—North-West Staffordshire Bye-Election: Mr. A. Stanley (L. and Lab.), 7,396, Mr. T. W. Twyford (U.) 5,047. L. and Lab. majority 2,349.—Beet, 9s. 8d., steady.
- Thur., Aug. 1.—Mr. David Christie Murray the novelist died.—In the House of Commons Sir Edward Grey defended the action of the Government as regards the Brussels Convention.—Beet, 9s. 8d., steady.
- Fri., Aug. 2.—Preparations started for the despatch of a joint French and Spanish force to Morocco.—Beet, 9s. 9½d., quiet.
- Sat., Aug. 3.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 9d., firm.

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.

- Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures. (Further particulars will be given later).
- Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

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.

H.W.E.—Mr. Freeman, of the Imperial Institute, informs us that the *Coccoloba Uvifera* of the West Indies, or "sea-side grape," has many local names. Variations are the "mangrove grape," recorded from Jamaica, and the "bay grape tree," given as an alternative name in Barbados, though the name is rarely made use of. In St. Lucia patois it is "Raisin de Bord de Mer." The Spanish name, in use in Porto Rico, is "Uvero," with "Uva del Mar" as an alternative. "Mangle rouge" and "Pigeon Wood" are also given as names for the plant.

Settler.—The land taxes in the various West Indian colonies are as follows:—

	is.	od.	per acre.				
TRINIDAD	1s.	od.	per acre.	ST. KITTS-NEVIS—
TOBAGO	6d.	..		Cultivated land
JAMAICA—Quit rent	1d.	..		Uncultivated land
Kingston—guinea grass	1½d.	..		Cultivated land, where rector is paid
" common pasture	½d.	..		from public revenue, a further tax of
" any other cultivation	3d.	..		1s. 6d. ..
Other parishes—On every £10 or fractional part of £10 of the gross value of property	8d.	..		DOMINICA—
ST. LUCIA—No land tax.				On assessed value of land occupied by any building, not being an estate building, and not exceeding one acre
BRITISH GUIANA—				1 per cent.
Sugar estate of more than 50 acres in cultivation:—				All other land
Each acre in cane cultivation (for immigration purposes)	6s.	8d.	..	2 ..
Each acre not under cane	1d.	..		MONTERRAT—
ANTIGUA—				Cultivated land
Every acre of sugar-cane land	2s.	6d.	..	Uncultivated land
Other cultivation	1s.	od.	..	6d. ..
Pasture or uncultivated land	6d.	..		BARBADOS—
							For road maintenance
							9d. ..
							ST. VINCENT
							1s. od. ..
							GRENADINES
							3d. ..
							GRENADA
							1s. od. ..

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. W. GORDON GORDON, Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad, has arrived in England on leave of absence. LIEUT.-COL. A. B. R. KAYE, Inspector General of Police, has been admitted a Member of the Executive Council of Barbados. The HON. N. JULIAN PATERSON, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed to act as Attorney-General

of Grenada and St. Vincent until further notice. MR. SYDNEY D. MELVILLE is acting as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, St. Lucia, during the absence on leave of the HON. E. DUBOULAY, who is at present in Paris. HON. W. H. BARNARD, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, has been granted six months leave of absence from St. Lucia. During that time MR. SAMUEL BARNARD will act as Consul for Portugal. MR. F. A. NEAL, M.N., C.M., Edin., Government Medical Officer, has been appointed to act as Medical Inspector, British Guiana, during such time as Mr. W. F. LAW, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., shall act as Surgeon General.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate 4% (changed from 4½% on Thursday, April 25th, 1907). Consols (2½%) 82½.

The Barbados Co-operative Cotton Factory, Ltd.

The Directors, in presenting their report, which is signed by Mr. F. J. Clarke, Chairman, and Mr. W. D. Shepherd, Director, and statement of accounts for the period from November 1st, 1906, to April 30th, 1907, showed that after deducting the cost of materials, labour, expenses of management, the removal of the old factory from the Pier Head to its present site at the cotton factory, and certain minor repairs to the same, the net profit for the six months amounted to \$4,700.34. The balance at the credit of this account to October 31st, 1906, was \$2,458.51. From this sum, the dividend declared to that date, amounting to \$872.93 must be deducted, leaving a balance of \$1,585.58, making with the above mentioned profit a total of \$6,285.92 to be dealt with. This amount, the Directors recommended should be appropriated as follows:—(1) That a dividend of 7 per cent., amounting to \$2,036.83 be declared, equal to 16.8c. per share; (2) That \$2,000.00 be transferred to a reserve fund; (3) That the remainder, \$2,249.09 be left to the credit of this account. Operations at the new factory in White Park were commenced on January 22nd, and since then the Directors are pleased to report the Company's business has increased considerably. The report and accounts were adopted at a meeting held on July 10th, 1907.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Aug. 2nd. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Curtis, Campbell & Co.), July 29th. "Weather dry." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended July 17th. PORT ANTONIO: "11th to 15th, fine; 16th, rain; 17th, fine." KINGSTON: "fine; temperature, 80°.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena* (Capt. H. J. Boby), July 22nd:—Mr. M. Aguilar, Mr. H. Aparicio, Mr. P. G. Arthur, Mr. J. E. W. G. Austin, Mr. G. W. Bird, Mr. F. Broderson, Mr. S. Bentley, Mr. E. Bischoff, Mr. J. Beynon, Mr. T. Bevan, Mr. and Mrs. Berkeley, Mr. R. E. Burns, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Sir Henry and Lady Bovell, Mr. J. Cristopulo, Mr. Campbell, Mr. J. Caracciolo, Master Caracciolo, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Clements, Miss M. Chandler, Mrs. Custance, Mrs. C. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler and four daughters, Mrs. and Miss Darnell Davis, Mr. R. Driver, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dean, Mrs. Da Costa and child, Mrs. H. A. Dalton, Mr. R. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Eccles and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Edghill and child, Master Emtage, Mr. W. H. Embley, Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Mr. Fulte, Mr. A. Garland, Mr. J. Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Gray, Mr. R. J. Galland, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. V. Gale, Mr. and Mrs. Gomes and child, Mr. G. Giles, Mrs. G. Holmes, Mr. N. J. Hackney, His Hon. Justice Hewick, Mrs. Ramsay Hill and son, Mr. A. R. G. Hunter, Miss Hunter, Mr. A. Hayward, Mr. S. E. Jacobson, Rev. W. J. Keay, Mr. W. Keating, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kerr, Mrs. Lynch King and child, Master G. E. Lange, Col. and Mrs. Lushington, Miss R. Livingstone, Mr. H. A. Lynch, Master Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. E. Martins and child, Mr. and Mrs. H. Miller, Mrs. Miller and child, Mr. E. C. Maingot, Miss Martin, Mr. Miendhopper, Mr. J. Moffatt, Master Murray, Mrs. N. McKinnon, Miss and Master MacPhail, Mr. and Mrs. McLaren, Mr. W. L. Mitchell, Mr. H. Nott, Mr. J. Nunan, Mr. R. Peele, Mr. Thomas Porter, Mr. J. A. Parrillon, Mr. P. Puttaert, Mrs. Z. Orrezzoli and three children, Dr. Romaine, Rev. and Mrs. Ragbir, Miss Ragbir, the Hon. W. S. Robertson, Mrs. Inskip Reid, Mr. E. A. Robinson, Master Racker, Mr. G. Richards, Mr. J. C. Roberts, Mr. W. Stabbs, Mr. W. Short, Mr. W. Snell, Miss V. Sellier, Master Schjolseth, Mrs. E. L. Sellier and child, Mr. Sworder, Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Stoker and three children, Mr. A. Shields, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Simpson, Mr. W. F. Sellers, Mr. H. G. Thomson, Mr. Van der Heyde, Mr. A. Vincent, Hon. C. de Verteuil, Mr. J. Wilson, Mrs. Wenzel, Mr. Jas. Gaul, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. B. Gainfort, Mr. and Mrs. P. de Schuelt, and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Yearwood.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), August 7th:—Miss E. M. Packer, Miss A. D. Packer, Mr. Adolf Klare, Dr. J. C. Milne, Mrs. J. P. d'Albuquerque, Mr. Andrew Speeden, Mr. A. Crompton, Mr. G. Vogel, Mr. Coke Powell, Mr. Chas. R. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Date, Mr. Herbert C. Fenwick, Mr. H. D. Bindley, Mr. T. C. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Becker, Mr. T. Cline Shephard, Mrs. and Miss Cipriani, Miss Mary Cipriani, Mr. Kysch, and Mr. D. Hope Ross.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. Watson) Aug. 21st:—Mr. Wm. Young, Mr. Berthold Schwarzbach, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Knowles, Mr. Pedro Paul, Miss Maria Paul, Mrs. Paul, Miss Judit Svanbom, Mr. A. R. Grieg, Mr. P. Wilkins, Mr. H. E. Anderson, Miss J. Fraser, Mr. J. Leslie Loe, Miss Leontine Buchard, and Mr. J. F. Rowlands.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), July 31st:—**Jamaica**: Mrs. Evelyn Allen, Col. Moulton Barrett, Mr. Blencoe, Mr. Connard, Mr. Fairbank, Miss Gruchy, Canon and Mrs. Kilburn, Miss Kilburn, Mrs. C. A. Lopez and child, Mr. McPherson, Mrs. MacMahon, Rev. James MacNee, Mrs. MacNee, Mr. Nuttall, Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Saunders, Miss Saunders, Miss Small, Mrs. L. J. Sinclair, Mr. Wright, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Peggs, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lynch, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Farquhar, Mr. Caldwell, and Gunner Tomlins, R.G.A.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), July 27th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. F. Bickerton, Mr. Maurice B. Blaket, Mr. F. Cobb, Mr. H. E. Capstick, Mr. Thomas L. Chadwick, Mr. W. G. Clark, Mr. G. Cruickshanks, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Clark, the Misses Clark, Mr. R. B. Clark, Master Harold Charley, Mrs. Desporte, Mr. S. Dixon,

Mr. P. Fox, Master John A. Ferguson, Master E. Farquharson, Mr. N. B. Favell, Master Gwynn Griffith, Master W. Gossett, Mr. J. A. Hadfield, Mr. E. G. Hemmerde, Mrs. Hemmerde, Mr. D. Hendry, Mr. L. A. Isaacs, Master S. Isaacs, Mr. A. M. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. James, two Misses James, Mr. G. S. James, Mr. J. S. Knowlson, Mr. L. King, Lieut. S. Kitchener, Miss Kitchener, Rev. W. Kerr, Master E. Kerr, Master R. Kerr, Mr. W. J. H. Leete, Mr. H. C. MacManns, Master Herbert Mais, Mrs. Matthews, Mr. Walter Matthews, Mr. A. Melhado, Mrs. Melhado, Master A. E. Muirhead, two Misses Muirhead, Lady Olivier, Miss Daphne Olivier, Miss Noel Olivier, Mr. C. P. Ogilvie, Miss Pipkin, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Phillips and child, Master E. Pengelley, Master C. Pilliner, Mr. C. H. Picot, Mr. H. G. Richmond, Mr. J. Rawle, Mr. J. D. Lucie-Smith, Master M. Sturridge, Mr. A. A. Tobin, K.C., Mr. C. J. Thompson, Mr. C. E. L. Tottenham, Master Vernon Turner, Miss May Turner, Mr. A. W. G. Westmoreland, Mr. K. M. Walker, Mr. Percy Wilson, Mr. J. J. Wilkie, Mr. A. E. Mortimer Woolf, Master T. Williams, Master R. Williams. **Bermuda:** Miss Butterfield, Mr. J. Coxfillan, Mr. H. C. Cox, Master E. Harvey, Master F. C. Misick, Mrs. E. Prior, Major and Mrs. Taylor, Miss Wooler, Mr. J. T. Gilbert. **Turks Island:** Miss Frith, Capt. and Mrs. Holdsworth.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Aug. 7—	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	Ovinoco	Aug. 6, mdn't.
" 10—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	Port Henderson	" 9, 6 ^o p.m.
" 21—	Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	Atrato	" 20, mdn't.
" 23—	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	Carmelina	" 22, 6 p.m.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Aug. 12—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	Atrato
" 14—	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 June 27	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to July 12	1907 1906	April 1 to July 6.	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to July 6.	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to July 6.	1906/7 1905/6
Sugar	30,250	40,404 Tns.	39,760	40,416 Tons.	7,652	6,415 Tons.	386,948	467,278 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	50,139	54,084 Pns.	379	1,932 Puns.	...	...	{ 2,926 181 178 }	{ 1,591 148 72 Brls. }	...	...
Rum	7,748	9,311 Puns.	750,926	664,877 Galls.	776	72 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	3,244	3,628 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	24,599	3,300 lbs.	23,956	30,111 Cwts.	19,186,540	17,517,480 lbs.	57,339	52,490 Bags.
Coffee	11,051	10,063 "	3,350	16,160 "	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	114,036	59,588	4,489,973	1,675,495	5,805,832	6,664,395	...	...
Copra	14,254	8,398 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	5,400	15,036 lbs.	...	...	894	1,015 Bales.
" Seed	4,553	5,692 Bags.
Asphalt	65,544	65,973 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	444,132	5,913,371	...	...	...	...
Bananas	4,902,445	4,845,296 Stems.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	10,440	19,107 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice	4,475	4,151 Brls.
Gold	32,323	46,363 ozs.	...	...	...	...	480	476 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	1,049	920 carats	...	...	...	...	555	414 Cases.
Rice	3,608,742	548,739 lbs.	...	...	...	...	71	112 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—The arrivals have been confined to indirect shipments, and there has been only one auction at which there was active competition, and practically all was sold at very good prices. Importers' stocks are now on a narrow basis. **HONDURAS:** The new season's supplies are not yet due, in the meantime old stocks are moving off satisfactorily, and the position will doubtless further improve before fresh arrivals. **JAMAICA:** Satisfactory prices would be obtained for good sizes and figury. **GREENADA:** A parcel sold last week brought very good prices considering the small size and inferior character of most of the wood. The quality was liked and further shipments may be made, but larger sizes should be sent. **Cedar.**—**CUBA, HONDURAS, and MEXICAN:** Long straight logs of good sizes sell very well, and demand for fairly sound logs of good sizes, but small and faulty wood is difficult to sell. **Logwood.**—Very slow of sale. Quotations nominally £4 10s. per ton, landed. **FUSTIC:** Quiet; quotation, £4 15s. per ton, landed.

RUBBER.—After a dull Market during the greater part of the past week we close with a better feeling and more business doing in Para sorts. The sales, which have been small, include: fine hard at 4s. 9½d. to 4s. 9½d. for near delivery, and at 4s. 9½d. for more distant; soft fine sold at 4s. 7½d. to 4s. 7½d., with buyers now at 4s. 7½d. Negro-heads quiet at 3s. 11d. for Manaos, 2s. 10d. for Islands, and 3s. for Cametas. Sales postponed till next Friday, August 9th.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY—continued.

SUGAR.—The beet Market, which was firm at the date of our last advice, became easier the following day, but afterwards steadiness prevailed until the beginning of last week when signs of weakness were apparent. This was further emphasised as the liquidation of the August account proceeded, and prices dropped away to 9s. 7½d. for that month. Subsequently, more buying by "bears" to cover, combined with other purchases by the trade, as well as higher advices from the Continent, imparted firmness to the Market and values advanced at 1½d. to 2½d. for old and 2½d. to 3½d. for new crop from the lowest point., quotations being: August, 9s. 9½d.; September, 9s. 10½d.; October/December, 9s. 8d.; January/March, 9s. 9d., and May, 9s. 11d., last Friday. The calls were suspended on Saturday in consequence of the Bank holiday on Monday.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	1,712,194	2,060,000	1,430,000	1,880,000	2,010,000	Tons
United States	298,000	320,000	200,000	160,000	290,000	"
Cuba and cargoes afloat	353,000	190,000	550,000	280,000	380,000	"
Total	2,263,184	2,570,000	2,180,000	2,320,000	2,680,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet, Aug. 2nd:—	9s. 9½d.	9s. 1½d.	10s. 8d.	10s. 0½d.	8s. 3½d.	

Grocery West Indian.—Crystallised is steady but quiet, with only small business passing. Some parcels of new importation of fine quality have sold well at from 18s. to 19s. Trinidad and St. Lucia have realised 16s. 6d. to 16s. 9d. for low to low middling yellow, palish 16s. 10½d., middling yellow 17s., good middling pale dry 17s. 6d., good yellow 17s. 9d., and fine 18s. 1½d. **Muscovado.**—Continues quiet and very little business has been done. Some fine Barbados sold up to 16s. Quotations: 15s. to 15s. 6d. **Molasses Sugar.**—St. Lucia syrups have realised 11s. 6d. for dark strong, 11s. 9d. for yellow, and 12s. 9d. for low middling yellow.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	25,882	43,000	31,000	34,000	18,000	Tons
Deliveries	22,007	28,000	24,000	29,000	26,000	"
Stocks (July 27th)	12,661	25,000	16,000	17,000	21,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: ...	17s. 6d.	15s. 3d.	17s. 6d.	16s. 6d.	15s. 3d.	

RUM.—Stocks in London, July 27th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	9650	8500	10,200	11,100	11,300	Puns.
Demerara	6762	6300	5000	9600	6900	"
Total of all kinds	23,700	20,900	23,500	28,600	27,700	"

The Market remains steady. Small sales of Demerara have been made at 1s. 0½d. per proof gallon, but in the better qualities no business is reported. Quotations are unchanged, viz., 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2½d. for Demerara. In Jamaica a quiet tone has prevailed, but home trade values have been fully maintained, and export kinds have sold well. Quotations without alteration, being: 2s. 7d. for common, up to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and 3s. to 8s. for good to choice export qualities of Jamaica. Later, a sale of 400 puns. Demeraras at 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2d. per proof gallon is reported.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, July 27th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	7224	11,600	19,200	27,000	20,400	Bags.
Grenada	3932	9800	17,500	18,700	12,300	"
Total of all kinds	46,195	69,500	82,000	99,200	77,800	"

The Market has been strong. The business done in public sales establishes a rise of about 4s. in Trinidad, Grenada, and other islands, and since the auctions much higher prices have been paid privately, but these sales are not reported. Quotations: Trinidad good middling, 94s., Estate Marks, 94s. to 98s.; Grenada, common to fair, 86s. to 88s., good to fine, 89s. to 92s. Fair to fine Native from other Islands, 85s. to 90s.

COFFEE.—Santos for August delivery, 29s. 6d. At the last auction before the holidays, the fair supply of 3155 packages were offered, but met with less demand, although previous rates were maintained. A small business was done in Jamaica at 37s. 6d. for good ordinary to greenish, and 52s. for common bold greenish, and 46s. for peaberry. Futures have been firm on smaller receipts, also higher Brazilian advices combined with bear coverings, and prices show a further improvement of 4½d. to 6d.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended August 1st, 69 bales West India cotton were imported. The Market for Sea Island has become quieter and prices are rather in buyers' favour, as spinners are indifferent and do not care to increase stock. Sales for the fortnight have been made from 5d. to 22d. Seeing that the American Sea Island crop prospects are now improving, the opinion is expressed that from now onwards gradually declining markets will be experienced. West Indian good medium is quoted in Liverpool, 7.85d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, at 19d.; medium fine, at 20d.; fine, at 21d. per lb.

ARROWROOT.—Quiet; 50 barrels St. Vincent offered last Wednesday in auction were bought in at 2½d. for fair manufacturing. Privately, the market is quiet, about 105 barrels have been sold at 2½d. to 2¾d. for fair to good fair. Stocks 30th June ... 1907. 1906. Imports ... 1907. 1906. Deliveries ... 1907. 1906. Barrels ... 6,018 8,362 Barrels ... 7,916 10,260 Barrels ... 5,316 7,620

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. (raw) per gall. Distilled oil, quiet, 3s. 1d. to 3s. 2d. per gallon. Hand pressed, quiet, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, steady, £24 5s.

PIMENTO.—Firmer, 2½d. has been obtained for fair quality. **NUTMEGS.**—Quiet and rather easier. Small sales of West India have been made as follows: 92/86's at 7d. to 7½d., 115's at 5½d., 139/144's at 4½d. to 4¾d., 76/100's in shell at 2¾d. **MACE.**—Steady; Penang in auction sold, bold red, part wormy, at 1s. 10d. per lb. **GINGER.**—Flat and quite neglected by the trade. The small business transacted at 69s. 6d. to 74s. for good to good common and raton. low dark and thin at 62s. to 68s., as well as 50 barrels sold privately at 70s., establishes a fall of 8s. from the highest point. **COPRA.**—Steady. Quotations of fair merchantable West India, £22 10s. to £23.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

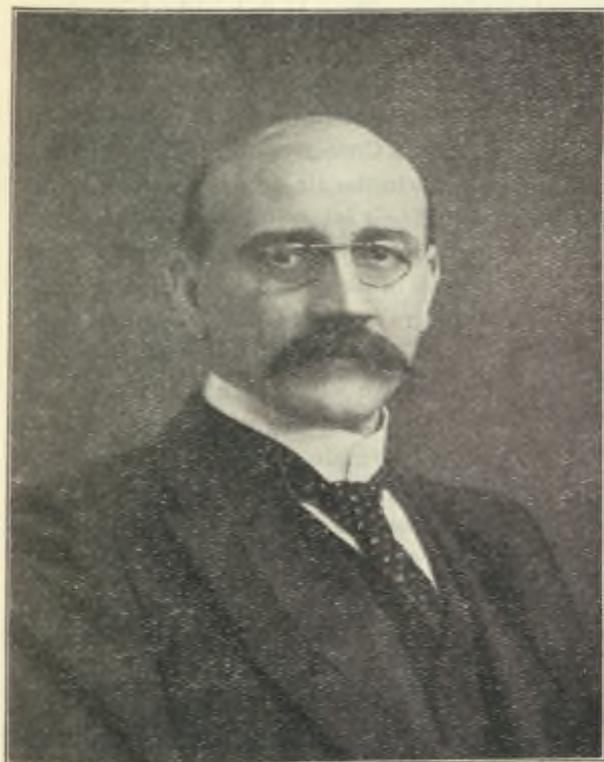
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The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SRETHING LANE, LONDON,

Aug. 19, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6643 CENTRAL.



The Hon. A. W. Farquharson.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT made by Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL in the House of Commons on the 5th inst., to the effect that the Government had decided to authorise the immediate construction of a pioneer railway in Nigeria, 400 miles in length, at a cost of £1,230,000, is of the greatest importance to the cotton industry of this country. For some time past the British Cotton Growing Association has been actively developing the cultivation of cotton in that African protectorate, and the favourable response of the Government to their representations as to the urgent necessity for opening up the country by railway communication is a matter for congratulation. Northern Nigeria has an area of 256,400 square miles, and a population of ten millions; it is three times as large as the United Kingdom and more than half as large as the cotton states of North America. It is extremely probable that ultimately Northern Nigeria will supply the whole of the cotton required for Great Britain, and thus render this country independent of the United States for its supply. The kind of cotton grown

in Nigeria is, according to Mr. J. A. HUTTON, the Vice-Chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association, exactly the sort that Lancashire wants, and it has fetched a farthing a pound over

middling American. At first thought it may appear that this recent step on the part of the Government may prejudicially affect the West Indian cotton industry; but this is not at all the case. The cotton grown and to be grown in Nigeria will in no way compete with the West Indian Sea-Island cotton, which is a special product. It will take the place of the inland cotton now coming from the United States, and with it and the West Indian Sea-Island cotton, there is every prospect of cotton manufacturing industries of Great Britain at home being supplied entirely with raw cotton from the cotton growing industries of Greater Britain beyond the seas. There is one point in MR. CHURCHILL'S announcement, which, although it has no bearing on the cotton industry, is interesting, inasmuch as it shows a new view as to the cost of colonial development. As our readers will doubtless remember, the proposed British Honduras frontier railway, which presented no great natural difficulties, was estimated by the engineers of the Crown Agents to cost £750,000 for seventy miles, or over £10,000 a mile, and the short Stann Creek railway, of twelve miles, which is now being constructed, £70,000, or nearly £6,000 a mile. We now understand from MR. CHURCHILL that the Nigerian railway, 400 miles in length, is to cost £1,230,000, or only £3,000 a mile, and we hope, therefore, that this may be an indication that in future, estimates for colonial railways will be drawn up on a less costly scale by the Crown Agents. The fact that the construction of the Nigerian railway will be under the immediate eye of SIR PERCY GIROUARD, the great authority on pioneer railways, who, we may presume, has had a voice in the estimate, is not only a guarantee of the success of the scheme, but a guarantee also of the cost being kept within a reasonable limit.

THE probability that an Agricultural Conference will be held, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, at Jamaica, in the coming winter, will be hailed with pleasure not only by those interested in Jamaica, but also by those who have the well-being of the West Indies generally at heart. The tragic circumstances which brought the last Conference to a conclusion at its very outset are only too familiar, and the collapse of the first of such meetings to be held in Jamaica, was a matter of general regret. It was felt that in holding a Conference in that island, new and valuable ground would be opened up, and a further impetus given to the already progressing industries of the colony. The West Indies are essentially agricultural. Their interests, their welfare, their very existence are bound up in agriculture, and the inter-communication which the Conferences afford between the agricultural scientists of the several units, and the exchange of ideas and experiences between agriculturists gathered together for the purpose, cannot but be of the greatest value in agricultural development. The earlier of these Conferences were held at Barbados, the central position of which offered special advantages. It was then considered—and rightly—that advantage would be gained by holding the meetings in other parts of the West Indies, and in 1904 a highly successful gathering was held in Trinidad. In widely scattered colonies like the West Indies, although the main interests are really identical, misapprehension, and we are afraid a certain amount of prejudice, has been apt to creep into their relations. This position of affairs, Conferences like those initiated by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, help to remove. Apart entirely from the business side of the question, the spirit of good fellowship engendered by the exchange of hospitality, and personal acquaintance made under favourable conditions, cannot but tend towards a community of feeling which goes a long way towards unity of action. "United we stand, divided we fall," should be the motto of our West Indian colonies. We are glad to say that this unity of action, brought about, we take it, from a greater recognition of mutual interest, has been much more in evidence of late years. Although in the way of industrial and commercial detail there may be some divergency of view, the welfare of any one colony, of any one industry, is bound up with that of the whole. The West Indian Agricultural Conferences, where interchange of ideas and experiences are combined with friendly intercourse, are an important factor in building up a desirable spirit of intercolonial union.

ELSEWHERE we publish an appeal from a Jamaica clergyman on behalf of the Jamaica Church Fund, which has been formed for the purpose of rebuilding church buildings and repairing damage resulting from the earthquake. In this MR. ORMSBY quotes a reply to an application for aid in which the writer as much as says that if the Jamaica people will build over an earthquake centre they should take the consequences, and further that they are to blame for not erecting buildings suitable to withstand earthquake shocks. We are afraid that the writer quoted by our correspondent is not alone in his opinion, an opinion based on ignorance of West Indian conditions. There is, in fact, an extensive class of people in this country who still hold the erroneous views of a century back as to the climatic and general conditions of these islands; who consider that hurricanes, earthquakes and pestilence form a part of their every day experiences. As MR. ORMSBY points out, the previous earthquake which destroyed Port Royal occurred 200 years ago, and there is no reason to suppose that a less time will elapse before a recurrence of such a disaster, if ever it should take place. In his lecture before the West India Committee in February last, on the subject of earthquake construction, PROFESSOR MILNE mentioned that in Japan as many as eighty appreciable shocks have been felt in that country in one year. Yet we take it that no one would for one moment declare that Japan should be abandoned on that account. If, indeed, desirable spots in the world were to be tabooed by reason of some rare convulsion of nature, we are afraid that much loss to commerce and pleasure would result. The other reflection, viz., of improper building, is not worth considering. The very fact that no special precautions have been adopted in the past in this direction is an illustration of how little earthquake danger has been in the minds of the Jamaica people, and we would also remind our readers that the study of construction to resist earthquakes is of quite recent date. We have referred to this subject because we feel that ideas similar to those of MR. ORMSBY'S correspondent are prevalent to a greater extent than is generally imagined, and do much to tighten purse strings which would otherwise be unloosened in such a meritorious cause as that for which our correspondent pleads. The value of the moral policing of a people, the result of religious influence and church organisation, cannot be over-estimated, and we sincerely trust that the response to the appeal for funds to restore the Jamaica churches will have a satisfactory result, not only in the interests of the church itself, but of Jamaica generally.

THE HON. A. W. FARQUHARSON.

It used to be said of a certain college at Oxford that if one stood in the middle of the quadrangle and called out "Jones," a head would emerge from every window. In Jamaica, if one were to call out "Farquharson," the response would be almost as striking, for the island teems with Farquharsons. The subject of our "celebrity" portrait, the Hon. A. W. Farquharson, was born in Jamaica in 1860, and he is one of a family of eleven. He was educated at Marlborough College, but returned to Jamaica in 1878 and was articled to Mr. Solicitor Lindo, the Attorney-General of the island at that time. After passing his exams. he embarked upon business on his own account, and attended so assiduously to his duties that he is now Crown Solicitor for Jamaica, and ex-officio Member of the Legislative Council; he is also head of the firm of Farquharson & Milbolland. His recent energy and activity in connection with the relief measures for the sufferers from the earthquake at Kingston are too well-known to require mention. Mr. Farquharson is a firm believer in the sugar industry, and his name is closely identified with one of the recent schemes for the erection of central factories in Jamaica. He is also a staunch and active supporter of the West India Committee.

BRIMSTONE HILL.

There is no spot in the West Indies which proves a greater source of attraction to tourists than the old fortress of Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts. This, we feel, is sufficient excuse for presenting to our readers another view of it in the form of a full-page illustration reproduced from a photograph by Mr. A. M. Losada. The hill, which rises to a height of 700 feet some ten miles to the east of Basseterre, consists of limestone over-lying volcanic rocks. It was purchased in the troublous

eighteenth century by the Government for £500, and the fortifications with which it bristles were built by slave labour, each estate's proprietor being compelled to provide one out of every eighty slaves which he owned for this purpose of their erection. Brimstone Hill was considered one of the strongest posts in the West India islands, but the British garrison was compelled by the French to evacuate it in 1782. On January 11th of that year the Marquis de Bouillé, supported by de Grasse, landed 8,000 men at St. Kitts. The garrison, under General Fraser, which did not exceed 600 men, at once retired to the hill. In spite of Sir Samuel Hood's brilliant manœuvre on January 25th, when he attacked de Grasse and took the anchorage at Basseterre which that gallant admiral had just left, the hill was closely invested. The inhabitants of St. Kitts, who were dissatisfied with the American War, showed, we read, "a real or tacit and understood neutrality from the first arrival of the enemy"; but Governor Shirley was able to reinforce General Fraser by 350 militia men. The French disembarked powerful artillery, which was destined for an attack on Barbados, at Sandy Point, but the ship containing the heaviest and most effective part of it struck the rocks and sank. They were lucky enough, however, to find 8 brass 24 pounders, 6,000 balls of that calibre, 2 13 in. brass mortars and 15,000 shells which had not been carried up to the works owing to carelessness on the part of the defenders, waiting for them at the foot of the hill. These proved "a most seasonable and necessary supply to them in the prosecution of the siege." The French had their headquarters at Sandy Point, but the defenders plied their heavy cannon and mortars with such effect that the town was soon destroyed. Batteries were multiplied on batteries all round the hill; by day and night they cannonaded and bombarded the garrison, and the fire of 23 pieces of heavy cannon and 24 large mortars was concentrated on a spot of ground not exceeding 200 yards in diameter. Small wonder that the garrison, who displayed the greatest fortitude and patience, and lost only one man through desertion, were compelled to capitulate, which they did on February 13th. They were accorded honours of war in the fullest sense, and every condition proposed, whether in favour of the garrison or the island of St. Kitts, was agreed to. The men of the 1st battalion of the Royal Scots and the flank companies of the 15th Regiment were sent to England pending their exchange, and the Marquis de Bouillé, with his wonted magnanimity discharged by a particular article, as an avowed acknowledgment of their gallantry, Governor Shirley and Brigadier-General Fraser from the condition of being considered as prisoners of war. Governor Shirley was allowed to return to Antigua, and General Fraser to continue in the service of his country.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

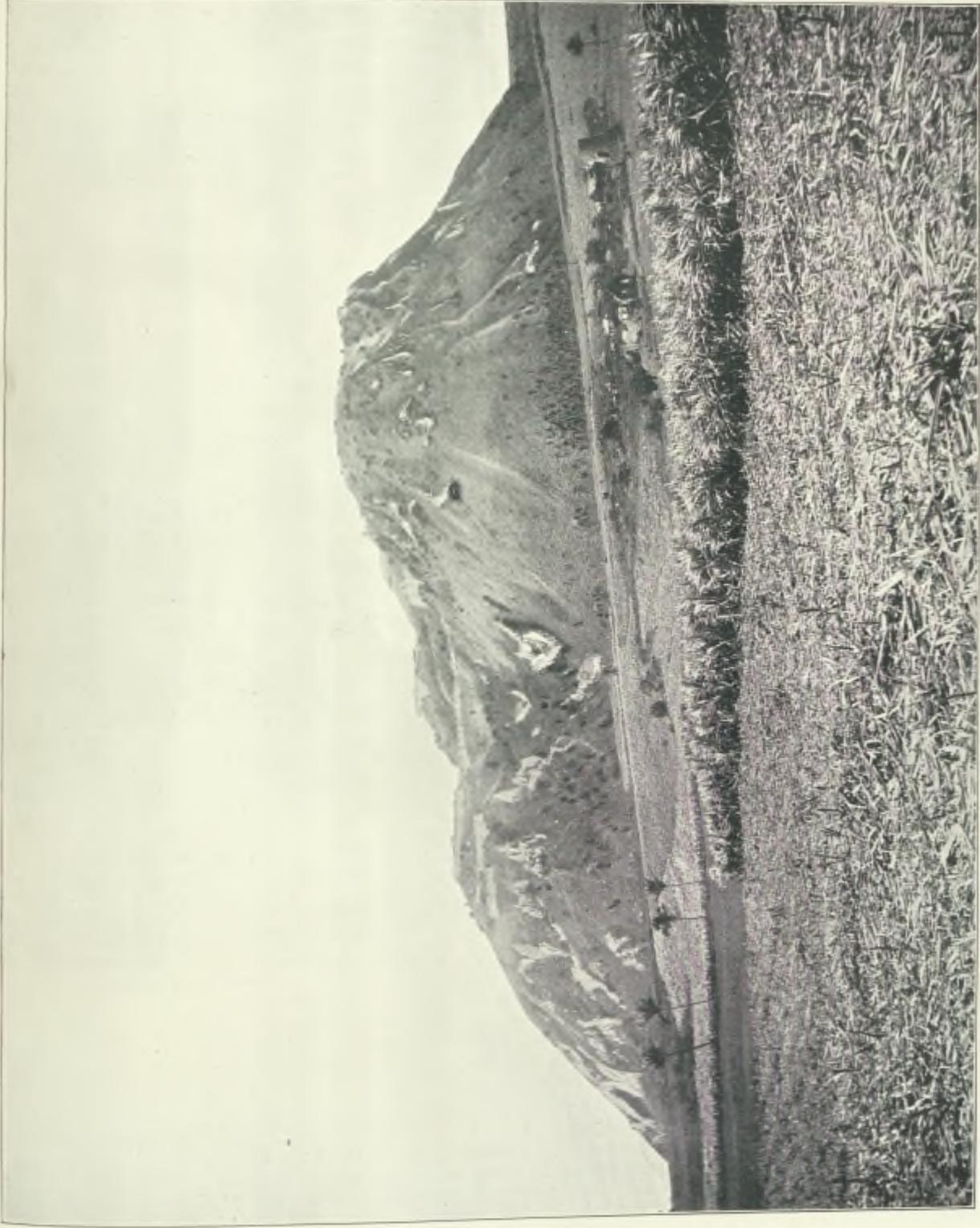
The next election of members to the West India Committee will be held on Thursday next. Full particulars regarding membership and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. It is hoped that readers will bring the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR before the notice of their friends, and will help forward the work which we are doing by bringing forward candidates for election. Visitors from the West Indies are reminded that a register of addresses is kept at the West India Committee Rooms, and they are invited to increase its utility by furnishing their address from time to time, together with the date of their arrival and departure. Members of the West India Committee can have their letters addressed to the West India Committee Rooms and forwarded. There are letters lying at the West India Committee Rooms addressed to Hon. H. F. Carr, Mr. Justice Hewick, Prof. Longstaffe and Mr. Charles Shepherd.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND THE EMPIRE.

In previous issues the representations received by the Government and the West India Committee from the following Chambers of Commerce and kindred associations regarding the continuance of the Brussels Convention for the abolition of foreign sugar bounties and the suppression of cartels have been summarised:—Liverpool, Greenock, Glasgow, Antigua, Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, Trinidad, Karachi, Madras, Cawnpore, Bengal, Bombay, Ceylon, Mauritius, Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang, Sierra Leone, Cairns, Newcastle, Maryborough, Geelong, Charters Towers, Nelson, Invercargill, Auckland, Canterbury (N.Z.), Pietermaritzburg, Inanda, Durban, Orange River, Vancouver, Regina, Hamilton, Victoria, Montreal, Halifax, and Toronto. We have now to add the following:—

Bristol.—The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping sent the following petition, signed by Sidney Humphries, President, E. Palliser Marten, Vice-President, and W. J. Hilliard, Secretary, to the Secretaries of State for the Colonies and for Foreign Affairs on August 7th:—

1. That your Petitioners number over 400 Members, and represent sugar refining, ship-owning, shipbuilding, engineering, manufacturing, and other important industries.
2. That Bristol, owing to its great natural advantages, has been engaged in sugar refining for a considerable period and has become identified with that industry.



Photograph by J

BRIMSTONE HILL, ST. KITTS.

[A. H. LORANA.

3. That, in view of the declaration by His Majesty's Government of their intention to withdraw from the Brussels Convention unless released from the obligation to penalise bounty-fed sugar, your Petitioners desire to place on record:—"That, having learned that His Majesty's Government have intimated their dissent from the existing terms of the Brussels Convention, involving, if insisted upon, the probable withdrawal of this country from the Convention, the Bristol Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping strongly protest against this action."

4. That your Petitioners, for many years prior to the signing of the Convention, took a very active part in the agitation for the abolition of foreign bounties on sugar, and consequently it is with the greatest apprehension that they contemplate the present action of His Majesty's Government, which is practically certain to nullify the effects of the Convention, re-introduce conditions which closed many of the refineries of this town, and transfer to foreign countries an important national industry.

5. That the following figures show the effect of foreign bounties on the refining industry of the country prior to the Brussels Convention, and also the result to the refining trade since Great Britain became a party to the Convention:—

Year.	Meltings in British Refineries. Tons.	Imports of Foreign Refined. Tons.	Annual Consumption. Tons.	Average price of 88% Beet f.o.b. Hambg. s. d.	Year.	Meltings in British Refineries. Tons.	Imports of Foreign Refined. Tons.	Annual Consumption. Tons.	Average price of 88% Beet f.o.b. Hambg. s. d.
1886	899,785	319,634	1,146,414	12 0	1897	654,732	772,994	1,378,516	8 10½
1887	909,903	319,072	1,173,338	12 2	1898	684,083	794,581	1,435,566	9 5½
1888	916,789	314,959	1,182,612	14 3	1899	617,801	868,025	1,447,326	10 0
1889	899,124	449,411	1,282,660	16 11	1900	589,437	934,789	1,488,535	10 4½
1890	837,401	473,255	1,249,110	12 7	1901	582,084	1,044,315	1,592,543	8 6½
1891	847,758	544,929	1,335,576	13 3	1902	580,505	1,000,277	1,539,461	6 7½
1892	819,077	532,386	1,281,528	13 7	1903	595,943	925,783	1,465,345*	8 3
1893	785,000	557,514	1,255,250	15 2½	1904	668,095	863,464	1,496,831	10 0½
1894	738,237	683,306	1,348,519	12 6½	1905	641,687	746,360	1,353,796†	11 5½
1895	768,260	707,535	1,402,409	9 9½	1906	670,846	891,869	1,510,434	8 7½
1896	734,000	724,976	1,384,034	10 6½					

From this table it will be observed that the price of sugar in 1906 has been practically as low as in any previous year except 1902, and much below the average of the ten years antecedent to the Convention.

6. That the Brussels Convention brought about an improvement in the condition of the home industry, and also ensured a continuance of supplies of cane sugar, which is of vital importance to our refining trade.

7. That while a grave injustice to an important home industry and to the sugar-growing colonies of this country was terminated by the Convention, the price of sugar to the consumers and sugar-using manufacturers has not been increased, and that, while the price of most raw material has within recent years greatly increased, that of sugar has remained, as stated, considerably below the average price for the decade prior to the Convention.

8. That the trade of sugar refining in this country and sugar growing in the West Indies and other British possessions will be seriously injured by a breach of continuity of policy, arresting, as it must necessarily do, the expenditure of capital in improvements, which, under the staple conditions ensured by the Convention, has during the past few years been very extensive.

9. That your Petitioners cannot agree as to the sufficiency of the reason for reversing the policy of the Brussels Convention given by His Majesty's Government and announced in Parliament in the following words:—"They consider that the limitation of the sources from which sugar may enter the United Kingdom, whether by prohibition or by the imposition of countervailing duties, is inconsistent with their declared policy and incompatible with the interests of British consumers and sugar-using manufacturers."

10. (a) That your Petitioners submit that the contention that this limitation "is incompatible with the interests of British consumers and sugar-using manufacturers" is not warranted, in view of the facts.

(b) That the following figures, giving the exports of British-made confectionery, show that no injury has been done to the export branch of the trade of sugar-using manufacturers:—

1904.	1905.	1906.
289,841 cwts. Value, £750,870.	315,478 cwts. Value, £824,221.	391,494 cwts. Value, £952,953.

(c) That the following paragraph extracted from the *Chamber of Commerce Journal* of January, 1907, justifies the contention that the home trade of the confectionery manufacturers has not suffered in volume through the operation of the Convention and that any diminution of their profits is due not to the Convention but to the sugar duty:—"During the past year the confectionery manufacturers have generally been busy throughout the country. There has been, undoubtedly, a great revival of demand, but most manufacturers complain that profits are not maintained at anything like their old levels, and that increased trade has not brought with it a return to the prosperity of five or ten years ago. This is attributed to the sugar duty, which has increased the price of the raw material beyond any increase of price of the finished product which has yet been obtained."

For the reasons given, your Petitioners trust that His Majesty's Government will reconsider their decision and continue to adhere to a Convention which your Petitioners consider to be vital to the existence of the sugar refining and allied industries of this country.

Townsville (Queensland).—Mr. H. B. Marks, Secretary of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce, wrote on June 29th that a protest against any idea of a denouncement of the Brussels Sugar Convention was being sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION AND SUGAR.

It will be remembered that the Tariff Commission is a body established by Mr. Chamberlain in 1903 to examine and report upon the principal industries of this country in connection with his fiscal proposals. Mr. Chamberlain is the Hon. President, Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, the Secretary, and the members include prominent representatives of all our national interests—financial, banking, shipping, manufacturing, and agricultural.

* Convention began 1st September.

† 1,200,000 tons short in beet crop.

The report of this organisation on the sugar and confectionery industries which has just been published, contains an immense amount of information. It would be impossible to summarise it adequately in a small space. We must, therefore, express the hope that those of our readers who are not directly interested in sugar will forgive us for setting out at full length the introduction to the Report and the Memorandum submitted to the Commissioners by the West India Committee. In the introduction the main points elucidated are succinctly stated as follows:—

(1) The annual consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom has increased enormously. Fifty years ago it was 29½ lbs. per head of the population; in 1885 it was 79½, and in 1906 was 95½ lbs. But the British refining industry has not only failed to keep pace with this great increase in consumption but has declined absolutely in the last 20 years. Whereas in 1885 the sugar refined in British factories exceeded 19½ million cwts., it had fallen in 1903 to 12½ million cwts. and in 1906 was 15½ million cwts.

(2) While the British refining industry has declined the refining industries of Germany, Austria-Hungary, France and other Continental countries have greatly advanced chiefly through the increase of the population and the growth of sugar consumption in the United Kingdom. Fifty years ago practically the whole of the sugar used in the United Kingdom was refined here; twenty years ago we refined only 70 per cent.; and in 1906 only 45 per cent., the balance being made up by importations of sugar refined in Continental factories. Our importation of refined sugar from Germany is now 12½ million cwts., an increase of 10½ million cwts. in 20 years.

(3) The extent of the development of foreign refining industries is shown by the following increases in the quantities of sugar refined in principal Continental countries:—In 20 years the German output trebled; the Belgian output increased seven times, and the French output by 45 per cent. The Austrian output has doubled in the last ten years. The evidence shows that the principal factor in the development of the sugar industries of foreign countries has been the facilities afforded by this country for enabling them to take advantage of the rapidly growing demand for sugar in the United Kingdom.

(4) Concurrently with the development of the sugar-refining industries of Continental countries, and similarly assisted by the cartel and bounty systems, there has been a considerable expansion in the continental cultivation of sugar beet. The German area under sugar beet has nearly trebled in 25 years; the Austrian area has more than doubled in 20 years; the Belgian area has doubled in 25 years and the French area has increased by about 10 per cent. While these Continental developments have been in progress the excise duty in the United Kingdom equal to the customs duty on sugar has prevented the development of British sugar-beet growing.

(5) Cane-producing countries suffered severely by the competition of the Continental bounty-fed supplies of beet sugar. The importation into the United Kingdom of raw cane sugar from the British West Indies fell from 1,400,000 cwts. in 1885 to 450,000 cwts. in 1903; from British Guiana from 1,300,000 cwts. to 220,000 in the same period and from the British East Indies from 850,000 cwts. in 1885 and 1,600,000 cwts. in 1896 to 286,000 in 1903.

(6) As the United Kingdom has become more and more dependent upon foreign refined sugar the British refining industry has suffered from unfair conditions of competition, and British labour has been displaced. If all the sugar consumed in the United Kingdom were refined here British sugar refineries would, witnesses estimate, earn £1,500,000 more per annum of which £375,000 would be spent in wages in the sugar factories and a large part of the remainder in wages in other British industries.

(7) The unfair character of foreign competition in the British market is constantly dwelt upon in the evidence. The Continental cartels facilitated dumping on a large scale in the United Kingdom and this cartel organisation was only rendered possible by heavy State bounties and preferential export freight rates. Cases are quoted in the evidence in which German refined sugar was sold in this country at a price of 1s. 8d. per cwt. or about 20 per cent. below the cost of production. Similarly without a cartel, but under cover of their high tariff, sugar refiners of the United States are said to have been able to dump their by-product syrup into the United Kingdom, compelling British refiners to meet the competition by selling their syrup at unremunerative prices.

(8) These dumped importations of refined Continental sugar were for a period advantageous to manufacturing confectioners by providing them with sugar at artificially low prices. But these low prices were of a temporary character only and the result of conditions incompatible with the permanent expansion of the confectionery industry.

(9) The Brussels Convention which came into operation in 1903 abolished State bounties on the cultivation and manufacture of sugar in Germany, Austria, France, Belgium and other competing countries. In consequence^a cartels became impossible. It is shown in the evidence that since these

^a *i.e.*, of the Convention.—ED.

changes (a) the importations of refined sugar into the United Kingdom have declined while the importations of raw sugar have increased; (b) sugar factories in this country have employed more workmen and the employment has been more continuous; (c) importations of raw sugar from the British West Indies and British Guiana have increased appreciably; (d) the exports of British sugar machinery to British cane-growing Colonies which were declining have increased largely—it is said by the West India Committee by fully 50 per cent.; (e) but for the exceptionally high prices of 1904 the level of prices has remained normal; (f) the exports of confectionery have increased 25 per cent. in value from 1903 to 1906 and the exports of mineral waters have increased more than 50 per cent.

(10) The higher prices which followed the Convention are shown not to have been due to the Convention and have not been maintained. In 1906 the lowest price for 88 per cent. beet (f.o.b. Hamburg and free of duty) was 7s. 11d. and the highest price 10s. 2½d. per cwt. In the ten years ending 1903 the average of the lowest prices reached was 8s. 0½d. and the average of the highest prices was 10s. 11d.

(11) The high prices of 1904 are shown by the examination of the course of trade in Europe and America to have been due in the main to (a) the cutting off of the European export of sugar to Canada and the United States in consequence of the preference accorded by Canada to British Colonies and by the United States to United States Colonies, the Canadian preference being increased by the operation of the surtax on German sugar; (b) diminished European sowings of beet following the restriction of the American markets and the abolition of bounties; (c) the failure of the 1904 sugar beet crop.

(12) The two systems of Preference referred to above have had a great effect on the sugar growing and sugar manufacturing industries of the British Empire. (a) The United States preference to Cuba and the Philippines deprived the British cane-growing colonies of their large United States market; (b) the Canadian preference and later the Canadian surtax on German sugar helped to divert to Canada the sugar from the British cane-growing colonies which formerly went to the United States. Under the Canadian preference there has been a fourfold increase in the exports of British refined sugar to Canada and there has been a fivefold increase since 1900 in the British exports to Canada of confectionery, jams, and preserved fruits.

(13) It is shown by the statistics that when the British cane-growing Colonies lost the market of the United Kingdom through the importation of bounty-fed sugar from the Continent they were compensated by the acquisition of a market in the United States; and when in turn they lost the United States market through the adoption by that country of preference for its own Colonies, the Convention and the preferential policy of Canada restored to them British markets in the United Kingdom and Canada.

(14) The evidence, in general, points to the desirability of maintaining the Convention; but it is widely held that the principle of countervailing duties should be adopted in the place of prohibition.

(15) Confectionery manufacturers strongly urge the abolition or reduction of the sugar duty which the evidence and statistics show to be the main cause of the rise in price of sugar.

(16) It is the general opinion that the greatest benefit would result to all interests in the British Empire from a system of mutual preference under which the sugar cultivation of the British West Indies, British Guiana and other parts of the Empire would be increased, the British consumer would be given a larger choice of supply and made less dependent upon foreign sugar, and the markets of the Empire would be secured for its own sugar producers and manufacturers.

The West India Committee's Memorandum.

The following is the text of the Memorandum submitted to the Commission by the West India Committee:—

This Memorandum shows that the effect of the export bounty and cartel principle of protection, as applied by Germany, Austria and other Continental States in connection with the sugar industries, has been to restrict the natural production of sugar throughout the world, by tending to limit its supply to the bounty-aided zone of Europe, thus causing instability of market price, because the supply was thus made dependent upon the variable climatic conditions of central Europe. These arbitrary interferences with the natural course of industry and trade operated to reduce year by year the competition of tropical cane sugar. The Brussels Sugar Convention was the outcome of many years of international efforts to stop this protectionist system, and it has succeeded; and if allowed to continue unimpaired as to its penal provisions, will gradually tend more and more to place the sugar industries of the world on their natural foundations.

The cane sugar industry of British Guiana and the British West Indies has suffered for over twenty years from the effects of foreign State sugar bounties; these gave the Continental sugar producer an artificial and unfair advantage over the British West Indian sugar producer in British markets. The obvious result of this unfair competition was to compel every sugar planter in our

British tropical colonies to provide the equivalent to the preferential advantage of the foreign bounty out of his own pocket; this exaction produced a complete loss of confidence in the West Indian sugar industry. There was also the constant fear that the bounties might be increased, and the greatest uncertainty prevailed as to the future. The credit of the industry was practically destroyed, and it became impossible for West Indian planters to raise the necessary capital to carry on production and maintain their factories in an efficient condition. This loss of confidence and consequently of credit affected not only the sugar industry, but other industries also. In the then existing state of affairs, capitalists could not be persuaded to invest money in the West Indies, and settlers were quite unwilling to select those colonies as the scene of their operations. As available funds became exhausted, estates went out of cultivation, and the distress—especially among the peasantry—became widespread. In 1885 the West Indies sought to enter into a reciprocity treaty with the United States of America, but they were forbidden to do so by Her late Majesty's then Government, mainly on the ground of treaties between England and the very countries whose bounties were driving West India produce out of the British markets, treaties in the negotiation of which our Colonies had no part, as to which they had never been in any way consulted, and from which they had never derived, and were never likely to derive, the slightest benefit.

This system became aggravated in 1896, by Germany doubling her bounty. From 1 mk. 25 (1/3) per 100 kilos. on raw, and 2 mk. (2/-) on refined, it was raised to 2 mk. 50 (2/6) on raw and 3 mk. 55 (3/6½) on refined sugar. France then added to an enormous indirect bounty, a direct bounty equivalent to the direct bounty in Germany. The West Indian sugar industry was at this time only saved from extinction by the American market. By the United States tariff law of July 24th, 1897 (55th Congress, Session 1, Cap. 2, 1897), special countervailing duties were levied on bounty-fed sugar, and thus West Indian sugar was accorded equality of opportunity with bounty-fed sugar in the markets of the United States, which was denied to it in the markets of Great Britain.

The cartels in Austria and Germany were inaugurated in 1898 and 1900 respectively. These rings were enabled, by reason of the customs duties largely exceeding the excise duties, to keep the prices of sugar to home consumers at such a high level, that they could export their surplus production at prices below the cost of production, and yet realise a profit. In the case of Austria, the difference between the customs and excise duties was 13 florins (25/-) per 100 kilos., while in Germany it amounted to 20 marks (20/-).

These cartels served to increase still further the disadvantage to which the West Indian producer was already subject. The effect on the West Indian sugar industry was disastrous, and its collapse appeared imminent. Indeed, matters became so serious that even when eventually the Convention was agreed to at Brussels, a free Imperial grant of £250,000 had to be made to enable the industry in the West Indies to tide over the period until the Convention became operative.

The letter from the Anti-Bounty League to the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, signed by Lord Stanmore, President, Sir Nevile Lubbock, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, Secretary, dated January 9th, 1902, which is appended, contains a carefully compiled estimate as to the cost to the British Exchequer which the collapse of the West Indian sugar industry would have involved.

On March 5th, 1902, a Convention was signed at Brussels by the principal sugar-producing Powers, by which they agreed to abolish bounties and to render the existence of cartels impossible, by limiting the *écart* or difference between the customs and the excise duties. A penal clause in this Convention provided that the high contracting Powers should impose a countervailing duty on, or prohibit the importation into their territories of, sugars from countries which granted bounties either on production or export. Thus equality of opportunity in British markets was once more restored to the West Indian producer, with the result that considerable development took place in the West Indian sugar industry.

This Convention came into force on September 1st, 1903, and beneficial effects became immediately apparent. Credit was restored, and the sugar estates in the West Indies at once began to make up the ground which they had lost. In British Guiana the value of the sugar machinery imports rose from \$160,000 per annum for the four years preceding the settlement of the Convention, to \$300,000 for the four years after the Convention had been agreed to. During the years 1904-6, one firm alone spent \$432,000 in machinery, and another \$192,000. In Trinidad, besides the general rehabilitation of cultivation and improvements and renewals in the factories, as well as the installation of steam ploughing and a new process of extraction, a considerable development of cane farming took place. Two central factories were erected in Antigua, and in Jamaica three central factory schemes were formulated, two of which have already assumed practical shape, and to quote the report of Sir Alexander Swettenham, "increased confidence has characterised the sugar industry as a whole, both in the operations of the planter and in the introduction of capital. Considerable activity in extension of cultivation is recorded, and also in cheapening of production by means of machinery and by the amalgamation of estates as central factories."

From the reports of the principal engineering firms in Great Britain which have been submitted to the West India Committee, it appears that since the Brussels Convention came into force there has been a very large increase in the manufacture of sugar machinery for the British West Indies, and from the figures submitted it would seem that this exceeds by fully 50 per cent. the work undertaken in the years immediately preceding the Convention.

The United States, by countervailing the bounties, provided a market in which West Indian sugar could compete on even terms with beet, and it was due to a foreign Power and to no act of the British Government, to whom the Colonists naturally looked for assistance, that the West Indian sugar industry was able to survive. The later cartel bounties were not, however, countervailed, although at the time of the Brussels Convention coming into force, steps were being taken in that direction. Since the Convention became operative, however, the supply of preferential sugar going into the United States has frequently lowered the market below European parity. The United States, moreover, at the present moment, only require about 300,000 tons of non-preferential sugar to make up their sugar supply, and this quantity is being rapidly decreased by their own internal beet production, by cane sugar from Porto Rico, and the extension of cultivation in Cuba and the Philippines, in consequence of preferential treatment.

Canada has given preferential terms to the West Indies since 1898. This has proved of advantage, and sufficiently explains why so little West Indian sugar has come to Great Britain. Canada has, however, established an intermediate tariff by which she hopes to secure reciprocity with other countries, and this will diminish the benefit which at present accrues to the West Indies. Moreover, the consumption of sugar in Canada has not yet reached the figure of the West Indian production, and she has recently extended the British preferential treatment to a limited quantity of beet sugar.

It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of the sugar industry to the West Indian colonies. There is no agricultural industry which does so much for labour. It affords work throughout the year. Large quantities of expensive stores are also required, which mean an important contribution to the revenue of these colonies. The spending powers of the population are thus proportionately increased, and a good or bad year for sugar means a good or bad year for all concerned. In British Guiana and Trinidad the labouring population has increased, and is increasing, by the introduction of East Indian immigrants for sugar cultivation, and to them is largely due the establishment of the rapidly extending rice industry of British Guiana and the cane-farming industry of Trinidad. The abandonment of sugar cultivation would mean a most serious blow to the prosperity of all classes in the West Indies.

Given competition on the basis of natural advantages, the cane sugar of the West Indies can compete successfully with foreign beet sugar. All that the West Indies have asked for is a "fair field and no favour." For many years past every successive British Government has agreed that bounties are obnoxious and bad, and yet it was not until 1902 that by means of the Sugar Convention effective measures were adopted to stamp them out.

The West India Committee consider that the effects of the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902 have been:—

1. To increase the total supply of sugar from all sources by the revival of the world's liberty of production.
2. To restore to market prices the influence of natural supply and demand.
3. To produce stability in market price.
4. To guarantee the development of the British tropical sugar industries, by making them dependent upon the natural and customary incidents of commerce and industry, and independent of the caprice and manipulation of foreign Governments.
5. To isolate the bounty question as being distinct and independent of all other international commercial questions, whether of tariff, reciprocity, preference or otherwise.

In conclusion, it is proper to mention that the views of the West India Committee in favour of the continuance of the Convention are supported by the Chambers of Commerce and kindred associations of: Karachi, Madras, Cawnpore, Bengal, Bombay, Ceylon, Mauritius, Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang, Sierra Leone, Geelong, Cairns, Charters Towers, Maryborough, Newcastle, Nelson, Auckland, Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Inanda (Natal), Orange River, Vancouver, Regina, Hamilton, Victoria, Montreal, Halifax, Toronto, Canterbury (N.Z.), Invercargill (N.Z.), besides those in British Guiana and the West Indian Colonies.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

Prospects of the West Indian Industry and some consequences of its failure.

Anti-Bounty League, Billiter Square Buildings, E.C., January 9th, 1902.

The Right Hon. J. CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., &c., &c., Secretary of State for the Colonies.

SIR.—In view of the reassembling of the Brussels Conference on the Sugar Bounty Question, and of the satisfactory assurances which have been given as to the attitude of His Majesty's Government and their desire to adopt such measures,

in co-operation with the Bounty-giving Powers, as will secure the general abolition of the Bounties by means of an International Convention, we feel some hesitation in respectfully submitting for your consideration the following observations, in which we venture to forecast the situation, which will have to be faced in our West Indian sugar-producing Colonies, and the nature of the responsibilities which will thereby be entailed on the Imperial Government—and especially on the Imperial Exchequer—in the event of the failure of the Brussels Conference and a continuance of the policy of non-intervention hitherto pursued by this country in regard to the foreign Sugar Bounties.

In the existing position of the Sugar Industries of the world, and in view of the unprecedented fall in prices, we wish, first of all, to state our firm conviction, based on the considerations detailed below, that, unless credit and stability are restored to the British West Indian sugar industry—a result which can only now be attained either by the total and immediate abolition of the Bounties in every shape and form, or by their neutralisation in British markets—the practical extinction of that industry must necessarily ensue within a very short period.

That we are taking no exaggerated or alarmist view of the present situation may be shown by a comparison of the data on which the Royal West India Commissioners based their forecast of the future of the industry in 1897 (*vide* pars. 38 and 541 of their Report), with the data available for making a similar forecast to-day. In 1897, the Commission reported that "looking to the prices now prevailing and to the probabilities as to the future of prices . . . the sugar cane industry of the West Indies is threatened with such reduction in the immediate future as may not, in some of the Colonies, differ very greatly from extinction."

Since this forecast was made, the prospects have grown immeasurably worse, for the following reasons:—

1. The price of sugar has fallen from an average of 8/- to 9/- per cwt. (88% Beet), the prices then prevailing, to 6/6, the present Market quotation.
2. The supply of sugar, through the artificial stimulus of the Continental Bounties, now so greatly exceeds demand that on the basis of present "visible supplies" it is estimated that the surplus stocks will amount in 1902 to more than 2,000,000 tons as against 1,000,000 tons in 1896/7, a then unprecedented and phenomenal quantity. (*Vide* F. O. Licht's Monthly Report, December 15th, 1901.)
3. The temporary advantages derived from the imposition of countervailing duties by the United States in 1896 will—for reasons which we have previously submitted for your consideration—very shortly cease to be enjoyed by British West Indian sugar.
4. The operation of the recently inaugurated Cartel System in Germany and Austria, whose annual surplus production of sugar constitutes the dominating factor in the world's supply, will, unless checked, ensure the continuance of the present "glut" in the open markets of the world and consequently a continuance of the present low range of prices, previously never even approached.

In connection with this, we would refer you to the letter recently forwarded by us to the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of which is enclosed. It will be seen that the Cartel has doubled the German Bounty, which was £1 5s. per ton. It is now £2 10s. and can, with the consent of the German Government, be increased to £3 15s. without any alterations of the existing Customs and Excise Duties. Thus, if the Cartel is allowed to continue, the German Government can well give up its official Export Bounty and still leave the industry with double the Bounty it enjoyed last year. The price paid by the German "Fabricants" for roots for the current crop was from 1 mk. to 1.25 mks. per quintal, and it is expected that for the coming crop the price will be fixed at 80 pfgs. to 85 pfgs. per quintal. This will reduce the cost of the output of sugar to the factories by £1 per ton. With this reduction in the price of roots, it is believed that next crop they will be able to sell for export at £6 per ton, or about £3 per ton below the cost of production, and yet realise a profit on their output on a whole.

In view of the considerations above summarised and of the fact that sugar cannot be produced in the West Indies, taking the average cost of production (which compares favourably with the average of the other sugar-producing districts of the world, whether of Cane or Beet), at less than £8 10s. to £9, it is evident, even without the further fall in price which experts confidently anticipate, that the sugar industry of the West Indies must be completely extinguished in the immediate future, if matters are allowed to take their course. If this were a passing phase, and the present low prices were due to natural causes, it would bring about its own cure. Badly managed estates, and those carried on with insufficient capital, would change hands and no loss to the community would occur. But the present case is entirely different. The low price is due to artificial causes alone, and if the artificial causes remain unchecked, even lower prices must be anticipated. What inducement is there to any capitalist to continue the contest? Those who have no capital must be ruined. Those who have capital will give up, and, after the bitter experience of the last 40 years, will cease their hopeless struggle against impossible odds.

It remains for us to consider the consequences and count the cost of such a catastrophe.

The consequences of the failure of the sugar industry, as set forth in pars. 30—43 of the Report of the Royal Commission may be tabulated as follows:—

1. Great want of employment for the labouring classes with a corresponding fall in the rate of wages and a lamentable reduction in the standard of living.
2. Falling off of the public revenues concurrent with additional outlay in providing for the population by emigration or otherwise, and the consequent "inability of some of the Governments to meet their absolutely necessary expenditure, including interest on debt."
3. The repatriation of the coolies engaged on the sugar estates in British Guiana, which might involve a large expenditure, "which under the circumstances must fall upon the public funds."

From the consequences grouped under the first heading no large direct call on the British Exchequer need perhaps be anticipated beyond the additional expense incurred in the use of the naval and military forces of the Crown for the preservation of law and order among an unemployed and, in some cases, starving population.

Very large and immediate calls, however, would have to be met in connection with the second and third heads, the nature of which it may be possible to estimate, though but roughly, from a consideration of the following points:—

- (a) The number and population of the Colonies, which would be most seriously affected.
- (b) The amounts of their respective public revenues, expenditures and debts.
- (c) The number of years during which Subventions or Grants-in-Aid from the Imperial Exchequer would have to

be continued until the Colonies concerned became once more industrially and financially self-supporting.

With regard to (a), "while none of the Colonies (except Grenada) would escape," all would not suffer in the same degree. The degree of the distress which will be entailed may be roughly measured by the percentages of the products of the sugar cane, in the total exports of the respective Colonies.

For convenience of reference, we quote the percentages worked out in the Report of the Royal Commission, which are materially the same to-day as in 1896-7, appended to a table of the Colonies affected:—

Colony or Island.	Population.	Expenditure.	Public Debt.	Percentage of Sugar-Cane Products in Total Exports.
British Guiana	287,000	£525,000	£928,000	94½*
Trinidad	260,000	672,000	911,000	57
Tobago	18,000	7,000	9,000	35
Barbados	192,000	207,000	414,000	97
St. Lucia	47,000	63,000	187,000	74
St. Vincent	44,000	47,000	15,000	42
Antigua	36,000	51,000	137,000	94½
St. Kitts-Nevis	46,000	47,000	69,000	96½
Dominica	26,000	25,000	59,000	15
Montserrat	11,000	16,000	11,000	62
	967,000	£1,660,000	£2,740,000	

* Excluding gold.

It will be seen that in the case of four of the Colonies, viz.: British Guiana, Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, the products of the sugar-cane practically constitute the whole of the exports. Bearing in mind that any savings which could be effected by reducing official salaries, &c., or by cutting down Government expenses in Public Works, Education, Hospitals, Asylums, &c., must be more than counterbalanced by the cost of feeding or relieving the unemployed population and organising either a system of settlement on the abandoned estates, or an extensive scheme of emigration (or whatever other schemes of relief may be decided on), it may be safely assumed that the extinction of the sugar industries in these four Colonies would, by extinguishing the sole source of the Public Revenue, entail on the British tax-payer an annual burden, for some time to come, at least equivalent to their present annual expenditure, in addition to the capital charges of the public debts, which, it may be assumed, would have to be taken over by the Imperial Exchequer. Estimated on these lines, the burden thrown on the British tax-payer will amount to the following totals:—

	Annual Expenditure.	Public Debts.	Annual Expenditure.	Public Debts.	
British Guiana	£525,000	£928,000	Antigua	£51,000	£137,000
Barbados	207,000	414,000	St. Kitts-Nevis	47,000	69,000
	£732,000	£1,342,000		£98,000	£206,000

In the case of the three above islands, it is difficult to place a limit of time to the heavy annual expenditure which would be required in face of the fact that there is no industry or industries which can completely replace the growth and production of sugar and afford the requisite employment for the population, especially in crowded Barbados. In British Guiana, the necessity for expenditure on the above scale would cease comparatively quickly.

In the case of the other Islands, where sugar exports form a smaller percentage, it must be remembered, that, while Trinidad has rich resources in its cacao industry and entrepot trade, it is burdened with a heavy liability in connection with the repatriation of the Indian coolies, and that St. Vincent and Dominica are already practically bankrupt, and have only been enabled to carry on with the help of Grants-in-aid from the Imperial Parliament. Under these circumstances it is, we think, a fair estimate to assume that, while it may be necessary for the Imperial Exchequer to take over the capital charges of their public debts, the revenues will fall off, taking the average of the six colonies, by at least one-half, should the sugar industry fail, and that the burden of the deficit (for some time at least—though for a shorter period than in the case of the other four Colonies) would fall on the British tax-payer. Estimated on these lines, the total annual charge will amount to £420,000, thus:—

	Half Annual Expenditure.	Half Annual Expenditure.	
Trinidad	£336,000	St. Vincent	£23,500
Tobago	3,500	Dominica	12,500
St. Lucia	36,500	Montserrat	8,000
	£376,000		£44,000

With regard to the third item above we have assumed in the case of Trinidad that the liabilities for the repatriation of the coolies will be met with the help of the subsidiary resources of the Colony without any further call on the Imperial Exchequer than that above estimated. British Guiana possesses no such subsidiary resources (except gold-mining, which cannot be regarded as an important revenue producing industry), and the whole of the liability (as to which it is noted by the Royal Commissioners, that "if there were any general abandonment of sugar cultivation, the whole condition of affairs in the Colony would so change it is possible there might be a general desire among the immigrants to return to India"), would fall on the Imperial Exchequer. It is estimated that the cost of such repatriation would not amount to less than £1,000,000.

The total liabilities, therefore, which will accrue, if the above estimates and assumptions, based on the Report of the Royal Commission, and the special observations of Sir Henry Norman, its Chairman, are to be accepted, will be as follows:—

Public debts taken over.	Current expenditure.	Cost of repatriation of Coolies from B. Guiana.
£1,548,000	£830,000	...
	420,000	£1,000,000
	£1,250,000	

We honestly think that the above figures represent a fair estimate. It will be observed that we have omitted any reference to Jamaica, in whose case it is more than probable that the failure of the sugar industry (which constitutes 20 per cent. of the exports and affords employment to probably not less than 40,000 of the population), would so aggravate her already serious financial embarrassments as to necessitate the grant of a considerable subvention from the Mother Country, in addition to the £20,000 a year which is now being paid on account of the direct steamer service.

We have set forth in previous paragraphs the reasons which lead us to believe that, if matters are allowed to take their course, the abandonment of the sugar estates and the extinction of the sugar industry in the West Indies will be at once rapid and universal. You are aware, Sir, that the first steps towards abandonment have already been taken in the instructions sent out by many proprietors to their managers to reduce expenditure in field and factory to the barest minimum, pending the present uncertainty of affairs. We are firmly convinced that given a continuance of the present prices, the conclusion of the next crop-season will see at least one-half of the industry extinguished, and the season after, the practical extinction of the whole.

We have ventured, not without much hesitation and reluctance, as we have pointed out, to attempt the unpleasant and extremely difficult task of estimating carefully and dispassionately the financial results of a catastrophe, the imminence of which—so sharp and sudden has been the recent break in prices—is, we believe, hardly yet realised even in the West Indies, much less in this country.

In conclusion we can only beg that you, Sir, and the Government, will give the matter your most earnest consideration, and that, should the Brussels Conference prove abortive, as in 1898, before asking this country to acquiesce in the policy of non-intervention hitherto pursued in regard to the Bounties, you will use your powerful influence in laying before your colleagues and before Parliament as clear an estimate as possible of the cost which such a policy must inevitably entail, not merely on the Colonies directly interested, but on the people of this country.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

STANMORE, *President.*

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman of Executive Committee.*

MAVSON M. BERTON, *Secretary.*

THE CONVENTION'S ADDITIONAL ACT.

The Additional Act which was adopted by the Permanent Commission under the Sugar Convention at Brussels on July 27th, and now awaits signature, contains three articles. By the first of these, the contracting States agree to continue the Convention for a further period of five years from September 1st, 1908. At the same time it will be allowable for any of them to withdraw as from September 1st 1911, subject to a year's notice, if at the last meeting held before September 1st, 1910, the permanent Commission by a majority vote decides that circumstances justify this power being left to the contracting States. Otherwise, the provisions in Article X of the Convention as to the termination of the Convention, or its continuance from year to year, hold good. Article II of the Additional Act releases Great Britain from the obligation of prohibiting bounty-fed sugars, or imposing a special duty on the importation of sugars from countries giving bounties. It further gives the high contracting Powers the right to insist that sugar refined in the United Kingdom and exported to their territories shall be accompanied by a certificate declaring that no part of it has come from a country recognised by the Permanent Commission as giving a bounty on production or export. Article III provides that this Additional Act shall be ratified, and the ratifications lodged at Brussels as early as possible, and in any case before February 1st, 1908. It will only come into force if it is ratified by all the contracting States except Spain, Italy and Sweden, which were exempted from Articles I, II and III of the Convention by Article VI so long as they do not export sugar. In case any of the States fail to deposit notices of ratification within the time provided, the Belgian Government will invite a decision as to the date when the present additional Act shall come into force as regards those who have ratified. The States which have not ratified before February 1st will be considered to have denounced the Convention, such denunciation to take effect from the following 1st of September, unless a contrary decision at the request of the interested parties, is arrived at by the majority summoned together at the meeting above arranged for. A protocol provides that if the necessary ratifications are not made, Great Britain will be entitled to denounce the Convention before the 1st of March, 1908, such denunciation to take effect on September 1st, 1908, whether she has already ratified the Additional Act or not.

JAMAICA "CHURCH RELIEF."

The Rev. S. O. Ormsby, Rector of St. Michael's, Kingston, Jamaica, who is in England on deputation work in connection with the Jamaica Church Relief Fund, writes as follows:—

May I be permitted to bring before your readers a strong plea on behalf of the churches destroyed by the recent earthquake in Jamaica. The wreck of property was complete. Seventy-eight church buildings were completely destroyed or very seriously damaged. It is estimated that to restore these buildings adequately in a modified manner will cost £38,000; and to aid in accomplishing this the Archbishop of the West Indies is asking from friends in England the sum of £30,000. The Jamaica Church is disestablished and entirely self-supporting. The majority of its members are poor. In Kingston the distress is very real and very great. With congregations scattered and impoverished it will be impossible to restore our churches without substantial help from the mother country. The assistance already received from England, will go far towards restoring the homes and business places of the city, but the churches are in sore need of help. My own church, St. Michael's, is an absolute wreck, with only a little piece of the tower left standing, to show it had once been a church. An English clergyman, in answering a letter of appeal which I addressed to him, uses these words: "There are very few people here whom I could collect for a drawing-room meeting, and most of them are of the opinion that if Jamaica sits on a boiling pot it must not be surprised if it boils over occasionally. I enclose a donation for your rebuilding fund, and hope you will succeed in putting up something which will not fall down next time." I would remind all who hold this

opinion that it is two hundred years since we have had an earthquake anything like the recent one, therefore it is hardly fair to say that we sit on a boiling pot; and if we have made the mistake in recent years of imitating English architecture, I think we have learnt our lesson, and none need be afraid that money collected in England will be improperly spent in erecting buildings unsuitable to an earthquake country. I return within a few days to my ruined church and home, but I leave this appeal behind me, trusting that it will meet with a speedy and generous response. Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer of the Jamaica Church Aid Association, W. G. Klein, Esq., 24, Belsize Park, London, N.W., or they may be sent to the London and Westminster Bank, Hampstead.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

Trinidad labourers at Panama.

On August 13th, Mr. S. Roberts asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he could now state what Court decided that the recent Trinidad Ordinance could not be enforced in the Panama zone; what was the status of the Court which pronounced this verdict; and had notice of appeal been given. Sir E. Grey: It is presumed that the hon. member refers to a decision stated to have been given by the Supreme Court of the United States, by which it had been laid down that the Isthmian Canal Commission, with whom the contract entered into by Trinidad labourers is made, are part of the United States Government, and therefore cannot be sued for breach of contract. His Majesty's Government having received information to this effect, His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington has been instructed to report whether such a decision has been given. Until his Excellency's report is received I am not in a position to furnish the hon. member with any further information.

Labour in St. Thomé and Príncipe.

Mr. Byles asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on July 30th whether he was aware that slave labour recruited in West Africa was largely employed on the islands of St. Thomé and Príncipe; whether the Portuguese Government had undertaken to put down the slave trade in her West African territory; whether England in 1830 paid a large sum of money to Portugal to secure that suppression; whether Great Britain, in concert with other Powers, had bound herself, by the Ashburton Treaty in 1842, by the Berlin General Act in 1855, and by the Brussels General Act in 1890, to suppress every kind of slave trade in the interior of Africa; and why were these solemn undertakings ignored?

Sir Edward Grey, in a written reply, said: I am aware that the labour in San Thomé and Príncipe is largely recruited in Portuguese West Africa. There is no trace of any payment having been made to Portugal in 1830 for the suppression of the slave trade in West Africa. But in 1815, by the Convention of January 21st, a sum of £300,000 was paid to Portugal in discharge of claims for Portuguese ships detained by British cruisers previously to June 1st, 1814, on the ground that they were engaged in illegal slave trade. And on January 22nd of the same year a treaty was concluded with Portugal by which the Portuguese slave trade in all parts of Africa north of the equator was declared to be thenceforward illegal. In this treaty Portugal also engaged to "determine by a subsequent treaty the period at which the Portuguese slave trade should cease universally." Great Britain, on her side, remitted in favour of Portugal the whole of what remained, amounting to £480,000, due to Great Britain out of a loan of £600,000 raised in 1809 for the service of Portugal. The articles of the Ashburton Treaty referred to are Articles VIII. and IX. of which Article VIII. relates to the maintenance, co-operation, &c., of British and United States squadrons off the coast of Africa; and Article IX. arranges for the address of remonstrances to Powers within whose dominions slave markets exist. But these articles do not refer to the slave trade in the interior of Africa. By the Berlin Act of 1885 and the Brussels Act of 1890 the Powers undertook the suppression of slave markets and the slave trade in their territories in Africa. As the honourable Member is aware, His Majesty's Government are prepared to communicate to the Portuguese Government any authentic information which is at their disposal tending to show that anything in the nature of slavery exists in these parts.

A further debate in the Lords.

On August 5th Lord Denbigh in the House of Lords called attention to the papers recently circulated relating to communications from the colonies protesting against any weakening of the Brussels Sugar Convention, and to the reasons put forward by the Government in justification of their policy on this question. He wanted the attention of the House and the country called to a subject which was little understood, before the House was engaged with other business. He believed the attitude of the Government on this question was due to party exigencies, and he proceeded to give a lucid explanation of the bounty and cartel systems. Lord Newburnholme asked why should we support the West Indies against our own people. While the Continent was shipping sugar to England it was taking our coal. The West Indies did not want our coal. He was in favour of as much dumping as possible.

Lord Elgin said he thought they had taken the only action that was open to them as a Government professing free-trade principles. With regard to the papers to which the noble earl had alluded, although there were expressions in favour of the noble Earl's views, the papers also contained other significant expressions. He quoted a resolution passed by the Barbados Agricultural Society to show that stability had given an impetus to the sugar industry in the West Indies, and especially to the improvement of machinery. But stability could not be said to depend on protection alone. He should be inclined to argue that protection was apt to injure stability. He believed many instances of that kind could be quoted. At any rate, the want of stability was disastrous to any industry. If they wanted to secure stability they must take into account all those who were interested in the industry with which they were concerned. Therefore they must take into account, not only the producers in the colonies, but also the consumers in the United Kingdom, and the great confectionery industries to which cheap sugar was of the highest importance. He thought they could safely argue that it was detrimental to the colonies that the democracy of this country should possess the idea that the majority in this country suffered for the sake of the minority in the colonies. The friction which arose out of those causes must be avoided, because nothing was more calculated to bring about those unsettled conditions from which every industry was apt to suffer. It was from that point of view that the action taken by His Majesty's Government proceeded. He hoped the action which His Majesty's Government had taken would safeguard the stability on which the sugar industry of our sugar-producing colonies depended.

Lord Salisbury reminded the House that the question raised by Lord Denbigh was in no way connected with the fiscal controversy. He had free trade at heart as much as the Government. This question was discussed long before the fiscal controversy arose, and he inquired why the Government had not left the matter alone. He thought the Government was undertaking a great responsibility with regard to the colonies concerned.

Lord Fitzmaurice defended the action of the Government, denied the right of the Opposition to complain, and justified the recent declarations of the Foreign Secretary on the subject. He assured the House that the Government appreciated the difficulties and dangers of the question, and he hoped when the time came they would be able to give satisfaction to the House.

[Lord Elgin's speech has given rise to no small amount of criticism. Thus in a letter which appeared in the *Times* of August 10th, Sir Roper Lethbridge wrote:—

As an old Indian officer, I have read with the greatest astonishment the speech on the Sugar Convention delivered in the House of Lords last Monday by Lord Elgin. His Lordship, when Viceroy of India, was one of those statesmen mainly responsible for the Sugar Convention. He sent Mr. Ozanne, of the Indian Civil Service, to the Brussels Conference of 1898, with express instructions (see Blue-book C. 9,287, 1899) "to press for the abolition of the sugar bounties, and to join in an International Convention for that purpose" on the part of the Government of India. At that time Lord Elgin was aware that India produces about ten times as much raw sugar as all the West Indian colonies put together; that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (headed by Sir James Mackay's very influential firm) had urgently represented that the sugar bounties were ruining large numbers of native cultivators, zemindars, and manufacturers, and seriously diminishing the revenue of the Government, both from the land and from the canals; that the local Government most affected (that of the United Provinces) had urged that a continuance of the bounties would probably affect both the "stability of the Government revenue" and "the well-being of the rural classes, to an extent that would produce serious discontent in the sugar-cane growing regions"; that the local Governments had reported that native refineries were everywhere being closed; and that (Blue-book, page 65) "it is of much more importance to these provinces to preserve their sugar industry on the basis of present arrangements than to have a cheap foreign sugar supplied to the consumer of the refined article."

The results of last year's general election can hardly have reversed the operation of the economic laws that were producing these very serious results in India when Lord Elgin was Viceroy. The present "Commercial Adviser" to the Secretary of State for India held the same office in 1899, when the Government of India was forced by these considerations to impose the countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar, and he can hardly be silent now. And yet not one word about the vital importance of the question to the Government and people of India seems to have been uttered in the debate of last Monday, either by Lord Elgin or by Lord Fitzmaurice.

Sir Charles Bruce, formerly Lieut.-Governor of British Guiana, the Windward Islands, and Mauritius, writing to the *Scotsman* said:—

The Colonial Secretary seems to be under the impression that only two classes of the Empire are concerned in the question, the sugar planters and the consumers in the United Kingdom. In laying down the law that "it is detrimental to the colonies that the democracy of this country should possess the idea that the majority in this country should suffer for the sake of the minority," he apparently thinks it unimportant to take into account the real extent to which the democracy of this country are benefited by the production of sugar within the limits of the Empire. Like all other advocates of sugar, he forgets that at least twenty millions of the democracy have no means of buying cheap sugar except out of the wages of labour, and that the interests of the sugar planter are really insignificant compared with the importance of the subsidiary interests engaged in the British sugar industry. Chemists and chemical manufacturers, machine makers, engineers, railway companies, shipowners, bankers, lawyers, stockbrokers, insurance companies, are all interested in the cultivation, manufacture, transport, and distribution of sugar grown within the Empire. The Colonial Secretary perfectly appreciates the importance of encouraging the growth of cotton within the Empire; but he apparently fails to see that the interests engaged in cotton are, in so far as concerns the professions and trades I have enumerated, practically identical with the interests subsidiary to, but inseparable from, the sugar industry. It is hardly necessary to point out the extent to which the wage fund of the democracy within the United Kingdom depends on the prosperity of these interests.

ED.]

CONSULAR REPORT.

The Canary Banana Industry.

The export of bananas from the Canaries in 1906 amounted to 2,476,044 packages as compared with 2,578,781 packages in 1905. But the decrease is only apparent, and can be explained by the fact that shippers have been packing a great number of bunches two in a crate with a view to economise freight, since freights are charged per crate and not per bunch. Thus we may take it that the total number of bunches produced was practically the same during 1906 as 1905. Exchange has no doubt been a great factor in disorganising the export trade in bananas and fruit generally. Some farmers were hoping that the fall in exchange would be in their favour, but there were, of course, no grounds for such hopes, and in the end many of these farmers had to give up their farms, the exporting houses not being able to offer them the old prices for their fruit, and the landowners not consenting to any reduction in the rents. Thus a great many farms have reverted to the landowners, who in their turn apparently failed to see that the peseta is worth more than it used to be when exchange was higher. They therefore refused to accept a lower price from the exporter, and began not only to cultivate their farms for their own account, but also to export the products themselves. This fact accounts for the increased number of shippers to be found on ships' manifests. For the time being, therefore, two classes of men have considerably diminished in number, namely, the farmer and the exporter, the landlord having become his own grower and exporter. The working classes have not suffered by this change, since they are still enjoying the same, if not a higher, rate of wage. In fact, there is a larger demand for labour, due no doubt to the landlord farmer who is not in a position to give his full attention to the work since he has to look after the export in addition to the cultivation. The consequence of these changes is that the quality of the fruit has suffered considerably, and during the summer months whole shiploads arrived in very bad condition, the fruit over-ripe, and the packages broken. Otherwise prices in the British markets have been good for sound fruit, and the West India bananas do not seem to have interfered in any way with the ready sale of the Canary product.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Atrato*, which left Barbados at 1 a.m. on August 2nd, two days late, reached Southampton at 7.20 a.m. on Wednesday, August 14th, and the mails were delivered in London soon after midday. Among her 176 passengers were Mr. G. Bruce Austin, Mr. J. D. Adamson, Mr. W. Barnard, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. DaCosta, Mr. W. Greig, the Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Gwyther, Mr. Cecil Morris, Mr. J. Peet, Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, the Bishop of Barbados, and Mr. E. H. Thorne, to each of whom we bid a hearty welcome. The R.M.S. *Port Royal* arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica at 3.30 p.m. on August 14th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Favourable outlook in Barbados.

Writing on July 28th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that though by the action of the foreign Governments it was possible that the withdrawal of England from the Sugar Convention might not severely hurt the West Indies, at all events for some time to come, it was undoubtedly felt in the colonies that by this refusal, actual or threatened, England was refusing them their common right and justice, which should be expected from the mother country, and exposing them to perils which she should be the first to wish to shield them from. A resolution of protest had passed the House of Assembly, and the Agricultural Society passed one at a full meeting on the 28th, and although some of the speeches were strong, the resolutions themselves were moderately expressed. The House would expire on the 30th, and after that there would be no opportunity of doing anything more for some weeks. There would probably be much competition for Mr. W. H. Stoker's seat. July had been a very favourable month, nice showers having fallen on the majority of days. They were as yet, however, entirely without the heavy rain which they were accustomed to associate with the rainy season, and therefore they looked anxiously to the continuance of these showers, for if they were to cease there was no reserve in the ground to fall back upon. Porey's Spring, for instance, was as low as the writer had ever seen it. The canes were now under a good growth and were healthy and green. Some of the late planted cotton was blossoming beautifully, and the seeds just planted were coming on nicely. Provisions of all sorts had been planted, and the land round the labourers' cottages presented a very pretty sight. Fields were everywhere being prepared for the planting of the next crop. Emigration to Panama continued freely. An Act had been passed by the Legislature giving power to the Governor in Executive Committee to stop emigration if he should think fit. This had caused some excitement, and an open air indignation meeting was got up in Bridgetown, during which, unfortunately, a large limb of the beautiful evergreen tree outside the Life Assurance buildings

was broken off. There was no reason to believe that such a power would be arbitrarily exercised, and it seemed desirable, in the interests of the labourers themselves, that such a power should reside in the Governor. The writer recorded with regret the death, on July 16th, of Mr. R. Challenor, to which reference is made elsewhere, and also that of Mr. Coleridge Clarke, son of the late Rector of St. Michael's, which occurred almost at the same time. Yellow fever still seemed to be lingering on in Trinidad, though cases only occurred at long intervals. Sir Gilbert Carter was still administering the Government there, as Mr. Knaggs was at Barbados. Nothing had yet been heard of any appointments to the vacant offices of Colonial Secretary and Attorney General.

British Guiana's mining and forest products.

Mr. J. C. Cowan wrote on July 27th that the Government had published new regulations respecting the cultivation of rubber, and that these had come in for a good deal of adverse criticism from Colonel Link and others. (Details are given in the mail edition of the *Demerara Chronicle*). Cable communication had been interrupted on July 8th, and restored on the 15th. There was nothing doing in the sugar market, and the quotation of \$2.27½ was only nominal. The weather was now fine and favourable for the estates, but it was to be hoped that it was not going to be too dry. Mr. Sidney Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, has forwarded to us the following return of the exports for May and June, 1907:—

	June.	May.		June.	May.
Gold	7,313 ozs.	2,959 ozs.	Timber	14,048 cub. ft.	185 cub. ft.
Diamonds	— carats	— carats.	Lumber, greenheart,		
Balata	31,837 lbs.	30,370 lbs.	mora, &c.	2,476 „ „	496 „ „
Locust gum	— „	— „	Wallaba and hardwood		
Rubber	510 „	200 „	posts	50	471
Fish-glue	— „	— „	Firewoods, wallaba, &c.	518 tons.	458 tons.
Charcoal	8,762 bags.	6,217 bags.	Railway sleepers ...	—	—
Shingles	374,750	207,000			

The Dominica lime trade.

Mr. E. A. Agar informed us in his letter of July 25th that the railway scheme had at last been completed, and the matter was before the local Government. Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd. (Bath estate), had not set up their citrate of lime factory, and were buying lime juice and limes from planters and peasants. This would immediately benefit the island, as their prices were strictly based on the price of concentrated lime juice, with the result that peasants were getting better returns, and the boon this would be to new planters was obvious; where transport was not prohibitive, one could establish a lime plantation without being faced with the large expense of a boiling or citrate making plant before getting any returns. The weather was all that could possibly be desired, with plenty of rain and sun. The Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls reminded us that the names of Mr. J. Eaden and Mr. F. A. Gordon were omitted from the list of the local permanent Exhibition Committee, an error for which we apologise to these two gentlemen. The report of the Secretary of the West India Committee on the exhibition of limes at the Royal Horticultural Society on June 13th and 14th, was published in the official gazette of July 27th.

Jamaica and the Agricultural Conference.

At the meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, held on July 18th, a letter was read from the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies on the subject of another Agricultural Conference being held in Jamaica. In the discussion that took place, the Governor, who presided, said that he thought the proposal should be accepted, the only question being whether it should be held in Kingston, Mandeville, or Port Antonio. After some discussion as to the most suitable site, it was decided that His Excellency should send a telegram to Sir Daniel Morris to the effect that the Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Government desire that the next West Indian Agricultural Conference should be held in Jamaica next winter. The question of Mr. Barclay's membership of the Assistance Committee was discussed, and the general opinion, which coincided with Mr. Barclay's own views, was that in view of the agricultural position brought about by the drought that gentleman's services would be fully required in connection with the work of the Society itself, and especially in the development of the cotton industry in St. Andrew's.

Montserrat's lack of cable communication.

The weather was very disappointing when the Hon. Fred Driver wrote on July 20th. A week before some nice showers fell—about 1½ ins. in all—which brightened things up a bit and enabled planters to get in nearly all their cotton seed. Now it was dry again, and it looked probable that the young seedlings would die. Good soaking rains were needed. Montserrat's want of cable communication had just been painfully illustrated. The Direct boat *Nauariva* was advertised to call at the

* Particulars regarding the scheme can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.—ED.

island about July 8th to take cargo—chiefly fruit—for London. Some 600 boxes of limes and about 50 barrels of pines were packed and put on the wharf ready for her. Day after day passed without any word of her, and finally she put in an appearance in the afternoon of the 16th. By this time it was apparent that the fruit had so far ripened that it was useless to expect it to carry to London, and therefore it was not shipped. The loss on this lot alone would go a long way towards paying the subsidy for a telegraph service. Mail arrangements were unspeakable. They heard rumours of a probable fortnightly mail steamer between the islands, which it was hoped was true, but they feared was too good to be so.

Cotton Planting in Nevis.

As the Hon. C. A. Shand was writing on July 24th, welcome rain was falling, it was to be hoped generally, but it was difficult to estimate from appearance. The rain had been accompanied by distant thunder, and the more of that they had at the time of year, the less likelihood there would appear of any cyclonic disturbance, the thunderstorm acting in the nature of a safety valve. Despite the failure of this season's cotton crop, a very small perceptible diminution was evident in the sowings for 1908, which proved that the planters realised that the weather alone was to blame for the unsatisfactory return in 1907, and should favourable circumstances be encountered in the coming campaign, a far better crop should be realised, as the average for 1907 had only been about 40 lbs. of lint per acre. The lint shipped this season would show a gross value of about £8,000 from Nevis alone, whilst the shipments from St. Kitts and Anguilla would bring up the total value of cotton exported from the united Presidency to, roughly speaking, £30,000. It was sad to think that the decadency of sugar, for so long the staple of the West Indies, would be materially accelerated by the action of the Imperial Government with regard to the Brussels Convention; and that all the advantages gained by the Imperial policy which prevailed during the tenure of office by the last Government, should have been thrown to the four winds of heaven by their unworthy and selfish successors. One could only hope that retribution might overtake them before worse things befell the Empire. The attitude of the constituencies was also unsatisfactory, the tendency towards Socialism not being reassuring.

Cotton exports from St. Kitts and Nevis.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, writing on July 14th, said that since last advices the weather had continued dry and rain was badly wanted, both for cane and cotton crops. Sugar crops were coming to an end, and on a good many places the results of the last grindings had not been good on account of the drying up of the cane. Cotton planters had stopped planting until rain fell. Caterpillars had already put in their appearance, and some anxiety was being felt as to whether insecticides would be readily procurable. The writer could not forecast the acreage for next crop. If the weather kept dry less would be planted than at first intended, on account of interfering with cane planting later. The following is a statement showing quantity and weight of cotton shipped from St. Kitts-Nevis for the period from January, 1907, to June, 1907:—

Shipped to.	Bales.			Weight (lbs.)			Total number of Bales.	Total Weight, lbs.
	St. Kitts.	Nevis.	Anguilla.	St. Kitts.	Nevis.	Anguilla.		
United Kingdom ...	468	348	297	162,796	80,4725	59,666	1,113	302,934
United States ...	8	—	—	2,210	—	—	8	2,210
Total ...	476	348	297	165,006	80,472	59,666	1,121	305,144

A good start in St. Vincent.

Writing on July 29th, Messrs D. K. Porter & Co. said that the weather had been very favourable and planters were still pushing ahead with cotton planting all round. Although they had been somewhat hampered by the short time at their disposal, the writers had every hope of getting in 150 acres in the Carib Country. All were anxious to know if something definite had been settled as to the mail contract, as few but those situated as they were at St. Vincent could realise the inconvenience and annoyance with which they had had lately to put up. Writing on July 29th, Mr. W. N. Sands said that he had only just returned from St. Lucia, where he was sent to report and advise on the prospects of starting cotton cultivation on commercial lines. He made a tour of the island, and attended two meetings of the Agricultural Society, which were reported in the *St. Lucia Voice*. There appeared to be plenty of room for young men with capital to take up agriculture there, and with every prospect of success if they obtained sound advice at the start. Some of the cacao plantations through which Mr. Sands rode during his visit were in excellent condition. Improved methods of cultivation appeared to have been very energetically taken up, and he was informed that the cacao experiment plots formed in different districts by the Imperial Department of Agriculture had proved a great help in this direction. To return to St. Vincent, reports from many sources referred favourably to the excellent start the young cotton plants had made, and to the favourable season so far for arrowroot and other crops. Ground provisions were rather scarce and expensive, quite an unusual state of affairs for St. Vincent. This

was due in a measure to the former ground provision lands having been taken up for cotton. It was quite a good economic feature, for it meant that the people would have to work to produce crops for export to buy imported food stuffs; in this way both their imports and exports would show, and were showing, a satisfactory increase. H.M.S. *Scylla* was in port and would stay seven days. It was very seldom that they had a cruiser at St. Vincent. Visits such as this did a lot of good in more ways than one.

Mr. Wrightson's departure from Trinidad.

In his letter dated July 29th, Mr. Edgar Tripp said that the Hon. Walsh Wrightson, C.M.G., was leaving the colony that day, on his retirement from the public service. During the past fortnight complimentary addresses and presentations had been made to him at Princes' Town and Sangre Grande, districts where the people had had the best opportunity of practically judging of the benefits of what was known as the "Wrightson Road scheme," a comprehensive plan for connecting every part of the island with the same excellent roads, which so far as they had gone were a credit to the island and to the Department of which Mr. Wrightson had been head for thirteen years. On the 26th a farewell dinner was given at the Queen's Park Hotel, specially opened for the occasion, at which there attended over ninety leading officials and prominent members of the mercantile and planting community. His Excellency the Governor was present, but the chair was occupied by the Acting Chief Justice, the Hon. Edgar Agostini. In proposing the toast of the guest of the evening, His Honour spoke with his usual grace and felicity, perhaps more so than usual, and his references to the work of Mr. Wrightson as "the strong man" of the colony were received with enthusiasm. Mr. Wrightson's reply was a model of tact and simple eloquence. He was a forceful speaker and generally hit out very straight regardless of the consequences, but in this, his last speech in the island, there was not one word to hurt the susceptibility of any of his former opponents any more than there was evidence of wound or ill will rankling within himself. Mr. Wrightson would always be remembered in Trinidad for the part he took, quite conscientiously no doubt, in the Water Bill, the events in connection with which led to the 1903 riot, but even those who opposed him most strenuously on that occasion, the writer amongst the number could not but acknowledge, indeed did acknowledge, that the colony never had a better head of the Public Works Department, a more competent engineer, a more earnest and honest worker, or a better and more careful administrator of the funds entrusted to the largest spending Department. Time alone could prove whether the policy of placing the water works at one extreme of the island, where pumping was required, instead of availing of gravitation 30 miles inland, was correct. On that point opinions were and are divided, but there was no division of opinion as to the excellence of the Diego Martin works themselves, any more than there was about the other works or buildings erected by the Public Works Department since Mr. Wrightson had been Director. The returns given from time to time of numbers of bags of cacao shipped were apt to be misleading. There were bags and bags. In the course of the past year, "bags" had run as low as 130 lbs. and as high as 230 lbs. The reason was obvious to those in the trade, but it was a pity there was no standard bag, so that there would be no question between buyer and seller on the point. The return of bags shipped to June 30th indicated increased output over the previous year, whereas the reverse was the case. The official Customs' weights were:—

To June 30th, 1905	...	...	...	...	...	26,534,816 lbs.
" " 1906	...	...	...	...	...	20,764,688 "
" " 1907	...	...	...	...	...	19,768,558 "

But the shipments of July were already in excess of the corresponding month in 1906, and would no doubt more than make up the shortage. The following was the usual record of bags shipped, for which the Correspondents are indebted to a valued member of the Committee.—

		SHIPMENTS.						
		Trinidad.	Venezuela		Trinidad.	Venezuela.		
Totals at last report	112,357	22,499			July 16.—S.S. <i>Oramo</i>	125	7	Canada.
July 8.—S.S. <i>P. der Nederlanden</i>	200		295	New York.	July 22.—S.S. <i>P. Willem IV</i>	1,187	180	New York.
" 9.—S.S. <i>Magdalena</i>	959			Europe.	July 25.—S.S. <i>Maracas</i>	6,473	193	"
" 11.—S.S. <i>Grenada</i>	3,427		469	New York.	Total to date	128,257	24,239	
" 13.—S.S. <i>P. Willem V.</i>	3,529		590	Europe.				

Favourable weather during the past three weeks resulted in deliveries being very heavy, especially during the first fortnight, when prices declined considerably, owing to plentiful supply and limited local demand; but in sympathy with the recent rise in the London market, prices again improved, and that day ordinary might be quoted at \$18.75 to \$19, and estates at \$19.25 to \$19.75. The weather was everything that could be desired, and, given ordinary conditions, the showing of cacao for the balance of the year should be above the average. Amongst the passengers leaving by the mail was Mr. H. C. Morcom, lately Assistant Traffic Manager of the Government railway, who had been appointed Deputy General Manager of railways on the Gold Coast, at a salary, it was understood, of

£800 with quarters and servants. He received £500 in Trinidad. Mr. Morcom had earned for himself an excellent reputation as a capable official, and he carried no wishes other than what were good with him. Up to July 19th they were again hoping they had seen the last of yellow fever. The last case isolated had been on the 11th (a death), and the last known case in the colony discharged from hospital, recovered on the 15th. Through the courtesy of the Surgeon-General, the writer was then supplied with particulars in connection with each case to that date, from which he gathered the following:—The date of the outbreak was January 30th. During its course of 5½ months there were 27 cases, of which 11 proved fatal, but the decreasing rate of mortality was a hopeful sign, thus:—Of the first 6 cases, 5 died; of the next 6 cases, 2 died; of the next six cases, 2 died; and of the last 9 cases, 1 died; the fatal case being that of a poor man who had been neglected until past hope. As to nationalities of the victims, the following was significant:—

	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.
English...	8	3	Scotch ...	2	1
Canadian ...	4	2	Vincelonian ...	2	1
American ...	4	1	Corsican ...	1	0
Portuguese ...	3	2			
Tobagonian ...	3	1		27	11

The notable circumstance in the above was that no one born in the colony should have been attacked, although three, two of whom were sisters (young girls, one of whom died) and a young child, were natives of Tobago. The two sufferers from St. Vincent were also white children, girls, so that no adult West Indian of any race had been attacked, or even a male Creole child. Unfortunately, their hopes on the 19th were ill-founded. A new case was announced on the 20th, and five more between that date and the 26th. Of these, a little American child had died, as also a Portuguese from Madeira, who had been resident in the colony four years. The first attack of a Trinidadian had also to be reported, in the person of the eight-year old son of Mr. Jules Cipriani, who, he regretted to say, succumbed to the disease on the 27th. Much sympathy was felt for the father, who was a well-known retired merchant and planter, especially as Mrs. Cipriani was absent in Europe, with other children of the family. The other three cases, a Vincelonian, a Barbadian, and an Englishman (two labourers and a machinist) were recovering, and no fresh cases were reported. The arrangements at the colonial hospital for the isolation and treatment of the patients were in every way excellent. There was still, of course, room for anxiety, but the records now given were sufficient to show that in a population of 320,000, the mortality had been infinitesimal, and that nearly all beyond new comers were practically immune. Reports of blight in the sugar cane in the Couva district had been sent in to the Agricultural Society. The mycologist, Mr. Barrett, at once made an inspection, and a preliminary report on the subject to the Sugar Committee on the 16th. The exhibit prepared by the Permanent Exhibition Committee for Toronto and Halifax, was despatched by the S.S. *Sobo* on the 29th. It was not quite so representative or carefully prepared as was desirable, owing to shortness of time for getting ready, but it contained very fair samples of the products of the colony. Amongst interesting Council Papers recently published were, No. 60-1907, "Trinidad Oilfields," being Mr. E. F. Cunningham-Craig's report on the Central and Northern Anticlines (Western Districts) accompanied by a large coloured plan, and also by a most interesting coloured diagram illustrating the formation of the Pitch Lake. The report itself was most interesting, and must prove of great value to those interested in the development of the oil industry in Trinidad. Another, No. 73 of 1907, "Report of Collector of Customs on Trade Returns for 1906-7," showed, unfortunately, that the imports were £182,894, and the exports £296,381, less than during the previous year. The report was accompanied not only by full statistics of trade but by the explanatory diagrams which Mr. McCarthy had made a feature of his comprehensive and valuable annual contributions to official literature.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

EVAPORATORS.—The Mirrlees Watson Company, Ltd., of Glasgow, have just issued a new and enlarged catalogue of their Multiple Effect Evaporators in connection with sugar machinery. It is not only admirably illustrated, but also contains tables of useful data in connection with sugar liquor evaporation.

TRINIDAD'S DOCK.—We are informed that the Trinidad Dock and Engineering Company's Floating Dock has arrived in Trinidad, and is now moored in Chaguaramas Bay ready for work. The Company's extensive engineering shops in Port-of-Spain and Chaguaramas Bay have also been completed by the contractors, so that all repairs to ships can now be expeditiously carried out.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.—Lord Curzon in a letter to the *Westminster Gazette* asks, "What are we to do with our Governors?" and suggests that they should be called in from time to time to give advice at the Colonial and other public offices. At present, he says, the only occupation for retired Pro-consuls is the writing of magazine articles, or directing the fortunes of joint stock projects.

BUTLER AND NURSE.—We are anxious to find situations for a negro butler, native of Barbados, who was for many years in the employment of a late Governor of one of the West Indian colonies, and who is compelled to return to a tropical climate; and also for a black nurse or maid who is returning to the West Indies at an early date. The latter is a good sailer, and in both cases excellent testimonials can be furnished.

AN ACCIDENT.—His many friends will regret to learn that Mr. D. S. Blake, of St. Kitts, who is paying a visit to this country, had the misfortune to slip on some gooseberry skins—we are thankful they were not banana skins—and break his kneecap, on Thursday, August 1st. Mr. Blake was taken to King's College Hospital, and moved to a nursing home next morning, where he is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

OUR VISITORS.—During the past fortnight there have been a large number of visitors from "Over Seas" at the West India Committee Rooms. Among them have been Mr. Morris Fletcher, Mr. Delos J. Martin, Mr. J. Baeza, Mr. Edmond I. Baeza, Hon. G. F. Fenwick, C.M.G., Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. S. L. Horsford, Mr. G. Bruce Austin, Mr. W. W. Craib, and the Hon. E. Du Boulay.

A YACHTING CRUISE.—Mrs. Trench Gascoigne contributes to the August number of the Empire Review a charming account of a yachting cruise in Colonel and Mrs. Hickman Morgan's yacht *Boadicea*, which she enjoyed early this year. The almost inevitable inaccuracy in spelling the names of some of the places visible may be forgiven, when the scenery is so delightfully described. Mrs. Gascoigne was struck by the defenceless state of the British Islands and was forced to draw an unenviable comparison between the apparent prosperity of Martinique and Guadeloupe and the British islands.

DOMINICA LIMES.—A member of the West India Committee who does not wish his identity disclosed has for some time past been forwarding to the London Fever Hospital fresh limes for the use of the patients. In acknowledging this gift, Major W. Christie, the Secretary, wrote that it was highly appreciated by the committee, and that "the limes yield a pleasant and comforting drink for the patients. They are considered by our physicians to be an excellent substitute for lemons." It may be mentioned that the limes in question were supplied by the West Indian Produce Association.

PAPER FROM COTTON.—With reference to the article which appeared in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of the 23rd ult. on the subject of the manufacture of paper from the cotton plant, it will be of interest to our readers to know that pulp from cotton wood was actually prepared, in the form of plaque, by Mr. Bert de Lamarre in Trinidad during January last. This pulp was sufficiently white to be used to make paper for newspapers. Specimens were sent to the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture at Barbados. Some chemists in London have also made some pulp with the same materials.

AUSTRALIA'S FRUITS.—A proposed shipment of 4,500 cases of citrus fruits to London was discussed, says the *Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Trades Journal*, at a meeting of fruit growers and agents at the Fruit Exchange in Sydney, N.S.W., last month. It was proposed to dispatch the shipment, to be made up mostly of oranges, on June 24th. The freight charge was to be 3s. 1d. per case of 150 oranges, and the cost of the case 9d. The opinion was expressed that the temperature in the cool chamber of the steamer should be kept at from 40° to 50°. The result of this experiment is being anxiously awaited on the other side, as thereon hang great opportunities.

CLASSICAL MOTTOES.—It was Archdeacon Bindley, we believe, who rediscovered the Barbados motto. It is to be found on the old Queen Anne seals of the island, and runs, *Et penitus toto regnantes orbe Britannos*, or, translated, "And the Britons reigning absolutely over the whole world." Like the motto of Trinidad, it is an adaptation from Virgil, the correct version in Ec. i. 67, being *Et penitus toto divisos orbe Britannos*, "And the Britons absolutely separated from the whole world." The Trinidad motto runs, *Miscerique probat populos et foedera jungi*, "He approves the mingling of the nations and linking by treaty bonds." The actual line in Virgil runs, *Miscerive probet populos aut foedera jungi*, the speaker being Venus, who is uncertain whether Jove would approve of the union of the Trojans and Dido's people.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.—Considerable investment of Canadian capital is taking place in Brazil, and, says the *South American Journal*, some really splendid enterprises have sprung up under their auspices, not the least of which is the Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Company, which has obtained the lease of the Sorocabuna railway from under the very nose of the San Paulo railway. The gross receipts of the line for 1906 were £860,000, and the net profits £387,344. It is stated that the Canadians have agreed to pay 25 per cent. of the annual net revenue to the State of San Paulo, to assume responsibility for the German loan of £3,800,000, to make certain extensions, and to settle colonists along the route. Canadian enterprise in the direction of lighting and tramways is already visible in the West Indies, and there are abundant opportunities, especially on the mainland in British Guiana and British Honduras, for Canadian help in opening up these rich colonies.

COTTON MANURING.—The *Agricultural Journal of India* has an interesting paper on "Artificial Fertilizers for Cotton," which gives the results of experiments conducted on the black cotton soil at Nagpur. In these nitrate of soda, superphosphate and sulphate of potash were used. The results, which were for a single year's crop, were striking. The out-turns show that, at any rate for that particular soil, the nitrogenous fertilizer is the most important one for cotton. The extra yield due to potash and superphosphates, when applied with the nitrate of soda, did not cover the cost of these two fertilizers, and when superphosphate was applied without the nitrate there was an actual diminution of yield when comparison was made with the unmanured plot. The unmanured plot gave 510 lbs. of seed-cotton—the nitrate of soda alone giving 250 lbs. in excess of this. The greatest length of lint, $\frac{3}{4}$ in., was obtained in the potash plot, the nitrate of soda plot only yielding a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. staple, the same as the unmanured plot.

A GENEROUS GIFT.—At the London School of Tropical Medicine on Friday, the 19th ult., an interesting ceremony took place, Mr. P. A. Nairne (Chairman of the Seamen's Hospital Society) unveiling a portrait of the Hon. Bomanji Dinshan Petit, one of the benefactors of the school. Among those present were Sir Patrick and Lady Manson, Sir Francis and Lady Lovell, Sir William Treacher, Sir W. Bennett, Sir E. Noël Walker, Dr. C. W. Daniels, Inspector-General E. Mahon, Sir F. Young, Sir M. Bhowagree, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Petit, Mr. P. Michelli (Secretary), Mr. N. M. Cooper, Mr. H. J. Moolla, Mr. M. F. Khan, Mr. R. L. Antrobus, Mr. H. C. W. Verney and Capt. G. Hodgkinson. Mr. Nairne, in addressing the meeting, said that Sir Francis Lovell, at the request of the Colonial Office, undertook a mission to the East to make known the objects of the school. In Bombay he met Mr. Petit, who subsequently presented the institution with a lac of rupees—about £7,000. In making this gift, he trusted that the work of the school would be a means of bringing the Western and Eastern minds together, and thus cementing a union of hearts.

THE LATE MR. CHALLENGOR.—We have to record with deep regret the death of Mr. Robert Challenor, a respected member of the local West India Committee in Barbados, which occurred on July 16th. Mr. Challenor had been ill for a long time, during which he calmly awaited the approach of death, and it came to him painlessly and unconsciously. In Mr. Challenor, writes our hon. correspondent, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, we have lost a typical example of what a West Indian merchant ought to be. His courtesy was proverbial, his honesty above suspicion, and his kindness of heart no less conspicuous than his ability. Besides being in business himself, both in Speightstown and Bridgetown, he was the agent of Messrs. Antony Gibbs & Sons, and various other companies. He was the father of many sons, all of them well-known cricketers. One of them is carrying on his father's business, two of the others being in Canada. He also leaves a widow with whom the deepest sympathy is felt in her bereavement, and a married daughter. He was buried at the Cathedral on the following day, and over a thousand of his friends and acquaintances crowded the churchyard.

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.

- Sun., Aug. 4.—Bombardment of Casa Blanca by the French begun.
- Mon., Aug. 5.—Lord Denbigh called attention in the House of Lords to representations received from the Colonies regarding the Sugar Convention.—Lord Elgin spoke in the House of Lords in reply to Lord Denbigh's enquiries as to representations from the Colonies in support of the continuance of the Brussels Convention.—Bank Holiday.
- Tues., Aug. 6.—Article on the Caribbean question in the *Morning Post*.—The King and Queen at Cowes.—Bombardment of Casa Blanca ended.—Beet, 9s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., quiet.
- Wed., Aug. 7.—Mr. R. Chalmers appointed to succeed Sir H. Primrose as Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue.—Lord Bristol died.—Troops employed in connection with the Belfast strike.—Beet, 9s. 8d., easier.
- Thur., Aug. 8.—Appointment of the Duke of Connaught as Field-Marshal, Commanding-in-chief the Mediterranean Forces, and High Commissioner in the Mediterranean announced.—Beet, 9s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., quiet.
- Fri., Aug. 9.—Australian Tariff announced giving some preference to British imports.—Beet, 9s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., steady.
- Sat., Aug. 10.—The New Australian Tariff, the *Times*, p. 5.—Report of Tariff Commission, dealing with the Sugar and Confectionery trades published.—Serious rioting in Belfast.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
- Sun., Aug. 11.—Further rioting in Belfast.
- Mon., Aug. 12.—Troops fired on mob at Belfast.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
- Tues., Aug. 13.—King left for Marienbad.—Swettenham incident.—Letter in the *Times* from Mr. W. H. Orrett, American Vice-Consul of Kingston.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
- Wed., Aug. 14.—Meeting between the King and the German Emperor at Wilhelmshöhe.—R.M.S.P. *Atrato* arrived at Southampton from the West Indies.—Beet, 9s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., quiet.
- Thur., Aug. 15.—Death of Dr. Joseph Joachim, the violinist, in his 77th year.—Bank rate raised from 4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
- Fri., Aug. 16.—Belfast strike.—Carters resumed work and nearly all the military withdrawn from the streets.—The King arrived at Marienbad.—Beet, 9s. 9d., steady.

Sat., Aug. 17.—Letter in the *Times* from Sir Frank Swettenham, in reply to Mr. W. H. Orrett.—Beet, 9s. 9d., quiet.
 Sun., Aug. 18.—Trouble reported to have arisen on the British Guiana-Venezuela frontier between Captain J. V. Calder and Venezuelans regarding balata.
 Mon., Aug. 19.—Letter from the King to the Viceroy of India, regarding the plague, published in the Press.—Beet, 9s. 9½d., firm.

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.

Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures. (Further particulars will be given later).
 Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

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.

DR. J. H. COOKE, Medical Officer, Antigua, has been granted six months leave of absence from June 25th. MR. J. B. LUCIE-SMITH has returned to the island and resumed his duties as Postmaster for Jamaica. MR. CHARLES E. DE MERCADO has been appointed a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica, in the room of Mr. Henry Vendryes, resigned. The King's *Exequatur*, empowering MR. J. SMITH to act as Consul for Belgium at Port of Spain, Trinidad, has received His Majesty's signature.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 4% on Thursday, August 15th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) $81\frac{1}{8}$.

The Demerara Development Company, Ltd.

Capital £50,000 in £1 shares. This Company has been registered with the object of acquiring certain land and hereditaments in British Guiana, and carrying on, *inter alia*, the business of manufacturers of and dealers in citrate of lime, lime and lemon juice and essence, &c. The signatories are: T. Bennet, 21 Mincing Lane, E.C., Director of J. B. Lawes & Co., Ltd.; A. C. Bishop, 61 Rutland Gate, S.W., Chairman of Kembal, Bishop & Co., Ltd.; S. Harvey, 48, Mark Lane, E.C.; D. L. Howard, City Mills, Stratford, E., Director of Howards & Sons, Ltd.; H. L. Wilson, 18 Wheeley Lane, Birmingham; W. W. White, 46 Holborn Viaduct, E.C.; and E. Hodgson, 21 Mincing Lane, E.C. The first Directors are H. L. Wilson, T. Bennet, A. C. Bishop, I. E. Emerson, D. L. Howard and A. G. Rosengarten. Registered office, 48 Mark Lane E.C.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) August 15th. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), August 12th. "Fine, with occasional light showers." **Antigua** (Messrs. Boddington & Co.), August 13th. "Two to three inches of rain." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended July 31st. **PORT ANTONIO**: "25th to 28th, fine; 29th, rain; 30th and 31st, fine." **KINGSTON**: "fine; temperature, 82°.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. F. M. Watson), August 14th:—Mr. A. Algisi, Mr. G. Bruce Austin, Miss Arbuckle, Mr. J. D. Adamson, Mrs. Beauclerk, Mrs. Blow, Misses and Master Blow, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Bohmer and three children, Miss Bushe, Hon. R. G. Bushe, Mr. J. Black, Miss E. Bethume, Mr. F. Brazier, Mrs. W. Barnard and two children, Mr. A. S. Bryden and two sons, Mr. Beltran, Mr. R. Clayton, Mr. Crabtree, Mr. R. S. Cargill, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cadman, Mr. H. Chatterton, Mr. J. J. Chapman, Mrs. Castor and child, Miss Castor, Captain F. H. M. Custance, Mr. T. Cooper, Mr. Doull, Miss Darling, Mr. H. T. Dudley, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. da Costa, Mr. E. W. F. English, Mr. and Mrs. Featon and child, Mr. E. C. Foot, Mr. F. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. J. N. Fredrickson, Mr. P. Francisco, Mr. Joseph Fuzior, Mr. and Mrs. I. Galindo, the Misses Galindo, Mr. R. Granger, Mr. W. Greig, Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Gwyther, Mrs. H. Gittens, Miss Greenidge, Mrs. Greenidge, Mr. M. Grisol, Dr. M. Galavis, Mr. P. Hewitt, Mr. H. F. Holme, Mr. F. Harris, Mr. T. Haldane, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hall, Miss Hull, Mr. W. Harman, Mr. G. S. M. Imrie, Miss E. Ince, Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Johnston and three children, Miss James, Mr. A. A. Jules, Col. C. V. Kuper, Mrs. Kydd, Mr. W. W. Keating, Mr. D. O. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. H. Leslie, Mr. H. C. Lord, Mr. R. J. Money, Mr. H. C. Morcom, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. McIntosh, Mr. J. Macfarlane, Mr. Cecil Morris, His Honour Chief Justice Major, Mrs. Major, Mr. and Mrs. Mends, Miss Mends, Miss Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Maine, Mr. D. A. Miles, Mr. A. McKay, Mr. C. W. Mills, Mr. P. Mechair, Mrs. Neal and two children, Mr. Jose de Nobrega, Mr. D. Nieto and child, Mrs. and Miss O'Connor, Mr. B. J. Page, Mr. J. Peet, Mr. Poole, Mr. E. B. Pillans, Mr. J. Palma, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Quesada, Mr. Rand, Rev. and Mrs. S. Richards and four children, Rev. and Mrs. M. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Speyer, Mr. L. E. Starmer, Mr. H. Schilling, Mr. L. W. Sampson, Right. Rev. Lord Bishop of Barbados, Mrs. Swabey, Baron de Slane, two Sisters of St. Joseph, Miss Selves, Mr. Tracy, Mrs. Turner, Mr. A. Tyrie, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Taylor and infant, Mr. C. Somers Taylor, Mr. H. Tiets,

Mr. E. E. H. Thorne, Mr. G. Tressel, Mr. Luis Vageon and son, Mrs. Watson and children, Miss B. Wynn, Mr. H. W. Wapperman, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Wrightson, Mr. J. R. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wright, and Mr. P. Wangler.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. F. M. Watson) Aug. 21st:—Mr. Wm. Young, Mr. Berthold Schwarzbach, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Knowles, Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Paul, Miss J. Swanbom, Mr. A. R. Greig, Mr. P. Wilkens, Mr. H. E. Anderson, Miss J. Fraser, Mr. Hans Ziegenhahn, Mrs. H. Hampton, Mr. J. Leslie Soe, Rev. E. S. Robertson, Miss L. Buchard, Mr. J. F. Rowlands, Mrs. Robert Smith, Sub-Inspector J. Wilson, Mrs. Charles Robinson, Dr. John Hansard, Mr. H. Friebly, Mr. Allan Campbell, Mr. Neil Simmons, Mr. W. H. Needham, Mr. Philip Hackeburch, Mr. Firmo Pulgar, and Mr. F. Solis.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), September 4th:—Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Ord, the Hon. C. T. Cox, Mrs. Cox, Mr. J. E. N. Dowding, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. L. Wharton, Mr. Ulrich Eitzen, Mr. and Mrs. Macgillirray, Mr. and Mrs. Waby, Mr. D. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Valverde, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hulman, Mr. B. Martinez, Mr. T. Mew, Mr. Edwin F. Livermore, Mr. Chas. W. Gitters, Mr. H. de Minville, Mr. J. F. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. J. Uribe, and Mr. W. W. Keating.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Selve), August 14th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. G. B. Ascroft, Major Barchard, Mrs. H. M. Burke and three children, Rev. J. Burn, Mr. Bailey, Mrs. Baugh, Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, Dr. Costa, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Draper, Major and Mrs. Freeman, Mr. H. Greenwood, Mr. W. F. Gorin, Mr. Gull, Mr. Eric Gordon, Mr. C. D. Black-Hawkins, Mr. E. vonder Lube, Lt. McGrath, Sister Madeline, Mr. and Mrs. Munton, Mr. A. C. Paton, Mrs. Pearman, Miss Pearman, Lt. H. E. Smyth, Mr. and Mrs. Scatti, Miss Minnie Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. G. Taylor and child, Miss Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Tanner, Col. and Mrs. Talbot, Miss Thomson, Mrs. and Miss Thomas, Miss Tuckett, Mr. G. R. Thwaites, Miss M. Thwaites, Mr. H. W. Smith, Mrs. Parkinson, Mr. G. A. Hurcomb, Mr. S. H. Carus-Wilson, Mr. J. Anderson Earle, Sgt. and Mrs. Ashton and children, and Gunner Elliott.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), August 10th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. B. M. Arnold, Dr. H. L. and Mrs. Clare, Miss F. Cundall, Miss A. Cooke, Mr. J. J. Coghlan, Mr. R. H. Compton, Mr. E. L. Fawcus, Mr. W. O. Hodges, Lieut. C. D. Handley, 2nd W.I.R., Mr. Hum, Mr. O. Hibbert, Mr. W. Morton, Lieut. W. J. Maule, 2nd W.I.R., Miss L. Marvin, Mrs. McPhail Mrs. Malabre, Miss Malabre, Mr. E. L. Mayer, Masters A., D. and H. Grath, Mr. A. Robertson, Captain M. C. Stoker, 2nd W.I.R., Mr. G. B. Tarring, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Waterall, Mr. Younge, Mrs. J. Cork, Mr. Colwill, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Eastwood, Miss A. Eastwood, Master A. Eastwood, and 35 Privates West India Regiment.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Aug. 21—	Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>	Aug. 20, mnd't.
" 23—	Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent, ...	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Caroni</i>	" 23, 1 p.m.
" 24—	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Fort Royal</i>	" 23, 6 p.m.
" 31—	Barbados and Trinidad ...	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Louisianian</i>	" 30, 6 p.m.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Aug. 26—	The West Indies ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Trent</i>
" 28—	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to July 25		Jan. 1 to July 25		April 1 to July 20.		Jan. 1 to July 27.		Oct. 1 to July 29.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1906/7	1905/6
Sugar ...	25,497	42,758 Tns.	39,750	44,771 Tons.	8,008	7,173 Tons.	386,948	407,872 Bgs. & Brs.	...	...
Molasses ...	57,247	57,407 Pns.	372	2,406 Casks.	...	...	3,986	1,893 Puns.	...	...
Rum	7,859	9,731 Puns.	803,384	731,779 Galls.	181	148 Trcs.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasscuit	3,753	4,728 Tons.	...	...	178	80 Brls.	...	...
Cocoa	29,599	3,300 lbs.	26,429	32,581 Cwts.	776	92 Puns.	57,930	32,566 Bags.
Coffee	14,049	...	14,049	10,873 "	...	...	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	126,381	50,588	4,986,273	2,003,295	5,934,132	6,285,205	...	...
Copra	5,300	15,036 lbs.	...	...	894	1,015 Bales.
Cotton	4,553	5,692 Bags
" Seed	69,693	73,797 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt	570,982	6,220,321	...	...	...	...
Oranges	5,746,923	5,634,408 Stems.	...	...	...	...
Bananas	10,880	21,052 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	Ginger, 8,318	10,062 "	...	...	...	...
Spice	4,775	4,202 Brls.
Gold	34,849	51,163 ozs.	...	...	...	...	303	498 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	1,049	941 carats	...	...	...	...	654	427 Cases.
Rice	3,818,322	611,079 lbs.	...	...	...	...	71 1/2	112 Bags.

SPICE.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—On the resumption of business after the Bank holiday recess a quiet tone prevailed in the beet Market owing to rather more favourable weather on the Continent and further small liquidations of the August "bear" account, and prices declined about 1½d. Later on a recovery of some part of this decline took place, but after moderate fluctuations another set back in prices has been followed by steadiness, and quotations yesterday at the close marked only a decline of ¼d. for Oct./Dec., as compared with advices last mail. Quotations being: August, 9s. 9½d.; September, 9s. 9½d.; October/December, 9s. 7½d.; January/March, 9s. 8½d., and May, 9s. 10½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	Tons
Europe	1,309,800	1,680,000	1,160,000	1,580,000	1,750,000	
United States	273,000	300,000	210,000	140,000	280,000	..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	220,700	160,000	490,000	250,000	350,000	..
Total	1,803,500	2,140,000	1,860,000	1,970,000	2,380,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, Aug. 19th:—	9s. 9½d.	9s. 2½d.	9s. 5d.	10s. 6½d.	8s. 5½d.	

Grocery West Indian.—The Market for crystallised is steady but inactive, quotations are, however, nominally unchanged. Business of only moderate extent has been done in Trinidad middling palish to yellow at 16s. 10½d. to 17s., good middling palish at 17s. to 17s. 3d., good yellow, 17s. 6d., good pale, 18s.; in St. Lucia, good middling to bright yellow at 17s. 3d., good palish, 18s. 1½d. to 18s. 3d., and Jamaica (crystallised) middling greyish at 16s. 3d. **Muscovado.**—The Market is bare of supplies in consequence of most shipments of this kind having been made to Canada. **Molasses Sugar.**—Quiet. Some good brown syrups have sold at 11s. 6d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons
Imports... ..	26,178	45,000	31,000	34,000	19,000	
Deliveries	24,116	31,000	26,000	32,000	28,000	..
Stocks (Aug 10)	11,702	22,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: (nominal) 17s. 6d.

15s. 3d.

17s. 6d.

17s. 0d.

15s. 9d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, August 10th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Puns.
Jamaica	9856	9300	10,100	11,200	11,200	
Demerara	6788	5900	5400	9900	7600	..
Total of all kinds	24,081	21,200	23,800	29,000	28,400	..

The Market continues quietly steady without change in value. A further sale of about 400 puns. Demerara at 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2d. proof, was reported after our last advice. Quotations of Demerara remain the same, viz., 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2½d. proof. In Jamaica a small business has been transacted at steady prices for home qualities. Quotations are unchanged, being 2s. 7d. for common, up to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and 3s. to 8s. for good to choice export qualities of Jamaica.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Aug. 10th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Bags.
Trinidad	6823	12,200	22,500	28,100	20,100	
Grenada	2339	8700	16,900	17,900	11,600	..
Total of all kinds	44,027	69,000	86,000	98,000	76,000	..

The Market has been firm, and a strong demand has prevailed during the fortnight. Public sales were resumed last week after the Bank holiday recess, and nearly the whole quantity offered found buyers at an advance of 11s. to 15s., as compared with prices current a fortnight ago. The statistical position is very strong, and with large deliveries and light landings. Stocks in London are further reduced, as will be seen above, to 44,000 bags. Quotations: Trinidad low middling and grey and red 102s. to 103s., middling red, 104s. to 104s. 6d., good middling red, 105s. to 106s., fine and superior, 106s. 6d. to 108s.; Grenada, ordinary to good fair, 100s. to 103s., middling to fine, 104s. to 107s. Fair to fine Native from other Islands, 97s. to 106s.

COFFEE.—Santos for August delivery, 29s., with a dull tendency. The Market on the spot has been quiet, but as supplies have been somewhat restricted the offerings at public auctions have gone off at steady but irregular prices. Fine qualities being in small supply have commanded full to rather higher rates. Jamaica at auction partly sold, red, dull colour at 53s. 6d., fine was bought in at 82s. The Market closed steady.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended August 15th, 157 bales West India cotton were imported. The Market continues quiet for West India Sea Island and prices have an easier tendency. The reports of the American Sea Island crop are now satisfactory, and spinners confidently expect a low range of prices. The sales include Barbados at 21d. to 22d., Nevis at 19½d., St. Croix at 13d. to 17d. West India is quoted in Liverpool at 7.95d. per lb.

ARROWROOT.—None offered in auctions and sales privately have been unimportant, quotations are unchanged. About 50 barrels St. Vincent sold at 2½d. to 2¾d. for fair to fine quality.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per gallon. Distilled oil, quiet, 3s. 2d. per gallon. Hand pressed, quiet, 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, quiet, £24 10s.

PIMENTO.—None in public sale, and privately supplies are firmly held, fair, quoted 3d. **NUTMEGS.**—Quiet, 90 packages offered, and 54 sold, 60's at 1s. 4d., 64/65's at 1s. 2d., 73/78's at 8½d. to 8d., 88's at 7d., defective 81/84's at 6d. to 6½d., and small sizes, defective, at 5d. to 5½d., 140's broken, at 4½d., 158/160's at 4½d. **MACE.**—West Indian steady, 28 packages sold at Friday's auction, good pale at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., broken at 1s. **GINGER** continues quotations are nominally unchanged. **COPRA.**—Quiet, but steady. Quotations of fair merchantable West India, are £22 10s. to £23.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—The market continues without direct supplies. HONDURAS: There is no stock in first hands and the new season's arrivals will be welcomed. JAMAICA: Only logs from medium to good sizes or figury are wanted. GRENADA: Importers' stocks are cleared out, and good parcels of sizeable logs would sell well. CEDAR.—CUBA, HONDURAS, and MEXICAN: Stocks are light and there is a good demand for sizeable straight logs. COSTA RICA, TRINIDAD, &c.: The stock consists chiefly of small and faulty wood which is not in demand. **Logwood.**—Quiet and unchanged, quotations £4 10s. per ton, landed. **FUSTIC:** Quiet; quotation, £4 15s. per ton, landed.

RUBBER.—The market the week before last remained steady, but not much business was done. In the past week the Market has been dull, and scarcely any business has taken place. Spot value for hard Para, 4s. 9½d., sellers. Soft fine sold at 4s. 7½d.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXII. Entered at Stationers Hall.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

C.



Commander the Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N.

PROTECTOR OF IMMIGRANTS, TRINIDAD.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Sept. 2nd, 1907

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

ALL those who have had the privilege to be brought into contact with Mr. CHARLES PRESTWOOD LUCAS will regret that he is no longer to preside over the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office. The loss of the West Indies is, however, the gain of our great self-governing dominions, for henceforth Mr. LUCAS, whom LORD ELGIN described in the House of Lords on August 29th as "a public servant of great experience and high academical distinction," who "also possesses an attractive and sympathetic personality," will, under the re-organisation scheme, be head of a new Dominion Department. We hope that his successor, whose name has not yet been made known, will prove as much a *persona grata* to the West Indies as he has been. It will doubtless be as much a matter for satisfaction to Mr. LUCAS as it has been to the West Indian colonies, that before assuming his new duties he has been able to effect a settlement of the long-standing intercolonial mail question. On August 21st we were able to announce that the principal colonies concerned

had agreed to vote the necessary subsidies, and that, therefore, the new service would be begun without delay. It seemed probable at first that Barbados would only vote her share on the condition

that it was stipulated in the contract that she should be headquarters and port of transhipment for the period of ten years. On receiving an assurance, however, that as long as the contribution asked for was paid there was every intention of retaining Barbados as port of transhipment, the new House of Assembly, with the wisdom which characterises the deliberations of that historic chamber, voted the subsidy on the understanding that the contribution should be paid only so long as Barbados remains the port of transhipment. Though the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company were not bound to begin it so soon, the new service will be started on September 17th, when the R.M.S.P. *Trent* arrives at Barbados, and it will follow the itinerary already set out in a previous issue; that is to say, one steamer will go from Barbados direct to Demerara, returning to Barbados *via* Grenada and St. Vincent, while the other steamer will visit each of the Northern Islands, calling also at Grenada and St. Vincent on the outward journey. At first the service will be performed by our old friends the *Eden* and the *Esh*, but two new intercolonial steamers specially suited for the conditions prevailing are to be built for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in accordance with the terms of the contract. The new service will go a long way towards removing the cause for complaint which the colonies concerned have had since the abandonment of the contract in 1905, but there still remain one or two rough edges to be smoothed off. St. Kitts and Nevis will certainly object to having only two hours in the very early morning and late at night respectively in which to answer their letters; but representations on this subject have been made by the West India Committee to the Colonial Office, and LORD ELGIN has communicated them to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who have in their turn promised to do all in their power to improve the time table if in practice it is found inconvenient. With the renewal of a regular fortnightly mail service, the development of the West Indian colonies will undoubtedly be materially assisted, and our cordial thanks are due to the Colonial Office, as well as to MR. LUCAS, for having successfully brought the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion.

THE optimism which we showed from the first with regard to the future of the Brussels Convention has been fully justified, for the Additional Act to that agreement, which provides for its continuance, subject to certain modifications, for a further period of five years from September 1st, 1908, has now been signed by all the high contracting Powers concerned. The bridge which has enabled the present Government to escape from a very difficult position has been the penal clause, and in this connection it will be remembered that in a letter to the *Times*, as far back as March 27th, 1906, the possibility of a *modus vivendi* based on this clause was suggested by SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK. In principle, the penal clause in the Convention is all-important, but in practice it has not had much bearing on the position, and the only sugar which is likely to be admitted here as the result of its suspension as far as Great Britain is concerned, will be Russian. If it is found that too much of such sugar is imported into the United Kingdom, the Permanent Commission may decide that circumstances justify the Powers having the right to withdraw as from September 1st, 1911, but inasmuch as they can insist that sugar refined, and also presumably confectionery manufactured, in the United Kingdom and exported to their territories shall be accompanied by a certificate declaring that no part of it has come from a bounty-giving country, it is probable that the effect of opening our markets to Russian bounty-fed sugar will be small. Throughout the negotiations the strictest secrecy has been maintained by the British Government, and while this has no doubt been necessary up to a certain point, we confess we do not understand why they should refuse to make public information which is known to the sugar industry throughout the Continent. Thus, SIR EDWARD GREY'S first despatch was already published in the French and German sugar press when he declined to submit it to Parliament. It was the same with the text of the Additional Act, for which we had to apply to our correspondent in France before we could publish it in our pages. Lastly there are the conditions on which Russia is prepared to become a party to the Sugar Convention. These were known very generally on the

Continent fully a week ago, but in response to a request addressed to him on August 22nd, MR. LOUIS MALLET wrote on August 28th that SIR EDWARD GREY regretted that he was not in a position to furnish the Committee with the information required. Possibly the fault may lie at Brussels, but whatever be the cause it is needless to say that it is extremely irritating for the representatives of the British sugar industry—and we speak not for ourselves alone, but all connected with the industry—that they should be kept so badly posted on matters vital to their interest.

IN a few months winter will be upon us, and with winter the West Indian tourist season. With the advent of chill October the minds of those who, while avoiding the English winter, combine the pursuit of pleasure with that of health, will be directed towards the best possible means of obtaining both, and we need not say that in the West Indies both are to be found. We take it, however, that to the average Briton the West Indies are indelibly associated with Jamaica, and although to the *cognoscenti* each Colony possesses its individual charm, the tourist in planning his tour has, as a rule, this beautiful island prominently in his mind's eye. This being the case, we sincerely trust that no recollection of the earthquake of January last will prevent his directing his steps to the Caribbean. As we have often said before, the chance of the recurrence of a like calamity for many generations is remote, and even if it were not, Kingston is not Jamaica. West Indian town life may present a passing attraction for the tourist, but the main interest of Jamaica for the majority lies in its wooded mountain slopes, its winding rivers, its sugar, coffee and banana plantations, its country districts in fact, which have never materially suffered from earthquakes; and the lover of rod or gun, the cyclist, the motorist, or the horseman, may pursue his hobby there without fear or thought of the occurrence of any convulsion of nature. The steamship companies, British, German and American, afford special facilities for transport to the "Isle of Streams;" Messrs. Cook & Sons have decided to re-open an agency in Jamaica; Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co.'s Constant Spring Hotel has been thoroughly renovated, and the portion damaged by the earthquake repaired and in many ways improved, while the Tourist's Information Bureau will again supply any information required gratuitously. No apprehension need be held also on the subject of hotel accommodation. The Kingston hotels that suffered are being rebuilt, and at Mandeville, Moneague, Port Antonio, Malvern, Montego Bay, Hollymount and other centres of interest, excellent accommodation obtains. We sincerely trust, therefore, that the growing popularity of the West Indies as a tourist or health resort will not receive a check by reason of the earthquake in Jamaica, deplorable in itself, but in no way constituting any reason for diversion of the tourist stream. Again, although no West Indian tourist should miss Jamaica, if there be any apprehension still remaining in the mind of any prospective tourist as to visiting that island, there is plenty to see elsewhere, and whether it be Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, the Leeward or Windward Isles, he will find time and money amply repaid.

WHEN earlier in the year we gave credit to MR. GEORGE CARRINGTON and MESSRS. SENDALL and WADE for the part which they took in the re-establishment of the cotton industry in the West Indies, we had no wish whatever to minimise the work in this direction, which has been done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and its officers. We should have thought that our various references to the Department—notably in December 1905, when we wrote: "Perhaps the work which the Department is most to be congratulated upon has been the introduction, or rather the re-introduction, of cotton growing . . . In these circumstances the question of the continuance of the Department becomes one of the greatest moment" would have made that sufficiently clear; and yet a correspondent questions our attitude. Our remarks quoted above can hardly be considered faint praise. They surely show that we appreciate to the full extent what the Department has done, especially for the smaller islands in the West Indies. Small scale experiments with cotton were undertaken in 1900, and since then they have been continued systematically. It should be pointed

out that the work of the Department of Agriculture was largely instrumental in determining what kind of cotton it would be expedient to grow in the islands; in the earlier stages there was considerable uncertainty on this point. Then, as soon as the industry began to exist on a commercial footing, all kinds of difficulties and problems arose; had there been no Department of Agriculture it is almost certain that these troubles would have overwhelmed the pioneer planters, and no cotton industry would have been established. As it was, all these difficulties were carefully and earnestly investigated, and planters were placed at once in possession of information which enabled them to develop their industry in a manner little short of marvellous, so that while commercial results must always remain for commercial men to secure, and a scientific department can have nothing concrete to show in the way of exports, a large share of credit is due to the Department of Agriculture. At the same time we cannot believe that the Department would grudge praise to those who have established the industry on a stable basis by growing cotton on a commercial scale.

COMMANDER W. H. COOMBS, R.N.

Commander Coombs, whose portrait appears on another page, has occupied the important position of Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad and Tobago since 1896. Born in 1851, he was educated at Christ's College, Finchley. He entered the Royal Navy in 1866, and served under the Government of India from 1876 to 1884, as Assistant-Superintendent of the Marine Surveys. During that time he was employed principally on the harbours of Madras, Colombo, Goa, &c. He is qualified as interpreter in Hindu, Urdu and Persian, and retired with the rank of Commander in 1894. He is a member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, and a Justice of the Peace for the joint colony, and besides being a fellow of several learned Societies and a member of the West India Committee, he is an Associate of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN ST. LUCIA.

When a rifle club was first started in St. Lucia in October, 1906, by Capt. W. A. J. Barker, it did not meet with much support; but since the riots in April last the volunteer movement in the island has made substantial progress. We are indebted to Chief-Justice P. M. C. Sheriff for the photograph from which our full-page illustration is taken, of a group of intending volunteers and some members of the Volunteer Movement Committee, which was taken in the barrack yard at Castries. Shortly after the riots a public meeting was held and a committee appointed to suggest alterations in the existing volunteer ordinance for the consideration of the Government, with the object of making the law more popular. Pending the consideration of the suggestions made, the young men in Castries have with commendable activity been learning their drill. The members of the committee present are seated in the second row, together with some other leading people in Castries who favour the movement. The names of those in the second row, reading from right to left, are the Hon. M. Murphy, Hon. Duncan Ferguson, Hon. W. Degazon, the Hon. the Attorney-General, Chief-Justice P. M. C. Sheriff (Chairman), Mr. Edwin Bennett, K.C., Musketry Instructor Hampton, V.C., who rendered such signal service on the occasion of the disturbances, Hon. G. Graf, and Sergeant Ryan. The committee consisted of Mr. Sheriff, Mr. Graf, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Degazon, Capt. Barker and Capt. Grist. While expressing commendation of the action of the leading people of St. Lucia in this matter, it is fitting that acknowledgment should be made of the services of the local police under Mr. E. D. Laborde during the recent disturbances.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, August 22nd, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
W. M. CUNNINGHAM (Bahamas).	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall.
A. S. DAVIS (St. Kitts).	A. D. C. Adamson.	C. Forbes Todd.
MAJOR S. LUSHINGTON, C.M.G., R.F.A.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
FRANK E. W. G. AUSTIN (Barbados).	H. B. G. Austin.	Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope.
R. MAGINLEY (Antigua).	Hon. James D. Harper.	Hon. J. J. Comacho.
J. H. Smith (Trinidad).	Edgar Tripp.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
J. HOAD (Barbados).	H. B. G. Austin.	T. W. Wilkinson.
J. BLACK (Trinidad).	G. Bruce Austin.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.



LEADERS OF THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA.

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 in October, November and December of this year, will, on paying their subscriptions, not be required to renew them until January 1st, 1909. Full particulars regarding membership and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

In continuation of the publication of the representations regarding the Brussels Convention which have been made by Chambers of Commerce and other public institutions throughout the Empire, we reproduce the following :—

Antigua.—At a general meeting of the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society held on July 5th, 1907, the following resolution was passed and forwarded, together with a memorandum by the Standing Committee of that Society, embodying replies to important questions relative to the Brussels Convention, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies :—

The Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society having heard that it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to denounce the penal clauses of the Brussels Convention, respectfully begs to express the belief that the result of this to the sugar-producing colonies of the West Indies, and to this Presidency in particular, will be disastrous, and this society is greatly alarmed at the gloomy outlook for these colonies consequent on the withdrawal of His Majesty's Government from an agreement which has placed the sugar producers of the world on something like equal conditions, and has caused a comparative return of prosperity to His Majesty's colonies in these parts. The penal clauses of the Brussels Convention have placed the production of sugar on a perfectly fair basis, and the wisdom of the Convention has been proved by the facts :—

1. That owing to these clauses a fair competition has existed between sugar-producers.
2. That production in those countries that gave bounties has not decreased.
3. That cane sugar producing countries have been able to hold their own without assistance.
4. That the price of sugar to the consumer has not thereby increased, any increase which may have taken place being due to duties imposed on sugar imported into the United Kingdom.

By the refusal of His Majesty's Government to continue this agreement, these colonies shall revert to the unhealthy condition which prevailed before the coming into operation of the Brussels Convention. This Society respectfully represents to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies the unfairness that will result if they again have to enter into competition with sugar, bounty-fed or otherwise artificially cheapened, and would ask for some pronouncement from His Majesty's Ministers that the interests of these colonies will be properly safeguarded when the time comes for a new agreement to be made between the parties to the Brussels Convention.

Appended to the resolutions was an important memorandum, which was submitted to the Department of Agriculture in January last, showing how Antigua and the West Indies generally had benefited from the Convention, the effect of the recent uncertainty, and the probable effect of the denunciation of the Convention.

The Governor of Jamaica and Lord Elgin.

We are in a position to give the full text of a despatch which was addressed by Sir Sydney Olivier to the Earl of Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on July 4th, with regard to the question of the continuance of the Brussels Convention, for the abolition of bounties, and the suppression of cartels. It is unnecessary for us to emphasise the importance of this despatch, written as it was by the Governor of Jamaica, who, when Secretary of the West India Royal Commission of 1897, saw for himself what havoc was wrought in the West Indies by the foreign sugar bounties. The despatch runs as follows :—

MY LORD,—I have the honour by request to transmit to you the enclosed transcripts of Resolutions passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica, by the Jamaica Agricultural Society at its half-yearly General Meeting and by the Council of the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, arising out of the reports received here of the statement made in the House of Commons on the 6th of June by Sir Edward Grey relative to the attitude of His Majesty's Government on the question of continued adherence to the Brussels Convention and restriction of sugar bounties.

My predecessor in this Government in his despatch No. 431, of 5th October last, expressed to you his views upon this question, with the general purpose of which I desire to associate myself, and I would urge Your Lordship's careful attention to the significance of the particulars of information which have been furnished to your Department in subsequent despatches from Sir Alexander Swettenham with regard to the salutary effect on the cane industry of this island of the Convention from which His Majesty's Government now intimate their intention of withdrawing, except upon a condition which it appears hardly reasonable to presume will be conceded by the other parties to that instrument.

I would ask your Lordship to consider attentively the statements and arguments embodied in the Resolution by the Legislative Council and the Merchants' Exchange, with regard to the soundness of which there can, I think, for the most part be but little question.

The decision of His Majesty's Government appears to have been taken out of regard to general considerations of fiscal policy independent of those indicated on behalf of the West Indies, and I do not presume to question the cogency of such considerations. But I trust that your Lordship will allow me as one who has had exceptional opportunities of learning the significance of the sugar bounty question in the West Indian colonies to state without reserve some of my own impressions of the aspect which the decision of His Majesty's Government presents to His Majesty's West Indian subjects.

When His Majesty's Government announce that they consider that the limitation of the sources from which sugar may enter the United Kingdom as incompatible with the interests of the sugar using manufacturers, they appear to persons interested in the West Indies and in the cane sugar industry, to overlook two considerations:—

(i) That the effect of the revival of bounties and the removal of the other restrictions of the Convention will be to produce a contraction and limitation of the sources from which sugar may enter the United Kingdom, by crippling an important source of the supply of cane sugar. This argument has been sufficiently laboured by others and I need not enlarge on it.

(ii) That presuming the interests of the British consumers and sugar using manufacturers to be measurable in terms of price of sugar (which appears to be a reasonable interpretation of the intention of Sir Edward Grey's announcement), it is straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel, to denounce the exclusion of Russian, Argentine, and other bounty fed sugar from the British market, which cannot affect the price by more than a few pence a cwt., whilst maintaining the British import duty of 4s. 2d. a cwt. which raises the price by many times the amount that can possibly be due to the exclusion of bounty fed sugars.

The average West Indian producer, stung in his personal interest, impatiently denounces this attitude as one of political hypocrisy, and he argues that by the time the British Government has cast the beam of the import duty out of the eyes of home politicians, the magnitude of the mote of augmented price attributable to the continued exclusion of bounty fed sugar may possibly become discernable and will be found to be an evil entirely negligible in comparison with the evils which will be produced by the abandonment of the Convention.

The special character of this evil other than the mere economic effects, I endeavoured to impress upon Your Lordship in a conversation which I had with you shortly before I left England. The continued acceptance by Great Britain of bounty fed sugar under the condition which caused continual depression to the principal West Indian industry always appeared to the populations of these colonies a mean, unjust and contemptible thing, and provoked alienation and impatience in the attitude of these colonies towards the mother country. It had a great effect in stimulating the popularity of proposals for exclusive commercial union with the United States which could not but have resulted to the detriment of the trade with Great Britain. The action of Mr. Chamberlain in attacking the bounty system appeared to the population of those colonies a statesmanlike, sympathetic, and above all an honourable and high-minded policy, and it did more than anything has for many years past to revive British sentiment and a pride in the connection with Great Britain in these parts. The economic results in increased confidence and enterprise have already been dealt with.

It does not appear to those interested in the West Indian sugar industry that His Majesty's Government can sufficiently have weighed between the advantage of admitting the sugar of countries which still give bounties to the British market and the advantage of maintaining this stimulated confidence and enterprise in a part of the Empire which may either progress or retrogress, but which will certainly progress more assuredly if the Convention and all that it means, sentimentally as well as commercially, is maintained.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SYDNEY OLIVIER, Governor.

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

Overleaf we give a table compiled by Mr. Edgar Tripp for the Trinidad Agricultural Society, giving statistics regarding the Trinidad Cane Farmers' crop of 1906. It will be noted that the colony exported over 50,000 tons of sugar, and that the weight of canes produced on the various estates was only 2,000 tons less than the previous year. The falling off in the total weight of the farmers' canes

from 237,844 tons to 166,993 tons is significant and regrettable, and not so easy to explain satisfactorily when one finds that 761 more farmers were engaged in the industry this year than last.

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.	Number of Farmers. East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle ...	3,654	3,434	35,095	2,370	\$4,801	126	84
Bronte ...	2,842	*1,850	18,403	11,050	22,543	421	119
Caroni ...	3,676	2,493	24,365	12,738	25,969	356	394
Craignish ...	610	265	3,180	4,150	8,466	179	175
Esperanza ...	2,495	1,978	20,563	7,276	14,479	406	370
Forres Park (1) ...	769	201	2,643	6,554	13,371	126	66
Hindustan ...	611	175	1,994	5,301	10,801	147	345
La Florissante ...	172	152	2,426	403	626	13	56
Mon Desir ...	324	160	*2,500	2,513	4,221	*55	*45
Mon Jaloux ...	623	509	5,684	1,767	2,998	70	47
Orange Grove (2) ...	2,375	1,139	9,162	12,101	26,138	362	737
Palmiste ...	2,445	871	10,024	18,343	39,624	320	230
Perseverance (Cedros) ...	363	233	3,150	1,737	2,326	14	38
Reform ...	813	267	*2,800	8,188	16,691	*250	*250
Tennants' Estate ...	7,037	5,339	52,361	17,170	35,027	1,314	1,332
Usine St. Madeleine (3) ...	13,591	10,538	112,019	33,231	67,594	1,755	899
Waterloo ...	4,112	*3,900	45,122	2,531	5,087	76	165
Woodford Lodge ...	4,052	2,093	44,372	19,570	39,765	567	425
	50,564	35,597	395,863	166,993	\$340,527	6,557	5,777
Return for 1906 ...	62,975	39,735	397,912	237,844	\$469,122	6,127	5,446
" .. 1905 ...	38,240		244,418	144,868	482,053	5,424	5,462
" .. 1904 ...	50,744	1,669	385,015	171,947	360,046	4,646	4,685
" .. 1903 ...	No Returns.	1,783	337,632	166,590	348,445	4,443	4,440
" .. 1902 ...		4,379	337,911	184,867	327,183	4,506	4,850
" .. 1901 ...		3,652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3,819	4,737
" .. 1900 ...		1,286	364,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591
" .. 1899 ...		1,571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2,826	3,870
" .. 1898 ...				105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824

- NOTES.—(1) Small crop, owing to cultivation being stopped in early part of last year.—F. J. MORRIS.
 (2) This estate suffered considerably from blight and fungus, nearly 250 acres being destroyed by this disease, the balance of the cultivation only returning half of the standard yield.—JOSEPH W. SARGENT.
 (3) As estate and farmers' canes are ground together, we cannot say exactly what sugar has been made from them respectively, so we have divided the total tons canes by total tons sugar made, assuming canes to be of equal value in both cases. Amount paid for canes is the actual money paid to the farmers for them, but does not anything like cover what they cost us, and this should be remembered by those interested when arriving at the value of farmers' canes.—H. E. MURRAY.

THE "GORDIAN" AND THE CACAO MARKET.

In June a meeting of the American National Confectioners' Association was held at Cincinnati, Ohio, at which Mr. Runkel delivered an interesting speech on the position of cacao. The *Gordian*, of Hamburg, has taken considerable exception to the facts, as given by Mr. Runkel, as to the causes of the high price of cacao, controverting this gentleman's statement that the world's consumption of cacao has increased by fully 100 per cent. in five years, and pointing out that the increase has only been 27 per cent. The increased consumption in the United States has been, it states, according to the official returns, only 7 3/4 per cent. The editor of the *Gordian* also points out that Mr. Runkel was quite wrong in speaking of the failure of the two last year's crops—that of Trinidad only being short—and points out that the arrivals at Havre, New York, Hamburg and London, were heavier than during previous years, being 956,607 bags for the first six months of 1907, compared with 868,803 bags, 843,396 bags, and 862,373 bags for the corresponding months of 1906, 1905, and 1904, respectively. In conclusion it is stated that the present position of cacao is due entirely to speculation and not to the operation of natural laws of supply and demand.

CACAO REPORTS IV.—FERNANDO PO.

It will be within the recollection of our readers that at the instance of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada, the West India Committee requested Sir Edward Grey to furnish them with reports regarding the cacao industry in the chief cacao-producing countries of the world, Sir Edward Grey acceded to their request, and reports on the industry in Bahia, Cuba, and Ecuador,

* Estimated.

which have been published in our pages.* We are now informed by the Foreign Office that a despatch has been received from His Majesty's Consulate at Boma stating that it is extremely difficult to furnish a report on the cacao industry of Fernando Po. Statistics are practically unprocurable, and, therefore, no figures can be given respecting the export from the island. During the last four or five years the export has been steadily decreasing, owing to a disease which has affected the cacao trees, causing a great number of the pods to go black and to rot, instead of ripening, and up to the present it would seem that no suitable remedy has been found to prevent or cure this disease. Some of the more important planters have tried various remedies, but without success. A great number of the cacao plantations in the island are in the hands of natives, who do nothing in the way of tending or caring for the trees, but merely plant the cacao and pick it when ready.

TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The total commerce of the Philippine Islands in the fiscal year 1906 was \$57,716,400, of which \$25,799,266 represented imports, and \$31,917,134 exports. The total imports of the calendar year 1905 were \$30,050,550 in value, against \$14,250,707 in 1894, the last year of the Spanish occupation for which figures are available. Of the exports, 40 per cent. of the total went to the United States in the calendar year 1905, 25 per cent. to the United Kingdom, nearly 10 per cent. to Hong Kong, 8 per cent. to France, and the remainder chiefly to European countries. The most important product of the islands is at present the fibre produced by the plant *Musa textilis*, or manila hemp. It is not a hemp in the ordinary acceptance of the term, as the fibre is produced from the leaf of a large plant similar in appearance to the banana plant, while in most cases hemp is the fibre extracted from the inner bark of the stem of a plant. Sugar is, perhaps, the next important article after hemp in the production, present and prospective, of the islands. It has never at its highest figure exceeded 350,000 tons, nor is the present production for export more than 100,000 tons annually. The possibilities of production are considered far in excess of that at the present time, and there is good reason to believe that the sugar exports of the Philippines, which in 1905 were but \$5,000,000 in value, may reach several times that figure with the introduction of modern machinery for production, the enlargement of the area which sugar producing estates may control, and the bringing into cultivation of larger sugar areas not now utilised. Tobacco is classed by the recent census of the Philippines as the third agricultural product of the islands in point of commercial importance. Originally introduced from America by Spanish missionaries in the latter part of the sixteenth century, its cultivation has extended throughout the group of islands, but it is especially grown in the northern part of the most northerly island, Luzon. The cocoa-nut and its products form a continual and rapidly increasing percentage of the exports from the Philippine Islands. Copra now ranks third in the total exports. Prior to 1890 the value of the article only on two occasions exceeded \$100,000. In the fiscal year 1906 it was \$4,043,113. Coffee is at present an inconsiderable item in the export trade of the Philippines. Prior to 1890 it was an important and remunerative product of certain provinces and constituted a source of considerable wealth in the section in which it was cultivated. Subsequent to 1890, however, the devastation of the coffee plantations by insects and disease caused a rapid diminution in the quantity produced and exported.

TRINIDAD IMMIGRATION.

The report of the Protector of Immigrants on immigration into Trinidad for the year 1906-7 shows that during the twelve months four ships arrived, bringing a total of 2,502 souls. A high death-rate was recorded for the voyage, 3.53 per cent., due mainly to the large number of deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis. The physical standard, however, of the immigrants was, according to Commander Coombs, good. The total number of "return coolies" from various colonies was sixteen. During the year 1906 two ships arrived with Madras coolies. It is interesting to note, as showing the uncertainty of the passage with sailing ships, that they arrived on the same day, one having taken 106 days and the other 40 days in transit. The reports received from the estates as to these Madras coolies were conflicting, but the Protector does not, on the whole, consider that the trial introduction has been a success. During the year 1906, 783 coolies returned to India, taking with them and depositing for transmission no less a sum than £10,114, and apart from this, £2,872 was remitted to that country during the year. This was less than for the preceding year by £540, owing to the fact that 3,306 acres of Crown lands were sold during the year under review to East Indians.

* THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Vol. XXI., pp. 555, 559, 582, and Vol. XXII., p. 6.

The amounts deposited in the Government Savings' Bank for ten years by East Indian immigrants were:—

Years.	Average Amount per Head to credit at end of each year.			Number of Depositors.	Amount Deposited each year.			Balance to Credit on 31st December of each year.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1897	19	11	8½	4,379	38,877	11	2	85,761	15	6½
1898	19	14	8½	4,481	40,570	10	7	88,440	13	0½
1899	16	9	8½	5,550	55,273	14	0	91,501	14	5
1900	18	4	10	5,367	59,907	19	5	97,902	19	1½
1901	17	17	7½	5,725	65,023	3	0½	102,370	10	5½
1902	18	0	0	5,646	59,725	13	9	102,629	15	3
1903	18	17	8	5,654	59,156	15	4	106,769	9	9½
1904	17	14	9	5,842	61,287	7	1	103,612	10	0
1905	16	11	10	6,092	64,076	18	11	101,094	15	1½
1906	16	14	2	5,888	67,508	7	1½	98,403	0	8

It will be seen that although a larger amount was deposited in 1906 than in the preceding years, the balance at credit at the end of the year was less, due, probably, to the larger occupation of Crown lands by the East Indians mentioned above. The death-rate, 15.8 per 1,000, was satisfactory, although slightly higher than for the preceding year, owing to climatic conditions, but it shows an extensive decrease on that obtaining up to 1902, which was about 20.00 per 1,000.

OUR BRITISH GUIANA PAMPHLET.

The pamphlet "British Guiana and its Resources," by Professor J. B. Harrison, M.A., C.M.G., which forms the fourth of the new series which is being issued by the West India Committee, will, if the present demand for it continues, soon be out of print. From the number of enquiries regarding the colony which have been received since its publication, there can, we think, be no doubt that it is serving a useful purpose, setting forth as it does very clearly the prospects and possibilities of the Magnificent Province. While acknowledging receipt of copies of this pamphlet, Lord Elgin stated that he had no doubt that its publication would be of material benefit in drawing attention to the natural resources of British Guiana.



The Arms of B. Guiana.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

Venezuela's 30% Surtax.

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on August 22nd, whether he would lay papers to show the progress of negotiations with the Venezuelan Government, with a view to securing the removal of the surtax of 30 per cent. on imports from the West Indian islands. Sir Edward Grey, in a written reply said: "H.M.'s Minister has not relaxed his efforts to induce the Venezuelan Government to remit the surtax, but hitherto without success. I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by laying papers on the subject."

The Health of Jamaica.

Mr. Haldane having been asked by Mr. George Greenwood if, since the earthquake in Jamaica, yellow or any other malignant fever has broken out at Port Royal; if there has been great mortality among the British troops there stationed; and, if so, will he cause them to be removed to healthier quarters, said in a written reply: There have been only two cases of malaria among the European troops and seven cases among the non-Europeans at Port Royal since the commencement of this year. None of these were fatal. There have been no cases of yellow fever or enteric. There are in this department no statistics regarding the health of the civil population at Port Royal.

The Jamaica £800,000 Loan.

The Public Works Loans Bill, which included provision for the Jamaica loan of £800,000, (Clause 4) was read a second time in the House of Commons on August 22nd. In introducing it, Mr. Runciman said that this loan was in addition to the grant of £150,000 already provided for. It was quite possible that the individual claims which would be made on this fund would reach £800,000, but only £75,000 would be used for the Government itself, and the total of £800,000 was the limit beyond which the loan would not go.

Apropos to the vote for the Northern Nigerian railways (Clause 5), which several members

contended would act as protection to the cotton industry, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson expressed the hope that the Under-Secretary for the Colonies would be prepared favourably to consider a scheme for broadening the area from which our supplies of sugar were obtained. He asked whether the £75,000 referred to in connection with the Jamaican loan were to be devoted to rebuilding the Government buildings. For that sole purpose the sum would no doubt be ample, but if all the sewerage and underground connections which had been broken in parts of Kingston were to be made good, he doubted whether the amount would be sufficient. He was not sure on whom the expense would fall, but it would be necessary also to make a re-survey of the whole of Kingston Harbour and its approaches.

Reorganisation of the Colonial Office.

At present the business of the Colonial Office is distributed over four departments, but in future there are to be three only. In an important statement in the House of Lords on August 22nd on reorganisation, Lord Elgin said that the first of these new Departments would be a Dominion Department, to deal exclusively, or practically so, with the business of the self-governing dominions beyond the sea. The only work outside the business of the dominions would be that originating in certain protectorates, or possessions geographically connected with the dominions, such as those in South Africa under the charge of the High Commissioner, and the islands of the Pacific. The second department, which it was proposed to term the Colonial Department, would deal with the Crown Colonies. It would be a heavy department, on account of the immense amount of administrative work and control involved in the management of the many Crown Colonies and possessions of the Crown. The third department would be called the General Department, and would deal with legal, financial, and other general business of the office. In this department it was proposed to establish a new feature in the shape of certain standing committees to take a collective view of such matters as contracts, concessions, mineral, and other leases which came to them from all parts of the world, and also the matter of patronage, which was one of considerable importance and delicacy in the Colonial Office. They were not dealing only with the superior officers, but were working out the organisation throughout with all the necessary divisions and sub-divisions. He proposed to place at the head of the Dominion department the Senior Assistant Under-Secretary of State. Mr. C. P. Lucas was a gentleman of very high academical and literary distinction, who had managed, even amongst the pre-occupations of his official duties, to find time for works of merit on colonial and especially on Canadian history. He had had a long experience of colonial administration; and his attractive and sympathetic personality had made him many friends in every quarter. It was certain that the task of recommending this new department to our brethren beyond the seas could safely be entrusted to him. The second appointment was the nomination of the secretary to the Conference. The promise made was to select from the Colonial Office staff a gentleman for the special duties arising out of the work of the Conference acquainted with its past as well as with what was contemplated in the future. This post ought to be filled up by a man of proved ability and wide experience, and of a standing which would justify his access whenever necessary direct to the Secretary of State. He was glad to say that he could secure at once continuity from Conference to Conference; for he felt able to promote to this new post the gentleman who occupied the position of joint secretary to the late Conference. Mr. Just had an experience of colonial affairs second to none, and had a special knowledge of South African business, having visited that country with a former Secretary for the Colonies. He held the rank of an assistant secretary, and he claimed that he was appointing to this post a man of experience, merit, and position. He would not mention other members of the staff by name, but he would observe that he felt he would be able to find men in the service who had visited self-governing colonies, and he would be only too glad to profit by their experience. He thought it right to make one remark as to a very unfair prejudice which was sometimes excited by semi-contemptuous references to the Colonial Office staff. Such references, he was sure, would not mislead their lordships. It was well known that the higher ranks of the public service were filled by members of the great Civil Service of which this country was so proud. (Hear, hear.) The gentlemen in the Colonial Office had passed the severest educational tests, and many of them had attained the highest University distinction and had devoted years of their lives to work which was arduous and responsible. The same career was open to all subjects of His Majesty, and so to our fellow subjects beyond the seas, if they chose to qualify themselves, and in the Colonial Office they would be only too happy to give them a welcome.

The West Indian sugar trade.

At the request of several readers we give the text of a return, issued by the Board of Trade, showing (1) the production of cane sugar in the West India Islands and British Guiana in each of the years 1900-5, so far as this can be stated; (2) the total exports of cane sugar (domestic production) from the West India Islands and British Guiana in each of the years 1900-5, distinguishing exports to the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada; and (3) the changes in the Customs rate of duty

imposed on sugar in the years 1900-5, in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Dominion of Canada. The figures under the first head are as follows:—

Production of cane sugar in the British West Indies and British Guiana.

Colony.	1900. cwts.	1901. cwts.	1902. cwts.	1903. cwts.	1904. cwts.	1905. cwts.
Jamaica	464,000	494,000	582,000	448,000	378,000	421,000
St. Lucia (a)	81,000	97,000	86,000	78,000	103,000	97,000
St. Vincent (a)	12,000	18,000	14,000	(b) 5,000	(b) 19,000	(b) 7,000
Barbados	992,000	1,260,000	1,152,000	1,276,000	1,136,000	1,052,000
Grenada	—	(c)	—	—	(c)	—
Leeward Islands—						
Virgin Islands (a)	—	1,000	(c)	—	(c)	(c)
St. Christopher-Nevis... ..	150,000	261,000	346,000	284,000	258,000	261,000
Montserrat	11,000	11,000	(a) 21,000	17,000	10,000	5,000
Antigua	218,000	198,000	268,000	226,000	213,000	171,000
Dominica	8,000	7,000	3,000	6,000	3,000	4,000
Trinidad and Tobago	925,000	1,218,000	1,156,000	956,000	1,015,000	764,000
Total, West India Islands	2,861,000	3,565,000	3,628,000	3,296,000	3,135,000	2,782,000
British Guiana (a) (b)	1,895,000	2,114,000	2,403,000	2,519,000	2,134,000	2,331,000
Total, West India Islands & B. Guiana	4,756,000	5,679,000	6,031,000	5,815,000	5,269,000	5,113,000

(a) Domestic exports are given, production figures not being available.
 (b) For the twelve months ended March 31st of the year following that stated above.
 (c) Less than 500 cwts.

It will be seen from these figures that in the year in which the Brussels Convention was agreed to, namely, 1902, there was a large increase in production. In 1904-5 came the drought from which the West Indies as well as Europe suffered and, consequently, short crops. It is interesting in this connection to note that for 1905-6 the West Indian sugar crops are given as 5,521,000 cwts., a notable increase over those for the preceding year. Under head No. 2 the following are the figures:—

The destination of British West Indian Sugars.

Total Exports to	1900. cwts.	1901. cwts.	1902. cwts.	1903. cwts.	1904. cwts.	1905. cwts.
United Kingdom	855,000	845,000	1,041,000	842,000	1,162,000	1,225,000
United States of America	3,301,000	3,860,000	3,610,000	2,113,000	1,728,000	1,123,000
Dominion of Canada	116,000	332,000	687,000	1,886,000	2,076,000	2,246,000
Other destinations	43,000	32,000	63,000	36,000	61,000	48,000
Total	4,315,000	5,069,000	5,401,000	4,877,000	5,027,000	4,642,000

It is pointed out that for some of the colonies the particulars are for the twelve months ended March 31st of the year following that stated above.

As to heading No. 3, it is pointed out that as regards the United Kingdom no duties were levied on sugar until April 19th, 1901, when the following rates of duty were imposed, and have remained in force since that date:—On sugar of a polarisation exceeding 98°, 4s. 2d. per cwt., and on that not exceeding 76°, 2s. per cwt., with intermediate rates varying from 0.8d. to 1.2d. per degree for sugar polarising from 76° to 98°. In the United States the general duties on sugar have been the same throughout the period, and are those imposed by the Tariff Act of July 24th, 1897:—

	§	cts.	£	s.	d.
Sugars not above No. 16 Dutch standard in colour, tank bottoms, syrups of cane juice, melada, concentrated melada, concrete and concentrated molasses, testing by the polariscope not above 75 degrees	lb.	0 00	$\frac{11}{100}$	cwt.	0 4 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
For every additional degree in addition to the foregoing rate ... ..	..	0 00	$\frac{3}{100}$	..	0 0 1.96
(Fractions of a degree in proportion.)					
Sugars above No. 16 Dutch standard in colour, and all sugar which has gone through a process of refining ... ..	..	0 01	$\frac{11}{100}$	..	0 9 1
Maple sugar and maple syrup ... ..	..	0 04		..	0 18 8
Glucose or grape sugar ... ..	..	0 01	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	0 7 0
Sugar candy, and all sugars which after refining have been tintured, coloured, or in any way adulterated ... ..	..	0 04		..	0 18 8
		and		and	
		15% ad valorem.		15% ad valorem.	

Changes have, however, taken place during the period in the duties imposed on sugar imported from Cuba, the Philippines, and Porto Rico. These changes were as follows:—Under the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Cuba, approved by the Act of December 17th, 1903 (in operation from December 27th, 1903), Cuban sugar became entitled to a reduction of 20 per cent. of the general rates of duty. Under Section 2 of the Act of March 8th, 1902, articles the growth and product of the Philippine Archipelago coming into the United States from the Philippine Archipelago

have since the date of the Act paid only 75 per cent. of the general rates of duty; and the duty levied in the United States is further reduced by any export duty payable in the Philippines on the exportation of the product. The export duty in the Philippines on sugar is at present 5 cents per 100 kilogs. (Act of March 3rd, 1905.) From May 1st, 1900, to July 24th, 1901, Porto Rican products imported into the United States paid 15 per cent. of the ordinary United States Tariff duties. From July 25th, 1901, Porto Rican products have been free of duty in the United States.

The following statement shows the duties imposed on sugar imported into Canada before and after June 30th, 1900:—

Description of Sugar.		Rates of Import Duty.
Refined sugar, <i>i.e.</i> , sugar above No. 16 Dutch standard in colour, and all refined sugar testing not more than 88° by the polariscope:		
Under the British Preferential Tariff (a)	Per 100 lbs.	3s. 3'96d. to June 30th, 1900, and thereafter, 2s. 11'52d.
.. .. General Tariff	" "	4s. 5'28d.
For each additional degree over 88°:		
Under the British Preferential Tariff (a)	" "	0'56d. to June 30th, 1900, and thereafter 0'50d.
.. .. General Tariff	" "	0s. 0'74d.
Raw sugar, <i>i.e.</i> , sugar not above No. 16 Dutch standard in colour, sugar drainings or pumpings drained in transit, melada or concentrated melada, tank bottoms and sugar concrete, testing not more than 75° by the polariscope:		
Under the British Preferential Tariff (b)	" "	1s. 2'8d. to June 30th, 1900, and thereafter 1s. 1'16d.
.. .. General Tariff	" "	1s. 7'73d.
For each additional degree over 75°:		
Under the British Preferential Tariff (b)	" "	0'56d. to June 30th, 1900, and thereafter 0'50d.
.. .. General Tariff	" "	0s. 0'74d.
Maple sugar and maple syrup:		
Under the British Preferential Tariff	" "	15 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> to June 30th, 1900, and thereafter 13½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
.. .. General Tariff	" "	20 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Glucose or grape sugar:		
Under the British Preferential Tariff	" "	2s. 3½d. to June 30th, 1900, and thereafter 1s. 11½d.
.. .. General Tariff	" "	3s. 1d.
Sugar candy, brown or white:		
Under the British Preferential Tariff	" "	1s. 6½d. and 26½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> in addition to June 30th, 1900, and thereafter 1s. 4½d. and 23½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> in addition.
.. .. General Tariff	" "	2s. 0'67d. and 35 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> in addition.

NOTE.—A surtax equal to one-third of the above general rates of duty was imposed from April 17th, 1903, on sugar the produce or manufacture of Germany.

(a) Refined sugar was only entitled to entry under the "British Preferential Tariff" when satisfactory evidence was furnished that such refined sugar had been manufactured wholly from raw sugar produced in the British Colonies or Possessions.

(b) Raw sugar was granted preferential treatment when imported direct from any British Colony or Possession.

It will be useful to supplement the return by giving the present Canadian tariff, which is as follows:—

Refined sugar above No. 16 D.S. in colour, and all refined sugar of whatever kinds, grades, or standards, testing not more than 88° by the polariscope per 100 lbs.

British Preferential Tariff	1.08 cents.	Increase per degree	1 cent.
Intermediate Tariff	98 "	"	1½ "
General Tariff	72 "	"	1½ "

Raw sugar n.o.p. (not otherwise provided for) not above No. 16 D.S. in colour. Sugar drainings or pumpings, drained in transit, melada, or concentrated melada, tank bottoms, sugar concrete and molasses testing over 56° and not more than 75° by polariscope per 100 lbs.

British Preferential Tariff	31.5 cents.	Increase per degree	1 cent.
Intermediate Tariff	45 "	"	1½ "
General Tariff	52 "	"	1½ "

Parliament Prorogued.

Parliament was prorogued with the usual ceremony on August 28th, and the second Session of the second Parliament of King Edward VII. was thus brought to a close.

NATURE NOTES.

JAVA CANES.—The return of cane per acre in Java in 1905 was 36.6 long tons. The highest was obtained in 1903 when 40.4 tons per acre were reaped. It will be remembered that Java only cuts plant canes of full growth, and that the cane crops are alternated with rice and beans, a crop of sugar only being obtained once every three years.

SEPTEMBER.—This Month most People plant Canes in, but I would chufe 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 this 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 preserved, which, if was as frictly obferved as it neccaffarily ought, it would avoid that moft troublesome and repeated Labour of fupplying, which is too often neglected and unfeafonably done.—*A Treatise upon Husbandry or Planting, By William Belgrove, a regular bred, and long experienc'd Planter, of the Ifland of Barbados, 1755.*

CITRANGE.—On page 108 of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of the current year reference was made to a cross between the trifoliate orange and sweet orange, which has been styled the citrange. The year-book of the Department of Agriculture for the United States for 1905, gives a description of what promises to be a valuable fruit. This "citrange," which has been called the Morton, is almost entirely seedless, is a vigorous grower, of attractive appearance, of medium weight, from 9 to 11 ozs., somewhat lighter than water, flavour slightly acid with a peculiar but pleasant taste, aroma pleasant but very light, suggesting both the common and trifoliate orange. One great characteristic is its resistance to cold. To an ordinary observer the fruit of the Morton citrange is so similar to an ordinary orange as not to be distinguishable. It is peculiarly suited to cultivation in Florida, from its resistance to cold.

SOIL TREATMENT.—A soil is not always immediately renovated by rotation. For example, says Dr. T. F. Sedgwick, it is almost impossible to make a fruit tree thrive in a spot where an oak tree was grown without first thoroughly renovating the soil, indicating that the soil has become so charged with compounds resulting from the growth of the oak that it will not sustain the life of the more tender fruit tree. If, however, material be added to the soil which will be a food to the ferment or make the environment conducive to the growth of the ferment, the noxious compounds will be quickly decomposed and the soil renovated, besides having added to it a proportion of available plant food. When fertiliser is added to the soil to afford immediate food for the plant, it may also serve as a fertiliser or food for the ferment. It may happen that in applying fertilisers the proper fertiliser for the plant may be added, but not one that encourages the growth of the ferment, in which case the fertiliser applied will not give the desired results. Complete fertilising then, is a two-fold problem, to find out the direct food necessity of the plant and the food necessity or environment of the ferment.

COLONIAL REPORT.

Tourists spend £100,000 in Bermuda.

The Report on the Blue Book of Bermuda for the year 1906 shows that an apparent falling off of revenue has taken place to the extent of £108 as compared with the preceding year, the figures showing a total from all sources of £53,213 as compared with £53,321 for 1905. The actual diminution was really much greater, owing to a falling off in the Custom receipts of £7,586, which Mr. Eyre Hutson attributes mainly to depression in trade caused by the reduction of the Naval and Military Establishments, to the completion during the year of the Dockyard Extension Works, and also to the reduction in the spending powers of the whole resident community, caused by the low prices obtained for some of the staple agricultural products of the colony. This was, however, to a great extent made up in the accounts by the repayment of a sum of £7,002 which had been lent by the Treasury to the Savings' Bank. The gross expenditure for 1906 was £69,064, an apparent increase over that for 1905 of £3,757. A sum of £1,996 of this increase was, however, due to refund of duty and of loans to the Savings' Bank. The actual increase was, therefore, £1,761, giving a net excess of expenditure over revenue of £13,855. The following table represents the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
1902 ...	56,666	52,308	4,358	—	1905 ...	53,321	65,307	—	12,086
1903 ...	57,169	55,503	1,666	—	1906 ...	53,213	69,064	—	16,851
1904 ...	63,457	61,133	2,324	—					

The value of the imports, exclusive of specie valued at £5,500, was, in 1906, £398,176, a decrease on the 1905 figures of £145,046, the falling off occurring under almost every heading. The exports show an apparent increase in value to the extent of £4,867, the figures being, exclusive of specie, £121,295 for 1906 as against £116,428 for 1905, but as a sum of £28,675, the declared value

of naval dockyard contractor's work returned to England on completion of works was included, the value of the exports for the year shows a great falling off as compared with preceding years. The following is a comparative table of the value of exports and imports, exclusive of specie, for the five years from 1902 to 1906:—

Year.	Exports.	Imports.	Year.	Exports.	Imports.
1902	£111,135	£546,141	1905	£116,428	£543,222
1903	125,343	539,688	1906	121,295	398,176
1904	130,305	590,000			

The crops of potatoes, onions, and lily bulbs, the principal agricultural products of the island were poor, but the export of garden produce, valued at £6,046, was much the same as in the preceding year. The Board of Agriculture had under consideration the cultivation of cotton and tobacco. A sample of Sea Island cotton had been favourably reported on by the Imperial Institute, but the lack of sufficient area for planting, and the high cost of labour, prohibit the growing of cotton in the colony. There is no doubt that wrapper tobacco can be grown in Bermuda and cured successfully, but unless the process of curing be undertaken by a syndicate with sufficient capital, and the tobacco leaf purchased by the syndicate from the growers, there is small chance of establishing an industry in this product. In concluding Mr. Hutson states that the community have not yet recovered from the changes consequent on the sudden and unexpected reduction of the Imperial establishments. Added to this came the completion of the Dockyard Extension Works, and the return to the West Indies and elsewhere of large numbers of wage earners who had caused an increase in the circulation of money. Indications are in favour of the conclusion that the financial crisis is passed, and that the outlook is again a favourable one. Considerable attention is being given towards the development of the tourist business. It is estimated that the money spent locally last winter by tourists amounted to £100,000.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Increased consumption of cacao in Austria.

The report of Mr. Consul-General von Schveller states that the import of cocoa beans from the United Kingdom into Austria-Hungary increased more than twelve-fold in 1906 compared with 1905. As regards sugar, he says that the increase in the exports to the United Kingdom from Austria-Hungary, which is greater than that of the imports, is chiefly due to the very great increase of nearly 100,000 tons, £1,036,000 in value, in the export of sugar. It is worth noting, in reference to this, that the export of sugar to India also increased by £350,000, while the increase in the total export of Austro-Hungarian sugar this year was only £1,015,000, so that Austrian sugar must have lost rather than gained in other markets.

Bananas in Barranquilla.

Mr. Consul Gillies reports that owing to an increased demand there has been an enormous development during the last few years in banana cultivation, and the district of Santa Marta has also shared in the benefits derived from increased production. The banana enjoys great advantages over the other products of the country, especially over those of the interior, in that it is more easily cultivated and is not burdened with the large freight expenses which make the export of coffee and other articles produced in the interior so expensive. A good deal of land has recently been bought in the neighbourhood of Santa Marta for the cultivation of the banana, and both native and foreign capital is being largely invested in the business. The United States is still the largest consumer, but there is now a good market in Europe, which is increasing year by year. The bananas produced in the district are contracted for by the United Fruit Company of New York, and are shipped to that port weekly by vessels of the Hamburg-America Line, which are specially chartered for the purpose. From all accounts the cultivation of the banana is a most lucrative investment and the prospects for the future, in view of an ever-increasing demand, are certainly bright.

Copra in Samoa.

The high prices reached by copra in Samoa, says Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Trood, during the whole year (at the present date £17 per English ton f.o.b.), have induced brisk business, and although it will be some years before any considerable increase in the yield of cocoanut plantations—native and foreign owned—can take place, there is little danger meanwhile of any falling off in the copra yield. Six years ago copra was regarded by the public as a minor export, but public opinion at the present time takes a different view of the matter, and experts declare that unless rubber cultivation proves highly successful, copra will, for many years to come, be in Samoa the leading export, and for planters the safest outlay for both large and small capitalists. Mr. Trood mentions that it is not safe to expect—generally, at least—full crops from cocoanut trees under twelve to fifteen years. The statement that the tree bears nuts in eight years' time is perfectly true, but such nuts are only fit for food and

drinking, and supply no contents from which copra can be made. On swampy soil close to the sea copra nuts may be looked for, say, in eleven years' time. Much mischief is done sometimes as regards this and other tropical products by understating the number of years in which returns can be expected from them. The great advantage offered by cocoanut planting is its comparative immunity from disease, and the established fact that after the most severe hurricanes, crops are only destroyed for twenty-one months from the date of the storm. In Tongatabu in ten years three hurricanes occurred, and in every instance the trees began again to yield fruit, and always an abnormally large crop, twenty-one months after the gale; although in the last hurricane mentioned (March 8th, 1879) the barometer went down from its mean height of $30^{\circ}02$ to $28^{\circ}17$, and it is very seldom indeed that cocoanut trees are blown down by such gales, although, of course, isolated instances of the kind are known.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Trent* arrived at Southampton at 7 a.m. on Monday, August 26th, and the mails were delivered in London that afternoon. Among her numerous passengers were Mrs. Agostini and family and Miss de Boissiere. The R.M.S. *Port Kingston* reached Avonmouth on August 27th.

The Barbados elections.

With reference to the statement in Parliament that both the *Scylla* and *Indefatigable* were 19-knot cruisers, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne wrote in his letter of August 11th that whatever they might have done on their trial trips, neither of them was capable of anything like that now. It was regretted that Dr. Sealy had resigned his seat on the Legislative Council, where he would be much missed. The Acting Governor had appointed Mr. H. B. Skeete, member of the House of Assembly for St. Lucy's, to fill his place. Mr. Skeete was of an old Barbadian family, and his promotion was well merited, as he was the oldest member of the House. The nomination of members for the new House of Assembly was to take place on the 12th, and the polling, where any, in the following week. The two seats for St. Michaels and the two for Bridgetown would all be hotly contested and the result was expected to be very close. It was possible, also, that there might be competition for Mr. Skeete's seat in St. Lucy. Although there had been no heavy rain, good showers had been general during the fortnight. On the night of the 4th the wind was very high and the thunder and lightning severe. About 1 in. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. of rain fell and nice showers had continued since. The young cotton was springing beautifully and the canes were under a good growth. Indian corn and other provisions were coming on well. In a post-script written later, Mr. Alleyne said that beautiful showers had been continuing all day and over an inch had fallen, bringing the rainfall for the month to date to 3.85 inches. Sir Daniel Morris was to start that week to visit the Canadian exhibitions, to which the exhibits had been already despatched.

The British Guiana rubber concession.

Writing on August 10th, Mr. J. C. McCowan stated that after all the opposition and litigation in the matter of the British Guiana Rubber Corporation, it was understood that the Secretary of State had cabled the Colonial Government authorising all opposition to the issue of the leases to be withdrawn. The different properties had not been taken over by the Corporation. The S.S. *Indus* sailed on the 3rd with equal to 600 adults on board for Calcutta. These immigrants remitted \$34,585 and took with them jewellery estimated at \$5,764. A meeting of the Planters' Association was held on July 29th, when the Hon. B. Howell Jones was re-elected chairman, Hon. R. G. Duncan, Hon. A. P. Mackey, and Mr. A. Summerson, Members of Council, and the writer, Secretary and Treasurer for the current year, 1907-8. The weather during the fortnight had been fine with occasional showers in Demerara and Essequibo. In Berbice it had been dry, and showers were wanted there. There were no transactions in the sugar market to report.

The Dominica Lumber and Land Company.

When Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on August 10th, H.M.S. *Scylla* had just left, having been in port for a week. As the only boat at present on the station, while the *Indefatigable* was being docked, she did not strike one as being very formidable. The proposed Dominica Lumber and Land Improvement Co., Ltd., was being rapidly pushed forward; the prospects of its being successfully started got more and more certain, and they were hopeful of being actually at work early next year. The weather still continued to be everything that planters could desire.

Sport in Grenada.

In his letter of August 10th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton said that Lady Carter and Miss Carter had been the guests of the Governor and Mrs. Ralph Williams during the past few days. They were leaving in the mail steamer on the 12th. The Governor, the private secretary, and the chief

clerk would also leave then for St. Lucia, where His Excellency proposed spending some time. Mrs. Ralph Williams and Lieut. P. H. Dean would leave by the same steamer for England. The Grenville races took place on the 5th and 6th. The second day was rather wet, but did not spoil the fun, and there was a dance in the evening at "Hermon." The weather was splendid.

Factory progress in Jamaica.

Mr. C. A. T. Fursden informed us in a letter dated August 9th, that the Assistance Committee was actively at work. The procedure to be adopted would be: first to deal with cases of widows and orphans and maimed persons, as being the most necessitous cases. After these would be taken in order: (a) Persons incapable of work, who were dependent on rents of destroyed houses; (b) Persons incapable of work who derived their means partly from help now stopped by the earthquake, partly from rents; (c) Business men needing help, who have lost everything; (d) Institutions like the Verley Home, where poor people of the middle class were housed. His many friends will be glad to know that Mr. E. A. de Pass, who was taken slightly ill soon after his arrival in Jamaica, has now recovered again. Writing on August 15th, he informed us that the drought had been, and continued to be, most serious. That some peasants had been on the verge of starvation admitted of no denial. The sugar crops of last campaign were short, by reason of insufficient rain, and those of the coming campaign were seriously threatened. A few light showers had fallen during the month in the driest districts, and some parts of the island had had a moderate amount of rain, but in general the position of affairs by reason of the drought was most trying. Vere had had very little rain, and the irrigation, although offering salvation to a certain extent, was still not working as it should, and efforts were being made to devise means for further improving it.

Cotton weather in St. Kitts.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported on August 7th that the weather since last advices had been on the whole showery and just the thing for cotton, but the cane crop wanted much heavier rain. At "Brighton," the July fall was 2.75 ins. against 5.40, the average of the past ten years.

Showers in St. Lucia.

Mr. Sydney D. Melville stated on August 12th that the weather had been showery. The Governor-in-Chief was expected on the 14th, his first visit to St. Lucia since the riots.

The recovery in St. Vincent.

When Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. wrote on August 12th, they were anxiously awaiting Mr. Bovell's report on the Carib country. They could not continue to spend the money they were doing, if there were no signs of assistance. Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on the same date, said it was good news to learn that there was every possibility of the intercolonial mail service being arranged on satisfactory lines. It had been recently announced that the East Asiatic Company's steamers intended calling at the island if sufficient inducement offered. This was a new line which would give them additional facilities for shipping produce to the United Kingdom and the Continent. The Permanent Exhibition Committee had sent off a few days previously a collection of samples of the commercial products of the island for the Canadian exhibitions to be held at Halifax and Toronto shortly. The expenditure was met from funds at the disposal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. They were now well into August and were getting seasonable weather, plenty of rain, of course. The crops looked well, all round. So far, insect pests had not given trouble, whereas last season at the same time, the arrowroot caterpillar was much in evidence. From the country districts very favourable reports continued to be received on the cotton cultivations. Some of the oldest inhabitants could not remember so much land being in cultivation as there was this year, excepting, of course, the area devastated by the Soufrière. The chief question now asked is, "shall we have enough labour to reap the crops?" At last the people in the St. Vincent Grenadines were going in for Sea Island cotton on a fairly large scale. This should enable them to do more than just eke out a hand-to-mouth existence. The Government was making an effort to organise a Volunteer Reserve Corps, under an Ordinance recently passed. At present, with a population estimated at 47,000, there were only fifty police, so that a Volunteer Reserve Corps would be able to render useful assistance in case of emergency.

Trinidad and the "boom" in cocoa.

On August 12th Mr. Edgar Tripp wrote that there had been two more cases of yellow fever, a two-year old Portuguese child, born in the island, who was isolated on July 29th and died on August 2nd, and an Indian boy, also born in Trinidad, who was attacked on July 26th and had recovered. Total cases from date of outbreak, 35; fatal, 17; recovered, 18. That which experience had taught them to expect had occurred. The death was reported of Mrs. W. K. Miller, the widow and sister respectively of the late and former proprietors of the well-known English pharmacy.

The disease in this instance appeared to have developed with more than usual rapidity, as the symptoms of the fever were only observed on the 10th. The floating dock for the Trinidad Engineering and Dock Co., Ltd., had safely arrived. She had an uneventful voyage of forty-five days; one of the tugs broke down near the end and had to be towed herself behind the dock, but the remaining tug proved quite equal to the task, and brought everything safely to anchor in Chaguaramas Bay on August 4th, one day before expected. It would be recalled that the capital of the Company was £100,000, upon which the Government had guaranteed interest at 3 per cent. for twenty-five years, although judging from the employment already certain, and which might with confidence be anticipated, the colony was not likely to be called upon in this respect. The dock was built on the Tyne by Messrs. Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson. It was a self-docking, pontoon floating dock. Length, 375 ft.; extreme width, 81 ft., inside, 65 ft.; capacity, 4,000 tons. The Company had also established workshops with modern machinery capable of doing any ordinary work to steamships. It was needless to say how very considerably the presence of this dock would add to the importance and utility of the port. Messrs. Ellis Grell & Co., to whose initiative the fact was due, were to be congratulated upon the energy and enterprise which had eventually overcome obstacles that more than once seemed likely to wreck the scheme. Regret was felt in Trinidad that the wishes of the island were not consulted with regard to the proposed new mail contract. The first they heard of it was through Barbados, where a telegram was received giving the particulars of a contract into which it was proposed to enter from September. Having ascertained that the Government were entirely without information, an emergency meeting of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce was called and was well attended, Mr. J. H. Smith in the chair, when a resolution in favour of a subsidy of £10,000 per annum being offered to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in consideration of their establishing the headquarters and transfer station of their intercolonial service in that island for a period of ten years was adopted. The resolution of the Chamber was quite consistent with their attitude on the question for many years past, and was justified not only by the relative importance of the trade but by the geographical position, the extent and calmness of the harbour, and by the peculiar advantage enjoyed by reason of being out of the hurricane range. To these inducements might now be added the docking accommodation afforded in Trinidad only amongst the British West Indian colonies, excluding Bermuda, which was sometimes included in the West Indies, but was in any case too far away to count.* As indicated in last letter, the July shipments of cacao had more than made up for the shortage as compared with the previous year. The quantity was 6,267,215 against 2,744,650 lbs. in July, 1906. This brought the total weight shipped for seven months ending July 31st to 26,035,773 lbs., against 23,509,733 lbs. to the same date in 1906. The total quantity shipped for the whole of last year was 28,628,544 lbs., which was equalled within 1,000,000 lbs. at the date of writing, with 3½ months to spare. With present weather conditions a fair autumn harvest might be looked for, and with a crisp £5 note for every 112 lbs. put down in London, it was no wonder that cacao planters just at present did not find very much to grumble at. The sensational rise in London had caused much excitement in the local market, and rates had more than responded. Ordinary stood at \$23 per fanega, whilst estates were quoted at \$23 to \$23.50. 1,000 bags of Venezuelan had changed hands at \$24, very nearly a record. There had been nothing like it since the wild speculation of an attempted trust in London in the late seventies, which sent up the price in Trinidad to \$25.

SHIPMENTS.

	Trinidad.	Venezuela.		Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Totals at last report	128,257	24,239	Aug. 3.—S.S. <i>Maraval</i>	3,736	775 New York.
July 29.—S.S. <i>P. Willem I.</i>	3,513	662 Europe.	" 5.—S.S. <i>P. Willem II.</i>	—	9 "
" 31.—S.S. <i>Canada</i>	1,360	345 "	" 6.—S.S. <i>Catalina</i>	2,545	258 Europe.
" 31.—S.S. <i>Atrato</i> ...	1,249	— "	Total to date	143,430	26,788
Aug. 2.—S.S. <i>St. Jan</i>	2,500	500 "			

Mr. O. W. Barrett was busily engaged with the cacao pests in various parts of the country. He would make his preliminary report upon them to the Agricultural Society on August 20th. A copy of the report of the Mycologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, on the cocoanut palm disease in Trinidad, has been received by the mail. This report, written at the special request of the Agricultural Society conveyed through the Trinidad Government, has been published in pamphlet form by the Society, as a very valuable contribution to the literature on the subject. Looking at the ravages of this disease and the resulting loss in the British colonies and elsewhere, the report is useful and important. The Society will be pleased to furnish copies to planters and others interested on application to Mr. Tripp. Reports from the country regarding the prospects of the next sugar crop were equally favourable with those from the cacao districts. If they could only get rid of the sporadic cases of yellow fever, they might look forward already with some confidence to a bright New Year.

* Sproston's Ltd., have a graving dock in British Guiana 230 ft. long.—Ed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Sugar Convention.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Mr. Bonar Law in his recent speech in the House of Commons on the Brussels Sugar Convention severely criticised the present policy of the Government on the bounty question. Perhaps no part of his speech was more unanswerable than that in which he said that "he did not see how anyone could maintain anything to be more in accordance with free-trade than to try to change an unnatural into a natural source of supply."

That the bounty system is political force applied for the purpose of substituting protected for unprotected, and artificial for natural, sources of supply, and that it can be effectively counteracted, are the established conclusions of economic science. British commercial policy is deemed to be founded on the great principle of allowing production, distribution, and exchange to be governed by natural laws. In the application of this principle why should this Government make an exception in favour of bounty-aided sugar? Their objection to a prohibition of Russian sugar would be well founded if such prohibition were an originating fact, which it is not, instead of a consequential remedy, which it is. The actual originating fact is the restriction by means of bounties and cartels of the world's natural liberty of sugar production. This is the restriction which the international anti-bounty agreement is intended to put a stop to. The penal sanction in the Convention is a mere political means to that end.

The whole operation of the Convention has tended, and is tending, to reinstate the sugar production of the world on its natural foundations. And yet Sir Edward Grey, as the vindicator of, I might almost say the apologist for, the recent policy of the Government, said, in his reply to Mr. Bonar Law, that "the terms of the sugar Convention placed our sugar trade in a somewhat precarious position."

It is curious that our sugar trade interests seem more concerned at the possible cessation, owing to the Government's policy, rather than at the existence, of the Sugar Convention. But in this "apologia" of the Government, Sir Edward Grey urges as an adequate motive the danger of our market being restricted by the decision of the Powers who are parties to the Convention. To avoid this the Government desire to be released from having to penalise bounty-aided sugars; but they forget that to admit these protected sugars will be to displace the unprotected ones, and this must bring about a "restricted market." Surely, is it not a better policy and one more effective to the end which the Government profess to seek, that a natural world-wide supply of sugar—which is as much a food of the people as bread—should be safe-guarded in every natural freedom of production, distribution, and exchange; if so, bounties and cartels which restrict that freedom must be stopped, and the only way to do this is to penalise such bounty and cartel-aided sugar. If the world's liberty of production be secured, an abundant and well distributed natural supply of sugar will respond to the world's demand. Under the influence of this natural adjustment of supply and demand, the markets and the traders may safely be left to take care of themselves.

This sugar-bounty question, it will be seen, involves economic principles of the highest importance, not only to the sugar, but to every industry. It has, however, been most unscientifically treated by some professed free-trade politicians to the infinite detriment of the whole policy of free-trade; in short, the neo-cobdenism of the Cobden Club is but an ignorant travesty of the teaching of Cobden himself.

Yours obediently,

W. P. B. S.

Lincoln's Inn, August 5th, 1907.

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

The Agricultural Conference, 1907, and the Kingston Disaster. With illustrations. By A. B. Price, F.J.I. Barbados: the office of the *Weekly Illustrated Paper*. In this pamphlet of 120 pages Mr. Price, who accompanied the delegates to the sixth West Indian Agricultural Conference from Barbados to Jamaica and back in January last, has brought together and placed on record many circumstances and incidents of the voyages, as well as a full report of the Conference interrupted in such a tragic manner, and the earthquake. The events are narrated in regular sequence, and Mr. Price has wisely excluded harrowing details which might distress the reader. Let us say at once that he has performed his task well and with a practised hand. The pamphlet contains the fullest and most complete account of the earthquake which we have yet come across. Mr. Reuben S. Davies, a local artist, is responsible for twelve of the illustrations which appear to be engraved from photographs.

Hints for School Gardens. Imperial Department of Agriculture, Pamphlet No. 48. London: Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 4d. This pamphlet, compiled with evident care by Mr. A. H. Kirby, is based on one of a similar nature issued in 1901. Practically every primary school in the West Indies now includes elementary agriculture in its curriculum. With the view of meeting the increasing demand made by teachers for directions for the cultivation of plants in boxes and pots, and for laying out school gardens, much additional information has been added. In his preface, Sir D. Morris expresses a hope that by such means, instruction for the raising and caring of plants may be taught, along uniform lines, and simple rules observed for carrying out such experiments as are within reach of the teachers and the taught. The instructions given appear to us to be thorough and comprehensive. The pamphlet should, therefore, serve a very useful purpose.

Maize, Cocoa, and Rubber: Hints on their production in West Africa. By Viscount Mountmorres. London: Williams & Norgate, 2s. nett. This publication embodies certain lectures delivered by Lord Mountmorres at the Lagos Agricultural Show in 1906, which he attended on behalf of the Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics, of which he is the Director. Lagos has shipped to Liverpool the finest maize ever seen, and Lord Mountmorres advises the colony to make it its object to keep out all other kinds of maize in order to preserve the Lagos type pure and to make every effort to foster the cultivation of that type to the exclusion of all others. He is firmly convinced that there is then no reason why Lagos should not become one of the great maize-producing countries of the world. In the development of a country, a staple product such as maize, even though comparatively low-priced, is of far greater economic value than even such high-priced products as rubber and cocoa, which are of variable and comparatively limited demand. Rubber may one day—and that perhaps at no very distant date—be manufactured synthetically, just as indigo and vanilla are; cocoa may, and indeed probably will, very soon over-produced be just as coffee was. But the demand for maize is practically limitless, and its supply is dependent on invariable natural conditions. A country such as this, which has

conditions favourable to the production of the very best grade of maize, has an assured future if the opportunity is seized. On the Gold Coast, thanks to the energy of the Department of Agriculture, cocoa farming sprang up so rapidly, that before anyone realised it, there were hundreds—indeed, very soon, thousands—of natives planting cocoa. The two best kinds do not do well in West Africa. Experiments are now being carried on by the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture to see whether, by grafting, it will not be possible to combine the largeness of bean and good quality of *Theobroma pentagona* with the robustness of the Forastero variety; but for the present we must be content with the Forastero as it is. Lord Mountmorres, in this very useful pamphlet, proceeds to give instructions with regard to sowing, setting the seeds, seedlings, the plantation site clearing, planting out, pruning, cutting back, manuring, harvesting, curing, &c., all of which information should be of value. Rubber is dealt with in a similarly complete manner.

Jamaican Song and Story: Annancy Stories, Digging Sings, Ring Tunes, and Dancing Tunes. Collected and edited by Walter Jekyll, with an introduction by Alice Werner. London: David Nutt, 10s. 6d. nett. Among the many delightful memories which visitors carry away with them from the West Indies, that of the people's music stands out very clearly. We have seen a good deal of negro and native life in several other parts of the world, but the song and music of the Jamaican and other West Indian islands remains the most fascinating and abiding memory of its kind. Whether singing their old songs while at work on the plantations or sugar estates, or joining together in some favourite hymn in places of worship, the effect is always tuneful and harmonious. That is the first impression. And then, as one gets accustomed to the people and their mode of speech, one begins to discover in these old songs a wealth of interest, and certain features which give rise to considerable speculation. Mr. Walter Jekyll, who lives in the Port Royal mountains behind Kingston, has evidently come under the spell of the music and story so lavishly and naturally poured forth by the dusky and delightful people around him, and so he has taken down the stories and the tunes as they were told or sung, and now presents them to us in this goodly volume of close on 300 pages. Mr. Jekyll has, in fact, done for his district of Jamaica very much what Mr. Baring Gould and Mr. Fleetwood Shephard did for the West of England when they put together and published "The Songs of the West." But Mr. Jekyll's volume has a serious purpose, as Miss Werner is at no pains to conceal. "Crahss-lookin' dog upstairs," "You want to yerry Duppy talk," "Bungo Moolatta," and the rest, what do they mean? What is their true inwardness? Let Miss Werner reply: "It (the collection) presents to us a net-work of interwoven strands of European and African origin, and when these have been to some extent disentangled we are confronted with the further question, to which of the peoples of the Dark Continent may the African element be attributed?" In thirty-eight prefatory pages Miss Werner discourses most learnedly and interestingly of Negro and Bantu folk-lore, of the spider (*Anansi*), the tortoise, and the rest, and comes to the conclusion that the "proportion of native and acquired, of African and European ideas, in these superstitions can only be determined by a much more detailed examination," and one, moreover, based on fuller materials than are yet accessible. However this may be, we are heartily glad of Mr. Jekyll's volume, which is indeed a worthy and admirable tribute (to use his own expression) of his love for Jamaica and its dusky inhabitants, "with their winning ways and many good qualities, among which is to be reckoned that supreme virtue, cheerfulness." One word more. Little more than a year ago we remember visiting a native school up among the Jamaican hills, near Spanish Town. By desire of their master, the children first of all sang a highly moral song, about the joy with which they heard the school-bell ring, and the pleasure with which they responded to its call. This exemplary performance ended, we ventured to ask if the children might sing us one of their own songs, such as we had heard them singing at their play. They did so, and with immense glee narrated in musical fashion the story of Sally, and how she "had a notion, for to cross the ocean." This truly local song was, to our thinking, worth all that had gone before; but the pedagogue evidently pitied our lack of taste in thinking so. By all means then let those who value local tradition—musical and otherwise—do their utmost to preserve and classify such things as go to the making of Mr. Jekyll's worthy book, in the publication of which the Folk Lore Society has achieved good and useful work.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—It should have been mentioned that the portrait of the Hon. A. W. Farquharson in our last issue was reproduced from a photograph by Messrs. Elliott & Fry, of 55 and 56, Baker Street, London, W.

CENTRIFUGALS.—We have received from Messrs. Pott, Cassels & Williamson a copy of their catalogue of belt and electric-driven centrifugal machines, &c., which contains numerous illustrations admirably printed on art paper.

WHO BUYS?—A reader being anxious to dispose of bound copies of the *Dominican* from January 18th, 1865, to November 14th, 1866, we shall be glad to communicate to him any offers which may be made for their purchase.

AMERICAN v. BRITISH.—According to the report of Mr. Consul Tinne the value of the boot exports of the United States amounted last year to over £2,000,000, the West Indies being the best customers, taking 1,703,135 pairs valued at £472,000.

A WEDDING.—The following appeared in the *Morning Post* of August 21st last: "A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Algernon Edward, younger son of the late Mr. R. A. Aspinall, and Kathleen, daughter of Mr. W. A. Mason."

COFFEE CONVENTION.—It is reported that the efforts of the Brazilian Ministry to raise a loan of £3,000,000 in view of the coffee crisis, brought about by the unsuccessful attempt of the State of San Paulo to corner the market, has ended in failure, owing to the hostile attitude of the European bankers.

OUR VISITORS.—Among the callers from over-seas at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. R. H. Ormsby, Mr. G. Bruce Austin, Mr. Cecil Morris, Mr. S. L. Horsford, Major S. Lushington, C.M.G., Mr. L. Mallet Paret, Hon. W. P. Leacock, Mr. Lambert Bell, Mr. J. Baeza, and Mr. G. A. Yearwood.

CHEAP LEMONS.—Referring to the statements made in produce journals that the market is "practically glutted with lemons," the *Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Trades Journal* says that although the season has not been one for thirst quenchers, prices were lower at the same time last year. Thus, for the week ending August 11th, 1906, lemons were selling wholesale at 9s. to 12s. per case. For the week ending August 17th this year the prices realised were from 12s. to 13s. per case.

RECOVERING.—We are glad to be able to state that Mr. D. S. Blake, whose unfortunate accident was recorded in our last issue, is making satisfactory progress towards recovery. The operation on his knee by Dr. Burghard on August 6th was successful, but it is still somewhat enlarged, and there is much stiffness about the joint, which will take some time to remove. Mr. Blake lies at a nursing home, 50, Weymouth Street, and his many friends will wish him speedy recovery.

"OUR COLONIES."—Mr. Alfred J. West successfully opened his tenth London season at the Polytechnic, Regent Street yesterday, when he showed animated views descriptive of our Navy, our Army, and our Colonies. We have been privileged to see Mr. West's programme, which is a particularly complete one as regards the scenes in British Guiana and the West Indies, marking the results of his tour earlier in the year. We hope that our readers will roll up in their hundreds to see what must be to them especially a most interesting entertainment.

BALES AND BALES.—The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* of August 22nd reproduces figures showing in a striking manner the superiority of cotton baling in our colonies over that in America. Bales of neat and smart appearance from our colonies are shown, in contrast with the slovenly and wasteful American bales. Whereas our colonial bales shown are of uniform size, those from America are of all shapes and sizes, measuring 110 ft. to the ton weight, as compared with 85 ft. in the colonial bales. The *Journal* adds that it is much to the credit of the British Cotton Growing Association that such splendid work has been accomplished.

FOR LIVERPOOL.—At the request of the West India Committee many of the Barbados, Antigua and Grenada exhibits deposited by them at the Imperial Institute will be lent to the Liverpool Tropical Products Exhibition, which is being organised for the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce by the Liverpool University Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics, and which will be opened on September 16th. There was no time to consult the colonies in the matter, but it was felt that there could be no doubt that they would desire to be represented. The West Indian Produce Association is also making an exhibit on this occasion.

LORD STAMFORD'S ACCIDENT.—Much sympathy will be felt with Lord Stamford at the unfortunate accident which befell him on August 19th. He was visiting a lake in the park at Dunham Massey Hall, as was his habit, to feed the swans, when he was seized with giddiness near the water's edge and fell in. By a great effort he recovered himself and made his way back to the Hall, where he collapsed. His condition for some time was critical, but we are glad to learn from Lady Stamford that he is now quite out of danger and making a rapid recovery. Lord Stamford will be remembered in Barbados as a former Professor of Codrington College in that island.

MISUNDERSTOOD.—Our otherwise well-informed contemporary, *Confectionery*, is somewhat at sea on the recent position of the Brussels Convention negotiations and the effect of the action of the Government in relation to it on the sugar world. It states that the "desires of cheap sugar have been more successful in getting the Government to resile from the Brussels Convention." As a matter of fact it has been the endeavour of the Government to continue the Convention, although in a modified form. Again, referring to the prospective entrance of Russia into the Convention, it says, "in that event there might be a resuscitation of the European sugar bounties." Russia's entry into the Convention would be just the thing to secure that bounties would *not* be re-established.

FOR LIME PLANTERS.—Lemons are obtainable in the United Kingdom all the year round. Last winter and in the early spring there was some difficulty in obtaining limes, owing to an unwillingness on the part of planters to prejudice the prospects of their main crop by gathering fruit at that time. With a steadily increasing demand for limes, which has only received a very slight and temporary check, owing to the abnormally inclement summer, and the increasing demand during the winter months which is bound to follow, it will be very necessary for planters to endeavour so to adjust their picking that a supply all the year round may be guaranteed. This matter is extremely important in connection with the efforts which are being made to develop the trade in limes with the mother country, and it is to be hoped that it will receive careful attention.

A JAMAICA CENTRAL.—In our next issue we shall hope to give some photographs showing the progress of work on the Vere Estates Company's new central factory in Jamaica. Mr. E. A. de Pass, who is at present in the island, informs us that a great amount has already been done. Their Grand Trunk line of 13 miles is complete, and he has travelled over it by locomotive, while new wharves and stores have been erected, innumerable barracks for the workers, water supply and reservoirs completed, and the large factory building is ready. The boilers are nearly finished, and the plant has arrived at Salt River

and is now being discharged. Unfortunately the steam ploughs remain in the hold of the *Darien*, off Baranquilla, where they have lain for over seven months; this has been a most serious loss, as some hundreds of acres of new land had been cleared, and cannot be ploughed in time for next crop. Mr. de Pass says that the drought throughout the island has been terrible. Happily the irrigation has worked pretty well and has saved the situation in Vere, and it was hoped that if rain fell in August and the October seasons, there would be a fair crop. But throughout the island generally, great loss had been incurred and would, it was feared, tell its tale next year.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Aug. 20.—Leading article in the *Morning Post* on the West Indies.—The Deceased Wife's Sister's Bill read a second time in the House of Lords.—Beet, 9s. 10d., steady.
- Wed., Aug. 21.—Third test match with South Africans drawn.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., steady.
- Thur., Aug. 22.—Article "Queensland Sugar Planters; the Labour Difficulty," in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.—Public Works Loans Bill, including provision for the Jamaica earthquake loan of £800,000, and the Northern Nigeria Railway read a second time.—English Socialist expelled from Wurtemberg.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., steady.
- Fri., Aug. 23.—The Queen sailed for Norway.—Beet, 10s. ½d., steady.
- Sat., Aug. 24.—Bury St. Edmund's election: Hon. W. Guinness (U.), 1,631 votes, Mr. W. B. Yates (L.), 741 votes.—Articles in the *Field* on "Fibre Culture," the *Queen* on "Where the Spices Grow," by Mrs. Dean, and the *Lancet* on "Infectious Diseases in the West Indies.—Beet, 10s. 1½d., firm.
- Mon., Aug. 26.—Emperor William stated at Hanover that he had to thank Heaven and the sword of the trusty troops for its having been possible to maintain peace for so long.—Beet, 10s. ¾d., easier.
- Tues., Aug. 27.—Lord Dunmore died suddenly.—Ireland: Counties Clare, Galway, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon and King's County declared to be in a state of disturbance under Act 6 William IV.—Beet, 10s. ¾d., steady.
- Wed., Aug. 28.—Prorogation of Parliament.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., steady.
- Thur., Aug. 29.—The Powers reported to have signed the Additional Act to the Sugar Convention.—Australia and the Colonial Office (*Times*, p. 3).—"The position of the West Indies," letter in the *Standard* from J. Kemplay.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., steady.
- Fri., Aug. 30.—Disaster at the Quebec Bridge, Canada.—Adhesion of all the Powers concerned to the Additional Act to the Sugar Convention confirmed by the West India Committee.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., steady.
- Sat., Aug. 31.—Anglo-Russian Agreement signed at St. Petersburg.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 11½d., steady.
- Sun., Sept. 1.—Mr. David McIver, M.P., died (Mr. McIver took a prominent part in the Anti-Bounty movement.)
- Mon., Sept. 2.—Mr. West's entertainment at the Polytechnic opened.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 11½d., steady.

COMING EVENTS.

- Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures. (Further particulars will be given later).
- Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. & Co.—The few planters in the British West Indies who use patent stills do not make a high strength silent spirit, and consequently do not recover the products which you mention. I do not think, therefore, that any useful purpose would be served by putting you in communication with the planters in the matter.

X. Y. Z.—Different meanings are assigned to the term "mulching," but, perhaps, the best definition of it is given by Mr. Hart in the Bulletin of the Trinidad Botanical Department, who says that "to mulch is to provide a surface covering consisting of some transported materials such as straw, decayed leaves, coir dust, &c., or of a loose dressing of soil provided *in situ* by frequent stirring of the top layer."

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

MR. J. R. HILL, District Inspector of Police, British Guiana, has been granted vacation leave of absence for three months, with an extension of leave for six months. MR. ANTHONY DE FREITAS has been appointed Attorney-General of St. Lucia. His Honour SIR H. A. BOVELL, Kt., Chief Justice, British Guiana, has been granted vacation leave of absence till September 30th, with an extension of leave for four months, during which time His Honour A. V. LUCIE SMITH, Senior Puisne Judge, will act in his place. During the absence from Grenada of Mr. P. J. DEAN, our Honorary Correspondent in the island, MR. T. J. C. CRUMP is acting as Consular Agent for the United States of America. MR. C. G. PANTIN is acting as Auditor-General of Trinidad during the absence on leave of the HON. R. GERVAISE BUSHE. MR. JOHN MCCONNELL ADAMS, Supervisor of Inland Revenue, Grenada, has been provisionally appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council, vice MR. JOHN S. MARTIN, resigned. MR. H. B. SKRETE has been appointed a Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, in the place of the HON. JOHN SEALY, M.D., resigned. During the absence on leave of the Right Rev. Bishop of Barbados, the Ven. T. H. BINDLEY, D.D., is acting as Vicar-General. The Ven. Archdeacon A. GWYTHER, M.A., who has now arrived in England, has been granted leave of absence from British Guiana for three months, with an extension of leave for nine months.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 4% on Thursday, August 15th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) 82½.

The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on July 30th, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., occupying the chair. The net profits after paying for the whole of the working expenses, depreciation of plant, and the annual sum required for the service of the debenture debts, amounted to £45,197 15s. 5d., to which was

Miss Julia Ortiz, Mr. and Mrs. Rene Bregre, Mr. Wm. Swayne, Mr. and Miss Posado, Mr. Wm. Landless, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Guzman, Mr. Hasenohr, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Manrique, Mr. Wm. Forde, Mr. Robert Munchmeyer, Mr. Wm. H. Jose, Mr. W. Layne, Rev. Father Francois, Mr. W. G. Lowman, Mr. Arthur E. Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. Grosevitch, Mr. and Mrs. Svully, Mr. C. Lamy, Mr. E. Braddon, Mrs. Wm. Wilckson, Sergt.-Major Empson, His Honour John E. Hewick, Mr. and Mrs. Rachael Zubiria, Mr. Emile Hanse, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Baeza, Mr. George Brown, Mr. Henrique Calvo, and Mrs. Charlotte Abbott.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge) Sept. 18th:—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Garnett, Mr. M. T. Berkeley, Mrs. Berkeley, Mrs. Wm. Dalton, Mrs. H. A. Dalton, Miss Dalton, Mr. W. P. Deacon, Mr. Herbert S. Griffen, Mrs. E. Anstruther, Miss Furlonge, Mr. A. Layne, and Miss D. Alleyne.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. G. Mason), October 2nd:—Mr. and Mrs. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee, Miss Marian Heathcote, Mr. and Mrs. Glendinning, Mrs. J. Haynes, Mrs. Ernest Bidy, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. L. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. De Leslie, Mr. R. G. Degalo, Mr. Luxmoor Ball, Mr. Alfred Wallmer, Mrs. John Lee, Mrs. Elena B. de Erasos, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kinnaird, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Flemming, Mr. C. E. H. Thorne, Mrs. Fred May, Mr. J. Baeza, Rev. Wm. M. Springer, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. Carl Michelson, Mr. James Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smellie, Mrs. Wenzel, Miss Lola Cornejo, and Mr. Thomas Scott.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), August 27th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Alexander, Mrs. A. Boyd, Mrs. E. Barnes, Mr. R. Brooks, Mr. D. Batiste, Mr. F. Bickerton, Miss Pearl Braithwaite, Mr. F. Cobb, Mr. G. Cruickshanks, Mr. J. Diack, Capt. Daunt, Mr. C. M. DaCosta, Mr. Peat, Miss Olive Fawcett, Master R. Fawcett, Mr. Dixon, Capt. Nightingale, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rawle, Mr. N. B. Favell, Mr. C. Gilpin Hudson, Mr. A. Holland, Mr. J. A. Hadfield, Mr. L. Maxwell Hall, Col. Dalrymple Hay, Mr. W. Henderson, Mr., Mrs. and the Misses James, Mr. James, Mr. J. S. Knowlson, Mr. W. J. H. Leete, Mr. H. C. MacManns, Mrs. MacPherson, Miss Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Walker, Mr. J. R. Smith, Mr. E. T. Scott, Mr. C. J. Thompson, Mr. Townend, Miss Walker, Dr. H. A. Whitelocke, Mr. A. E. M. Wolfe, Mr. J. Wight, Mr. Edmond Wilson, and Mr. G. Cooper.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Sefle), Aug. 24th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. G. B. Ascroft, Mr. R. E. Barnsley, Mr. G. Bowring, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. and Miss E. Carter, Capt. G. F. Corbett, R.A., two Misses Feurtado, Mr. T. Hampson, Miss Hillkirk, Miss M. Holt, Miss Howson, Miss B. Lyon, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mrs. McGuire, Mr. R. M. Murray, Mr. E. Pettifer, Mr. F. A. Potts, Mr. F. C. H. Powell, Mr. H. S. Reed, Dr. J. B. Rous, Mrs. Sanfleben, Mr. G. Shaw Scott, two Misses Smythe, Lady Swettenham, Dr. and Miss Tate, Master K. Turner, Mr. W. G. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wortley, Mrs. and Miss Vickers, Mr. W. L. Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Vincent, Miss O. Alvex, Mr. W. Benn, Mr. W. Dewrance, Mrs. A. Gillespie, Mr. R. Marshall, Mr. J. McNeil, Mr. S. Pitts, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Pearson, Mr. S. Simpson, Mrs. Steadman, and Mrs. Taylor.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Sept. 4—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Trent</i>	Sept 3, mdn't.
" 6—	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Jamaica	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Catalina</i>	" 6, noon.
" 6—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Saba</i>	" 6, noon.
" 7—	Bermuda and Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>	" 6, 6 p.m.
" 12—	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Louisianian</i>	" 11, 6 p.m.
" 12—	West Indies and Demerara	Glasgow	Direct Line	<i>Yanariva</i>	" 11, 6 p.m.
" 18—	West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>	" 17, mdn't.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Sept. 6—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>
" 9—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Aug. 8		Jan. 1 to Aug. 9		April 1 to Aug. 4.		Jan. 1 to Aug. 10.		Oct. 1 to Aug. 12.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1906/7	1905/6
Sugar ...	29,370	42,901 Tns.	42,924	44,834 Tons.	8,211	7,590 Tons.	386,948	493,954 Bgs.&Brls	...	...
Molasses ...	39,246	58,552 Pns.	372	2,406 Puns.	...	...	{ 3,291 181 178 }	{ 2,067 Puns. 149 Trcs. 80 Brls. }	...	...
Rum	9,181	10,221 Puns	885,135	830,300 Galls.	776	592 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	4,329	5,124 Tons.	...	...	...	...	39,115	53,974 Bags.
Cocoa...	35,983	3,300 lbs.	28,151	33,882 Cwts.	3,529	16,640 "	...	...
Coffee...	14,867	12,190 "	6,465,630	7,316,905	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	136,281	50,588	5,419,698	2,137,045	34,472	10,961 Bags.	...	...
Copra...	5,200	15,036 lbs.	...	...	934	1,015 Bales.
Cotton	4,748	5,692 Bags
" Seed	79,113	77,497 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt	636,682	6,244,696	...	...	...	...
Oranges	6,594,515	6,445,022 Stems.	...	...	...	...
Bananas	14,744	23,428 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice	5,697	4,712 Brls.
Gold	38,561	53,411 OZS.	...	...	...	...	814	538 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	1,049	941 carats	...	...	...	...	740	470 Cases.
Rice	30,950,152	611,079 lbs.	...	...	...	...	80	120 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The sugar Market at the beginning of the fortnight was steady, with a gradual improvement in values, but rather free selling by operators led to some reaction in prices. The tendency, however, is again steady, and quotations show an advance of 2½d. to 3d. for old crop and 3½d. to 4d. for new crop in the fortnight, being for September, 10s. 0d.; October/December, 9s. 10½d.; January/March, 10s. 0½d.; and May, 10s. 2½d. F. O. Licht gives the consumption for eleven months, September 1st to July 31st as follows:—

	1906/7.	1905/6.	1904/5.	
Europe	4,007,961	3,942,148	3,488,897	Tons.
America	1,783,512	1,729,992	1,619,880	..
	5,791,473	5,672,140	5,108,777	..

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	1,284,300	1,610,000	1,110,000	1,480,000	1,750,000	Tons
United States	284,000	270,000	190,000	120,000	240,000	..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	177,000	130,000	420,000	200,000	290,000	..
Total	1,745,300	2,010,000	1,720,000	1,800,000	2,280,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, Sept. 2nd:—	10s. 0d.	9s. 6½d.	8s. 10d.	10s. 9d.	8s. 5½d.	

Grocery West Indian.—In the early part of the fortnight there was a brisk demand for crystallised, and the prices realised, for the moderate quantity offered at auction, showed an advance of about 3d. per cwt. (St Lucia at 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d. and Trinidad at 17s. to 17s. 3d.) Early last week the Market was steady, but transactions were restricted owing to the scarcity of this description. At auction last Friday there was good competition at an advance of 3d., but the firmness of holders checked business. Trinidad part sold at 17s. 9d., and Jamaica at 16s. 9d. (one lot 17s.). **Muscovado.**—Of some 40 hhds. 200 bags Barbados offered at auction, only a small part sold at 15s. 6d., dark brown St. Lucia sold at 11s. 3d. to 11s. 6d., and some 200 bags coloury Jamaica at 14s. 6d. Fifty tons Jamaica afloat, basis 89%, sold at 9s. 10½d., Clyde. **Molasses Sugar.**—Good and fine Trinidad syrups at auction the week before last sold, with competition, at prices ranging from 13s. 9d. to 16s. 6d. Mauritius syrups sold last week at 11s. 3d. to 11s. 9d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	26,850	45,000	32,000	35,000	19,000	Tons
Deliveries	25,566	33,000	28,000	34,100	30,000	..
Stocks (Aug. 24)	10,909	21,000	14,000	14,000	18,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: (nominal) 17s. 6d. 15s. 3d. 17s. 0d. 17s. 6d. 15s. 9d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, August 24th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	9852	9300	10,200	11,300	11,800	Puns.
Demerara	6281	5400	5900	9000	7700	..
Total of all kinds	24,177	20,700	24,300	29,100	29,300	..

The Market has been quiet, but with a steady tone. Quotations are without change, Demerara being 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2½d. proof, and Jamaicas, 2s. 7d. for common, to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and for good to fine export qualities, 3s. to 8s. Occasional sales of Jamaica of home trade marks have been made at full prices, while for export descriptions values have been well maintained.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Aug. 24th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	7154	12,600	23,400	29,700	19,900	Bags.
Grenada	3780	7900	17,600	17,500	11,900	..
Total of all kinds	45,836	68,700	90,500	100,300	76,400	..

In the early part of the fortnight there was a fair demand at the auctions, and 1800 bags sold at and since at 1s. to 3s. above previous sale rates. Trinidads were fairly held, and only a small part sold at 1s. to 3s. advance. Grenada and other West India sorts showed an advance of 2s. to 3s., and Ceylon 2s. Last week a quiet tone prevailed at the auctions. Of 2500 bags offered a good portion was ultimately sold at rather irregular prices. Trinidads showed no change, but common qualities of Grenada were 2s. dearer, other West India also sold well. Ceylon, however, was slow of sale, and quotations marked a decline of 1s. to 2s. for medium qualities. Quotations: Trinidad low middling grey and red 10½s. to 106s., middling red, 107s. to 107s. 6d., middling red, 107s. to 107s. 6d., good middling red, 108s. to 109s., fine and superior, 110s. to 112s.; Grenada, common to fair, 106s. to 110s. Fair to fine Native from other Islands, 104s. to 110s.

COFFEE.—Santos for September delivery, 29s. 4½d. The spot Market last week showed little change as compared with the previous week, and the supplies at auction, which were again small, mostly sold at steady prices, whilst a few lots of blue kinds met with ready buyers at full values to 1s. advance. No Jamaicas have been offered. Last Friday's sales were fairly steady.

COTTON.—A moderate business has been done in West India Sea Island. Spinners are well stocked and have only bought at easier prices. The American Sea Island crop continues to do well, promising 100,000 bales or more, it therefore seems likely prices will give way. The sales include Barbados, 20d. to 23d., Antigua, 19d. to 23d., Nevis, 19d., St. Croix, 20d. to 21d.

ARROWROOT.—Without change. None has been offered in recent auctions and few private sales have taken place. About 100 barrels are reported as sold at 2½d. for good fair quality.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon. Distilled oil, steady, 3s. 1d. to 3s. 2d. per gallon. Hand pressed, quiet, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, £24 10s.

PIMENTO has not been represented in auctions. Holders are firm and privately fair has been sold in small lots at 3½d. **NUTMEGS.**—Generally easier. West India about steady. **MACE.**—Quiet. West India kinds steady. **GINGER.**—None offered at auction, and business privately, in all descriptions, is quite unimportant. **COPRA.**—Steady. Fair merchantable West India quoted £22.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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TUESDAY, SEPT. 17th, 1907.

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OUR CELEBRITIES

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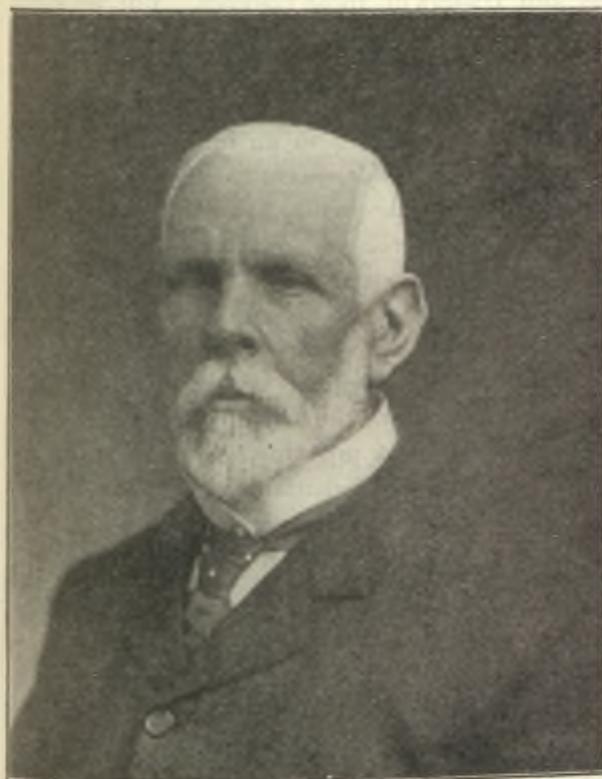


Photo by His Honour W. P. Leacock. [Elliott & Fry.]

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SERTHING LANE, LONDON.

Sept. 16th, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6652 CENTRAL.

ON the 4th inst., at St. Andrew's, Ashley Gardens, London, was celebrated the marriage of MR. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary of the West India Committee, and MISS KATHLEEN MASON. MR. ASPINALL'S temporary absence, on his honeymoon and well-earned holiday, from the editorial chair, affords the opportunity of offering to him the best wishes of the West India Committee for a long and happy married life, and while so doing, it will not be out of place to allude to the progress of the Committee during MR. ASPINALL'S Secretaryship. It was in 1898 that he assumed the duties of Secretary of the Committee, which at that time met in Billiter Square, and issued a monthly CIRCULAR containing a terse summary of matters of the moment. But the wheel of time was spinning, and while it spun it brought to the minds of the members the realisation that there was need of progress and development in the Committee, if its ancient and historic work of aiding the advancement of the West Indies was to continue in the spirit of the times. With the appointment of the new Secretary a new era commenced. The Committee moved to its present commodious premises, which have become not only a rendezvous for West Indians home

on leave, but a centre for enquiries from those contemplating settling in or opening business relations with the West Indies; the fortnightly CIRCULAR has become welcome wherever it finds its way; the number of members has grown until it has reached nigh upon twelve hundred; while the grant of a Charter has borne testimony to the Royal approval of the Committee's aims. Gradually the old prejudice that it was a single industry organisation has worn away; gradually other interests have turned to it for help to fight their battles or advance their cause, until it has reached the point when merchants, shipowners, manufacturers, banks, insurance companies, and engineers have joined with cacao and sugar planters, fruit and cotton growers, and others interested in varied agricultural and mineral interests in supporting it in its work towards furthering the general prosperity of the West Indies. In this progressive policy MR. ASPINALL has played an important part, and in connection therewith we might particularly refer to the development of the CIRCULAR, to his work in popularising the West Indies,—especially by means of his publications to assist travellers and settlers,—to the institution by him of lectures in the Committee Rooms by leading men on important subjects, and to his untiring exertions in making a success of exhibitions of fruits and other products in London and elsewhere, thus bringing forcibly before the people at home the potentialities of these colonies. It is the earnest hope of all those interested in the welfare of the West Indies, that MR. ASPINALL may for many years to come continue to aid the development of the work which the Committee has been doing since he accepted the post of Secretary.

THE influence of the tariff of the United States upon the industries of the West Indies must always command attention on the part of the planters and traders of those colonies. But we doubt whether the Government of this country is sufficiently alive to the importance of the matter. Has MR. BRYCE, for instance, received any instructions to give the matter his consideration as our Ambassador at Washington? In the case of our West Indian sugar industries the effects upon them of the present United States' tariff constitute a grievance—amounting to an injustice—which no British Government, having any proper regard for international trade, ought to acquiesce in. The American tariff is worked by means of differential duties; consequently, whilst all sugar sold on one and the same day obtains one and the same market price, yet, inasmuch as this gross market price is varied against the several importers by differential duty deductions, the net prices become more or less prohibitory to our West Indian trade in sugar. For instance, an American merchant consignee would render his account sales of sugar sold for and on account of a Cuban consignor with a lower *per contra* deduction for duty: whilst for a consignor in Barbados, Trinidad, or Demerara, the *per contra* deduction would be the full amount of the import duty. It is obvious that, although there is one and the same market price for like goods at one and the same time, yet the resulting net price, owing to the tariff, varies differentially as against our West Indian industries. It matters not, so far as the differential variations in the net prices are concerned, whether the duty be or be not paid by the consumer: either way the differential result is the same. In these differential and, therefore, unfair deductions from the gross market price, the very mischief arises which was at the bottom of the bounty system. Surely some action should be taken by our Government to deal with this "faking" of market prices by the United States Tariff. Such "faking" should either be stopped, or a preferential compensation established to counterbalance it, as the least mischievous, but necessary, remedy. When international trade is based on natural market prices for each and all competitors alike, then, and not till then, will the regime of "free trade" be fair to all, because reciprocal and mutual. Now the United States penalizes the British West Indies by a differential tariff, although no differential duties are levied against American exports to those colonies, and compels the West Indies to pay a duty which, owing to their competitors being wholly or in part exempted, is most probably irrecoverable in the market price.

IN the *Fortnightly Review* for September an article occurs on the Angola slave trade, with special reference to the so-called contract labour on the cacao plantations of St. Thomé and Príncipe. This is a subject which has been dealt with in our columns from time to time during the last eighteen months, and to which much attention has been drawn since the publication of MR. NEVINSON'S "A Modern Slavery." Were any additional evidence wanted to that already given as to the slave nature of the system which obtains for recruiting labour for these islands, MR. NEVINSON affords it in the present article. Speaking of the labour, "A large supply," he says, "also comes from native or Portuguese owners, who sell their own slaves, or the children of their slaves, to the emigration agents at a profit, and a great number of free natives are entrapped by trickery, being sent by the Portuguese planters or storekeepers with messages to compounds from which they never escape. Boys and girls, and men and women, are continually disappearing in this way, and the sufficient explanation among the villages is 'San Thomé.' The majority of the natives, however, who are brought down the route from the interior, are collected for exportation to the islands. Their assent to go to labour in San Thomé or Príncipe for five years is asked. Whether they answer or not makes no difference. Most of them know beforehand the fate that awaits them, and there is no escaping it. The average number exported to the islands every year is as nearly as possible 4,000. None ever come back." The condition of things is, in fact, just the same as it was in 1882, when the EARL OF MAYO reported "That this is virtually slavery cannot be denied." By the regulations each man should get 10s. a month, and each woman 7s. 3d. As a matter of fact the average wage comes to 5s. a month. Hospitals are generally provided, and, as slavery goes, the treatment is not cruel, because, as is remarked, "cruelty is so expensive." The death rate is enormous. In 1901, the latest official returns, it stood at 20.97 per cent. for the slaves alone, attributable to the despair and home sickness natural to African natives. We have mentioned before in these columns that a commission had been sent out by cacao firms of this country to investigate the condition of things on their behalf. MR. NEVINSON met the Commissioner at the islands in 1905. The report of the latter is still regarded as confidential, but MR. NEVINSON was informed that it agreed with his statements on every point. It must not be thought that the Portuguese Government are not alive to the position of things. A vigorous attempt at reform was made in 1903, and new regulations were issued which would have changed the character of the native labour had they been observed. In fact for about six months the procession of slaves down the road towards the coast almost ceased, and the traffic has since been conducted with more care and secrecy. It has however, returned to its old proportions. The evidence is now in the hands of the Foreign Office, and we may safely trust SIR EDWARD GREY to do what is right in the matter. Apart from the payment of £480,000 to Portugal in 1815 in consideration of the cessation of the slave trade of that country, there is the Berlin Act of 1885 and the Brussels Act of 1890, by which the powers, including Portugal, undertook the suppression of the slave trade in their territories in Africa, and on these the British Government can properly take action. MR. NEVINSON deals entirely with the humanitarian side of the question. There is, however, another aspect of the case, a commercial one, which demands serious action on the part of the British authorities. The cacao from San Thomé and Príncipe competes with our West Indian cacao, and being practically slave grown, has an undue advantage in the competition. It is just as much an injustice as was the slave grown sugar of Cuba to our West Indian sugar growers, and we feel convinced that the British Government, now that reliable evidence is in their hands, will take vigorous measures to bring it to an end. Any action taken by the Portuguese Government would be welcomed, says MR. NEVINSON, by a party both in Portugal and Angola, where uneasiness on the subject is growing, and its hands would be much strengthened by representations from our Foreign Office. We look forward to these being made, and in such a manner as to cause an end to be put to practices which are not only totally opposed to modern civilisation, but also constitute a breach of treaty obligations.

IN an editorial on the subject of the Supplementary Act, recently signed, to the Brussels Convention, the *British Trade Journal* states that if the conditions are not satisfactory to the other contracting powers, England can, and will, our contemporary avers, be asked to give notice of withdrawal on March 1st next. The *British Trade Journal* does not appear to have quite grasped the position created by the Supplementary Act. Article III. lays down that its provisions shall not become obligatory until it is ratified by all the contracting powers, except Spain, Italy and Sweden, and that, should the ratification not have taken place before February 1st, 1908, the Belgian Government shall call upon such powers as have ratified to decide whether the present Supplementary Act shall be applied as between themselves; and in the "Protocol of Signatures" it was agreed "that if the ratifications necessary, according to Article III., to give validity to the Supplementary Act, have not been handed in before March 1st, 1908, the British Government shall be at liberty to denounce the Convention at that date as from September 1st, 1908, whether or not they have previously ratified the Supplementary Act." The meaning of this is plain. If any important power does not ratify its signature our Government have it in their power to withdraw from the Convention. This is quite different to the position of the case as laid down by the *British Trade Journal*. There is no question of the powers calling upon Great Britain to retire. The latter power has named the conditions under which she will remain a party to the Convention, and the other powers have provisionally accepted them. It is very clear then that if any power prefers not to ratify the Supplementary Act, it practically withdraws from the Convention, leaving the remaining powers to go on or not as they think fit. This is quite a different matter to Great Britain being called upon to denounce the Convention, as stated in the *British Trade Journal*, should any power not fall into line with her conditions.

HIS HONOUR W. P. LEACOCK.

His Honour W. P. Leacock, President of the Legislative Council of Barbados, whose portrait appears in this issue, was born on January 21st, 1838. Mr. Leacock was the senior partner in the firm of Messrs. W. P. Leacock & Co., who carried on business principally with the United States and Canada. After an active business career commencing in 1860 he retired in 1896. Mr. Leacock, however, did not devote the whole of his time and energy to his business, but took a deep interest in social and public work. He has been a member of the Executive Committee, Director of the Barbados General Hospital, Chairman of the Barbados Gas Company, Chairman of the West India branch of the Standard Life Office, Chairman of the Barbados Fire Insurance Company, Director of the Telephone Company, and on the death of Sir George C. Pile in 1906 was elected President of the Legislative Council. From the above it will be seen that although Mr. Leacock is no longer engaged in commercial life he is by no means idle, and in addition to the above duties he takes an active interest in the working of his sugar estate, "Pilgrim Place."

A SUGAR FACTORY IN THE MAKING.

The Vere Central Sugar Factory, now being constructed in Jamaica, is one of the pioneer centrals of that island, and, we may say, *en passant*, an outcome of the Brussels Convention. Our illustration representing scenes in connection with the transport of machinery and its erection, is from photographs sent us by Mr. E. A. de Pass, who is now on a visit to Jamaica. In these are depicted the towing of a lighter-load of machinery from Salt River Bay up the river to the Company's wharf, where it is being unloaded. A train-load of machinery *en route* for the factory, some $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, is seen, and the other views comprise the factory building, machinery being unloaded in factory by a travelling crane, the milling shed, with mill foundations and part of mill gearing in position, and the boilers in course of erection. The mills, triple effect, vacuum pans, centrifugals, &c., have been supplied by the Harvey Engineering Company, the boilers by Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., whilst the transport department is in the hands of Arthur Koppel.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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 in October, November and December



Photographs)

A SUGAR FACTORY IN THE MAKING.
VIEWS AT THE VERE CENTRAL SUGAR FACTORY, JAMAICA,
Now in course of Construction.

(E. A. DE PASS.

of this year, will, on paying their subscriptions, not be required to renew them until January 1st, 1909. Full particulars regarding membership and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. It is hoped that readers will bring the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR before the notice of their friends, and will help forward the work which we are doing by bringing forward candidates for election. Visitors from the West Indies are reminded that a register of addresses is kept at the West India Committee Rooms, and they are invited to increase its utility by furnishing their address from time to time, together with the date of their arrival and departure. Members of the West India Committee can have their letters addressed to the West India Committee Rooms and forwarded. There are letters lying at the West India Committee Rooms addressed to Hon. H. F. Carr, Mr. Justice Hewick, Prof. Longstaffe, Mr. Charles Shepherd and Mr. Joseph Shore.

THE RUSSIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of August 28th gives an interesting summary of the position of the Russian sugar industry, with special regard to the adhesion of that country to the Brussels Convention. During the last ten years the production of sugar has risen from 719,950 tons to 1,450,200 tons, and the number of factories from 239 to 280. The area under cultivation has also increased during this period from 401,260 hectares to 584,450 hectares, and the crop of beets from 5,960,000 tons to 10,336,000 tons, an increase of 73 per cent. as against an increase of 43.6 per cent. in the area under cultivation, and of over 100 per cent. in the sugar production. During this period also, the proportion of sugar extracted from the beets has risen from 12.08 to 14.3 per cent. These figures show, says the *Journal*, that the Russian sugar industry holds an important position in European production by reason of the number and power of its factories, but that, on the contrary it is still, from an agricultural point of view, far from being on an equality with the old Continental producers. The Russian consumption in 1905-6 reached the figure of 990,341 tons, as against 740,306 tons in 1900-1, and for 1906-7 should reach 1,000,000 tons. The amount exported has varied considerably. In 1905-6 exports were reduced to 62,784 tons; for 1906-7 the exportation should be in the neighbourhood of 185,000 tons. The exporting sugar-states of Central Europe included in the Brussels Convention realise the probable extent of the eventual competition with Russian sugar in the English market. In the course of the last three crops, the Russian exports have been, in pounds:—

	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
Western Europe	1,622,160	1,149,144	162,892
Finland	3,453,062	2,972,044	331,808
The East	6,441,461	7,318,697	3,401,672
Total	11,498,692	11,439,885	3,896,372

Thus, on a total export of 26,824,946 pounds for the three years, the quantity in the direction of Western Europe has been only 2,934,205 pounds, or 11 per cent. The bulk of the Eastern exportation went to Persia and Turkey. For the moment then, says our contemporary, Russia is not endeavouring to extend its markets in the direction of Western Europe, but there is no reason why Russian sugar, if the occasion demand it, should not appear on the European market, that of Great Britain in particular, under conditions prejudicial to the usual suppliers of these markets, and it is from this point of view interesting to learn how the accession of Russia to the Brussels Convention would be possible. The question is directly connected with that of alteration of the Russian sugar legislation, which stands as follows. The internal tax on sugar is, since August 1st, 1881, based on the actual production. Since September 1st, 1894, all grades of sugar produced by the factories are subjected to a consumption tax of 1 rouble 75 copeks per pound,* and this excess duty is doubled for sugars in excess of the official allowance when delivered to the consumer. Imported sugar pays a Customs' duty of 4.50 roubles per pound for raw sugar and 6.00 roubles per pound for refined. There is thus a considerable protection, both for raw and for refined. In order to modify the prejudicial effect of this protection from the point of view of the internal consumer, the Government has decided to authorise the Finance Minister to lower, for a certain period, the Customs' tax on raw sugars when the price of these at St. Petersburg, Kieff, and Odessa exceeds a certain figure. On exportation, raw and refined sugars receive a drawback to the extent of 1.75 roubles per pound. As regards the Excise control, the production of sugar is carried on under a somewhat complicated regulation, fixed in May 1903. For each crop the Government fixes the "normal" of the production, viz.: (1) the total normal or utilisable production in white sugar; (2) the proportion to be sold for consumption; (3) the compulsory reserve to be kept in stock at each factory; (4) the maximum price of white sugar at Kieff from September to January and from January to September. If the price of sugar exceeds during any

* The value of a rouble is 2s. 1.6d. For official calculations 9.46 roubles are taken as equal to £1. The pound is equal to 36 lbs. English.

week the fixed legal limit, the Finance Minister can authorise the sale for consumption of a portion of the stock. By production, normal or utilisable, is understood the quantity of sugar destined for the Russian consumption, the compulsory reserves, and the normal exportation overland, viz., to Finland and Central Asia. The excess of production over the quota fixed for each factory has either to be shipped or carried over to the following crop, each factory having a right to a maximum consumption-sale of 80,000 pounds. Thus, a factory has, say, a production equivalent to its quota, fixed at 200,000 pounds. Its account would run thus: the fixed quantity to be sold for consumption would be 80,000 pounds, the remainder, 120,000 pounds, would be split up thus: 56 per cent., or 67,000 pounds, for consumption; 15 per cent., or 18,000 pounds for the compulsory reserve; 29 per cent. for exportation, or to be turned over to following crop, 34,800 pounds. In this case the factory would sell for consumption, 147,200 pounds. The object of the tariff and regulations is to assure to the industry a remunerative figure for sugar sold locally. The high Customs' tax permits of a high internal price for sugar, but this is controlled in the interest of the consumer by the official fixing of the maximum price. As to the adhesion of Russia to the Brussels Convention, the great point, says M. G. Dureau, is how far can Russia lower its Customs' tax without compromising the interests of its sugar consumers. M. Sachs, of Brussels, considers the Russian legislation can be modified so as to give to the Convention States the necessary satisfaction. What, however, as M. Dureau remarks, complicates the situation, is the high cost price of Russian sugar as compared with that of other countries. If Russia would, as Sweden and Italy have done, undertake not to export sugar, or at least not to countries where their products would come into contact with Convention sugar, this solution would probably be agreeable to all concerned.

THE RETAIL PRICE OF SUGAR.

The Board of Trade has issued the following return, on the motion of Mr. Pike Pease, showing the price per pound retail of the kind of sugar, whether refined or unrefined, most largely consumed by the working classes in London, Paris, and Berlin, at March 1st, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907, together with the amount per pound, in English currency, of the Customs and Excise duties respectively in each case:—

		Retail price of sugar at March 1st.				
		1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
		d. per lb.	d. per lb.	d. per lb.	d. per lb.	d. per lb.
LONDON:						
Retail price	... ..	1½	1½	2½	2	2
Customs duty	... ..	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
Excise duty	... ..	—	—	—	—	—
PARIS:						
Retail price	... ..	4½	3*†	3½	3	3
Customs duty†	... ..	3.23*	1.44*†	1.44*	1.44*	1.44*
Excise duty	... ..	2.79*	1.18	1.18*	1.18*	1.18*
BERLIN:						
Retail price	... ..	3½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Customs duty†	... ..	2.18	1.02†	1.02	1.02	1.02
Excise duty	... ..	1.09	0.76†	0.76	0.76	0.76

SUGAR-CANE EXPERIMENTS.

In sugar-cane experiments the greatest difficulty is experienced in obtaining satisfactory experimental conditions, and Mr. Albert Howard, the Economic Botanist to the Agricultural Department of India, deals with the subject in the "Proceedings of the Board of Agriculture in India." After alluding to the unreliable and misleading results obtained when the canes are grown in small plots, the writer points out the enormous variation in quality between individual canes, amounting in some cases to as much as 20 per cent. Another difficulty lies in the determination of the proper time to reap the plots, *i.e.*, when the cane is ripe and at its best. This difficulty applies not only to experiments with one variety, but also to a greater extent when several kinds of canes are tried one against the other. In manurial experiments again it would be quite possible to find that nitrogenous manures delayed ripening to an appreciable extent. In such a case, unless all the plots were cut and ground at their best, it is easy to see that the error due to cutting too early or too late might be greater than the difference due to the manurial treatment. When varieties are grown one against the other, it is most necessary that all the kinds should be cut when they are first ripe, for otherwise it will be impossible to say that one variety is better than another. It is possible, Mr. Howard says, that the

* Including also the "taxe de raffinage" levied equally on imported sugar and on sugar of home production.

† In force from 1st September, 1903.

‡ 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.

contradictory results sometimes obtained in variety trials in different years may be due to the difficulty in knowing when the cane is ripe. As to how to overcome the possible error due to this difficulty the writer suggests that the plots should be cut a third or a fourth part at a time.

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

Up to the time of going to press the English official version of the Supplementary Act has not been issued. We therefore reproduce from the *International Sugar Journal* a translation from the French. The terms are:—

"The Governments of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, Holland, Peru, Sweden, and Switzerland, having agreed to conclude a supplementary Act to the Convention of March 5th, 1902, relating to the sugar regime, the undersigned, duly authorised, have come to the following agreement:—

"Article 1.—The contracting States engage to maintain the Convention of March 5th, 1902, in force for a further period of five years, from September 1st, 1908. Nevertheless, it shall be open to any one of them to withdraw from the Convention after September 1st, 1911, by giving notice one year in advance, if, at the last sitting held by the Permanent Commission before September 1st, 1910, it decides that circumstances render it necessary that this facility be given to the contracting States. For the rest, the provisions of Article 10 of the Convention of March 5th, 1902, concerning the denunciation and renewal of the same, remain in force.

"Article 2.—As an exception to Article 1, Great Britain shall be released, from September 1st, 1908, from the obligations contained in Article 4 of the Convention. From this same date the contracting Powers shall have the right to exact that, in order to obtain the benefits of the Convention, all sugar refined in the United Kingdom and exported to their countries shall be accompanied by a certificate to the effect that no portion of such sugar comes from a country recognised by the Permanent Commission as giving bounties on the production or exportation of sugar.

"Article 3.—The present Supplementary Act shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be deposited at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Brussels as quickly as possible, and in any case before February 1st, 1908. Its provisions shall not become obligatory unless it is ratified by at least all those contracting Powers who do not come under the exceptional terms of Article 6 of the Convention. In case one or more of the said Powers shall have failed to deposit their ratifications within the specified delay, the Belgian Government, during the month beginning February 1st, 1908, shall call upon such Powers as have ratified to decide whether the present Supplementary Act shall be applied as between themselves. The States which shall have failed to ratify before the date fixed, viz., February 1st, 1908, shall be considered as having denounced the Convention within the prescribed limits for it to cease to bind them from the following September 1st, unless a decision has been given in a contrary sense at the request of the Powers in question by a majority of the States summoned to deliberation, as set forth in the preceding paragraph."

The following "Protocol of Signature" was also agreed to:—

"It is agreed that if the ratifications necessary according to Article 3 to give validity to the Supplementary Act have not been handed in before March 1st, 1908, the British Government shall be at liberty to denounce the Convention at that date from September 1st, 1908, whether or not they shall have previously ratified the Supplementary Act."

THE COCOA-NUT DISEASE IN TRINIDAD.

The report of Mr. F. A. Stockdale, the Mycologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, on the cocoa-nut palm disease of Trinidad, is published in the "Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago." Mr. Stockdale concludes that there are three diseases in cocoa-nuts in Trinidad, the "root disease," the "leaf disease," and the "bud-rot." The root disease, which is the most serious, is widely distributed and is causing considerable loss in the Guapo and Cedros districts, and in some of the heavy undrained hinterlands at Mayaro, as well as in smaller areas in Lavenhill and Cocorite, while it has been reported from Toco and Guayaguayare. It is caused by a fungus, a species of *Botryodiplodia*, and may be recognised by the yellowing and hanging down of the leaves, by the disorganised condition of the cortex of the roots, by the red ring of discolouration that may be seen in the stem, and by the pustules bearing fungus spores which are invariably seen, sooner or later, on the dead petioles. To prevent the spread of the disease it is suggested that (a) all dead and dying trees, diseased leaves and petioles that have fallen to the ground, rubbish, &c., should be destroyed either by fire or by burying deeply with lime, all stumps should be grubbed up, and as many diseased roots as possible destroyed. (b) When smaller areas are noticed, they may be isolated from the remainder of the estate by digging a good trench around them. This should prevent spread of mycelium in the soil to other portions of the estate. (c) Infected land that has been cleared and burnt before replanting "supplies" should be rested and cultivated. (d) Spraying and application of chemicals to destroy spores, and also mycelium in the soil. (e) Replanting should be done with ripe nuts from disease-resistant trees, if such can be found. The leaf disease is limited to small areas, which are apparently in want of better cultivation. It is caused by a fungus, a species of *Pestalozzia*, and may be recognised by the yellowish spots on the leaflets near their tips. These spots gradually increase in size, the distal leaflets of the leaf turn yellow, then brown, and eventually die. When the leaflets for

the terminal two or three feet of the leaf have died, this portion breaks off and hangs vertically downwards from the end of a dying leaf. The spots on the leaves become of a grayish colour, and here and there appear surfaces, the spores of the fungus. The following remedial measures are recommended:—(a) all dead trees should be cut down, and with diseased leaves, &c., destroyed, preferably by fire; (b) isolated trees that show signs of disease should be marked, carefully watched, and all leaves that become attacked cut down and burned; (c) all plants in the diseased area should, as a preventive, be sprayed repeatedly with Bordeaux mixture, particular attention being given to the more delicate leaves. Bud-rot disease was noticed in isolated cases in the Cedros district and had apparently caused the death of many palms on a savannah in the Siparia district. The cause of the trouble is somewhat obscure. The roots and stems of the palms appear to be quite healthy while the bud is involved in a bad soft rot. In one instance a fungus was present in the advancing margin of the disease, but generally bacteria were the only organisms present. In the Siparia district the spread of the disease was very rapid, but it is probable that careful attention to cultivation, and prompt destruction of all diseased material would tend to keep this disease well in hand.

CACAO REPORTS V.—ST. THOMÉ AND PRINCIPE.

Mr. H. G. Mackie, H.M.'s Consul at Loanda, has at the request of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, submitted an important special report on the cacao industry of St. Thomé and Principe to the West India Committee. In a covering letter he points out that the immediate destination of almost all the cacao exported from St. Thomé is Lisbon, which is the distributing centre for that commodity, while as regards methods of cultivation, it would appear from a note received from the Consular Agent at St. Thomé that these methods are of a primitive order and seemingly only admit of a brief description. He adds that hitherto his requests to be supplied with material for the compilation of a report have not, unfortunately, been responded to, but he has instructed the newly appointed Consular Agent at St. Thomé to furnish him with complete statistics and other data for the preparation of an annual report on the subject, which will henceforth be submitted without fail. Three small bags containing samples of St. Thomé cacao accompanied the report, and these can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. The report runs as follows:—The cacao producing islands of St. Thomé and Principe, discovered by the Portuguese in the 15th century and called "the garden of Africa," on account of their remarkable fertility, may be said to be the mainstay of the Portuguese West African possessions, being the only one of these colonies returning a surplus to the Portuguese exchequer. The lucrative trade of these islands will be seen from the following figures of the exports and imports during the last ten years:—

	Exports.	Imports.	Total.		Exports.	Imports.	Total.
1897	{ St. Thomé £419,500	{ —	{ £680,500	1902	{ St. Thomé £1,084,100	{ £547,300	{ —
	{ Principe —	{ —	{ 87,600		{ Principe 114,100	{ 60,900	{ £1,806,400
1898	{ St. Thomé 540,300	{ 354,000	{ —	1903	{ St. Thomé 1,304,500	{ 540,200	{ —
	{ Principe 47,400	{ 49,400	{ 991,100		{ Principe 124,700	{ 61,800	{ 2,031,200
1899	{ St. Thomé 718,800	{ 419,500	{ —	1904	{ St. Thomé 1,337,000	{ 456,400	{ —
	{ Principe 86,600	{ 51,500	{ 1,276,400		{ Principe 103,700	{ 54,700	{ 1,981,800
1900	{ St. Thomé 753,000	{ 431,500	{ —	1905	{ St. Thomé 1,367,900	{ 519,100	{ —
	{ Principe 71,500	{ 65,800	{ 1,321,800		{ Principe 117,200	{ 58,900	{ 2,063,100
1901	{ St. Thomé 958,000	{ 555,100	{ —	1906	{ St. Thomé 1,335,100	{ 448,100	{ —
	{ Principe 82,200	{ 58,300	{ 1,653,500		{ Principe 110,600	{ 44,400	{ 1,938,200

The latest available official statistics showing the quantities of cacao exported during the years 1901-1905 are as under:—

1901	...	14,927 metric tons.	£889,300	1904	...	23,766 metric tons.	£1,396,900
1902	...	16,632 ..	991,600	1905	...	22,306 ..	1,367,300
1903	...	20,923 ..	1,248,300				

According to a Portuguese trade journal the production of cacao during the last ten years was:—

1897	...	...	8,499 metric tons.	1902	...	...	17,792 metric tons.
1898	...	...	9,945 ..	1903	...	...	21,887 ..
1899	...	...	13,143 ..	1904	...	...	20,478 ..
1900	...	...	13,209 ..	1905	...	...	25,511 ..
1901	...	...	16,066 ..	1906	...	...	24,447 ..

As these figures indicate, the production of cacao has trebled itself in ten years, while its value is stated to have increased two-fold, having risen from some £851,000 in 1897 to £1,702,000 in 1906. At present a little over a quarter of the island of St. Thomé, which has a superficial area of 416 square miles, is under cultivation, so that if the same rapid progress that has marked the past is maintained, the industry in another ten years hence or less will attain the substantial figure of some £2,500,000

per annum. The universal consumption is estimated at 144,000 metric tons per annum, the principal markets being those of Great Britain, Germany, France, Holland, and the United States, and in a smaller degree Belgium and Spain. The figures, extracted from a report of the Portuguese Colonial Agricultural Society, would seem to effectually dispel all fear of over-production, a decrease of no less than 10,175 metric tons having taken place in the permanent stocks of the five principal consuming countries within the last two years. These stocks are returned as follows:—

	1904.	1905.		1904.	1905.
France ...	18,176	9,462	metric tons.	Portugal ...	3,897
United States	5,648	2,787	..	New York ...	1,037
Germany					942
(Hamburg)	2,700	2,656	..		31,458
					21,283

In consequence of a fall in the market prices, some of the plantations are said to have suffered in 1903 and 1905, but the reduction in the stocks of the principal markets augurs well for the planters and business appears to be improving. The duties on shipments of cacao to foreign countries under foreign flags is 60 reis per kilo (1.39d. per lb.), on exports to foreign countries in Portuguese bottoms 37½ reis (.87d.), and only 18 reis (.418d.) on consignments to the home country. The protective advantage accruing to Portugal under this arrangement has had the effect of sending nearly all the produce to the Lisbon market, which is becoming an important distributing centre for this commodity. The plantations near the town are well irrigated, but the soil is poor, and chemical manure is used. Fertilizers might possibly be more extensively employed if their efficacious properties were brought more prominently before the notice of the cacao growers. Trials locally conducted with nitrate of soda, potash salts, Thomas phosphates, &c., might stimulate a demand for fertilizers throughout the island. The trees of the more modern plantations yield fruit after the third year, but only in small quantities; they do not properly mature until the fifth year and bear profusely between the ninth and twelfth year. As regards methods of cultivation, Mr. Mackie was informed by Mr. Marin, Consular Agent at St. Thomé, that these methods are of a primitive description. On the older estates three seeds are planted into a palm leaf basket, and when the plants attain a height of from two to three feet they are transplanted into the ground. On the more modern plantations the land is first prepared by cutting down the trees and brush-wood and spreading them out to dry in order to render them combustible. When all the dry vegetation has been destroyed by burning, the seeds are planted into the ground direct among the bananas, which are preserved. The only machines at present used in the industry are separators and driers, which are supplied by the United States and Germany. The two elements of difficulty affecting the trade are the lack of means of communication and the shortage of working hands. The latter defect is being remedied by the construction of a railway to run through the principal plantations of the island, starting from the capital and passing through Trindade and Magdalena to Agoa Abade. The market prices during the last five years were as follows:—

	Highest, per 33 lbs.	Lowest.		Highest, per 33 lbs.	Lowest.
1902	R4,900 (20s. 10d.)	4,350 reis (18s. 6d.)	1905	R3,750 (15s. 11½d.)	3,100 reis (13s. 2d.)
1903	4,500 (19s. 2d.)	3,700 .. (15s. 9d.)	1906	5,000 (21s. 3d.)	3,125 .. (13s. 3½d.)
1904	3,800 (16s. 1½d.)	3,750 .. (15s. 11d.)			

THE MAIL CONTRACT.

We have received from Lord Elgin copies of the contract for the new West Indian inter-colonial mail service, which we reproduce, with the covering letter from Mr. Lucas. It will be seen, as announced in our last issue, that the service commences with the outward trip of the *Trent*, which left Southampton on the 4th inst., and is due in Barbados on the 17th.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this department of the 23rd ult., I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to transmit to you for the information of the West India Committee, two copies of the contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the performance of the new West Indian Intercolonial Mail Service, and to state that arrangements have been made for the service to commence on the arrival from England of the steamship *Trent*, which is due at Barbados on the 17th inst.

2. I am to add that the suggestion made in your letter of August 15th in regard to the calls at St. Kitts and Nevis was communicated to the Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company who have promised to give their consideration to any suggestions for improvements in point of detail in the new service after they have obtained some experience of its working.

3. Lord Elgin appreciates the assistance which the Committee have given in the consideration of this complicated question, and he trusts that the contract now concluded will tend to promote the trade and prosperity of the West Indian colonies.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
C. P. LUCAS.

Downing Street, September 4th, 1907.

The terms of the Contract are:—

1. The Contractors shall and will during the continuance of this agreement provide two steamers for a fortnightly service between Barbados and British Guiana, calling at Grenada and St. Vincent on the homeward voyage, and a fortnightly service between Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis and St. Kitts, calling at Grenada and St. Vincent on the outward voyage. The provisional itineraries for the services to be performed are set out in the schedules marked I. and II. annexed to this agreement.
2. All mails between the aforesaid colonies and all the mails for and from England to and from Barbados respectively, will be carried free of cost, but the cost of the carriage of the mails across the Atlantic from England to Barbados and from Barbados to England is not included under this agreement. The term "mails" means and includes all bags, boxes, baskets or other packages of letters and other postal packets including parcels without regard either to the country or place in which they may be addressed or to the country or place in which they may have originated, and also all empty bags, boxes, baskets or other receptacles and all stores and other articles used or to be used in carrying on the Post Office service. The term "postal packet" means any article for the time being transmissible by post, and includes a parcel. The term "parcel" means a parcel within the meaning of the Post Office (Parcels) Act, 1882.
3. The itineraries of the intercolonial services shall be subject to modification from time to time, as the British Government may consider desirable: but so long as the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company maintain a regular fortnightly transatlantic service to Barbados or Trinidad the itinerary of the intercolonial mail steamers shall, as far as practicable, be arranged in such a manner as to have due regard to the commercial requirements of the Company's transatlantic service, and so as not to cause substantial detriment to the commercial interests of the Company. The Contractors reserve the right, however, of permitting the intercolonial steamers to call at additional ports or islands in the West Indies. The contractors will use their best endeavours to work the service so that the intercolonial steamers shall always meet at Barbados or at Trinidad, if that port be appointed the port of transhipment by the Postmaster-General, the steamers of any transatlantic packet service which may be maintained by the Imperial Post Office, and they guarantee that this connection shall be made not less than four times out of five.
4. The Contractors undertake not to increase materially the existing rates of freight and passage money without three months' notice being given.
5. In consideration of the performance by the Contractors of the obligations imposed on them by this contract and so long as they shall duly perform such obligations the British Government shall pay to the Contractors a yearly subsidy at the rate of £25,000 per annum by equal quarterly instalments.
6. The Contractors undertake to commence the service within twenty-eight days of receipt of notification from the British Government of the confirmation of this contract by the aforesaid colonies.
7. Should a steamer be withdrawn from the service in the event of accident and for purposes of overhaul the Contractors shall with all practicable despatch provide and substitute another suitable steamer in place of the one withdrawn, a deduction being made from the subsidy proportionate to the period during which the service may be suspended.
8. As soon as the contract is confirmed as aforesaid, the Contractors undertake to cause to be built with all reasonable despatch at an approximate cost of £100,000 two new intercolonial steamers for the service, fitted with all modern improvements.
9. This contract to remain in force for a period of ten years from the present date.
10. In case of any breach on the part of the Company of this agreement it shall be lawful for the British Government and notwithstanding there may or may not have been any former breach of this agreement by an instrument in writing to determine this agreement without any previous notice to the Company, and the Company shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect of any such determination and such determination shall not deprive the British Government of any right or remedy to which it would otherwise be entitled by reason of such breach or of any prior breach of this agreement.

Provisional Time Tables of Intercolonial Service.

SCHEDULE I.—DEMERARA BRANCH ROUTE (FORTNIGHTLY).

Arrive.			Depart.							
Barbados	Tues.,	3 p.m.	St. Vincent	...	Mon.,	8 p.m.	Mon.,	10 p.m.
Demerara	...	Thurs.,	6 a.m.	Sat.,	6 p.m.	Barbados	...	Tues.,	8 a.m.	—
Grenada	...	Mon.,	10 a.m.	Mon.,	noon.					

SCHEDULE II.—NORTHERN ISLANDS ROUTE (FORTNIGHTLY).

Arrive.			Depart.								
Barbados	Tues.,	6 p.m.	Nevis	...	Fri.,	10 p.m.	Fri.,	Midn't.	
Grenada	...	Wed.,	11 a.m.	Wed.,	1 p.m.	St. Kitts	...	Sat.,	5 a.m.	Sat.,	7 a.m.
St. Vincent	...	"	9 p.m.	"	Midn't.	Antigua	...	"	1 p.m.	"	4 p.m.
St. Lucia	...	Thurs.,	6 a.m.	Thurs.,	9 a.m.	Montserrat	...	"	8 p.m.	"	10 p.m.
Dominica	...	"	5 p.m.	"	9 p.m.	Dominica	...	Sun.,	8 a.m.	Sun.,	6 p.m.
Montserrat	...	Fri.,	7 a.m.	Fri.,	9 a.m.	St. Lucia	...	Mon.,	6 a.m.	Mon.,	5 p.m.
Antigua	...	"	1 p.m.	"	5 p.m.	Barbados	...	Tues.,	6 a.m.	—	

NOTE.—Under these tables the outward mails for Grenada and St. Vincent are conveyed by the Northern Islands steamer, scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, and the homeward mails from Grenada and St. Vincent are despatched on the following Monday by the steamer returning from Demerara.

The British Government to have the option of making Trinidad the port of transfer instead of Barbados, in which case the above provisional tables would be re-arranged to give the best service possible under the altered conditions.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Yeast in Rum Making.

In 1795 Sir John Dalrymple approached the West India Committee in connection with a process for "assisting the Business of distilling Rum and Manufacturing Beer in the West Indies," requesting that a Committee might be appointed to examine his discoveries, and on the 4th of April he informed them that he had

provided a room at No. 3 Three Cranes Wharf, Cheapside, for the purpose of illustrating experiments with his yeast powder. The results of these experiments appeared to be satisfactory, for at a Meeting of the West India Committee on May 3rd, 1795, it was resolved :

"That the discoveries and Experiments made by Sir John Dalrymple respecting the utility of Yeast in the distillation of Rum, in the making of Beer, and in the fermentation of Flour so as to produce a cheap and wholesome Bread, and other nutritious farinaceous food for the Negroes from Indian Corn, or other Grains, the produce of the Country, and also the mode of producing such Yeast in the Islands from Sugar, merit the approbation of this Committee, and that the agents of the several Islands may be requested to transmit Copies of this Resolution, with Sir John Dalrymple's Propositions on this subject to the Committee of Correspondence in the several Islands, to be laid before the several Houses of Assembly."

A communication was subsequently sent to Mr. Pitt, pointing out the value of the discovery. "We have reason to think," said the Committee, "that the use of the Yeast will be beneficial to our estates in sundry respects," and, laying stress on the importance of keeping secret the manufacture of Wort Cake and Yeast powder from other nations, stated that they considered that the only way to secure the exclusive advantages to Britain would be to give Sir John Dalrymple an Act of Parliament granting him the exclusive use of the privilege of manufacturing these for a certain number of years. No further entries occur in the minutes on the subject, save that at a meeting of the West India Committee on June 13th, 1795, it was resolved :

"That this Committee do recommend that Two Hundred Pounds be allowed to Sir John Dalrymple, for defraying the Expenses of such Persons as he may wish to send to the West India Islands, for the purpose of making Experiments for the discovery of Yeast Powder and Wort Cake."

So far as rum is concerned there has been practically no further development in the way of added ferment since the days of Sir John Dalrymple. It still remains to be seen what Science can do in this respect.

NATURE NOTES.

A BIG YIELD.—The variety of sugar-cane most valued in Paraguay, says Mr. Balz in the *South American Journal*, is the one called Tucumán, which gives a greater yield of sugar than any of the others grown there. It was cultivated for the first time at Lague. In 1901 the sugar cultivation covered an area of 26,035 acres, and 220,000 lbs. of cane is stated to be grown to the cuadra, or 10,000 square yards. This would represent over 100 tons to the acre !

TOBACCO IN CEYLON.—Tobacco is extensively grown in the Northern Province, and also in the Dumbara Valley of the Central Province and in the Trincomalee District. In the Jaffna District the area under tobacco is estimated at 7,000 acres. The plants are irrigated with water from wells of from 20 to 35 feet in depth by means of well sweeps worked by coolies, and so are largely independent of the rainfall. The crop of 1906 was heavier than usual, but the supply exceeded the demand, and there was consequently a general fall in price. The future of the cultivation depends to a great extent on the finding of new markets for export. At present practically the whole of that exported—in 1906, 4,400,000 lbs. of unmanufactured tobacco—is sent to Cochin and Travancore. Experiments in improved means of curing are being undertaken.

SUMATRA TOBACCO.—The most important portion of the tobacco crop of Sumatra is grown under shade. This is provided by erecting a temporary structure of bamboos, over which a light thatch of grass is placed. This shade, according to the *Indian Trade Journal*, was not quite suitable although it served well enough the purpose in view, namely, to make the leaves thin, elastic, and of good colour and grain, as it is too light to withstand the high winds which occasionally blow during the season. Towards the end of the season the shade crop became infested with a species of mildew, identified by Dr. Butler as *Erysiphe cichoracearum*, which was effectually checked by removing the shade. At the Rangpur experiment station, in addition to the local tobacco, seed from Maryland and Virginia for cigar purposes, and from Greece for cigarettes, is being experimented with.

HEVEA BRASILIENSIS.—Writing in the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale* on the subject of rubber, M. G. Vernet says that in a plantation of Heveas vegetation is not homogeneous, the fall of the leaves, flowering and fruiting, not taking place at the same time with different trees. This is an important point, as the yield of latex increases when the leaves commence to "yellow," and diminishes rapidly to practically nothing with the complete cessation of vegetation ; and this even with the best Heveas. It is, therefore, necessary to take this into consideration in selecting trees, so that the plantation may be as uniform as possible in this respect. The flowering takes place in general after the fall of the leaves ; the trees which blossom the last, and which consequently lose their leaves last, will be those which give a maximum yield for the longest period. This is verified by experience.

CARAVONICA COTTON.—In an article on "Empire Cotton Growing" in *John Bull Overseas*, Mr. John Bottomley, F.R.G.S., describes the Queensland Caravonica cotton. Each tree will bear from 300 bolls upwards, equivalent to 1½ lb. of clean lint. With 900 trees to the acre this means 1,200 lbs. per acre of clean lint. The trees, for it is a tree cotton, grow to the size of an orange tree in less than two years, but they begin to bear a small maiden crop when only six months old, when they are already 7 to 8 ft. high. The proportion of lint to seed has been steadily increasing every season. Four years ago it stood at 28%, and last year it had reached 49½%. Not only have the results been satisfactory in Queensland, but also in Ceylon, Fiji, and Port Darwin. Mr. Bottomley states that the British Cotton Growing Association is viewing with great favour the introduction of the tree cotton into India. An excellent illustration, showing the Caravonica cotton growing at Cairns, accompanies the article.

TRINIDAD TOBACCO.—Speaking of the excellent reputation which Trinidad tobacco had seventy years ago, Mr. Hart, in the Bulletin of the Trinidad Botanical Department, says that there is apparently no reason why it should not regain it once more. The experiments at St. Clair show, indeed, that a very fine class of tobacco can be produced, and samples of the present year have been manufactured into cigars of high quality. This leaf is produced from plants grown from seed from three of the finest strains of tobacco planted together with the view of obtaining natural cross fertilization. The kinds used were Virginian, Sumatra, and Vuelta Abajo or Havannah. As a result, Mr. Hart goes on to say, after careful selection, a tobacco with the vigour, vitality and hardiness of Virginian, carrying the flavour of the best Havannah and Sumatra strains, has been obtained. Sumatra or Havannah tobacco will not stand the Trinidad climate, but blended with the strongest Virginian, a class carrying the best qualities of each is stated to have been created.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

New method of cotton seed extraction.

The Acting British Consul at Savannah, Mr. A. Harkness, reports that he has received information from Atlanta, Georgia, to the effect that the State Chemist has completed a chemical demonstration in the analysis of cotton seed meal which it is thought will be of interest to dealers and farmers, as it bids fair to change greatly the present method of extracting oil from cotton seed. Instead of applying the usual tests of such experiments, viz., that of ether mixed with cotton seed meal, he applied carbon tetrachloride, which is a much less expensive chemical, and found upon analysis that the weight of the oil extracted by this process was greater than by ether and far less costly. This chemical has been the subject of tests also by the State Chemist of Mississippi, who is said to have had similarly successful results and who is a warm supporter of the theory that by its use more oil will be extracted from the seed. It is estimated that under the present system, at least 10 per cent. of the oil is left in the meal, and as this oil is useless as a fertiliser, most of it is lost. It is therefore obvious that if any considerable part of this can be saved the economic gain to the producers will be important on an average cotton crop of ten or eleven million bales.

A new manure.

Speaking of the manufacture of nitrates in the Lyons district, Mr. Consul Vicars states that the production of nitrates is to be revolutionised by the manufacture of cyanamide and nitric acid in an electric furnace. Cyanamide is obtained by the action of nitrogen upon carburet of calcium in the temperature of the electric furnace. This substance turns in the soil into salts of ammonia and can thus enter into competition with the sulphates of ammonia produced in gas and sewage works. A factory of cyanamide is being established in the district of the Tarentaise. The production of nitric acid in the electric furnace by the direct union of oxygen, nitrogen and steam is carried on in a Norwegian factory. The nitric acid, neutralised by lime, gives solid nitrate of lime, which may be advantageously used instead of nitrate of soda for agricultural purposes. When the fact is borne in mind that France alone imported 241,272 metric tons of nitrate of soda in 1906, it is clear that if only the net cost can be kept sufficiently low, this new industry has a great future before it. So far, only samples of cyanamide and nitrate of lime have reached France, but it is announced that important works are being organised in Germany and Italy for the production of cyanamide, and in Norway for nitrate of lime.

Lemons in South Italy.

Mr. Consul-General Neville-Rolfe in his report on the trade of South Italy for 1906 says that in a letter to Sir Daniel Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, Mr. Jones, the Curator of the Botanical Station at Dominica, raises the interesting question whether the world's supply of citric acid is all grown within areas dominated by active volcanoes as Sicily, parts of Italy, Montserrat and Dominica. "Is this," he asks, "merely a coincidence or is it the result of long

experience proving that such localities are best suited for the growth of lime and lemon trees?" With respect to this Consular district, or at all events to such parts of it as grow oranges and lemons, citrons and bergamotte in profusion, it must be said that they are all dominated by active volcanoes, Vesuvius and its region, Etna, Stromboli and Vulcano, commanding as it were the entire citric zone. It is, of course, obvious that the volcano must be situated in a latitude in which these delicate plants can thrive. We cannot expect lemons to grow on Hecla merely because it is a volcano, although no doubt the soil contains the elements of potash and phosphoric anhydride which form the soil best adapted to any fruit tree and therefore to any sort of lemon tree. It is a fact that the groves of Sorrento, Nocera and Mandanice prosper the better in the proportion that they find land richer in lapilli, which, as is known, are formed of hardened fragments of volcanic pumice stone. These facts are not sufficient to prove the case altogether, for many lemon groves near Messina and in Calabria, though dominated by Etna, Stromboli and Vulcano, are found on lands of granitic formation; and others in the same region and other regions of Sicily are in alluvial deposits with chalk or clay chalk of tertiary formation.

Sugar and rubber in the United States.

The British Commercial Agent in the United States, Mr. Seymour Bell, states that the value of rubber imported in 1906 was very large and there was also a good demand for scrap-rubber for re-manufacture. Over 10,000 tons of scrap were imported during the year. The value of rubber imported has increased from \$15,500,000 (£3,200,000) in 1896 to \$56,000,000 (£11,570,000) in 1906.

The amount of sugar imported into the United States in 1906 was 2,297,401 tons. The domestic crop amounted to 582,414 tons, making a total of 2,879,815 tons. Deducting the amount exported, 11,487 tons, the quantity available for consumption amounted to 2,868,328 tons. Over 80 per cent. of the sugar consumed in the country is made from the cane, the remainder being beet. The production of beet sugar in the United States in 1906 exceeded the production of cane sugar for the first time. The beet sugar production has increased 260 per cent. since 1900, while cane sugar has increased only 54 per cent. In 1906 domestic sugars formed 20.3 per cent. of the total consumption in the United States. The following are the sources of supply of sugar consumed in the United States in 1906:—

Country.	Quantity. Tons.	Country.	Quantity. Tons.
Cuba	1,202,185	West Indies (except Cuba)	72,989
United States	582,414	Belgium	29,403
Hawaii	380,566	Philippine Islands	11,734
Porto Rico	191,480	Austria-Hungary	2,872
Java	189,898	Mexico	1,423
Germany	135,014	Other countries	2,325
South America	77,512		
		Total	2,879,815

Agriculture in Dutch Guiana.

Mr. Consul Pigott reports that the cacao plantations in Surinam are still suffering severely from the "Kroloto" disease. Experiments having in view the stamping out of this disease are being carried out by the Government, but the results still remain doubtful, and even should they prove successful on the limited areas it is uncertain whether the experience could be applied with equally good results to all the cacao in the colony. The crop for the year amounted to 1,310 tons against 1,495 tons in 1905, 843 tons in 1904 and 3,526 tons in 1899. The rise in prices in 1906 somewhat improved the financial position of some of the plantations, but the general condition of the industry is very far from satisfactory and the prospects very far from encouraging. The cacao disease has made the planters turn their attention to other products, among others, the cultivation of bananas for export. In May, 1905, an agreement was entered into between the Colonial Government and the United Fruit Company of Boston, United States of America, by which the company agrees to buy all the fruit (of a certain standard) produced, under a subvention from the Colonial Government, on 3,000 hectares (7,410 acres), to be planted within three years from the date of the agreement. An arrangement has also been made between the Fruit Company and the Royal West Indian Mail Service of Amsterdam, by which the latter agree to run a fast service of steamers from Paramaribo direct to the United States for the transport of the fruit; four steamers are now being built for this service, two in the United Kingdom and two in the Netherlands. They will commence to run in March, 1908. Some 1,100 hectares (2,717 acres) have been planted and are, as a rule, doing satisfactorily, but the exceptionally heavy rains which have fallen lately have done some damage in places.

A considerable quantity of Parà rubber has been planted with every prospect of success, but it is too soon to make any definite statement on the subject. Rubber (*Hevea Guianensis*) has recently been discovered in the interior, but the trees appear to be few and far between, and the yield and quality is inferior to that of the *Hevea Brasiliensis*. The total sugar production was 12,635 tons (of 1,000 kilos.) first and second sugars, 180,066 gallons rum and 417,184 gallons molasses against 10,790 tons sugar,

174,451 gallons rum and 345,348 gallons molasses in the previous year. The cultivation of rice, which is almost entirely carried on by the small land holders, continues to increase but slowly; the crop for 1906 was estimated at 1,496 tons against 1,149, 875 and 442 tons in 1905, 1904 and 1903 respectively. 297 tons of balata were collected during the year against 244 and 260 tons in the two previous years. The high prices for this article have given new life to the industry, the area allotted for prospecting increased fourfold, and there was an increase of some 13 per cent. in the area taken up for exploitation. The concession dues for the first quarter of the years 1905-7 amounted to 12,000, 13,000 and 27,000 francs respectively.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *La Plata*, which left Barbados at 1 a.m. on August 28th, reached Southampton at 5 p.m. on Monday, September 9th, and the mails were delivered in London by first post the following morning. The Imperial Direct Line's R.M.S. *Port Antonio* from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, September 11th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Contested elections in Barbados.

Writing on August 25th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne reported that the Acting Governor called the Legislature together on the 20th, and on that day a Bill granting a subsidy to the Royal Mail Company of £3,500 per annum so long as Barbados remained the headquarters, was passed through all its stages unanimously. It was hoped, therefore, that the inconveniences under which they had been groaning of recent years would now disappear, and that during the next ten years, at all events, the steamers would be punctual and the service improved as promised. The contested elections to the House of Assembly took place on August 19th. In St. Michael's, Mr. H. L. Johnson and Mr. Medford were elected, the latter filling Mr. Stoker's vacancy. For the city of Bridgetown, a new candidate, Dr. Dixon, and Mr. Catford were elected, the former thereby ousting Mr. Wright, the old member. In St. Lucy's, Mr. Irving Skinner, a local proprietor, was elected to fill the vacancy of Mr. H. B. Skeete, called to the Council, beating Mr. Clyde Williams, a barrister. At the opening of the Legislature the Acting Governor, Mr. Knaggs, made an excellent speech, in which he was able to comment on the improved trade and prosperity of the island, an improvement which he did not hesitate to attribute to the stability which had prevailed of late years on account of the Brussels Convention. The speech was reported in the local papers. Those in the colony rejoiced to hear of the appointment of Lord Basil Blackwood as Colonial Secretary, and would accord him a hearty welcome. Owing to the uncertainty of the date of Sir H. M. Jackson's return to Trinidad, it seemed quite possible that Lord Basil might have to act as Governor of Barbados on his arrival. Unfortunately, there had been very little rain during the fortnight. On the 21st, some places got a nice shower of .50 to .80 parts, but it was not general, and more was anxiously looked for. Unless the showers were frequent, the hot suns of August very soon caked up the surface of the ground. Everything, however, continued to look well at present, and they were glad to see that beet had again got back to 10s. In a postscript, Mr. Alleyne expressed the satisfaction with which they saw in the telegrams of August 27th that the Colonial Office had informed the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. that the proposed intercolonial contract had been arranged with the colonies.

Satisfactory financial position of British Guiana.

Mr. J. C. McCowan stated in his letter of August 24th, that a meeting of the Planters' Association was to be held on the 26th, to discuss the question of incendiary fires in the cane fields. The matter had been brought up by Mr. Culpeper, who reported two instances, on the 15th and 18th, on two of the estates which he represents. Cases of this kind were rare in the colony, but there was the possibility of its becoming a "minor industry" as was the case in Barbados. A meeting of the Combined Court was held on the 16th, and particulars of it will be found in the local papers. The contract for the mail service was laid before the members and the terms accepted, with the amendment put forward by the Hon. A. P. Mackey that in the event of the Mail Company changing the port of transhipment from Barbados to Trinidad, the time allowed for British Guiana to reply to letters, viz., 60 hours, should be adhered to. The amendment was opposed by the Official Section of the Court, but was carried. The Governor stated that although the audit of the accounts had not been completed, he was in a position to inform the Court that the floating debt of the colony had been entirely extinguished, and for the first time in twenty-one years the colony had a balance in hand, and he paid a tribute to the administration of his predecessor, Sir Alexander Swettenham. The latter was the first Governor, he said, who had systematically tackled the floating debt, which amounted to \$572,528 when Sir Alexander came to the colony. News was received in Georgetown on August 16th that Inspector Calder, of the Local Force,

who was stationed at Morawhanna, had entered Venezuelan territory and made a seizure of a large quantity of balata which he had reason to suppose was the result of illicit bleeding on the British side of the frontier. The matter had been reported to Caracas and to the Governor of British Guiana. In the meantime, Inspector Calder had been recalled to Georgetown, and Sub-Inspector Hotchkiss sent up to relieve him. The weather had now set in dry, and good showers were needed in Demerara and Berbice. The reports from Essequibo about the weather were more favourable, moderate showers having fallen there up to the last few days.

Dry weather in Dominica.

The Hon. Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls wrote on August 24th that at a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 20th, they passed a vote for Dominica's contribution to the new mail subsidy, but the writer gave voice to strong objection to the clause in the contract authorising the Home Government to change the port of transhipment from Barbados to Trinidad, as such a change would practically kill the growing fruit trade between Dominica and London, and nullify all the efforts recently made to foster the trade. The Administrator promised to represent the matter strongly to the Colonial Office, and therefore Dr. Nicholls did not proceed with the proposal that a rider should be added to the resolution granting the money. In his letter of August 24th, Mr. E. A. Agar expressed satisfaction at the settlement of the mail contract, and the hope that it would work well. The proposals for the light railway from Layou to Bainville had now been forwarded to the Colonial Office for consideration. It was perhaps taking too sanguine a view, but it was possible that work might be begun early next year, in time to utilise the dry season. The weather for the past fortnight had been quite abnormally dry. It affected the lime crop but little and was certainly good for the young cacao now setting, but planters who had been setting out young plants were complaining a good deal of the lack of rain.

Satisfaction in Grenada over mail contract.

Writing on August 23rd, Mr. C. Falconer Anton reported that the Legislative Council met on the 15th, and passed a vote of £900, the amount to be contributed by Grenada under the new intercolonial mail contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and there was a special general meeting of the Agricultural Society on the 20th, to discuss the contract and also an extract from a despatch from the Secretary of State relative to the withdrawal of the Imperial grant-in-aid to the Department of Agriculture in Grenada. The following resolution was adopted in respect of the new mail contract:—

"That this Society desires to record its satisfaction with the terms of the new intercolonial mail contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, so far as it refers to Grenada."

Regarding the grant-in-aid to the Department of Agriculture, the meeting was almost unanimously of opinion that the existing arrangements should be continued, the local Government voting the necessary funds, but nothing was settled, the question being referred to a sub-committee of planters for an expression of their opinion. The question was brought forward by the President, who had given notice in the Legislative Council of his intention to move that the vote for this service should not exceed £500 when the next estimates were being settled. The Administrator, accompanied by the Superintendent of Works, went to Carriacou by the local steamer on the 23rd, presumably to inspect the jetty that was being erected at Hillsborough. A rifle club had been started, with the Hon. C. M. Browne, C.M.G., as President, the rules of which provided for lady members. The first meeting took place on the 20th. On the evening of the 23rd, the captain and officers of the cable steamer, *Henry Holmes*, gave a dance at York House (the Court House).

Seedling canes in Jamaica.

Writing on August 29th, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim said that they had been having some rain since last advices, and during the past four days there had been very heavy showers at Kingston. It was to be hoped that they were general, and that the drought was at last over. The writer feared very much that their exports for next year would suffer seriously from the long want of rain. A letter from a correspondent, dated August 24th, expressed the satisfaction with which it was learnt that the Sugar Convention would continue. A great many varieties of sugar cane (seedlings) had been tried in Jamaica, but so far none seemed to surpass the Mont Blanc and Bourbon or Otaheite in lands suitable to these varieties. The mistake was commonly made of attempting to grow a cane (Bourbon, for instance) in land that would only grow Mont Blanc. A great deal was claimed for the seedlings, but of course it must be borne in mind that if there had not been cane disease, there would not have been so many seedlings. The cane No. 95 which was said to be 50 per cent. better than the old canes, had been abundantly found not to be as good as Mont Blanc, and was very liable to disease. The seedling No. 208 seemed a useful cane, but not as good as the Otaheite. It might probably develop into a good cane later on. At present it seemed to be the best seedling produced.

It was very pleasing to find the price of rum being maintained at a rate so much higher than last year, notwithstanding the fact that the stock was 3,505 puncheons more than in 1906. The all-absorbing topic at the time of writing was the drought, which was the most serious experienced in the Worthy Park district since 1890. The average rainfall to date was usually 45 ins., but this year it had only reached 19 ins. The ratoon canes were not growing, but were not suffering; the plant canes, however, were suffering from the want of rain.

Cotton in St. Kitts.

The weather had been dry, and the cane crop wanted heavy soaking rains to make up leeway, when Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote on August 17th, but the showers which had fallen had just suited cotton, which was looking first rate all round. The writer had heard of attacks of caterpillars on one or two places, but they were being dealt with promptly. Last season's cotton crop closed up with 178,300 lbs. lint from 1,500 acres, which worked out at about 120 lbs. per acre. The highest yield was 241 lbs. per acre from 40 acres at Buckley's estate, but 212 lbs. per acre from 100 acres at Douglas and College estate was almost a better yield. The acreage for next season could not yet be accurately estimated, as planting was still going on, but it would certainly go over last year's figures.

Volunteering popular in St. Lucia.

Writing on August 24th, Mr. George S. Hudson said that they were having an exceptionally dry year so far, under 40 ins. of rain for eight months, but it had been well distributed, and only the drier districts were suffering. The promise of the cacao crop was much better than last year, and the heavy soil estates had already commenced main crop pickings, but the majority of estates would not pick much before November, and December would be the heaviest picking month. A very fertile cacao estate in the Micoud district had lately been rented for seven years at a rental increasing annually from £400 to £700 a year. This was almost the first transaction of this kind in St. Lucia, although common enough in Grenada and Trinidad. Mr. Sands, who recently visited St. Lucia to report on its suitability to Sea Island cotton, was of opinion that not more than 500 to 1,000 acres of St. Lucia land would grow this cultivation profitably without heavy manuring, and this opinion quite agreed with the results of previous experiments. Since the riots, volunteering had become very popular, and it was quite a usual afternoon performance to see sixty or seventy of the better class in Castries fall in for drill, and there was a mounted Castries corps of about thirty men. There was some hesitation among the planters in forming mounted corps, owing to the liability under the Volunteer Ordinance of being called away from their districts in time of civil disturbance. The long evaded Land Tax was being threatened again under a new name, viz., as an additional Property Tax. This would be the fifth new taxation within the past three years, and it was to be hoped that until the present memory and ill-feeling of the riots had subsided, nothing would be done in this way to disturb the civil peace again.

Montserrat wants more rain.

In his letter of August 13th, the Hon. Fred Driver said that on the 7th, the anniversary of the hurricane of 1899, services were held in all the churches in the island, which were well attended. The memory of the hurricane was very fresh in their minds, and it was unlikely that anyone who was in the island at the time would ever forget August 7th, 1899, and the anxious weeks which followed. There had been some nice showers lately, which had helped on the cotton planting, but they wanted some good heavy rain, as below the surface the ground was still dry. For the past two months there had been strong winds, which knocked young plants about severely. H.M.S. *Scylla* came in on the evening of the 9th and remained till the 12th. A team from the ship had a rifle match with a team from the local defence reserve, which the latter won rather easily.

The St. Vincent central cotton factory.

Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. wrote on August 26th that the weather for the month of August was delightful, and the cotton was showing up beautifully. His Excellency the Governor called at St. Vincent by the previous mail on his way to St. Lucia. Writing on August 26th, Mr. W. N. Sands said that he was expected to return some time in September, and stay for a few days. It had been mentioned some time ago that an effort was being made to take over the central cotton factory from the Government, but the scheme had fallen through. There was a strong local feeling that the Imperial Department of Agriculture should continue to run the factory, and that the profits made should be utilised in the upkeep of the local branch of the Department, in the event of the Government not being able to find the necessary funds. Sir Daniel Morris had now decided that the Department should continue the work for at least another season. In the meantime the views of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the matter would be ascertained. The *Sentry* of August 16th

contains a report of the Administrator's speech at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, on the improved state of the colony's affairs, especially in regard to the substantial increase in the value of their exports. The weather during the past fortnight had been favourable, and crop prospects continued to appear satisfactory.

The Trinidad floating dock opened.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on August 26th, said that the news of the arrangement regarding the Brussels Convention was good indeed, far better than had been expected. The rainfall during the fortnight had been above the normal and not so evenly distributed as was desirable—too heavy in some districts—but on the whole planters had no reason to complain of the weather, especially in Naparima, where both fall and distribution were reported satisfactory. Cane crop prospects continued good, and the same might be said of cacao. Deliveries of the latter during August, necessarily not heavy, had been up to expectation, and the quantity of local produce shipped to date exceeded the total quantity for the year ending December 31st last. Venezuelan cacao had been coming in freely, but the price asked had been beyond the views of the local market, and for the most part it had been forwarded on. Trinidad estates had been sold up to \$24, but the price subsequently became easier, notwithstanding a further rise in London, so it might be assumed that the extreme price was paid in order to fill contracts. The market was now quieter, and probably healthier from the absence of a disposition to do a forward speculative business. Ordinary might be quoted \$22.50 to \$22.75, and estates' \$23. The following is the usual return of bags shipped:—

		SHIPMENTS.				
		Trinidad.	Venezuela.	Trinidad.	Venezuela.	
Totals at last report		143,430	26,788	Aug. 14.—S.S. <i>Grenada</i>	1,070	553 New York.
Aug. 10.—S.S. <i>Oruro</i> ...	100	—	Canada.	„ 19.—S.S. <i>P. Fredh. Hendk.</i>	150	—
„ 10.—S.S. <i>Prins Mauritz</i>	1,350	177	Europe.	Total to date ...		147,669
„ 13.—S.S. <i>Trent</i> ...	821	—	„		28,018	
„ 14.—S.S. <i>Crotia</i> ...	748	500	„			

Manjak shipments, the writer was glad to report, were increasing, being 1650 tons against 851 last year. The Floating Dock was formally opened by the Acting Governor, Sir Gilbert Carter, on August 15th, and a full report of the proceedings appeared in the local papers of the following day. A return showing the amount of fruit purchased by the British West Indian Fruit Co., Ltd., had been issued. The quantity of stems of bananas purchased and shipped by the company for six months ending January 31st, 1907, was 9,126, and for six months ending July 31st, 1907, 20,568. This was not what was expected, but the industry had not been free from the obstacles and drawbacks inseparable from new ventures at the commencement. Still it was going forward, if slowly, and the returns were deemed satisfactory by those who had cultivated the fruit systematically, according to best known methods. Council Papers, which formerly were not available to the public until laid before the Council, were now published with the note, "To be laid before the Council at the first meeting of the Session," a very sensible and useful arrangement, especially in view of the length of the vacation between Sessions. Speech Day at the Queen's Royal College was held on August 16th, when the Principal, Mr. W. Burslem, was able to present a most satisfactory account of his stewardship. The results at the Cambridge Local examinations in December were excellent, and had never previously been equalled in the colony. Quite remarkable success had been achieved in geography, the principal credit for which was accorded by Mr. Burslem to the second master, Mr. Hancock. On August 20th, Mr. O. W. Barrett delivered before a full meeting of the Agricultural Society, the Governor in the chair, his preliminary report upon the more dangerous pests affecting the cacao industry. Since last mail there had been two more cases of yellow fever, both of which proved fatal. The returns to date showed a total of thirty-eight cases, of whom twenty had died and eighteen recovered. The two victims now reported were an Indian boy and a young man native of Madeira. At the moment of writing there were no cases under treatment or existing, so far as was known, but even presuming no others occurred, the colony could not be declared free of it until September 8th, when the incubation period would expire. Should their hopes in this respect be realised, the writer would communicate the fact through Reuter. The health authorities had instituted what was known as the mosquito brigade. It consisted of two dozen men whose duty it was to search for and destroy receptacles containing mosquito larvæ and all breeding places for mosquitos. The brigade was making house to house visits.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

West Indian Folk-lore.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I have read with the greatest interest the review of Jamaican song and story in your last issue, and the perusal of it brought to my mind an incident which occurred in British Guiana many years ago. A friend, keenly

interested in folk-lore, and I, were on a trip into the interior, and one evening our attention was attracted to a melodious and plaintive ditty which the negro boat captain was singing to his crew around the camp fire. The subject, as far as my memory serves me, was of a love-sick swain who murdered his rival and made a primitive instrument of music out of one of his bones. With this he serenaded his sweetheart, and came to a horrible end in consequence. My friend was in great delight, thinking that he had got hold of a really good thing, but was sorely disgusted when the man, in reply to questions as whether the song had not been handed down from his forebears, said, "No sah, I got it from de 'Family Herald'!"

Yours, &c.,
VIATOR.

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

"**Sunshine and Sport in Florida and the West Indies,**" by F. G. Aflalo, with 47 illustrations. London: T. Werner Laurie, 16s. nett. Our Jamaica friends are to be congratulated upon having attracted to their island so distinguished a sportsman as Mr. Aflalo. The author returned by way of the islands, many of which he briefly describes in his characteristically chatty style. His book is not confined to sport alone, but among records of fishing memories in the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indies, he has embodied notes on men and matters by the way, of cities and railroad travel, and of scenery, birds and trees. We are cordially pleased to note that though what he saw in Cuba was sufficient to convince him of the ultimate absorption of that island by America, a fortnight in Jamaica, during which he had many opportunities of conversation on the subject with leading officials, and with pen-keepers long resident in the country districts, satisfied him that British rule was as firmly established as ever, and that to whatever extent American capital might be and should be welcome in the development of its banana trade and other industries, American occupation was a chimera that need not be taken seriously. He adds that the unfortunate episode enacted by the late Governor and an American Admiral rested on a political basis little understood in this country. "Travel is the Englishman's best tonic," and Mr. Aflalo will by his book succeed not only in enthraling the fisherman as he sits at home in his armchair, by his account of tarpon fishing, but also induce many to partake of such a tonic. The book is well illustrated by 47 half tone illustrations, and should be on every sportsman's table.

The Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street. In noticing this publication in a former issue we were compelled through lack of space to hold over some features which will be of interest, more especially to our readers "learned in the law," they are as follows:—

STATUTE REVISION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.—M. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, writing with reference to this important work, says: "In Trinidad and Tobago the problem of codification presents more than the usual difficulties to which the preliminary work of revision and consolidation is always subject; this arises from the fact that the sources of law are Spanish as well as English: old laws of Spain and English Orders in Council, Letters Patent, Imperial Acts of Parliament, and the Colonial Ordinances themselves.* Trinidad and Tobago were acquired by conquest, confirmed as to Trinidad by the Treaty of Amiens, 1802, and as to Tobago by the Treaty of Paris of 1814. They were constituted one Colony by Royal Order in Council in 1888, pursuant to the Imperial Act 50 & 51 Vict. c. 44." After detailing the historic development of English law as it gradually displaced the old Spanish law Mr. Shephard states that by "Royal Instructions, April 25th, 1831, and his commission, the Governor was empowered to appoint a Council of Government, and full power was vested in him to make laws with the advice and consent of the Council for the order and peace and good government of the island. The Council came into existence in 1832 as the Legislative Council; the legislative power of the Governor in Council was not exclusive, but concurrent with and in some respects subordinate to, the direct legislative power of the Crown by Orders in Council and Letters Patent and the legislative power of the Imperial Parliament. The body of law which resulted from these concurrent legislative sources constituted the Statutory Law of Trinidad, and it is this law, commencing in 1832 with Orders in Council then existing, and ending December 31st, 1904, which has been the subject-matter of the recent Statutory Revision now under review."

"*The Revision of the Statute Law.*—The Statute Law Revision Ordinance, 1899 (Trinidad and Tobago), empowered the Governor to appoint Commissioners, not exceeding three in number, for the purpose of preparing a revised edition of the Statute Laws and of all Orders in Council in force in the Colony, with various powers, which are detailed in the Ordinance.† This Revision Ordinance further declared that the Revised Edition of the Laws and Orders in Council, upon the same being approved by the Governor-in-Council, should become the substantive Statute Book of the Colony. The Commissioners appointed by the Governor in 1899 to carry out this important and difficult work were the Hon. Nathaniel Nathan, Q.C., Attorney-General of the Colony; His Honour Thomas Baynes, Puisne Judge of the Colony, and the Hon. Vincent Browne, Q.C., Solicitor-General of the Colony. It does not appear on the face of the volumes who actually performed the work of revision. By resolution in due form pursuant to the Revision Ordinance the Legislative Council approved the revised edition on May 1st, 1905.

"*The Revised Edition.*—*The Laws of Trinidad and Tobago* is the title of the revised edition of the Statutes which came into force on May 1st, 1905. It consists of five volumes: the Ordinances are numbered consecutively throughout the whole edition. No dates or other particulars of the superseded Ordinances are given, but two other supplementary volumes are published, one entitled: *A Chronological Table of Ordinances from 1832 to 1904, showing those which have been repealed and the Place in the Revised Edition of those in Force.* This is followed in the same volume by 'An Index to the Revised Edition of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago.' The other supplementary volume is entitled: *Orders in Council, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations, &c., in Force on December 31st, 1905, Trinidad.* Printed at the Government Printing Office, Port of Spain, 1905." In concluding his review, Mr. Shephard says: "Time and experience will alone supply the real test of the value of this revision; whether it has varied in any way the legal effect of the statutes which have been superseded. Should the edition stand that test—and one can detect no evidence why it should not—then the Colony may be congratulated on the completion of a valuable and most beneficial labour in its behalf. But this revised edition should contain on its title-page the intrinsic evidence of its being published by authority and be made subject to a saving clause in favour of the original Ordinances in the event of any repugnancy being discovered."

* The article on "Real Property Law in Trinidad and Tobago," by H. Clarence Bourne, Esq., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, which appeared in the Society's Journal for December, 1897, indicates, in relation to real property, the difficulties of the mixed Spanish and English law.

† These are given in this Journal (New Series, No. 6, December, 1900), in the Review of Legislation (Trinidad and Tobago) for 1899.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

BANK RATE.—Bank Rate $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (changed from 4 per cent. on Thursday, August 15th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) $82\frac{1}{4}$.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.—The value of the cotton exports from Alexandria, has increased from £11,819,929 in 1901, to £20,489,051 in 1906. Great Britain took about half of the cotton exported.

POCKET GUIDE.—We hope that our readers will recommend any of their friends who may be visiting the West Indies during the coming tourist season to provide themselves with the "Pocket Guide to the West Indies."

OUR VISITORS.—Among the callers from over-seas at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been Mr. W. Morris Fletcher, Mr. D. M. Simpson, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. A. Wakefield, Mr. W. G. Kay, Mr. Edward Chambers, and Mr. L. Mallet Paret.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We have received from Mrs. Rippon, on behalf of Mrs. E. S. Cameron, a contribution of £1 10s. towards the Jamaica Women's Self-Help Fund. This fund has already been closed, but we are forwarding the amount to Mrs. Bourne, in Jamaica, to be handed over to the Society.

THE VALUE OF EXHIBITIONS.—As showing the value of exhibitions it is noteworthy that the Austrian Board of Trade has been able to record a substantial increase in trade with Great Britain as the result of the Austrian Exhibition at Earls Court in 1906. Bread is not cast upon the waters by such exhibitions in vain. Thus, Mr. Cox has, we understand, been able to record a marked increase in the demand for his excellent Jamaica tea since the Colonial Exhibition of 1905, at which, too, the trade in fresh limes between Dominica and the mother country was first started in earnest.

GOOD AGAIN.—The *Derby Express* states that Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., of the Masson and Atlas Works in that town, have recently completed an important order for machinery intended for use in the manufacture of sugar from sugar-cane in Australasia. Some idea may be obtained of the size of the apparatus from the fact that owing to the proportions of some of the parts, the Midland Railway Company were unable to convey it to the shipping port (Liverpool) while their ordinary traffic was running, and consequently had to make special arrangements for their transit on a Sunday.

WEST INDIAN COTTON.—The estimated value of cotton lint exported from the various West Indian islands for the nine months from October 1st, 1906, to June 30th, 1907, according to the *Agricultural News*, is as follows: December quarter, 1906, £12,024; March quarter, 1907, £86,145; June quarter, 1907, £68,831; total £167,000. If the value of the seed is also taken into consideration, the total value of the lint and seed would probably amount to £200,000. It is not improbable that next year (1907-8) the total value of the cotton lint and seed exported from these colonies will exceed a quarter of a million sterling.

"DREADNOUGHT."—When the officers of H.M.S. *Dreadnought* paid a visit to Waterloo estate in Trinidad early in the year, they were much impressed with the 8 roller mill erected there by Messrs. John McNeil & Co. They declared that the installation was another *Dreadnought*, and by this name the mill is now called. The remaining three rolls are now being added, and the plant will be one of the largest installations of its kind in the West Indies. The rollers are 36 ins. diameter, 72 ins. long, the total weight is 700 tons, and its capacity 1,200 tons of canes per day. Who shall say that the West Indies are backward in sugar machinery?

LONDON PURPLE.—London purple is a well-known insecticide containing arsenic, and is a by-product in aniline dye manufacture, and can be used as a substitute for Paris green: 100 lbs. of the latter, says the *Agricultural News*, should contain some 56 to 60 lbs. of arsenic compounds, equivalent to 42 to 45 lbs. of pure arsenic; but 100 lbs. of London purple of equal grade would contain only about 42 to 44 lbs. of arsenic compounds, equal to 27 to 35 lbs. of pure arsenic. On this basis, with Paris green obtainable at 30 c. per lb. it should be possible to buy London purple at from 21 c. to 22 c. per lb., as at this price the same amount would be paid per pound of arsenic present.

DOMINICA LIMES.—The *Maritime Merchant*, in speaking of the lime trade of Dominica, says that by far the larger proportion of the island's output goes to New York. An effort is being made to tap the Continental markets, and the Canadians are just beginning to make enquiries about limes. With the possibility of these, and the certainty of the development of the English and American trades, there is an extremely promising outlook for the lime planters of Dominica if business-like methods are employed. If the exporters of limes from Dominica always ship good selected fruit in suitable and attractive packages, they can work up a trade that ought to rank high among the exports of the West Indies.

WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.—The West Indian Club opened the season with a well-attended dinner on Wednesday, September 11th, at the Club Rooms, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand. Mr. Lionel de Mercado was in the chair, and amongst those present were:—Mr. Allbrecht, Mr. H. Bailey, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. J. F. Braham, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Mr. E. Church, Hon. W. L. C. Dyett, Mr. R. G. de Gale, Mr. W. de Gale, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Dr. J. C. Hogan, Mr. A. Holland, Mr. Josephs, Mr. G. Kelland, Mr. C. G. C. Kerr, Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. J. P. G. Munro, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. L. W. Sampson, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. David Slinger, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. J. R. Smith, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Dr. J. C. P. Widdup, and Mr. D. A. Wiles.

A NEW MILL.—A new method of milling cane has, according to the *Louisiana Planter*, been invented by Mr. John W. Hyatt. The idea is to subject sugar-cane to pressure in a mill made out of a single roller of large diameter, underneath which will be four smaller rollers of about one-third the diameter of the large roller, and these small rollers, instead of acting directly on the surface of the large roller, are covered with a close-fitting steel chain, or chain belt. The cane enters the mill at a widely open angle, and the steel chain acts as a guide or turn-plate, carrying the megass forward from roller to roller, and at the same time as a somewhat open screen through which the juice may be discharged freely into the juice pan below. Mr. Hyatt holds that the ease with which the juice can be discharged from the crushed cane is the foundation of his invention. He claims that a mill roll 12-inch long on his system will handle as much as a 7-foot mill on the old system, and do equally as good work. He holds that with 150 tons pressure on a roll 12-inch long he can get results equal to a pressure of 300 or 400 tons on an ordinary roll of 6 or 7 feet long. The inventor claims that he got 78 per cent. extraction from Cuban cane and 84 per cent. from Louisiana cane, which contains less fibre and a relatively larger juice content.

GLASGOW AGAIN.—The duty on all foreign machinery entering Porto Rico amounts to 45%, and it would be thought this duty would effectually exclude sugar machinery other than that coming from the United States. Notwithstanding this, however, a contract for a complete factory to deal with 300 tons of cane per day has been placed with Messrs. Mirrlees Watson & Co., Ltd., of Glasgow, and affords satisfactory evidence of the high estimation in which British sugar machinery is now being held. The plant consists of a 6-roller 26" by 54" mill driven by one engine, provision being made for the addition of another set of mills and a Krajewski crusher at a subsequent date. The steam raising plant consists of four multitubular boilers with green megass furnaces arranged for natural draught, and iron chimneys made sufficiently large to permit of the plant being increased in capacity at an early date. The juice leaving the mills passes through juice heaters to clarifiers, from the clarifiers to the defecators, and from the defecators to the evaporators. Concentration will be carried out by a triple effet containing 4,000 to 5,000 square ft. heating surface, and a vacuum pan to strike five tons dry sugar with provision for a second in the near future. Three 30" water-driven centrifugals will be provided with molasses pumps, conveyors and elevators. Filter presses, cooling tower, and injection pumps will be also supplied.

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., Sept. 3.—Trades Union Congress met at Bath.—Serious strike riots at Antwerp.—Beet, 10s. 1½d., steady.
- Wed., Sept. 4.—Edward Grieg, the famous composer, died suddenly at Bergen.—Serious fire in Antwerp as the result of the strike riots.—Beet, 10s. 3d., firm.
- Thur., Sept. 5.—M. Isvolsky, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, visits the King at Marienbad.—Lord Winterton died suddenly.—Beet, 10s. 2½d., firm.
- Fri., Sept. 6.—West Down election; Lord Arthur Hill (U.), 3,702 votes, Mr. Andrew Beattie (L.), 2,918; majority, 784.—Beet, 10s. 2½d., steady.
- Sat., Sept. 7.—The King arrived in London from Marienbad.—*Lusitania* left Liverpool on her maiden voyage.—Beet (morning call) 10s. 2½d., steady.
- Mon., Sept. 9.—Mr. Edgar Lubbock, Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, died at Kensington.—Beet, 10s. ¾d., steady.
- Tues., Sept. 10.—British military airship made two successful trips at Farnborough.—Proclamation in the *London Gazette* that the colony of New Zealand should be called the Dominion of New Zealand.—Beet, 10s., steadier.
- Wed., Sept. 11.—The St. Leger won by Woolwinder.—Sharp fighting at Casa Blanca, the village of Teddert being destroyed by the French troops.—Seditious rioting in Calcutta.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., quiet.
- Thur., Sept. 12.—Political crisis at the Cape.—Beet, 9s. 11d., dull.

- Fri., Sept. 13.—Death of Lord Aldenham.—Arrival of the *Lusitania* at New York after a voyage of 5 days 54 minutes.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., steady.
- Sat., Sept. 14.—Report of Postmaster-General published for last year.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 10½d., flat.
- Sun., Sept. 15.—Meeting held of railway workers. The question of strike to be decided by ballot.
- Mon., Sept. 16.—Conference of Institute of Journalists opens at Scarborough.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., 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.

- Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures. (Further particulars will be given later).
- Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

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.

H. W. E.—Referring to our reply to you regarding the *Coccoloba Uvifera*, Mr. Lionel Sandars, Judge of the International Court of Appeal, Egypt, who is an eminent botanist, writes: "Our local name is, I think, better than any given by you—'The Elephant's Ear'—'Widn Feel' (Arabic). Anyone who knows the leaves would recognise the reference to the elephant at once, though, of course, the leaves are not so large as the *Coccoloba pubescens*. I find that there is no tree that attracts the green fly so much, and consequently I always say that they should not be planted near roses. For two years my roses have been a failure owing to the proximity of the *Coccoloba Uvifera* and the green flies that are attracted to the young fresh leaves, which by the way are red, and only turn green when some weeks old. They say that the wood takes a good polish, and that the fruit is an astringent."

Distiller.—The charge against the distiller under the home regulation in respect to the wash attenuation is one gallon of proof spirit for every five degrees of attenuation. The return of spirit should exceed this in this country, as the actual amount of spirit produced by fermentation is greater than this. In the tropics, where, owing to the temperature, there is greater loss of alcohol, and where molasses of varying qualities is used, this is not in all instances obtainable, except with a continuous still. With molasses from which a considerable quantity of matter is thrown out of solution during fermentation, the attenuation figures show higher than they would do were the reduction in density due to the spirit only, and some allowance should be made for this. Experiments on pure sugar solutions show that 1.14 per cent. of proof spirit is produced per degree of attenuation.

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. WALSH WRIGHTSON, C.M.G., Director of Public Works, has retired from the public service on pension. He was appointed a District Engineer in the Public Works Department of Ceylon in 1875, and became a Provincial Engineer of that Colony in 1894. In the following year he was transferred to Trinidad to take charge of the Public Works Department there, and has since been a member of the Executive Council and Resident Engineer of the Harbour, Water, and Sewerage Works. Pending the appointment of a successor to **MR. WRIGHTSON**, the duties of Director of Public Works, Trinidad, have devolved upon **MR. PERCIVAL STEVENS**, the Assistant Director, and **MR. F. DE LABASTIDE**, the Junior Divisional Engineer, is acting as Assistant Director of Public Works. **MR. F. W. GRIFFITH**, who has been acting as Chief of Police and Excise and Superintendent of the Prison, St. Vincent, has been confirmed in that office. **MR. F. BASANTA** has assumed the duties of Assistant Harbour Master of Trinidad. **MR. F. E. SCOTT** is carrying on the duties of Consul for Italy, pending the appointment of a Consul in Trinidad, and **MR. ELLIS GRELL** is acting as Consul for Spain, pending the receipt of His Majesty's *Exequatur*. **DR. J. A. DE WOLF**, Surgeon-General, Trinidad, has retired from the service, and was to leave for the United States on August 28th. **DR. CLARE**, his successor, was expected to arrive in the colony on September 8th. **MR. A. A. MCKINNON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from September 1st. **MAJOR CECIL MAY**, British Guiana Police, has returned to the colony from leave of absence and resumed the duties of his office. During **SIR DANIEL MORRIS**'s absence in Canada and the United States, **PROFESSOR J. P. D'ALBUQUERQUE, M.A., F.I.C., F.C.S.**, is signing on behalf of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture and attending to matters of business in connection with the Department.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) September 11th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." September 14th. "Heavy rains generally throughout the

island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), September 2nd. "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), September 2nd. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain wanted." September 9th. "Weather dry and rain wanted." (The New Colonial Company, Ltd.), September 9th. "Weather is dry." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended September 4th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "29th to 2nd, fine; 3rd, rain; 4th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "29th to 2nd, fine; 3rd, rain; 4th, showers."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), September 9th:—Mr. B. T. Hall, Mr. W. Moores, Mrs. G. F. Milne, Mr. A. A. Jauregui, Dr. José Cecilio de Castro, Mr. Ramon Castro Cardenas, Dr. and Mrs. José R. Revenga, two Misses Revenga, Mr. Manuel Revenga, Master Revenga, Miss Revenga, Mr. Rafael B. Ponce, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bentancourt, Mrs. and Master Lange, Mr. and Mrs. Burt, Mr. Thos. Robertson, Master S. D. Wood, Mrs. Collier and two children, Mr. W. Inglis, Mr. W. Austin Bonyun, Mrs. A. P. Maingot, Mr. Adolf Schoch, Mrs. Thomas Boyd and four children, Mrs. S. J. Kirton, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mr. F. Ornellas, Mr. V. L. Bryant, Mr. A. F. Clarke, Mr. T. C. Porter, Mr. L. J. Riley, Mr. Arthur Body, Mr. J. H. Jordan, Hon. and Mrs. Mark Kerr, Mr. L. Taboner, Mr. J. Parpenilla, Mr. H. Morrison, Mr. A. Christopher, Mrs. Radcliffe and two children, Sergt.-Major and Mrs. Gray, Mr. Clement S. Wills, Mr. A. G. D'Aguiar, Mr. E. L. Wickham, Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Creed, Mr. J. Klein, Mrs. Rodriguez and child, Miss A. Fernandez, Mr. E. Seidler, Mr. W. E. Richardson, Mr. W. H. Moresby, Mr. M. Johns, and Mr. J. A. Hodges.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), September 18th:—Mr. and Mrs. William Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Garnett, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Berkeley, Mrs. Wm. Douglas, Mrs. H. A. Dalton, Mr. W. P. Deacon, Mr. Herbert Griffin, Mrs. E. Anstruther, Miss Furlong, Mr. F. A. Layne, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Woodman, Mr. and Mrs. Chase, Miss Chase, Mr. John W. Gillespie, Mr. T. Johns, Mr. J. Thompson, Mr. C. Albrecht, Mr. R. Gorner, Capt. F. N. Billham, Mr. Vorkham, Miss D. Alleyne, Mr. Henry Edwards, Mr. F. C. Ebbels, Mr. A. Pearce, Mr. A. H. Meyer, Mr. Max Meyranck, Mr. and Mrs. R. Richards, Miss Lucy King, Mr. Geo. King, two Misses Duncan, Mr. Davson, Mr. and Mrs. Shields, Miss Hull, Mrs. E. Pearce, Mr. P. Mathey, Mr. V. Mango, Rev. Parker Sander, Rev. John Gordon, and Mr. Basach.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. Mason), October 2nd:—Mr. and Mrs. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee, Miss Marian Heathcote, Mrs. J. Jones, Mr. Ernest Bidy, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. L. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lisle, Mr. R. G. Degale, Mr. A. Wallmer, Mrs. E. de Eraso, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kinnaird, Mr. and Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Fred May, Mr. J. Baeza, Rev. Wm. Spring, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. Carl Nicholson, Mr. James Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smellie, Mrs. Wenzel, Miss L. Cornejo, Mr. Thomas Scott, Lady Rayner, Miss Eaton, Mrs. G. C. Ashton, Hon. and Mrs. Carl de Verteuil, Mr. Fred Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Brown, Mr. Guy Wyatt, Mr. Cecil Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Rubiano, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Urich, Mr. and Mrs. Audsley, Miss Dowson, Mr. Jose Carraciola, Mr. Justice Swan, Mr. J. N. Crawford, Mrs. Swan, Mr. E. Lovelich, Mrs. C. J. Greenridge, Mrs. J. Williams, Miss Edith Roberts, Mrs. N. A. Bereton, Mr. F. W. Bolton, Mr. Ernest W. English, Mr. P. Fellier, Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, Mrs. and Misses Alouzo, Mr. Felix Alouzo, Mr. Manuel Alouzo, Col. J. A. Matos, Mr. and Mrs. Galindo, Mr. Hastings Cruise, and Mr. L. Varges.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Antonio* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Sept. 11th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Bolt, Miss Sarah Clarke, Mr. John Cameron, Mr. C. Reid Campbell, Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Ellis, the two Misses Ellis, Lt. Edwards, Mr. R. C. Fairbairn, Mr. E. Fawcus, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Grant and two children, Mr. Hibbert, Mr. Frank Jackson, Master G. Kelly-Lawson, Lt. Leader, Mr. Morton, the two Misses Mowl, Mr. E. L. Mayer, Mr. and Mrs. French Sharp and Child, Miss Smith, Mr. Thompson, Mr. C. E. L. Tottenham, Mr. Waterall, Mr. Colvill, Mr. S. M. McKillop, Mr. S. Najib Solomon.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), Sept. 7th:—**Jamaica**: Dr. A. G. Auld, Mrs. Anderson, Hon. and Mrs. J. H. Allwood, Dr. E. Bronstorff, Dr. and Mrs. J. Hawtrey Benson, Mr. W. Butler, Mrs. Bevan, Mr. C. H. Beard, Lieut. J. C. Buchanan, Mrs. H. H. Cousins, the three Misses Cousins, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Farquharson, Mr. Carl Fabel, Mr. and Mrs. Farah, Mrs. C. Jerrom and two children, Mr. W. Jones, Mr. O. Fountaine, Mr. W. L. Lundie, Mrs. L. F. Lopez, Mrs. and Miss Lockett, Mr. T. M. Martin, Mr. Alfred Mortimer, Mr. S. J. Nunes, Miss C. Osborne, Mr. J. G. Peet, Miss Parkinson, Mrs. and Miss De Pass, Mrs. and the two Misses Pinnock, Mr. T. F. Sinclair, Inspector Webster-Wedderburn, Mr. A. Young, Mr. F. Butler, Mr. H. Duncan, Mr. Colin Dempster, Mr. L. W. Huddle, Colonel C. H. Lindsay, S.A., Mr. K. Pleschutzing. **Bermuda**: Captain J. D. M. Beckett, Dr. and Mrs. Walton Browne, Miss Blackburn, Gunner W. G. Ford, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Heyl, Miss M. A. Hodgson, Miss J. H. Leon, Miss Lee, Miss G. Pinnock, Captain H. Savage, Miss Sitwell, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Wodehouse, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Wilkinson.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Sept. 18—	West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>	Sept. 17, mdn't.
" 19—	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	<i>Laupar</i>	" 18, 6 p.m.
" 20—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Dee</i>	" 20, noon.
" 21—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Henderson</i>	" 20, 6 p.m.
" 21—	Barbados (for Demerara and West India Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	<i>Orator</i>	" 20, 6 p.m.
Oct. 2—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>	Oct. 1, mdn't.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Sept. 23—	The West Indies	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	Tagus
.. 25—	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 Aug. 22	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Aug. 30	1907 1906	April 1 to Aug. 18.	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Aug. 24	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to Aug. 26.	1906/7 1905/6
Sugar	30,146 44,824 Tns.	46,521 50,352 Tons.	8,321 7,903 Tons.	386,948 502,078 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Molasses	61,287 59,267 Pns.	372 2,910 Puns.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rum	...	9,604 11,503 Puns.	914,423 884,361 Galls.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	...	4,632 5,513 Tons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cacao	...	47,887 3,300 lbs.	28,770 34,582 Cwts.	25,206,580 20,954,370 lbs.	59,217 53,692 Bags.	...	...	...	...	...
Coffee	15,369 13,839 "	3,520 16,640 "	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	...	162,481 50,588	5,785,443 2,391,845	6,696,432 7,601,305	...	...	...	...	...	...
Copra	14,472 12,002 Bags.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton	3,200 15,165 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	934 1,015 Bales	...
" Seed	4,742 5,692 Bags	...
Asphalt
Oranges	704,482 6,971,759	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bananas	7,437,031 7,240,869 Stems.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pimento	19,479 26,571 Cwts.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	...	40,928 54,300 OZS.	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,117 4,738 Brls.	...
Diamonds	...	1,049 1,187 carats	...	...	...	...	...	...	635 540 1/2 Brls.	...
Rice	...	4,156,617 754,439 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	780 471 Cans.	...
									87 120 Bags	

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per gallon. Distilled oil, steady, 3s. 1d. per gallon. Hand pressed, steady, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. per gallon. Concentrated, easier, £24 5s.

PIMENTO.—Firmly held; 290 bags offered last week, but only 10 bags sold at 3 1/4d. **NUTMEGS.**—The record quantity of about 1,000 packages of West India was offered at auction last week, nearly all sold at easier rates; the large sizes were however about steady. The decline for 100's to 110's was 1/4d., while for small shrivelled defective and broken it was 1d. per lb. The business done comprised the following: 63/64's at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., 67/70's at 9d. to 9 1/2d., 73/74's at 7 1/2d. to 9d., 78/86's at 7d. to 8d., 87/91's at 5 1/2d. to 6 1/2d., 92/98's at 5d. to 6d., 100/111's at 4 1/2d. to 5 1/2d., 112/117's at 4 1/2d. to 4 3/4d., 118/124's at 4d. to 4 1/2d., 125/142's at 3 1/2d. to 4 1/2d., 146/157's at 3 1/2d. to 3 3/4d. **MACE.**—The large quantity of 212 packages was offered at auction last week, and 205 sold at a general decline of 1d. Fair to good pale at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d., fair pale and reddish at 1s. to 1s. 1d. **COPRA.**—The market is steadier. **GINGER.**—In slow demand. No public sales have taken place in the fortnight. **COPRA.**—The market is steadier. Value about £22 for fair merchantable West Indian.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—The arrivals have been very light, but the satisfactory condition of the market was clearly shown at the two auctions held during the past fortnight, both of which were well attended, competition keen, and prices generally had a higher tone; stocks are moderate and prospects are encouraging. **HONDURAS:** The wood recently offered was in excellent demand and all sold readily, prices generally being rather higher. **ST. DOMINGO:** There is not much demand for small wood, but sizeable or figury logs would sell well. **JAMAICA:** Sizeable or figury logs would find ready buyers. **GRENADA:** Logs of good sizes and fair lengths would sell well. **CUBA:** The wood brought to auction was in active demand and realised very good prices; the market remains in a satisfactory position. **Cedar.**—CUBA, HONDURAS, and MEXICAN: The demand for cigar-box wood continues dull, although stocks are not at all heavy, but good boat-building logs are still in active demand. **COSTA RICA, TRINIDAD, VENEZUELA, &c.:** The demand remains quiet and in the absence of sales there is no change to report. **PENCIL CEDAR:** Sizeable, sound, clean-grown logs are wanted and would bring good prices, but small and inferior wood should not be shipped. **Logwood** is unchanged in value but the tendency is to easier rates and the same applies to Fustic; quotations remain nominally for Logwood to arrive, £4, c.i.f. terms for ordinary quality, and for Fustic, £4 10s. Buyers show no inclination to make offers, and business is at a standstill.

RUBBER.—The market during the early part of the month was dull and only a small business was done at about steady prices, but closed dull, with sellers in most positions. Business in Para includes Oct./Nov. at 4s. 6 1/2d., and November/December at 4s. 6 1/2d., and Dec./Jan. at 4s. 6d. Soft fine scarce with small sales on the spot 4s. 6 1/2d., but Sept./Oct. offered at 4s. 5 1/2d. per lb. Negroheads: scrappy, scarce, value, 3s. 10d. Islands: small sales of spot at 2s. 7 1/2d., and afloat, at 2s. 7 1/2d. Cametas, sellers at 2s. 9 1/2d. per lb. Fine hard Para on the spot is quoted at 4s. 6 1/2d., value for Nov./Dec. delivery, 4s. 5 1/2d. buyers, and Dec./Jan., 4s. 5 1/2d. Soft fine on the spot quoted 4s. 5 1/2d. The market last week was very quiet, and only small sales passed at slightly easier prices, but it was firmer at the close, with few sellers. The sales include fine hard on the spot at 4s. 6 1/2d., and Oct./Nov. at 4s. 5 1/2d., with further buyers at that price, and also at 4s. 5 1/2d. for Dec./Jan. Soft fine has been done afloat at 4s. 5 1/2d. per lb., 4s. 5 1/2d. being the value for spot. Negroheads: scrappy, scarce on the spot, the value being 3s. 10d. Islands; 2s. 9d. value, and Cametas small sales afloat at 2s. 8 1/2d., spot value 2s. 9d. per lb. last Friday.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY—continued.

SUGAR.—The sugar Market, which during the first half of the fortnight was firm at an advance of about 2½d. for old crop and 3d. to 3½d. for new crop, as compared with values advised last mail, veered round completely on realisations and speculators consequent upon the reports of fine weather having set in on the Continent, and a reaction in prices took place of about 4½d. in all positions from the highest point. The lowest level was reached on Saturday last, when the opening quotations were: September, 9s. 10½d.; October/December, 9s. 9½d.; January/March, 9s. 11½d.; and May, 10s. 1½d. Since then a steadier feeling has prevailed, and values have improved to the extent of ½d. to 1d. for old crop, but new crop quotations show no change. The quotations yesterday morning were: September, 9s. 11½d.; October/December, 9s. 10d.; January/March, 9s. 11½d.; and May, 10s. 1½d.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	1,152,200	1,470,000	1,020,000	1,390,000	1,700,000	Tons.
United States	261,000	240,000	190,000	150,000	200,000	"
Cuba and cargoes afloat	262,700	150,000	460,000	300,000	310,000	"
Total	1,675,900	1,860,000	1,670,000	1,840,000	2,210,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet, Sept. 16th:—	9s. 11½d.	9s. 9½d.	8s. 5½d.	10s. 8½d.	8s. 5½d.	

Grocery West Indian.—In the early part of the fortnight crystallised was in active demand, and the moderate quantity at auction was disposed of at an advance of 3d. to 6d. per cwt. The business done comprised sales of Trinidad at 18s. to 18s. 6d.; St. Lucia, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; Surinam, 17s. 6d. to 18s. 9d. (one lot at 19s.) At subsequent auctions the small quantity of Trinidad met a slow demand, and all was bought in; but some part was sold afterwards at 18s., being about previous values. Last Friday there was good competition for some 1,700 bags, Surinam, and nearly the whole was sold at full rates (17s. 6d. to 19s.). **Muscovado.**—The demand has been quiet, and only a small business has taken place, about 200 bags low brown St. Lucia sold at 11s. 6d., and 600 bags good yellow Jamaica at 14s. 6d., and some barrels of St. Lucia sold at 12s. 6d. **Molasses Sugar.**—Trinidad syrups early in the month at 11s. 6d. to 12s., and St. Lucia syrups in small quantity at 12s. 6d. At later auctions the offerings were neglected and all were withdrawn, but last Friday, Surinam syrups were partly sold at 13s. to 14s.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	27,764	46,000	32,000	35,000	20,000	Tons.
Deliveries	27,043	35,000	29,000	36,100	31,000	"
Stocks (Sept. 7)	10,315	19,000	12,000	12,000	17,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised:	18s. 0d.	16s. 6d.	17s. 0d.	18s. 0d.	16s. 0d.	

RUM.—Stocks in London, Sept. 7th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	10,184	9200	10,000	11,500	11,800	Puns.
Demerara	6201	5300	5600	8800	7200	"
Total of all kinds	24,364	20,800	23,900	28,000	29,400	"

The Market has been steady in tone but the volume of business has been small. Pending the receipt of full particulars of a recently landed shipment of 700 puns, December buyers have adopted a waiting attitude. Quotations are without change, Demerara being 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2½d. proof, and Jamaicas, 2s. 7d. for common, to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and for good to fine export qualities, 3s. to 8s. Jamaicas have been quite steady, especially for home trade kinds.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Sept. 7th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	7828	12,300	24,500	29,600	19,100	Bags.
Grenada	3374	7700	16,300	16,200	11,600	"
Total of all kinds	45,101	64,800	91,500	99,300	71,700	"

At the commencement of the month the moderate quantity offered at auction met with keen competition, and the bulk was sold at a further advance of 1s. to 4s.; the common and medium kinds showing the greatest advance. Trinidad met a ready sale at 1s. improvement, and the few Grenadas offered were disposed of at extreme rates. Last week the market continued strong, and the small offerings at auction met a brisk demand and a further advance was established of 2s. to 4s. Trinidad was very firm, but importers' limits checked business. Grenada was in strong demand and the small supply was all sold at mostly 3s., and in some instances 4s. advance. Sales during the fortnight have been made at from 8½s. 6d. to 112s. for Trinidad; at from 106s. to 114s. for Grenada; at from 106s. 6d. to 110s. for Dominica; at from 106s. to 109s. 6d. for Jamaica; and 104s. to 112s. for Demerara. On the spot 117s. has been paid for Grenada quite recently.

COFFEE.—Santos, September delivery 30s. 7½d., firm. The market early in the month showed practically no alteration in prices, and offerings were of a moderate character: ordinary and medium kinds realised about previous prices, but a few fine blue lots sold at improved rates. For the past week the market was without appreciable change, with the exception of a few lots of fine colour which went off at higher values. The public sales included 36 barrels 7 bags Jamaica, which sold at steady prices, viz.: brownish colour at 40s. 6d., medium to bold at 48s. to 53s., bold blue at 63s. 6d., and peaberry at 50s. to 63s. 6d.

COTTON.—Imports for week ended September 13th, 96 bales West Indian. The demand for Sea Island cotton has been extremely limited since our last report. Spinners are disinclined to operate, pending the opening of the Charleston and Savannah markets for the American Sea Island Crop, which will guide them as to the future course of prices. Choice Georgias have been offered in Liverpool at 17d. per lb., this being about 5d. per lb. below the extreme prices asked during the season. Therefore declining markets for all Sea Island growths may be expected for the present. The quotations of West Indian Sea Island cotton are reduced 1d. per lb. Sales include Barbados 22d., St. Croix 17d. to 18d., Nevis 17½d. and a few stains.

ARROWROOT.—Quiet. At auction early in the fortnight 164 barrels and 4 half-barrels St. Vincent were offered, and only the 4 half-barrels good sold at 4d. Privately, a few barrels Owia sold at 2½d. Last week 3 barrels St. Vincent sold without reserve at 2½d. Three cases Natal at 2½d.

Statistics for first eight months of the last two years:—

Stocks	1907.	1906.	Imports	1907.	1906.	Deliveries	1907.	1906.
Barrels	5,903	7,337	Barrels	8,537	10,759	Barrels	5,912	9,144
Boxes and Tins	632	1,019	Boxes and Tins	24	255	Boxes and Tins	332	401

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

CII.



Lord Basil Blackwood.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SERTHING LANE, LONDON.

Sept. 30th, 1907

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

WHEN the Canadian Customs Tariff was revised at the end of last year, an intermediate tariff between the British preferential and the ordinary tariff was introduced. The object of this was that Canada might be armed with a weapon for extending the area of trade by making reciprocity arrangements with foreign countries. Treaties or Conventions being acts of sovereignty between Sovereign Powers require the consent of the Imperial Government. The question at once arose as to how far, in view of our existing treaties, this intermediate tariff might be utilised for reciprocal bargaining. Canada has not, however, lost much time in taking action. We understand that a provisional agreement was lately signed in Paris by the representatives of Canada and France to which SIR FRANCIS BERTIE'S signature gave the imprimatur of the British Government. What the terms of this agreement are will be made public when it has been ratified by the Canadian and French legislative assemblies. We may, however, anticipate that it will tend to diminish the value of Canadian preference to the British West Indies. We fear that this result is the inevitable outcome of the shutting of the door to colonial preference with the mother country by the

present Government at the Imperial Conference. Canada, as we have before pointed out, must have an outlet for her increasing productions; and if she cannot get the special terms which—whether rightly or wrongly, she has determined on—from the mother country, she must go elsewhere. Already, in order to help on her refining industry, she admits a limited amount of Continental beet sugar at British preferential rates; now she enters into this arrangement with France, which will, no doubt, secure the benefits of the intermediate preferential tariff for Guadeloupe and Martinique. The sugar industry of these large and fertile French islands has been under a cloud for some time past. This Canadian arrangement with France will doubtless revive it, at the same time bringing this and other agricultural industries into competition with the kindred industries of the British West Indies. As regards sugar the production of the British West Indies has hitherto been in excess of the Canadian consumption, which has militated against the planters getting the full benefit of the preference in the difference between it and the general tariff. This consumption is gradually approximating to the British West Indian supply, but a new supply of preferential sugar at the intermediate tariff will, of course, reduce the margin of preference. Whilst awaiting more certain knowledge as to the terms of this arrangement we can, however, only indicate probable results. In 1884 the British Government refused to give its sanction to a reciprocity treaty, which had been provisionally arranged between the West Indies and the United States, and which would have been of the greatest value to the West Indian sugar and other industries. Now sanction has been given to an analogous arrangement between Canada and France. The West Indies are entitled to the benefit of this new departure as a precedent for a like liberty to that accorded to the other British colony. It is not because the revival of the West Indies, due to the cessation of bounties, is now being witnessed, that their interest in removing all tariff and other like disadvantages to their industries and trade should be abated. We pointed out in our last issue the effect of the United States' tariff: we repeat that until British international trade is based on a mutual and reciprocal free trade regime our home and colonial industries must look to an inter-Imperial preference as a more or less necessary remedy for the disadvantage they suffer from foreign protectionism.

As might be expected the Continental sugar Press do not view with favour the Supplementary Act to the Brussels Convention. The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* considers that the re-opening of the English market to bounty sugars has created a serious danger to Continental sugar exporters, and that the only means of meeting the situation is the reduction of the tax on sugar with the view of increasing the internal consumption, and thus providing for the excess of sugar now produced. The *Gazette de Magdebourg* says that the new Convention cannot, looked at in the most favourable light, be regarded as a masterpiece, although it is possible that, in face of the threat of Great Britain to denounce the Convention, a better arrangement could not be arrived at. In its new form it constitutes a complete victory to Great Britain and a serious blow to Continental sugar-producers. The Berlin sugar organ, *Die Deutsche Zuckerindustrie*, expresses regret that the new form of the Convention exposes the sugar industries of the Convention countries to at least three years of the bounty competition of the non-Convention States. Going back to France, the *Courrier du Pas-de-Calais* says that the adoption of the modified Convention will lead to a formidable drop in the price of sugar in that country, and consequently in the value of the roots, and that the ratification of the Act will mean the conversion of a large number of sugar factories into distilleries, and the *Democratie Rurale* follows in the same strain. The *Bulletin de la Société des Agriculteurs de France* falls into a grave error as to British sugars. This important agricultural organ says that the Supplementary Act aggravates for French beet growers the effects of the Brussels Convention in creating a privileged situation for England, and in permitting a dangerous competition between French non-bounty sugars and the bounty sugars of English colonies. No bounty-fed sugar is exported from British colonies into this country, and as

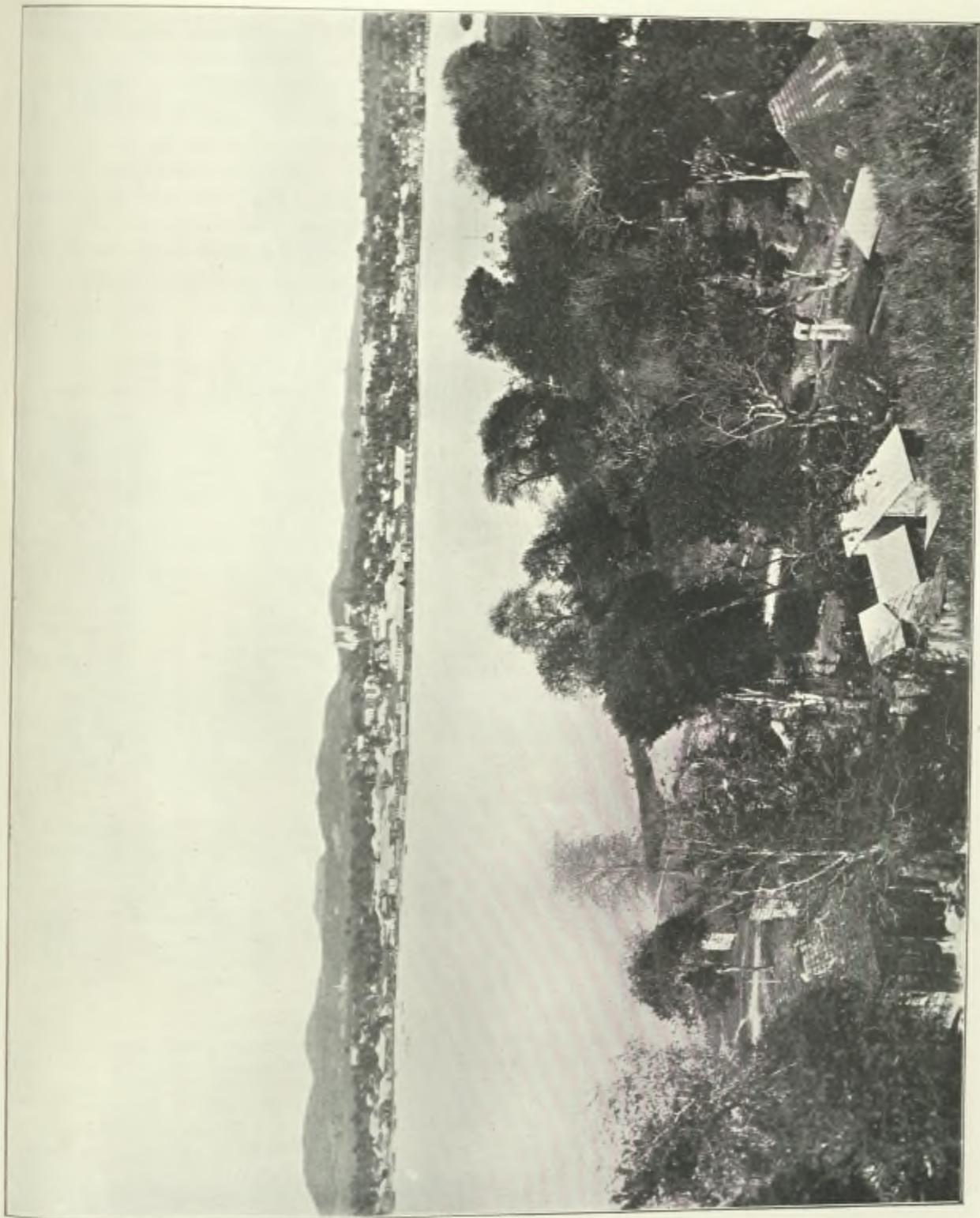
far as regards the competition with French sugars the situation remains as before. The new edition of the Brussels Convention, however open to criticism it may be, must be regarded on all hands, and especially in this country which appears to have got the best of the bargain, as a skilful feat of diplomacy, creditable to the Foreign Office, but still more so to the senior British delegate. SIR HENRY BERGNE must have had an uphill task in persuading his colleagues on the Permanent Commission to give up their security against bounty-fed competition on British markets, and to accept as an equivalent the assurance that no British refined sugar, manufactured from bounty-fed sources of supply, should be exported to their markets—markets already firmly closed against British and all other sugars from outside. This feat he has accomplished, and it is a great feather in his official cap—a cap already well-adorned with former diplomatic triumphs. We congratulate him on his success and thank him heartily.

IN our last issue we announced that an order for a complete sugar factory plant for Porto Rico had been placed with a Glasgow firm. In spite of the high protective duties against foreign machinery which obtain in Porto Rico as American territory, the high reputation of British sugar machinery has led to the estate owners preferring to pay the higher cost and thus to secure a better article than they evidently consider they could procure in the United States. Of course, the 45 per cent. of the protective tariff does not mean that the British machinery would cost the estate 45 per cent. more than the American. Still there would be a considerable difference of price, and on this account great superiority of design and make alone would justify a departure from the United States manufacturers on the part of the buyers. A further index of this superiority, if anything still more marked, is afforded in the fact that orders for factories for the island of Formosa are also being given to British engineers. We all know the thoroughness with which the Japanese carry out their schemes, and we may be quite certain that, if better machinery could have been got elsewhere, nothing would have stood in the way of the representatives of that essentially practical and go-ahead people obtaining it. We have drawn special attention to these illustrative orders for the reason that some years back British sugar engineers were, we are afraid, resting on their laurels, and showing a greater tendency to adhere to their old patterns than was consistent with progress. The result was, certainly as far as the West Indies were concerned, a distinct trend towards the United States in the way of certain branches of sugar machinery. It is true that the engineers of the latter had a great advantage when the Louisiana sugar industry began to develop in the direction of improved machinery and appliances. They had nothing to unlearn, were untrammelled by tradition, had the benefit of years of experience of other countries, and with their natural keenness grasped a good many points in cane sugar work which were developed with success. They possessed, also, great advantages in the way of a cheap supply of the best raw material at their doors. We are glad to say that now, however, so far as sugar machinery is concerned, there is every indication of our sugar engineers having more than recovered any lost ground. In labour-saving appliances, such as the handling of canes advantageously in the fields and at the mills, and in the many points on which mechanical substitutes can well take the place of high-priced labour, American makers are probably still to the fore, but at the present moment there is not the slightest occasion for prospective British factory-erectors to go elsewhere than to their own manufacturers for the bulk of their requirements. Further, there is every evidence to show the high appreciation in which British sugar machinery is held in other countries. May we not see in this another illustration of the good effects of the Brussels Convention, and of the stimulus which this has given to British sugar engineering?

THE history of the progress during the last five years of the revived West Indian cotton industry, given in the despatch from the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies to the Colonial Office, shows conclusively how well the West India islands are adapted to the growth of

Sea Island cotton, how valuable an industry it has become, and what an important part the Imperial Department of Agriculture has played in its resuscitation. Since 1902, when the value of the lint exported was £7,366, the output has steadily improved both in quantity and quality until in 1906 the estimated value rose to £69,092, and for the half-year ending June 30th, 1907, to the high figure of £154,976. This increase in revenue does not, however, altogether arise from increase of output, a good share of it being due to the high price of cotton during the last twelve months, the estimate for this period being 2s. per lb. as against 1s. and 1s. 6d. per lb. for the previous years. But after allowing for this, the steady progress of the industry is gratifying to all concerned. Another feature of great importance in Sir Daniel Morris' despatch is the tribute that he pays to the great value of the sugar industry to the West Indies. In the days immediately prior to the Brussels Convention, when the operation of Continental cartels and bounties had reduced the West Indian sugar industry to a parlous condition, it was urged by the opponents of the Convention that the evil underlying the whole situation was the clinging of the West Indies to sugar instead of the substitution for it of other agricultural industries. So far was this view carried that planters were even advised on one occasion to sacrifice their valuable machinery and the large capital invested in their sugar estates, and plant ground nuts! The position is changed now as regards the appreciation of the sugar industry, to the importance of which the despatch under review supplies strong testimony. "It is incumbent on me," says Sir Daniel Morris, "to place on record that the cotton industry, even if it be still further developed, cannot entirely take the place of the sugar industry upon which the welfare and prosperity of so many of these colonies have hitherto depended. There is no doubt that in the smaller islands where the cultivation of sugar has almost disappeared, cotton will prove of the greatest value, but in colonies like British Guiana, which is apparently unsuited to the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, and at Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts, and Jamaica, where sugar and cotton can, with advantage, be cultivated on the same land as alternate or rotation crops, the decay of the sugar industry would throw back the general prosperity to such an extent as to counterbalance the good results arising from the development of other industries such as cacao, fruit, cotton, limes, rice, rubber and tobacco." Coming officially from such an authority, this statement should convince the most sceptical. It means that the prosperity of the West Indies as a whole is bound up with that of the sugar industry.

THE gold industry of British Guiana first took shape about 1885. For years past in the neighbouring territory of Venezuela extensive and productive gold mines had been worked; but beyond the formation of a local company which, after installing a small plant on the Cuyuni in 1845, was compelled to abandon it on account of the refusal of the British Government to protect its interests in view of the disputed boundary question, nothing had been done prior to that date. When, however, the existence of alluvial gold in connection with the river and creek lands began to be realised, syndicates with local capital were formed to prospect for and work placers, and with the successful results obtained, the industry soon began to assume important proportions. From all sides gold seekers began to drift towards British Guiana, while the new industry at once attracted the negro villagers of the coast lands, who flocked to the gold areas, either as paid labourers, or as prospectors on their own account. Stores in Georgetown began to show signs of unwonted animation, and in a very short time the industry became an important item in colonial enterprise, the greater part of the inhabitants who could afford it, and a great many who could not, becoming connected with gold expeditions. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to say that in these early days of the industry, profits only accrued to the fortunate few, the cost of transport and labour swallowing up the proceeds of the majority of ventures. The presence of gold in the alluvial washings led to further exploiting in the direction of quartz mining, and it was not long before the Barima mine in the north-west district was inaugurated by a local company. What ore was obtained gave good results, and



ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, FROM GREEN BAY.

From a photograph by Mr. José Anjo.

the prospects of quartz mining seemed excellent. After a short period of prosperity, however, the supply of paying ore gave out, endeavours to locate a permanent reef failed, and the mine closed down. Other mining ventures followed the fate of the Barima, hydraulic mining proved a failure, and before long, with the exception of exploiting operations by a German syndicate, the industry once more sank to an uncertain alluvial basis, a basis rendered still more uncertain by the exhaustion of the more paying placers. We are glad, however, to chronicle the prospect of a better condition of things. In the report of the Institute of Mines and Forests, a summary of which we give elsewhere, a much more hopeful outlook is indicated. The Barima mine is once more starting work in the direction of development. The Peter's mine is conducting operations in solid formation with satisfactory returns, and is installing more stamps, while dredging at Omai and on the Konawaruk is giving promising results. PROF. HARRISON, the chief authority on the geology of the colony, states that up to the present only a comparatively small portion of the whole colony has been carefully searched for auriferous deposits. In the parts, however, which have been examined, the gold-bearing districts have a total area of 4,500 square miles. At present, he says, vast areas of gold-bearing ground in the recognised districts remain practically untouched, and there can be no doubt that when the great extent of auriferous ground and its gold capabilities become better known to expert mining engineers, profitable methods of working will be introduced, and the annual output of gold from British Guiana very greatly increased. Altogether it looks very much as if the turning-point had been arrived at in this valuable industry.

LORD BASIL BLACKWOOD.

Lord Ian Basil Gawaine Temple Blackwood, who has been appointed Colonial Secretary of Barbados, is the second son of the late, and brother of the present, Marquis of Dufferin, and was educated at Harrow and Balliol. He was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1897, and has seen considerable service in South Africa, having been Deputy Judge Advocate, Secretary to the Government, and Acting Government Secretary of the Orange River Colony. While at Oxford, Lord Basil was one of the most popular men of his day, and a leading spirit in such clubs as the Gridiron and Vincent's. When on the Committee of the former, he showed marked ability as an organiser. An artist of no mean merit, he has, under the initials B.T.B., effectively illustrated several children's books, the letterpress of which was provided by a now well-known Member of Parliament. Lord Basil Blackwood is a favourite wherever he goes and Barbados is to be congratulated on obtaining a Colonial Secretary of such excellent all-round qualifications. He sails to take up his appointment by the *Atrato* on October 30th.

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA.

The subject of our illustration in this issue is St. John's, the capital of Antigua, the view being obtained from the southern side of the harbour. The harbour is fully two miles wide by three-quarters broad, and at one time was defended by the Goat Hill Fort on the south, and Fort James on the north, while Rat Island, which is not seen in the illustration, was also fortified. The streets are clean, and the houses mostly of wood painted white. The Anglican Cathedral, which is built of stone and contains many interesting and historic monuments, can be seen on rising ground to the back of the town. Our illustration is from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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 in October, November and December of this year, will, on paying their subscriptions, not be required to renew them until January 1st, 1909. Full particulars regarding membership and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. It is hoped that readers will bring the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR before the notice of their friends, and will help forward the work which we are doing by bringing forward candidates for election. Visitors from the West Indies are reminded that a register of addresses is kept at the West India Committee Rooms, and they are invited to increase its utility by furnishing their address from time to time, together with the date of their arrival and departure. Members of the West India Committee can have their letters addressed

to the West India Committee Rooms and forwarded. There are letters lying at the West India Committee Rooms addressed to Hon. H. F. Carr, Mr. Justice Hewick, Prof. Longstaffe and Mr. Charles Shepherd.

THE WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION OF GLASGOW.

The annual meeting of the members of this association was held at 111, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Friday, the 13th inst., Mr. Humphry 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. He was glad to say that since the last meeting arrangements had been made whereby the services of the Imperial Department of Agriculture were preserved to the West Indies. An end, he hoped, was now in sight of the inconvenience and loss caused by the irregular postal service of the past two years. A ten years' contract had been entered into with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a fortnightly conveyance of mails. In connection with sales of 96° sugar to the United Kingdom a form of contract had now been drafted which was agreeable to the several West India Associations of the kingdom, who might be taken as representing the sellers. It now remained to induce the buyers to adopt this form. The Chairman, speaking of the calamity which had occurred in Jamaica, referred to the part taken by the Association in bringing before the Lord Provost of Glasgow the necessity for opening a relief fund. He could not pass this subject by without mentioning with regret the loss both to Jamaica and to the Imperial service caused by the resignation of such an able administrator as Sir J. A. Swettenham. The Brussels Convention was, he hoped, safe for a further five years. The continental countries had no wish to re-institute bounties, and in consequence were willing to bind themselves neither to grant subsidies nor to admit bounty-fed sugar, while Great Britain bound herself not to grant bounties, but had withdrawn from that portion of the agreement which precluded the import of bounty-fed sugar. The accounts, which members had had the opportunity of perusing, were, they would notice, of a satisfactory nature. In closing his remarks Mr. Crum Ewing referred to the death of Mr. George Christall, whose loss would be greatly felt by the Association's Board of Directors, as well as by the many interests with which he was so closely connected. The report, having been seconded by Mr. John Campbell, was unanimously adopted. Mr. Alexander Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, was re-elected Chairman, with Mr. Humphry Crum Ewing as Vice-Chairman, the other members of the Board being Messrs. James R. Greig, Norman Lamont, M.P., Thomas Prentice, Robert Harvey, George Brown, George Sherriff, George McCalman, William N. Armour, William Wilson, and Edwin Wilson. Mr. A. H. Donald was again appointed Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. John Ewing, Hon. Secretary.

SUGAR IN MEXICO.

Mexico may be considered an ideal sugar-producing country. The climate and soil are favourable to its production—in some States especially so—and instead of merely supplying her home markets, as at present, there is no reason why, according to the *Mexican Investor*, Mexico should not rival Cuba as a sugar-producing country, instead of merely making about one-tenth of the quantity produced in the great island of the Antilles. The generally accepted reason why Mexico, far from exporting any important quantities of sugar, has at times had even to import to satisfy its home demands, is that, owing to the primitive modes of manufacture which have been in vogue to within only very recent years, the difficulty of obtaining labour and the high cost of transportation, it has been impossible to produce sugar to sell at a profit anywhere outside of the immediate local markets of each plantation. The production for the last six years has been:—

	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.
1899-1900 ...	75,000	1901-2 ...	103,000	1903-4 ...	107,000	1905-6 ...	107,500
1900-1 ...	95,000	1902-3 ...	112,000	1904-5 ...	107,000	1906-7 ...	*115,000

From this table it will be seen that the production of 1905-6 was an increase of more than 33% over that of 1899-1900; only six seasons earlier. The old plantations are installing new machinery and adopting all-round new methods. New lands are being taken up, and further mills installed. Practically all the plantations are owned by Mexicans, who employ Spanish administrators to quite a surprising extent, though in the State of Vera Cruz, the *Cia. Azucarera del Panuco*, a French company, and several American companies, with head offices in New York, Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis, are starting operations. The cane, especially in the Gulf States, where irrigation is unnecessary, grows to an enormous size and does not need replanting for eight or ten years. It is not, however, a Gulf State which produces the largest amount of sugar, as might be presumed, but the irrigated lands of the State of Morelos. The Gulf cane, while it contains an amount of moisture as great as, if not greater than, the Morelos cane, does not contain the same amount of saccharine matter. In the lower valleys and rolling lands of the "tierra caliente" at the foot of the towering range of mountains forming the Pacific wall of the great tableland of Anahuac, protected from the northern winds, is

* Estimated.

produced the cane which yields the greatest percentage of sugar. In Mexico, in the Pacific and Gulf States alike, the average crop of cane is from 40 to 45 tons per acre, though in some exceptionally favoured localities as much as 60 tons are cut. In the irrigated lands replanting every third year is necessary.

JAMAICA RUM.

The following circular has been issued to the licensed trade by the Special Commissioner of the Jamaican Government:—

I am directed by my Government to draw your attention to an important order which has been issued by his Majesty's Customs in reference to Jamaica rum: "The board direct that rums imported from Jamaica, or admitted as being of Jamaica origin, are to be entered in the accounts and on all relative documents, including permits, as 'Rum from Jamaica.' Care is to be taken that this description is not applied to rum from Jamaica which has been blended with rum of other origin."

Under the new regulations, the trader is fully protected if he buys his rum in bond, but if he purchases through a duty-paid warehouse every precaution should be taken to obtain a sufficient guarantee that the rum is the genuine product of Jamaica.

CACAO IN TRINIDAD.

The cacao expert from the United States, recently engaged to enquire into the diseases of the cacao industry of Trinidad, Mr. O. W. Barrett, delivered his preliminary report to the Committee of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad on August 20th. In this, which Mr. Barrett styled a non-technical preliminary report on cacao hygiene, he said that, so far as his investigations had gone, he thought every cacao estate in the island at present was pretty seriously infected with at least one dangerous disease, which he would call "canker," what that might mean he hoped to tell them later; as a matter of fact he thought they had several cankers. But they might cut out most of the diseases they had been worrying over for some time—the black pod rot, thread disease, and the trouble caused by ants, epiphytes, &c., and stop fretting about them at once. They could then concentrate their attention on one great dangerous disease—canker. For canker, as they understood it in the broad sense of the word, not only killed branches and trees, slowly or quickly as the case might be, but also pods, the brown rot of the cacao pod being certainly caused by one form of canker. He had made many inoculations thus far, and without exception the inoculations from canker had produced brown rot in pods and again canker in branches. There was no question at all in his mind about that, nor was there any considerable question as to whether the name of that canker was *Lasiodiplodia*. Every planter in Trinidad who had followed the instructions of the Botanical Department of the island, knew in a general way what he should do to avoid serious loss from those fungus diseases. He had nothing but the highest commendation for Mr. Hart's advice and recommendations, and though at Washington he (Mr. Barrett) feared he had the reputation of being hard to please, he was more than pleased with Mr. Hart's advice in regard to diseases in Trinidad, through the medium of the Botanical Bulletin of the department.

As to the methods of combating disease, Mr. Barrett went on to say, he hoped to tell them more later on, but for the present he was simply going to make three suggestions which he was going to ask every cacao planter in the island to act upon, either as an experiment or as a wholesale financial manœuvre, and these were as follows: Give a spraying to the trunks and pods to the height of at least 15 ft. with Bordeaux mixture; remove all pods which even appear to be diseased, and attend to the sanitary treatment of wounds whether fresh or otherwise. Now that was easy to say, but on the carrying out of those three recommendations depended, he was sure, a great deal of the health of the cacao. It seemed to him to be absurd that the average planter should worry so much and spend so much time and trouble to lime his shell heaps, while directly above each shell heap there were from one to several dozen of black and brown pods covered not by millions but by trillions of spores, each capable not only of killing pods, but of injuring the tree itself. He knew it to be a fact that any one of those spores on a brown pod could kill a pod or a branch, or a tree. He thought every planter knew it, but some of them for conservative reasons did not feel like making a new move until they saw someone else do it.

So much for the cutting down of the pods. As to Bordeaux mixture, everyone should know how to make it. The good old formula of 5—5—50 could not be beaten so long as they used good fresh lime and applied it if possible the same day it was made. As to the treatment of wounds, he thought he had something new to tell, which most of them had never heard. Some of the cacao planters had filled the holes in cacao tree trunks with Portland cement, and after going on that line for some time they saw it was a mistake for several reasons, the principal one being that as soon as the cement set, the tree shrunk from it as it did from any foreign body, and in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred there was a space round the mass of cement in the hole in the tree, and as they all knew, water was bound to get around and behind that lump of stone. And worse still ants got in behind that

lump and had a good time. In a large percentage of cement lumps he had removed from holes in trunks, he had found some one of the four or five common species of ants, for this and other reasons he must advise them against using cement to stop wounds. Did they suppose for one moment that a cacao tree six inches in diameter was going to stand the chances with a healthy tree of producing a crop, if the six inch tree, say fifteen years of age, had from one to three holes in the trunk into which one could put his fist, and in which water stagnated throughout the rainy season. They could not expect a tree with holes in the trunk, actually suffering from blood poisoning (for that was what it was) to do them much service. And yet on nearly every estate those wounds were left open, getting worse and worse, for every drop of water that fell in increased the injury. The wound could seldom heal, and as he had said, it was not only a loss of the tissue of the tree, but the terrible poisoning effect lowered the vitality of the tree and made it a prey to any fungus that happened to come along.

Mr. Barrett then gave his receipt for a composition to fill up holes, which he believed to be up-to-date and which had never been beaten. It was two parts of clay, one part of soft fine fibre, mixed up with enough water, and if they could afford it, a little oil, preferably resin oil, to make a paste capable of being pressed into the hole of the tree. The ant could do nothing with the clay-fibre mixture. Once it was put into the hole and nicely smoothed about the margin, it could not come out from any behind force, and the fibre, from a purely mechanical reason he supposed, prevented the washing of the surface. To make doubly sure he would varnish the surface of the clay-fibre dressing with resin oil. Resin oil would not crack off, but would dry very slowly and give the clay-fibre mixture a chance to set. As a fibre he preferred the "Coton Mahoe" which was commonly used in the country for stuffing pillows. It was very cheap, fine and of short fibre, which did not hinder the manipulation of the dressing, and that was enough. If they could not obtain that, then the silk-cotton fibre was practically as good. Common cotton batting would do. If the hole was on the under side of the limb and was very shallow, it was practically useless to put any of the dressing in that wound; merely cleaning out the surface with a chisel and varnishing was sufficient. But when the hole was capable of retaining water then that should be cleaned with a gouge chisel, preferably 1 in. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. across. Ants could be very rapidly and cheaply exterminated, or at least driven off the trees on the estate, by the application of resin compound, a mixture which cost about one cent per gallon. It was simply a mixture of resin and sal. soda, a sticky stuff which penetrated the breathing pores of the insects and immediately suffocated them. It did no harm to the trees even if applied on the bare green pod. He might in that connection allay the fears of some individuals who had spoken to him about Bordeaux mixture. They need not have any fears about over spraying with Bordeaux, it could not harm the most delicate bark or the most sensitive root tip. The recipe for resin compound was: About 4 lbs. of common resin and 3 lbs. of sal. soda or washing soda. Boil that over a slow fire in about four quarts of water, and gradually add cold water as soon as the mixture begins to foam. When you have about three or four gallons of the mixture, stop. About removing moss and epiphytes he had little to say. Keep the bark moist continually and it would be more susceptible to fungus action. The bark could be cleaned by the fibre brushes which could be got at any hardware store. These would last surprisingly well if used by an ordinary labourer, who should take the moss off without injuring the bark to any appreciable extent at a cost of from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 2 or 3 cents. per tree, depending upon the height of the tree. They could kill the moss with Bordeaux mixture. He would like to take up the very interesting subject of grafting and the selection of trees and pruning, but those were sore questions which had better be left till next meeting. He wished it to be noted that he believed it was poor policy for the cacao planter to persist in permitting but one trunk—even though he knew that trunk to be badly diseased—to grow from one root. It was not in his opinion the safest policy to follow, to put all their eggs in one basket and go away and leave that basket. If they had two or even four trunks from one root, and if one of those trunks or two or three, got wet or dry canker, they could conscientiously walk up and chop down that trunk, whereas it took a very brave man indeed to go up and cut down a tree which had no sprout or sucker coming, knowing that that space would be bare for the next two or three years. Even though he knew that tree had damaged others in the vicinity, the average planter was going to let that tree stand there. He wished he could impress upon every planter never to hesitate, and the moment he saw a tree or a branch was dying with canker, to use the cutlass.

A discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. Barrett said there were about fifteen species of ants which infested cacao trees. They feed upon the sweet excretions of the Aphis, the Leaf-hoppers, and the Scales, and if they did not get enough there, they might eat the spores of the brown pod rot. He had seen them only yesterday eating the spores of the brown pod rot. Immediately the pod began to turn brown these large spores were thrown out on the surface and in these the ant found a dainty morsel and incidentally carried away, perhaps, a few thousand of the "swarm spores." He did not feel like making any strong statements on the point, but ants undoubtedly assisted in the spreading of fungus diseases. But he believed in "giving the devil his due," and he did not believe that the ants spread the brown pod rot of the cacao to any serious extent. They certainly protected several pests of the cacao.

THE WEST INDIAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

The following despatch, from the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies to the Colonial Office, on the subject of the West Indian cotton industry, has been forwarded us by Lord Elgin:—

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith, to be laid before the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the enclosed summary showing the progress of the Sea Island cotton industry in the West Indies during five and a half years, viz., from January 1st, 1902, to June 30th, 1907.

2. It will be observed that during the years 1902 and 1903 the estimated value of the lint exported was £7,366 and £9,031 respectively.

3. This was before the visit made by Mr. Bovell and myself to the Sea Islands of the United States in 1903 and at a time when the planters had not fully made up their minds what kind of cotton, whether Upland, Egyptian, or Sea Island, was best suited to West Indian conditions.

4. After carefully studying the circumstances connected with the cultivation of Sea Island cotton in the Sea Islands, I arrived at the conclusion that the West Indies should confine their attention entirely to Sea Island cotton. This was originally a native of these Islands, but the quality of the staple had been greatly improved by cultivation over a long period in the United States.

5. In order that the cotton growers in the West Indies might be enabled to establish a successful Sea Island cotton industry, I immediately took steps to secure a sufficient quantity of seed to plant 7,000 acres. This seed was fortunately obtainable during my visit from an estate that for the last fifty years had produced a high quality of lint which had obtained uniformly good prices. As the matter had to be decided within a few days I undertook to engage £500 worth of Rivers' Sea Island cotton seed, and made arrangements for it to be shipped at once to the West Indies. The seed was immediately taken up by the planters, and a Sea Island cotton industry was given a start on commercial lines.

6. In the following year the planters in the Sea Islands refused to supply further seed to the West Indies. Fortunately the quantity of seed already secured enabled the industry to be continued as first proposed.

7. The result of the introduction of the Rivers' seed was shown in the increased value of the exports for the following year, and in the steady increase in the exports up to the present time. Owing to enhanced prices consequent on the falling off of supplies from the United States, the exports during the half year ended June 30th, 1907, have already reached an estimated value of £154,976, while the total value of the cotton exported from the West Indies during five and a half years to June 30th, 1907, amounts to £315,241. If, however, the value of the seed is added to the value of the lint, the exports during the last half year reach an estimated value of £167,664, while the total value of the lint and seed exported during the five and a half years amounts to £374,486.

8. It is desirable that I should place on record that these results have been obtained by the valuable assistance and encouragement rendered to the West Indian cotton industry by the British Cotton Growing Association and by the hearty co-operation in these colonies of the members of the planting community and the officers of this Department. At the present time about 80 per cent. of the seed used for planting purposes is selected beforehand, and distributed under the auspices of this Department. West Indian cotton seed, on account of its intrinsic value, has also been used this year for planting purposes in the State of Florida. As far as can be seen at present there is no reason why the West Indies should not continue to improve the quality of the seed produced locally, and thus become independent of supplies from other countries. The general prospects of the West Indian Sea Island cotton industry are therefore of a distinctly promising character, and there is every probability that the value of the exports in future years will steadily increase. The Department officers who have taken an active part in developing the cotton industry in the West Indies are Dr. Francis Watts, C.M.G., Superintendent of Agriculture in the Leeward Islands; Mr. J. R. Bovell, F.L.S., Agricultural Superintendent, Barbados; Mr. W. N. Sands, Agricultural Superintendent, St. Vincent; and Mr. F. R. Shepherd, Agricultural Superintendent, St. Kitts.

9. I suggest for the approval of the Secretary of State that a copy of this letter and its enclosure be communicated for the information of the British Cotton Growing Association, and that an expression of his Lordship's thanks be conveyed to the President and Officers of the Association for the splendid services rendered by them to the West Indies. I also suggest that a copy be forwarded for the information of the West India Committee, which has also afforded valuable assistance in developing the cotton industry.

10. While I rejoice to be in a position to report that a new industry of considerable

value has become established during the last six years in the West Indies, it is incumbent upon me to place on record that the cotton industry, even if it is still further developed, cannot entirely take the place of the sugar industry, upon which the welfare and prosperity of so many of these colonies have hitherto depended. There is no doubt that in the smaller islands where the cultivation of sugar has almost disappeared, cotton will prove of great value, but in colonies like British Guiana, which is apparently unsuited to the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, and at Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts, and Jamaica, where sugar and cotton can with advantage be cultivated on the same land as alternate or rotation crops, the decay of the sugar industry would throw back the general prosperity to such an extent as to counterbalance the good results arising from the development of other industries, such as cacao, fruit, cotton, limes, rice, rubber, tobacco, &c. In all these this Department takes a deep practical interest, and I am happy to state that its efforts receive the cordial and active support of all classes of the community.

I have, &c.,

(Signed), D. MORRIS,

Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies.

Barbados, August 12th, 1907.

Statement showing the total amount and value of cotton lint and seed exported from the British West Indian colonies from January 1st, 1902, to June 30th, 1907:—

Years.	Weight of lint in lbs.	Estimated value of lint.	Estimated value of lint and seed.
1902	328,530	£7,366	£9,676
1903	397,541	9,031	11,873
1904	698,981	26,930	31,891
1905	1,122,800	47,846	63,290
1906	1,577,431	69,092	90,092
Half year ended June 30th, 1907 ...	1,785,887	154,976*	167,664
Total for 5½ years	5,911,170	£315,241	£374,486

The following is a statement (furnished by the Customs Department in each case) showing the amount of cotton lint and the estimated value of lint and seed exported from seven West India islands during the half year, January 1st to June 30th, 1907:—

Colony.	Weight in lbs.	Estimated value of lint.	Estimated value of lint and seed.
Barbados	628,042	£62,804	£67,267
St. Vincent	264,304	24,630	26,508
St. Kitts	165,006	16,500	17,672
Montserrat	156,731	15,672	16,780
Antigua	149,800	14,980	16,044
Nevis	80,472	8,047	8,618
Anguilla	59,666	5,966	6,390

A NEW RUBBER.

A new rubber tree, described as *Euphorbia elastica*, by Altanarano and Rose, has been discovered in Mexico grown at a height of 16,000 to 21,000 ft. above sea level, in a dry climate and a mean temperature of about 68° Fahr. The tree is called by the people of the country "Palo amarillo." In the latex of the tree in question, says the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, the rubber is associated with a large proportion of resin. This is stated to have been separated industrially, and the resin obtained to be akin to gum dammar. The method employed by these operators is a secret. Mr. Endlich gives in the *Tropenpflanzer* a scheme for working, but it does not appear that the tree has been exploited seriously, although directions for bleeding are described by the author. It is not, moreover, stated at what price the rubber sells in the market, or even if it has been sold. The scheme of cultivation mentioned above, presumes that the trees will yield in four years from the date of planting, but this is only supposition. Very little, in fact, is known on the subject. The very name, says our contemporary, is calculated to lead to confusion, for a rubber has lately been described under the name of *Euphorbia elastica*, in Madagascar, by M. Jumelli, which is certainly a different species, and of which this name has recently been withdrawn, as priority of name is due to a variety in Western Africa, discovered some years ago by M. Eugene Poisson.

THE MINES AND FORESTS OF BRITISH GUIANA.

The annual report of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana is to hand, and the Council, while unable to place on record for the year ending June 3rd last any extraordinary advance in the development of the interior and in those industries with whose protection the Institute is

* The value of the cotton lint exported in 1906-7 was estimated, as advised by the British Cotton Growing Association, at 2s. per lb. In previous years the value was 1s. and 1s. 6d. per lb.

entrusted by statute, is still able to point out some substantial facts which have a far more important bearing on the future of the colony than any mere fluctuation in the yield of alluvial gold, a fluctuation due entirely, to weather conditions and the non-availability of local capital. As regards the gold industry, in quartz mining there at last appear to be definite indications of progress. Though in the early nineties there was a small boom in quartz mining in the colony, from want of experience and knowledge of the country and its conditions, most of the companies formed, after making considerable quantities of gold, ended their operations as soon as the reefs in decomposed rock had been lost sight of; or, as in the case of the Barima mine, when the capital had been expended and there was no more forthcoming at that time to carry on the necessary work of development. The Barima mine, however, has now been taken up again, development work has been resumed under new auspices, and every hope is entertained that the property will yet fulfil the expectations of those most interested in its future. But, the report goes on to say, the most hopeful sign of all for the colony is the working of the Peter's mine. In this, development work has been carried out entirely in hard blasting ground, 8,278 ozs. of bullion had been produced during the year, and more stamps were being installed. Too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that this mine is a mine in solid formation, *i.e.*, hornblende-schist, a fact which does away with the theory that the only payable quartz in the colony had come from segregation mines.

"Hydraulic" appears to have been a failure. In plants which had been erected, the machinery worked splendidly, and the operations gave handsome returns while there remained ground enough to work. When, however, the several hills had been washed away, it was found that the cost of moving the machinery to isolated patches of alluvial was entirely prohibitive. The nature of the country would, it appears, not lend itself to the usual methods of hydraulic by natural head of water, except within a reasonable distance of the plateau extending from the Kaitour in both directions across the colony. The suitability of the colony for dredging work appears to be fairly well proved by the result obtained by the company working at Omai. After using a small dredger brought from the Barimas, they have ordered and erected a dredger which is one of the largest in the three Guianas. "The fact," says the report, "of the success of present operations in this colony speaks well for the value of available dredging ground so far opened up in British Guiana."

Alluvial gold washing fell off considerably during the year, mainly owing to the abnormally high rainfall. In many cases the high water in the rivers and creeks led to the temporary abandonment of the placers, and the labourers, instead of remaining at the diggings, returned to Georgetown and the coast. The falling off of the gold from this source amounted to 12,945 ozs., the output for the year being 78,980 ozs., as against 91,925 ozs. for the year 1905-6. The diamond industry, which seemed last year on the point of extinction, is stated to have recovered. During the past year 4,181 carats, of the value of \$33,138, had been exported. The stones were small; three of 3 carats came from the Cuyuni and eighty-two of 3½ carats from the Essequibo. The new Cartabo road, when opened, is expected to be of assistance in reaching the diamond fields.

The balata industry seems to be in a flourishing condition. During the year 717,404 lbs. were exported, as against 517,335 for the previous year. Some large exportations have also been sent up during the last six months, the returns of which are not yet available for record, while every indication is afforded of an increasing demand for balata from British Guiana. The rubber industry is, however, still in its infancy. The quantity exported during the year was 3,333 lbs. Some thousands of young trees are owned by Mr. David Young in the Barima, and there has been some planting done in other parts of the north-west district. On some of the sugar plantations rubber has already been planted, and on Pln. Hope experiments had been made with *Funtumia elastica*, the growth of which in four years had been satisfactory. Less timber had been exported than during the previous year. The total value of the forest exports were, however, \$430,755, as against \$354,346 for 1905-6, the increase being due to the larger amount of balata exported. The cultivation of locust and other gums had fallen off, being 7,099 lbs. as against 10,690 lbs. for the previous year. This was also due to the heavy rains. Especial attention is drawn to the value of the red cedar of the colony, which is of very high quality, and Mr. Hargreaves, the Secretary of the Institute, states that "it ought to make an ideal wood for either light canoes or punts, such as are used on the Thames. The trees grow to 100 ft. in height, and can be had 38 or 40 ins. in diameter."

MANY YEARS AGO.

The rights of ownership.

During the wars at the close of the eighteenth century, West Indian islands were constantly changing hands, and it had been our excellent custom not to dispossess the inhabitants of their properties when the fortune of war placed any island in our hands. In 1794, however, information reached the West India Committee that this state of affairs was no longer continuing, and that a right was assumed for general plunder on the part of

the conquerors. The Committee, actuated by a duty "imposed upon them by a just and reasonable regard for their own interests, and equally urgent upon their feelings which they owed to themselves and friends and correspondents resident in the colonies," at once memorialised the Government on the subject. The memorial, which was brought before a meeting of the West India Committee held on August 28th, 1794, stated that:—

"Your Memorialists, not as public censors, but as a body deeply interested in the due observance of those distinctions between public and private property by which in modern times the rights of conquest have been qualified, humbly conceive that the man who in the moment of danger exerts himself for the protection of his Country does not thereby subject to military execution all his property, wherever situated within the range of the conqueror's sword, and that the late deviation from the general rules of public warfare hitherto observed by civilised Nations, is of a nature eventually to have very fatal consequences to your Memorialists.

"That if the fortune of war should give to the enemy the possession of any of our Islands, the severe measures lately enforced against the inhabitants of the French conquered Islands may be retaliated and extended to the ruin of your Memorialists, and the inhabitants of such Islands as may be taken.

"That when Grenada, one of the British Islands, was taken by storm in the last War, the confiscation of private property, or a commutation providing it (which is nearly the same thing) was not attempted, and the private exactions of individuals exercising public power were redressed in all cases which were proved, that the brave and successful exertions of the British officers and soldiers entitle them to the grateful praises of your Memorialists and of the Public in general, but that their pecuniary compensation should not originate in an Act injurious to the rights of individuals and of dangerous example for your Memorialists whose property will be exposed to similar invasion if the fortune of war should subject any of our Islands to the power of the enemy.

"That whether in any or what degree the Honor of the British Nation may be affected by this alarming change in the mode of carrying on war, the confiscation of the property of the inhabitants of the conquered places, is a question of too much delicacy for your Memorialists to enter on, but that they are impelled by their own interest to make this representation against an Act, which, if adopted as a precedent, must eventually prove ruinous to your Memorialists themselves."

The Memorial was duly presented to the Duke of Portland, who thought the complaint was expressed in terms of great moderation, but said that he was without official information as to the facts. On the 6th February of the following year it was decided again to approach his Grace on the subject, and a further memorial was presented, in which the Duke's attention was drawn to proclamations issued by order of Sir Charles Grey and Sir John Jervis, afterwards Lord St. Vincent, the military and naval commanders in the West Indies. It was pointed out that while in the Proclamation of the 1st January, 1794, preceding the capture of Martinique by the British, "Full and immediate enjoyment of all lawful property according to their ancient laws and customs, and on the most advantageous terms," was pledged, this pledge was violated in the proclamation of the 10th and 12th of May, and a sum adequate to the value of the conquest demanded to compensate the soldiery under penalty of general confiscation to be enforced with military rigour. The memorial went on to say:

"Should the fortune of war be reversed in that quarter, and any of the British Islands be captured by the Enemy (an event to be apprehended from the reduced state of the British forces in those Islands, and from the untoward Accidents which have retarded the departure of the reinforcements provided), retaliation, however temperate in its principle and extent, will be little short of total ruin to the fortunes of your Memorialists and to a very considerable portion of His Majesty's subjects."

The Duke of Portland in his reply to the Deputation which presented the Memorial stated that he had no knowledge of the proclamation of the 10th and 12th of May, and that he awaited a reply from Sir Charles Grey and Sir John Jervis, to whom a copy of the first memorial had been sent. Subsequently, on the 30th April, 1795, he addressed a letter to the West India Committee, stating that the objectionable proclamations had been withdrawn, and the money already paid under them returned. The West India Committee were not satisfied with this, especially as Sir Charles Grey and Sir John Jervis had cast reflections on the accuracy of the Committee's facts, and they accordingly demanded a public disavowal of the Proclamation. A petition was drawn up to be presented to Parliament, but after further correspondence with the Government the matter was allowed to drop.

THE TRINIDAD BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Botanical Department of Trinidad for the year 1906-7 speaks highly of the improved quality of the tobacco now being grown at St. Clair, the experimental station. The crop, which was sold in bulk, realized an average price of 1s. 8d. per lb., 4s. per lb. being offered for the best quality. The best leaves were excellent in colour and in texture, and suitable for cigar wrappers, and

were in sufficient quantity to serve for the making of the entire crop into cigars. The credit balance for the small area cultivated was at the rate of £15 12s. 6d. per acre. As regards seedling canes Mr. Hart adopted a somewhat different treatment to that formerly practised. In previous experiments the canes were tested after their first year's growth, and those presenting desired characters were selected and replanted. This process was regularly continued for several years, many of those first tested dropping out as not possessing the first quality which characterises a good cane, viz., the ability to produce a heavy yield. It is evident, says Mr. Hart, that unless a cane can show a yield above the average, will ratoon well, will stand adverse seasons, will thrive on various soils, and is immune from plant disease, there is little to recommend it whatever its "sugar content" may be. The work of chemically examining seedling canes regularly during the first five years is a laborious and expensive one, and takes up much of the time of both cultivator and chemist, and it was, therefore, determined to start an experiment for the purpose of eliminating those canes in the first instance which could not stand the cultivator's tests; 1st for yield, 2nd for ratooning power, 3rd for resistance to adverse seasons, 4th for variation of soils, and 5th for immunity from plant disease, and to reserve the chemical test for the final examinations. It has been seen that thousands of those canes which passed the first, second and third chemical examinations successfully, have gradually had to be discarded, owing to their inability to stand the cultivator's test. Consequently the work performed on them has been lost, involving considerable expenditure, which under the new method will be avoided. It appears to be clear, that if a cane cannot stand under the five tests of the cultivator here discussed, it is quite useless for estate work, no matter how high a "sugar content" its chemical examination shows. Seedlings are now, therefore, being raised and subjected to the above tests, the "fittest to survive" being placed under the examination of the chemist as the final stage, before being classed as canes of value. Mr. Hart's arguments, we may remark, would be quite sound if it were found that the garden results were borne out by the estates' returns. It unfortunately often happens that heavy nursery returns do not mean good yields when the canes are subjected to estates' conditions, while the chemical qualities, as a rule, remain constant.

The supplies of young rubber (*Hevea*) trees were quite unequal to the demand, and importations were consequently made of seeds and plants from Ceylon and elsewhere. These, however, met with little success, in some cases the imported seed not yielding more than 4 per cent. of plants, whilst in some 50 to 60 per cent. of plants were raised. The *Hevea* plot at S. Clair has grown well, some of the trees measuring 40 ft. in height and 2 ft. in circumference at 3 ft. from the ground. These were planted in 1898. The estimated number of *Hevea* trees planted out in the island for the year amounted to probably over 20,000 trees. *Funtumia* rubber is referred to as having grown vigorously. It is yet too early, Mr. Hart states, to say how this rubber will compare with better known kinds. Considerable progress has been made during the year by planters of Castilloa, and 1906 may be quoted as the first year in which rubber from this source had been shipped in Trinidad in marketable quantities. Castilloa was now so well established in the island that it promised to rapidly intercalate itself by bird sowing with the native forest. The cultivation of camphor was exciting considerable interest, and demands were being made for plants and seeds in quantity. Tobago had competed for the Sir Alfred Jones' medal for cotton successfully, and arrangements were being made for the erection of ginning machinery in Tobago for the coming season under Government control. The season for cacao had been a most unsuitable one, and the past year had been unusually prolific in enquiries for remedies for disease. Mr. Hart considered in his report that the danger from canker had not been fully recognised, and this statement is borne out by the preliminary report of Mr. O. W. Barrett, the cacao expert from the United States, which we summarise elsewhere.

In the Meteorological Department 410 seismic disturbances had been registered since 1900, 102 of which occurred in 1906. We refer our readers for other matters of great interest with which the report abounds. The report not only shows the immense amount of work which Mr. Hart and his staff have carried out, but also affords interesting evidence of the increasing general interest shown in agricultural products in the island generally.

A WEST INDIAN LIBRARY.

By MR. JOHN STEWART.

Literature and Art cannot in any circumstance be regarded as native tropical products, and neither has found much support or been largely cultivated in the colonies in which we are specially interested. It may be that tropical life is not conducive to the pursuit of either, but it is, nevertheless, the fact, that we have in the West Indies few art treasures of the first order, while the native literary product is scant. There are, however, one or two collections of books which would do credit to countries in which literature has received, and does receive, more encouragement; but the collection which holds primary place and is probably one of the oldest public collections, if not the oldest, in the West Indies is that of the Institute of Jamaica. Long years ago, in the old days of the House of

Assembly a library was formed for the use of the planters, merchants, and professional men who constituted the members of the House. This House of Assembly library subsequently came to form the nucleus of the latter day Institute library and while it is to be regretted that many of the works mentioned in the catalogue, published in 1865, of that early collection have disappeared, still a sufficient number remain to give the modern library an interest of its own. The Institute was founded on its present constitution by an Act of the Legislative Council in 1879, and from that date additions have been steadily made to its book-shelves.

At present "The West India Library"—a collection of which any island might well be proud—numbers upwards of 2,000 volumes and in that collection are comprised some of the rarest bibliographical treasures relating to, and published in, the West Indies. Of these, one Jamaica volume is specially rare, only one other copy being known, and that is in the States; the volume is "A book on the Continuation of Foreign Passages . . . moreover an attempt on the Island of Jamaica and taking the town of St. Jago de Vega, beating the Enemy from their forts and ordnance, being a body of 3,000 men, and so took possession of the Island, May 10th, 1655. With a full Description thereof . . ." We do not hear much of the Quakers or of Quaker life in Jamaica, but one of the most recent additions to the "West India Library" is a unique volume published in London in 1710 entitled "An account of some of the Labours, Exercises, Travels and Perils, by Sea and Land, of John Taylor, of York, and also his deliverances; By way of Journal." The little volume treats in interesting fashion of the sojournings of John Taylor in Jamaica. John Roby's well-known but scarce pamphlet, "Biographical Notices of the Members of Assembly for St. James," a series which came to an abrupt termination, is another recent addition. The set of Jamaica Almanacks, although not complete, is alone a local reference library of considerable interest, while the value from the historian's point of view of the collection of Jamaica newspapers numbering over 300 bound volumes, starting with the *Jamaica Mercury* of 1779, may be appreciated even by the unliterary.

From the date of the granting of the original constitution, and more especially after the year 1809, when many important changes took place following on a lengthy inquiry into the management, the Institute has filled many parts, but probably the most important of these, as distinct from its primary business as a reference and lending library, is that of the publishing of several books dealing with the Island history, and a large number of pamphlets treating of the agricultural products of the colony. To date, the list of publications totals thirty-two—a record with which any similar Institute at home might well be satisfied—and includes works on various scientific subjects, such as Rathbun's "Decapod Crustacea of Jamaica," Vendrey's "Land and Fresh Water Shells," Grabham's "Mosquitoes," and Maxwell Hall's "Meteorology of Jamaica"; while the *Journal of the Institute* (which had an eight years run, but publication of which, owing to a steadily decreasing vote, has regrettably enough been suspended) contained contributions not only on a plethora of matters relating to Jamaica and the West Indies, but also on such special subjects as "Aboriginal Indian Remains," &c. An important publication of last year, "Lady Nugent's Diary; A Journal of a voyage to and residence in the Island of Jamaica from 1801 to 1805, and subsequent events in England from 1805 to 1811," edited by Mr. Frank Cundall, F.S.A., the Secretary and Librarian of the Institute, was probably the biggest venture the Institute had attempted. Another publication, however, of very considerable value takes the form of a hand-book containing information for intending settlers and others, first published in 1895, but which has since run through five editions, the last published in 1905 being a volume of 120 pages.

Such is the more practical and commercially useful side of the Institute's work which might well, with advantage to the colony, be considerably increased. Altogether, the Institute of Jamaica has a special use and value of its own, not only for the colony in which it is situated, but also on account of its West Indian bibliographical possessions, to the entire British West Indies. Probably on the value of its "West India Library"—and its value cannot be over-estimated—stands its greatest claim on the support of the local government, and on that account also of every book lover—native born and foreign—in our Caribbean possessions.

RUBBER IN THE MALAY STATES.

The development of rubber cultivation is one of the most striking features indicated in the report of the Resident-General of the Federated Malay States for 1906. The output last year was nearly 900,000 lb., and, says the *Home and Colonial Mail*, raises the Protectorate at a sudden bound to the position of the third largest producer in the British Empire, the two leading colonies being the Gold Coast and Southern Nigeria. The following are the approximate figures for the last three years:—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.
1904	14,533 lb.	£3,000	1905	500,000 lb.	£125,000	1906	861,622 lb.	£215,400

Prior to 1904 there was practically no production of consequence, but capital has been invested in the

industry to such an extent lately, and estates are now arriving at the yielding stage so fast, that the output is proceeding at a rate which will soon seriously challenge the supremacy of the African dependencies. In the report it is estimated that the area alienated for rubber cultivation in 1905 was 100,000 acres, and the area planted at 50,000 acres. For 1906 the area alienated is estimated as about 200,000 acres, the total area planted as 85,000 acres, and the number of trees ten millions; the number of estates was 242, and the quantity of dry rubber extracted 861,622 lb. The acreage under coffee decreased considerably. Prices remained satisfactory, and were it not for the fact that the cultivation of rubber almost monopolises attention the cultivation of coffee would probably be on the increase, in place of being wiped out as will shortly be the case. The crop is stated to have been 22,291 cwt. from 9,708 acres, the average being light owing to a great deal of the coffee having rubber planted through it. A substantial beginning has already been made in rubber cultivation in Pahang, and a rapid increase is anticipated in the near future in view of the comparatively easy terms under which land can be acquired there. The influx of labour for estate work continues to increase, but even if it were doubled there would be no lack of employment, and it is hoped that new arrangements contemplated by the Government in conjunction with the planters will do something towards meeting the rapidly-growing demand.

NATURE NOTES.

OCTOBER.—This Month finish your Holeing, 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 the Manner I shall hereafter advise.—*Treatise on Husbandry or Planting, By William Belgrave, a regular bred, and long experienc'd Planter, of the Island of Barbados, 1755.*

GREEN SOILING.—The *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* states that in the green soiling experiments carried on in Ceylon since 1902, of the plants experimented with, *Crotalaria* covered the ground in two or three months, but cost a good deal in planting and weeding, the *Erythrina lithosperma* was easily propagated by cuttings, and in five months as much as 4,000 lbs. of green matter was available. The ground need not be fertilised before planting. *Phaseolus sp. albizzia moluccana* is somewhat difficult to establish as it can only be propagated from stumps or young plants which have been specially grown; it is, however, a very rapid grower, and the cuttings are rich in nitrogen.

RAMIE FIBRE.—An article appears in the *Jamaica Agricultural Journal* on the subject of the cultivation of ramie, in which great exception is taken to a statement in *Tropical Life* to the effect that a crop of this fibre is easily and cheaply grown, and that a simple and cheap decorticator was obtainable. This statement our contemporary declares to be misleading. With the cultivation of ramie nearly a year is taken to establish plants sufficient to make a first cutting, and if the process is so simple, and if the machinery is of the simplest and cheapest description, why is it, he goes on to say, that for the last ten years practically the whole of the farmer regions of the earth have been keeping their eye on the ramie, and yet no fields have been established and no large plants put down to deal with it? The position is pretty much as it was ten years ago, simply because there has not been machinery available, at once simple, cheap, and efficient.

NATAL COTTON.—Many attempts have been made in the past to grow cotton in Natal, but these have failed, partly on account of the want of suitable labour and also partly from ignorance of the insect pests which attack the cotton, and of the proper method of dealing with them. Some of these difficulties, says the *Indian Trade Journal*, have been grappled with, and another attempt to grow cotton for export is being made near Umzinto by Mr. John Kirkham, a Member of the Natal Legislative Assembly. Last year Mr. Kirkham obtained a yield at the rate of 600 lbs. of ginned cotton to the acre, which realised over 6d. per lb. in the English market. This year, he and his neighbours have planted some 150 acres, which in March last appeared most promising. The climate of Natal is believed to be most peculiarly suited to the growth of cotton; April and May, the months when cotton ripens, being unusually dry.

THE MANILA BEAN.—The *Bulletin of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture* speaking of the Manila bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*), says that the plant is a native of the Malay Archipelago, and was probably introduced into India. It is an annual with violet-blue flowers which are succeeded by pods of square section when cut across and are winged along the four edges. The root is long and fleshy like an oblong turnip. There are several varieties, distinguished by length of pods, breadth of wings, and colour of seeds. The pods, while still green and tender, may be cut into short segments and cooked, being used like French beans, to which they are but slightly inferior in flavour. The ripe beans are not recommended as food, as they are said to make the head heavy, though, roasted, they are used as food in Java. The fleshy root is dug up before any seeds are allowed to ripen, and boiled. It is eaten by the Burmese, without cooking, between meal times, as a delicacy. It is slightly sweet, firm like an apple,

and by no means unpleasant. If the seeds are allowed to ripen the roots get dry and less pulpy. The plant likes a considerable amount of moisture. The average yield is over 48 cwts. of tubers per acre, and the net profit amounts to about 25s. The margin left to *bona fide* cultivators after trouble and expenses would by itself not be encouraging, but a bumper crop of sugar-cane is usually grown in the year after a crop of Manila beans. It is said that the cane crop, if preceded by Manila beans, yields half as much again as usual. The trade in the roots is a large one, and they are sent in considerable quantities more than 200 miles by rail or river.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Martinique and the loss of St. Pierre.

The ratification of the Brussels Sugar Convention led to the area under cane cultivation being increased, and the crop of 23,938 tons in 1904 rose successively to 30,186 tons in 1905 and to 42,241 tons in 1906. Exports of rum increased from 2,014,338 gallons, valued at £136,647, in 1905, to 2,496,069 gallons, valued at £194,288, in 1906. The cacao crop of 1906 shows a slight increase over that of the preceding year, being 1,033,183 lbs. in 1905, and 1,040,373 lbs. in 1906. This larger crop benefited also by higher prices, hence the increase in the value of £6,388. The imports of 1906 amounted in value to £601,316, an increase of £5,022, as compared with the value of the imports of 1905. The average value of the imports during the last three years, in the course of which the colony has enjoyed comparative calm, has remained at a little over £600,000. The average for the ten years preceding 1902, that is the year in which St. Pierre was destroyed, was slightly in excess of £1,050,000. The decrease is, therefore, only 40 per cent., and, save under exceptional circumstances, it may be assumed that this figure will show little variation in the immediate future.

Brazil, where the nuts come from.

Mr. Consul-General Chapman states that attempts have been made to develop a fruit export trade, but to enable Brazil to compete in this industry a reduction in the expenses of production, better cultivation and more skilled labour in picking and packing are required, irrespective of the question of transport, and he gives the following particulars of the fruits exported during 1906 and 1905:—

Fruit.	Quantity.	Quantity.		Value.	
		1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.
Bananas... ..	bunches	1,852,012	1,434,611	£67,076	£52,467
Pineapples	kilos	276,556	201,944	5,734	7,021
Palm nuts or coquilhos ... ..	..	569,249	580,147	4,516	5,912
Cocoa-nuts	hundred	1,910	1,620	1,138	1,091
Oranges... ..	..	2,394	1,239	810	207
Tangerine oranges	kilos	24,575	43,160	509	547
Alligator pears... ..	..	470	1,765	20	11
Other fruits ... ..	..	2,570	4,852	104	149
Total ... ..	..	..	..	79,907	67,405

Bananas in Costa Rica.

The total export of bananas in 1906, says Mr. Consul Cox, was 8,872,729 bunches, an increase of 1,589,729 bunches over the preceding year. To show the rapid development of the industry, we give the following table showing the quantities exported during the past five years:—

Year.	Quantity. Bunches.	Year.	Quantity. Bunches.
1902	4,174,199	1905	7,283,000
1903	5,139,063	1906	8,872,729
1904	6,065,400		

During 1906 the distribution of bananas exported was as follows:—

	Quantity. Bunches.		Quantity. Bunches.
United States—		United Kingdom—	
New York	1,081,823	Manchester	2,521,142
New Orleans	3,048,774	Bristol	159,690
Mobile	925,232		
Boston	1,136,068	Total	2,680,832
Total	6,191,897	Grand total	8,872,729

In 1906 for the first time, the value of the bananas exported from Costa Rica, namely, £912,746, exceeded that of the coffee, £670,649.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Tagus* which left Barbados at 9 p.m. on September 10th, reached Southampton at 7 a.m. on Monday, September 23rd, and the mails were delivered in London early in the afternoon

of the same day. Among the passengers were Lady Hodgson and Mr. D. W. A. McKinnon. The Imperial Direct Line's R.M.S. *Port Royal* from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, September 25th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Barbados too dry.

Writing on September 8th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne was sorry to have to report that rain was greatly needed. The average rainfall for August was about 5.40 ins., but almost all had fallen in the earlier part of the month and in September there had been hardly anything. A few scattered estates had had showers of about 50 parts, but there had been no general fall, and there had been practically a drought for a full month. This was most serious at this time of the year, especially as the canes which had profited by the good rains in July and the early part of August were under a good growth, but it was feared that crops would be now checked, especially the cotton. The winds had dropped and it had been very hot, so it was hoped that rain was not far off. The Legislative Council had met on September 3rd, when a reply to the Governor's speech was handed to His Excellency. Stress was laid on the benefits received from the Brussels Convention. Both Houses had adjourned till November. Nothing further was known of the Governor's movements. Considerable excitement had been caused by what appeared to have been the wilful murder, or at least manslaughter of a Barbadian in the Panama Canal zone, when the assailant was tried by three judges and entirely exonerated. It was hoped that His Majesty's Government would cause a full enquiry to be made into this matter through Washington, or it would have a very bad effect on the Barbadian labourers.

British Guiana and Cricket.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing on September 7th, said that all were very glad to see the settlement of the mail question and to be certain of a regular service for the next ten years. The Venezuelan incident he learnt from the press had been somewhat exaggerated. Captain Calder had entered Venezuelan territory, and for this the Government had apologised to Caracas. Captain Calder had been removed to the East Coast district and the incident was now regarded as closed. The proposed regulations and conditions for growing rubber had been the subject of much discussion in the Legislature, and the Governor had appointed a Committee to go into the question. The inter-colonial cricket matches were a fixture during the next fortnight. The team from Barbados arrived by the mail, and the Trinidad team was due on the 9th. The latter would play the colony team on the 14th and the Barbadians would play the winners. Some 600 tons crystals had been sold during the fortnight on private terms. The price at the time of writing for 96° crystals was quoted at \$2.17½. The weather during the fortnight had been too much on the dry side, and showers were wanted in Demerara and Berbice counties. In Essequibo the weather had been favourable, showers having been frequent during that period.

Good rain in Dominica.

According to Mr. E. A. Agar, who wrote on September 7th, the Dominicans would be glad to settle down to regular mails again. The steamer calling for England on Sundays was very inconvenient generally, but it would be absurd to grumble at a detail now that the service had been arranged for. During the last week ample rains had fallen, in time for the crop. First pickings should begin in a week or two. At present prices cacao was a valuable product.

Exhibitions in Grenada.

The Governor had been good enough, says Mr. Falconer Anton writing on August 28th, to comply with the request of the Committee to grant a further sum of £25 to enable the prize-holding competition in the parish of St. John to be repeated so that there would be one in St. David as well as in St. John this year. Next year, all going well, there would be another in St. David and one in another parish, and so on, until all the parishes had had two each. This was one of the most useful schemes that had been undertaken, and was giving most satisfactory results. Another good thing that the Society had done was to introduce an improved variety of sweet potato. Seeds had been imported, and were being distributed free to peasant proprietors and agriculturalists. It was also proposed to write to Jamaica respecting an improved variety of manioc, which was understood to be successfully grown there, with the view of its being introduced into Grenada. Mr. Falconer Anton also wrote on September 7th that the price obtained for cacao was gladdening the hearts of the cacao planters, but that trade for the last week or two had been very dull. The correspondence relative to the proposed holding of the next Agricultural Conference in Jamaica had been brought before the Committee of Management at its regular monthly meeting and ordered to be brought up at the next general meeting to be held on the 20th inst., when probably a resolution on the same lines as that passed at Barbados on the same subject would be adopted.

Satisfactory financial position of Jamaica.

Writing on September 12th, our correspondent, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, stated that during the fortnight good showers had been fairly general, but until next year, when the crops are reaped, it would not be possible to determine the damage done by the drought. Pimento was being gathered and cured, the coffee picking will begin early next month, and the sugar and ginger crops late in December or the beginning of January, so that the export returns of next year would show the extent of the injury. The newly formed Angel's (banana) Company was to instal, in the course of a few weeks, a complete pumping outfit for the irrigation of a large tract of land to be put in bananas. If this was successful it would mean the reclaiming for fruit growing of a large tract of land now in rinate. There was every indication of a very large excess of general revenue over expenditure at the close of the current financial year. When the Legislative Council met early in the year, the surplus was estimated at about £40,000. From the Customs receipt to date, there was every prospect of this being exceeded, and there was no chance of Sir Sidney Olivier, whatever his other difficulties might be, having to face financial stringency. A postal notice had been issued increasing the limit of weight for letters from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz. The charge to the United Kingdom and British Possessions would now be 1d. for the first oz. and 1d. for each succeeding oz., that to countries in the Postal Union 2½d. for the first oz. and 1½d. for each succeeding oz. Mr. C. C. Farquharson, the Secretary of the Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, writing on September 10th, reported ideal weather for cane cultivation, rains occurring every afternoon, and that the prospects of the coming sugar crop were encouraging. Blackheath estate had been sold by Mr. Eustace Greg to Mr. Hugh Clarke. Writing from Clarendon, Mr. Muirhead stated that since November only 5 ins. of rain had fallen in that district, but that the estates in Vere were better off, not only on account of their having had local showers coming up from the sea, but also from their valuable system of irrigation. The cotton growing on Earl Dudley's property was being watched with keen interest. The insurance cases were reported to be at a standstill when the mail left, and a Commission had gone to England to collect evidence for the final hearing of the cases in Jamaica at the session of the Circuit Court some time in November. Nothing had yet been done in the way of using the Imperial loan and grant.

[We have been informed by cable that subsequent to the date of our correspondent's letter, a decision had been given in the Supreme Court, whereby the onus of proof of cause of fire was laid upon the policy holders.—ED.]

St. Kitts' cotton crop promising.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, writing on September 3rd, said that at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 22nd ult., the subsidy for new mail contracts was unanimously voted, being proposed on the official side and seconded on the non-official. It was unfortunate that St. Kitts was at the end of the line, as it would not be possible to answer letters for a fortnight; but all were only too thankful to know that there would be a regular service. Possibly, later on, modification in the programme might be arranged to give a little more time there. Weather during the last fortnight had been dry, the cane crop were looking green, but growth was backward for the time of year, and rain was badly wanted; cotton looked most flourishing and some picking had already been done.

Volunteering in St. Lucia.

According to Mr. George S. Hudson, who wrote on September 8th, a Draft Ordinance for the new tax had been submitted to the Legislative Council for future discussion. It made all private property within the island subject to a tax on its assessed value. The percentage to be charged was not mentioned in the Draft Ordinance, but there was reason to believe that $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was at first contemplated. The tax was a "screw" one and an additional turn to the screw would be given when the Government thought fit. On its coming into force, the present Income Road Tax would be repealed, as it had not been found to yield as much return as was contemplated. The surplus fund of the colony now stood at over £25,000, and it had increased approximately £5,000 since the withdrawal of the military. If the extra money raised by this tax was to be devoted to some carefully drawn up scheme to develop the colony it would be regarded with some sympathy, but the fact remained that although £5,000 was sanctioned two years ago for road development, not a sod had been turned on any of the new roads. The new tax, if enforced, would be very hardly felt by struggling agriculturalists and house proprietors, who had already paid a village and water rate of from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. on assessed rentals, and it was likely to entail much seizure and sale of unremunerative property. It was also imposed at a time when the colony was not only paying its way but laying up a large surplus. The Governor-in-Chief, who was then at St. Lucia, had expressed the view that the Volunteer Ordinance must empower the Government to call country volunteers away from their district in time of riot, after provision had been made for the safety of women and children, but with reference to the protection of property in our districts, His Excellency would not admit a principle that would tie his hands. This placed a large number of planters who had been

most anxious to assist in repressing disorder, at a deadlock with the Government: their only incentive to join the volunteer corps would be the protection of their homes, while under the Volunteer Ordinance they would probably be called upon to abandon their homes and protect more populous and important districts. Surely some way might be found out of this difficulty by the promotion of the district Rifle Associations, or a corps of special mounted district constables drawn from the planter class. In Dominica the same deadlock existed, and the writer had been informed there that no planters resident more than six miles from Roseau belonged to the volunteer corps. Since last mail, Mr. Sand's report on St. Lucia as a cotton growing country had been published. In this he mentioned some 17 estates possessing land suitable to cotton, to the extent possibly of 1,000 acres. The quantity of lint produced in St. Lucia would compare favourably with other islands, but the labour wage for females who would be largely employed in cotton cultivation was 10d. per day in St. Lucia as against 5d. and 6d. in the other islands, and that of men was also higher. Out of some fifty experiments made in growing Sea Island cotton there within the past seven years, the damaging statement must be faced that no one had shown a profit or continued the cultivation; it might be due to many causes not flattering to St. Lucia, and again it might be that the conditions were not suitable. Future experiments should prove very interesting in determining this point. The weather had been wonderfully dry and fine for this time of year, showing only 5 ins. for August. The drier districts had suffered, while the more humid estates were getting just what they wanted. Cacao pickings had already commenced in the wetter districts, and the promise of crop was very fine; it was naturally backward but still good on the drier estates.

Showery weather in Nevis.

Showery weather was reported from Nevis, but heavy rains were much needed. Great dissatisfaction was being expressed at the mail arrangements which precluded the possibility of an early reply. We regret to say that our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Shand, met with an unpleasant accident on August 13th, while out shooting, his thumb being jammed in the mechanism of his gun and a portion of the flesh being torn away. We are glad to state that recent advices point to a satisfactory recovery, and to the resumption of his interesting correspondence in the near future.

St. Vincent going ahead.

Writing on September 9th, Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. stated that Mr. Bovell's report on the Carib country had been in the hands of the authorities for some weeks past, and had been before the Executive Council, but that the persons most interested had up to the present heard nothing of its contents. They were, however, going ahead planting up the district and furnishing accommodation for the labourers, although in the dark as to the nature of the report. Although there had been some disease in one or two quarters, the cotton cultivation was very promising, and Montrose estate at the back of Kingstown was again to the front so far as cultivation and appearance went. In fact, Mr. Sands considered the estate had the finest growing cotton that he had seen in any of the islands. The weather was very favourable and it could hardly be realised that the hurricane season was well advanced. On September 9th Mr. W. N. Sands writes that under the new Ordinance as mentioned in his last letter, a rifle club had been formed. There were about twenty-five active members, a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and there were also about six honorary members. A rifle range had been made along the east side of Kingstown Bay. Beyond the weather being rather dry during the last three weeks, which had kept back the late planted cotton somewhat, there had been very little news to report. The practically bankrupt condition of St. Vincent, mentioned in the reprint of the 1902 letter of the West India Committee to the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., then Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the prospects of the West Indian cane sugar industry and some consequences of its failure, did not now exist, and St. Vincent was now able to do without an Imperial grant-in-aid and had a surplus of about £3,000 to its credit. It was indeed a great change for the better, and almost solely due to the establishment of the Sea Island cotton industry in 1903.

Rains in Trinidad.

Writing on September 9th, Mr. Edgar Tripp said that he had omitted to mention in his last letter that the Agricultural Society, to whom the Government had referred the proposal to hold the next Agricultural Conference at Jamaica, had passed a unanimous resolution in favour of it. The immigrant steamship *Mutlah* had arrived on the 5th, after a record passage from Calcutta of thirty-nine days. She had embarked 860 souls, 2 were born on the voyage, 12 had died, leaving 850 to be landed. Of the 12 deaths, 3 were adults, 1 child, and 8 infants. The mortality was due principally to an outbreak of measles, of which there were 50 cases. The people were reported to be a fine healthy lot. Amongst the immigrants were 50 who previously served their time in the colonies, had been repatriated, and were willing seekers once again of the scene of their former labours. The period of infection (eighteen days) for yellow fever having expired, the colony had been declared free of infectious disease

on September 8th, and clean bills of health were issued. The team selected to represent Trinidad in the biennial inter-colonial cricket match, to be played at Demerara this year, had left by the S.S. *Saba*. Barbados, as holders of the cup, would sit out the first match, which would be between Demerara and Trinidad, and play the winner. Nearly 6 ins. of rain had fallen in the last fortnight, and the wet season alarmists were uttering the annual fears as to the probable consequences. Statistics were, however, rather against the alarmists. In the natural order of things a lot of rain must be looked for in June, July, and August, averaging for the quarter, about 39 ins., and yet some surprise is expressed when it comes. The strange thing would be if it did not come. The figures for the past years indicated that a heavy fall coming after the sugar crop had been harvested, sufficient to soak the soil for ninety days, is what the following crop required:—

June, July, August.	Rainfall.	Crop.	Bags.	June, July, August.	Rainfall.	Crop.	Bags.
1903	30 ins.	1904	400,000	1906	43 ins.	1907	405,090
1904	23 ..	1905	275,840	1907	39 ..		
1905	38 ..	1906	505,816				

From these figures it will be seen that the present rainfall had been abnormal, and it had had the advantage of being spread fairly evenly over the three months ending 30th ult. It would also be noticed that good crops followed the rains of 1903-5-6, whereas the miserable crop of 1905 followed a corresponding shortage of rain in June, July, and August, 1904, which to say the least was significant. In Naparima, Mr. Tripp stated that sunshine alternating with the rains prevented fear of serious damage by the heavy downfall, which, however, was felt more in the flat Caroni and Couva districts, although one well-known sugar planter in the former was quite satisfied with the weather as it was. Cacao planters had little to complain of. On the whole, it suited them well enough. Reports from Princes Town were to the effect that the weather is causing some anxiety there. Cane farmers were beginning to see the advantage of planting at that time of year, and were making active preparations for crop 1909. Cacao had been coming forward more freely than usual for the time of the year. 4,064,296 lbs. of Trinidad had been shipped during August, making the total for eight months 30,100,069 lbs. Considerable quantities of Venezuela had arrived, meeting ready sale, at or approaching \$25 per fanega, at which price all grades of Trinidad were also selling.

SHIPMENTS.

	Trinidad.	Venezuela		Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Totals at last report	147,669	28,018		447	300 New York.
Aug. 26.—S.S. <i>P. der Nederland</i>	1,060	84 Europe.	Aug. 30.—S.S. <i>Statia</i>	—	—
" 26.—S.S. <i>Ascania</i>	659	300 ..	Sept. 2.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem II.</i>	60	—
" 27.—S.S. <i>La Plata</i>	1,282	— ..			
" 30.—S.S. <i>France</i>	650	1,014 ..	Total to date	155,079	30,157

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Mosquitoes and Yellow Fever.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—During an outbreak of yellow fever in the colony I have been recently residing in, I noticed, coincident with the abatement of the epidemic a diminution in the number of *Stegomyia* mosquitoes. Is this due to partial extinction of the mosquitoes by the disease they have been propagating, or is the cessation of the disease due to the diminution in the number of mosquitoes from some other cause?

Yours, &c.,

MANGO.

[Perhaps some of our medical readers who have made yellow fever a study would give their opinion on this point.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks, the receipt from the respective Governments of the Blue Books of St. Lucia, British Honduras, and St. Vincent, for the year 1906.

Handbook of Barbados. This useful little work has been compiled for the purpose of the Canadian exhibition, and contains concise, and at the same time comprehensive, historical, agricultural, and general information concerning the colony. An appendix gives some statistics regarding trade, an interesting list of works referring to Barbados, and a list of the exhibits at the exhibition.

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. Volume V., No. 2. Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode. 1s. Among the records of recent investigations given are Part II. of "Fibres of British West Africa"; an interesting account of "Timber from the Mabira Forest, Uganda"; and a note on the "Occurrence of Indigo in the Gara Plant of Sierra Leone." In the general notices there is an excellent article on the sources, manufacture, and industrial uses of alcohol, and the rest of the matter is, as usual, interesting and instructive.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

ERRATUM.—In No. 233 of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, page 416, the statistics of cane farming in Trinidad are given as for the year 1906. This should read 1907.

A PLEASING TRIBUTE.—Among the many presents of which Mr. Aspinall was the recipient on the occasion of

his marriage, was an elegant biscuit box, with a suitable inscription, from the staff of the Whitefriars Press.

GOOD NEWS.—Our readers will be glad to hear that Sir H. M. Jackson has undergone a most successful operation and fully expects to be able to return to Trinidad by the mail of the 30th, fully restored to health.

FORMOSA FACTORIES.—A second order for a complete sugar factory for the island of Formosa has been placed by the Japanese with the Harvey Engineering Company. The Mirrlees Watson Company have also received a commission for a factory to grind 1,000 tons of cane per diem for the same island.

WEST INDIAN ZOUAVES.—A number of men of the West Indian Regiment, who have been undergoing a month's musketry course at Hythe, visited London recently in charge of non-commissioned officers. Their bright and picturesque uniforms, with the scarlet-red turban headgear, attracted considerable attention as they wandered about the City.

EARTHQUAKE CONSTRUCTION.—The Archbishop of Jamaica, in his address at the annual meeting of the Jamaica Synod, stated that well-constructed wooden frame buildings on concrete foundations and kept in good order, have withstood satisfactorily both hurricane and earthquake. There is also reason to believe, he said, that steel frame buildings for towns, with reinforced concrete, can also be erected so as to give reliable security against these dangers.

AVOCADO PEARS.—We have received from Commander the Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N., specimens of avocado pears from Trinidad. These left Trinidad on August 26th, and when submitted to gastric analysis by us were found to be excellent. Of the consignment, not less than 70 per cent. arrived in good condition, after having been twenty-three days in transit. The pears were picked "full," but not ripe, and especial care was taken to avoid bruising. Although the taste for this exquisite edible is generally an acquired one, it is soon acquired, and when acquired is never lost.

AQUATIC GALA.—A large gathering assembled at the Westminster Baths on the evening of September 16th, to witness the fourth annual swimming entertainment given by the staff of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. A team race between the Union Castle, Orient, Euterpe and R.M.S.P. Clubs was won by the Union Castle team. Among the prize winners in the various events were Mr. J. Hubbert (the Elkington Cup), Mr. D. B. Miller (the Dawson Cup), Mr. R. Edyvene (the Curtis Cup), and Mr. F. G. Heller (the Philipps Cup). The prizes were distributed by Miss Curtis, daughter of Mr. S. H. Curtis, director of the Company, and the proceedings were brought to a close by a water-polo contest between the City Police and the Nautilus Polo Club, which was won by the former.

SUGAR IN INDIA.—On the average of the five years ending 1905-6, the five provinces to which the following figures refer, were, says the *Indian Trade Journal*, in the aggregate 93.5 per cent. of the entire reported sugar crop of British India, the entire area under sugar cultivation being 2,350,000 acres. For the five provinces dealt with, the total area forecast in August, 1906, was 2,284,100 acres; for the present crop the estimate is 2,398,500 acres, or an increase of 5 per cent. In the United Provinces the area is roughly shown at 1,450,000 acres, or nearly 7 per cent. more than last year. In Bengal the area reported as planted is 431,700 acres, against 424,500 for last year, an increase of 1.7 per cent. In Eastern Bengal and Assam the area is 193,300 acres, as against 186,600 acres for last year, an increase of 3.5 per cent. In the Punjab, the area sown is 301,500 acres, as compared with 277,700 acres last year, or an increase of 9 per cent., while in the North-west Frontier Province the total area under cultivation is 28,700 acres, as against 28,600 last year. The general outlook for the crop is extremely promising.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Sept. 17.—Report of the Irish Land Commissioners published.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., steady.
 Wed., Sept. 18.—Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Liverpool opened.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., steady.
 Thur., Sept. 19.—Reciprocity Treaty between France and Canada signed in Paris.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., easier.
 Fri., Sept. 20.—Lord Rosebery, speaking at Glasgow, advocated reform in the House of Lords.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., steady.
 Sat., Sept. 21.—Grocers' Exhibition opened at Agricultural Hall.—Beet (morning call) 9s. 11½d., steady.
 Mon., Sept. 23.—Anglo-Russian Convention ratified at St. Petersburg.—Beet, 10s. 0½d., quiet.
 Tues., Sept. 24.—The Pan-Celtic Congress opened at Edinburgh.—Beet, 9s. 11½d., quiet.
 Wed., Sept. 25.—Foreign Office publishes terms of, and correspondence connected with, the Anglo-Russian Convention.—Beet, 9s. 11d., quiet.
 Thur., Sept. 26.—The New York Yacht Club declines Sir Thomas Lipton's challenge.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., flat.
 Fri., Sept. 27.—Kirkdale division of Liverpool election: Mr. C. McArthur (U.), 4,000 votes; Mr. J. Hill (Soc.), 3,330 votes.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., steady.
 Sat., Sept. 28.—Death of the Grand Duke of Baden.—Sir John Bell elected Lord Mayor of London for next year.—Beet, 10s. 1d., quiet.
 Mon., Sept. 30.—State visit of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs to Leicester.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.

COMING EVENTS.

Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures. (Further particulars will be given later).
 Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Rifleman.—Trinidad has four troops of cavalry and six companies of infantry, in all about 500 rank and file. Sir David Wilson, K.C.M.G., is honorary Colonel of the regiment. The colony was represented at His Majesty's Coronation by two officers and forty-eight non-commissioned officers and men.

Netherlands.—Through the courtesy of the Hon. Francis Watts, I can now supplement my reply of May 21st last by informing you that there are, so far as can be ascertained, three ginneries worked by aermotors in the Leeward Islands, one at Tortola, another in St. Kitts, and the third in Nevis. On the whole, the aermotor is not an ideal form of motor for ginneries, and Dr. Watts would not recommend its adoption, except in very unusual cases. An oil engine does not cost a great deal more, and is much more satisfactory. An aermotor costs about £60 not erected, a cotton gin about £23, and a hand power baling press £12 to £20. Then there is the necessary shafting, belting, erection and so forth, so that, excluding cost of buildings, a ginnery with one gin could be put up for about the £154 you mentioned. An oil engine could be obtained for about £75 to £90.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 4% on Thursday, August 15th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) 82.

The Floating Dock Company of St. Thomas, Limited.

The thirtieth ordinary meeting of this company was held on Sept. 6th, Mr. Edward Barnett being in the chair. A dividend of 4 per cent. on the first preference shares was declared. As Mr. Thomas Burnett, the retiring director, did not seek re-election, Mr. Howard Stanley Barnett was elected in his place.

Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, Limited.

This Company held its eighteenth annual general meeting on the 19th ult. Mr. Thomas Skinner presided, and a dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per cent., making, with the interim dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per cent. already paid, 5 per cent. for the year was declared. The business of the year had been adversely affected by the Jamaica earthquake, which had severed the Direct West India Company's cable. The balance at credit of revenue account now stands at £16,598. Mr. C. R. Hosmer and Mr. E. G. Ward, the retiring directors were re-elected.

The Direct West India Cable Company, Limited.

The tenth annual meeting of this company took place on the 19th ult. Mr. Thomas Skinner being in the chair. The net results of the year's working showed a profit of £2,098, as compared with £3,113 for the previous year. The balance at credit of the revenue account, after being debited with the cost of repairs due to the recent earthquake in the West Indies, now stands at £29,146; and during the year debentures were paid off to the extent of £8,000. A dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum was declared. Mr. C. R. Hosmer and Mr. E. G. Ward, the retiring directors, were duly re-elected.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) September 26th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), "Weather very dry, rain much wanted." September 28th. "A little rain has fallen generally since last message." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), September 27th. "Weather is too dry." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Company, Ltd.), September 23rd. "Showery and favourable for cultivation." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended September 18th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "12th to 14th, fine; 15th, rainy; 16th to 18th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "rainy."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. G. Mason), September 23rd:—Mr. A. Blanco, Mr. A. Boccardo, Mr. J. Boccardo, Mr. W. A. Bailey, Mr. J. Brink, Mr. J. Ball, Mr. W. Blackett, Mr. W. Bell, Mr. W. Brown, Mrs. G. E. Cooper, Dr. and Mrs. Torres Cardenas, Mr. A. G. Cameron, Mr. F. Castle, Mr. J. Cummings, Mr. C. Dixon, Mr. J. Devenish, Miss C. Du Boulay, Miss F. Du Boulay, Mr. A. Dohme, Mr. E. Day, Mr. F. Evans, Miss R. Everett, Capt. O. G. Fowler, Mr. A. J. Ferguson, Mr. Jose Fadul, Mr. P. Farrel, Mr. W. Ford, Mr. J. Greber, Mr. P. Gardner, Mr. M. M. Greaves, Lady Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Holguin, Mr. E. Leach, Mr. A. B. Hunter, Miss Harper, Mrs. Jardine, Mr. D. Johnson, Mr. F. Johnson, Mr. P. Keech, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. A. T. Le Fevre, Mr. J. La Grave, Miss Laing, Mr. R. Lange, Mrs. Law, Mrs. and Miss Martinez, Miss Milne, Mr. F. R. Miles, Mr. D. W. A. McKinnon, Miss McKinnon, Rev. Father Molloy, Mr. J. H. Moore, Mr. T. Martin, Mr. A. Miller, Miss M. Nieto, Mr. R. G. Priest, Mrs. Perez, Mr. L. Pawan, Mr. C. H. Price, Mr. S. H. Poole, Mr. T. Pearce, Mr. C. L. Reid, Mr. J. Rapsey, Mr. P. H. Russell, Mr. G. Railton, Mrs. G. Railton, Mr. G. Rowlands, Mr. F. Schellhass, Mr. T. P. Sharma, Mr. J. Sleeper, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Schultz, Mr. C. Scherling, Mr. Stronach, Mr. F. F. Stirling, Mr. F. J. Seedorff, Mr. J. Shirley, Mr. H. W. Turner, Mr. W. Tomlinson, Mr. C. Tobon, Mr. A. J. Walker, Capt. Hugh Williams, Mr. C. Waite, and Mr. H. P. Wheeler.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. G. Mason), October 2nd:—Col. A. J. A. and Mrs. Matos, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Swan, Mr. E. Loveluck, Mrs. C. J. Greenridge, Mrs. J. Williams, Miss Edith Roberts, Mr. H. Greminger, Mr. F. W. Bolton, Mr. Ernest W. F. English, Mr. Pol le Tellier, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hammond, Mr. Hammond, Junr., Mr. and Mrs. T. Luria, Mrs. L. H. Lovelace, Dr. C. H. Richard, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Robinson, Mrs. A. M. Fitt, Miss Weigall, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mr. A. Sommaruga, Mr. P. G. Fulton, Mr. Driver, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Richard, Mr. H. A. Otway, Miss Darling, Mr. Geo. F. Robinson, Hon. Geo. Goodwill, Rev. A. G. Tuck, Rev. J. F. Denny, Rev. and Mrs. W. Saywell, Mr. James Miller, Mr. George Cursiter, Mrs. E. de Eraso, Mr. J. R. Balleer, Mr. B. B. Littlepage, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Williams, Mr. John Floissac, Mr. W. Sutherland, Mr. W. F. Hilton, Mr. and Mrs. Jayme

Pacheco, Mr. L. Bert de la Marre, Mr. C. W. Haynes, Mr. Gómez, Father Ammon, Mrs. Hooking, Mr. S. E. Jacobson, Mr. G. C. Chambers, Mr. Ralph C. Renton, Miss Lestrade, Dr. Inman Welsh, Mr. and Mrs. Borde, Miss Borde, H.E. F. E. Guachalla, Mr. A. D. Romeio, Miss R. C. Guachalla, Mr. and Mrs. Huertematte, Miss Espinosa, Mrs. E. A. Beaclerk, Dr. G. E. Copland, Mr. and Mrs. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee, Miss Marian Heathcote, Mr. and Mrs. Glendenning, Mr. J. Haynes, Mrs. Ernest Biddy, Mr. Laxmoore Ball, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. L. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. de Lisle, Mrs. R. G. De Gale, Mr. Alfred Wellmer, Mrs. John H. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kinnaird, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Fleming, Mr. C. E. H. Thorne, Mr. Joseph Baeza, Rev. Wm. M. Springer, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. Carl Michelsen, Mr. James Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smellie, Mrs. Wenzel, Miss Lola Carmejo, Mr. Thomas Scott, Lady Rayner, Miss Eaton, Hon. and Mrs. Carl de Verteuil, Mr. Hastings Cruise, Mr. Fred W. Sawyer, Brevet-Col. W. R. Stewart, R.E., Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Burn, Mr. Guy C. Wyatt, Mr. and Mrs. Rubiano, Mr. Wilfred Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ulrich, Mr. and Mrs. A. Audsley, Miss Dowson, Mr. J. Caracciolo, Miss M. Caracciolo, Mrs. C. Alonzo, two Misses Alonzo, Mr. Felix Alonzo, Mr. Manuel Alonzo, Mr. R. Vargas, Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, Mr. J. N. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. I. Galindo, and Mrs. O. L. Ludford.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Selve), September 25th:—**Jamaica:** Mrs. T. Adam, Mr. R. Aitken, Mr. G. B. Ascroft, Mr. Barnsley, Mr. R. H. Compton, Miss N. Coke, Mr. P. DeMontagnac, Miss G. Farquharson, Mr. Gideon, Mrs. Goodwin, Rev. Canon Harty, Mr. Hampson, Miss Hillkirk, Rev. W. Kerr, Capt. Joseph Lyon, Mr. L. C. Levy, the Misses Muirhead, Miss G. Pengelly, Miss G. Pearman, Mr. F. A. Potts, Mr. Reed, Mr. Alexander Russell, Mr. G. P. Tarring, Mr. G. E. Valentine, Mr. A. J. Webb, Mr. Watson, Miss McGrath, Mr. Joseph Shore, Mr. Stinton, Mr. H. M. Vickers, and Mr. J. Rennick.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Sept. 21st:—**Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. T. Anderson, Mr. A. Appleby, Mrs. Abrahams, Mrs. Addison and two children, Col. E. Moulton-Barrett, Mrs. Otter Barry, Miss D. Richmond Brown, Mrs. Bliss, Mr. Bickerdike, Mrs. Bickerdike, Mrs. Brown, Major Barchard, Mr. Briard, Mr. A. E. Clodd, Mr. C. M. Da Costa, Miss Clarke, Rev. E. P. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Holland and family, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. D. Horn, Mr. J. Horn, Mr. Hutchinson, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Johnstone, Miss E. V. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Lynch, Major C. W. Long, Mrs. Lawrenson, Mr. and Mrs. Lye, Miss M. Mumby, Miss H. De Mercado, Sister Madeline, Miss F. Napier, Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Phillips, Mrs. Parkinson, Lieut. G. McRoome, Mr. and Mrs. L. Scatti, Mr. J. R. Smith, Mr. Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. T. Southby, Mr. N. P. Twitchin, Miss C. Tilley, Miss M. Thwaites, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Taylor, Mr. E. Verney, Mr. C. L. Walker, Mr. Westcott, Mr. John Allan, Mr. Robert Bayly, Mr. J. W. Cottle, Mr. James Clements, Mr. J. J. Doyle, Mrs. Gaze, Mr. W. Montgomery, Mr. Geo. Robson, and Mr. Williamson.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Oct. 2—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>	Oct. 1, mdn't.
" 3—	The West Indies (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Glasgow	Direct Line	<i>Crown of Granada</i>	" 2, 6 p.m.
" 4—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Serrana</i>	" 4, noon.
" 4—	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, & Jamaica	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Sarstoon</i>	" 4, noon.
" 5—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>	" 4, 6 p.m.
" 11—	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	<i>Frednes</i>	" 10, 6 p.m.
" 12—	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Yucatan</i>	" 11, 6 p.m.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Oct. 7—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>
" 9—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Sept. 5	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Sept. 7	1907 1906	April 1 to Sept. 1.	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Sept. 7	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to Sept. 9.	1906/7 1905/6
Sugar	34,997 47,839 Tns.	46,554 50,403 Tons.	8,687 8,187 Tons.	405,090 503,616 Bgs. & Brls.	3,491 2,067 Puns.	191 149 Trvs.	178 80 Brls.	881 792 Puns.	59,755 53,944 Bags.	59,755 53,944 Bags.
Molasses	61,672 59,592 Pns.	372 2,910 Puns.	941,417 915,547 Galls.	26,466,280 21,301,570 lbs.	3,520 16,640 "	7,639,258 7,850,305	14,846 13,719 Bags.	934 1,015 Bales	4,742 5,692 Bags	4,742 5,692 Bags
Rum	...	9,706 10,618 Puns.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasses	...	4,633 5,684 Tons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cacao	...	57,845 3,300 lbs.	28,986 34,461 Cwts.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coffee	17,605 14,789 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	...	234,891 51,088	6,258,599 2,591,445	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Copra	5,200 15,165 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton
" Seed
Asphalt	1,238,192 9,872,279	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oranges	8,269,844 8,069,770 Stems.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bananas	25,028 31,111 Cwts.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice
Gold	...	43,580 01,021 OZS.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamonds	...	1,187 1,564 carats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rice	...	4,370,134 798,939 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SPICE.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The sugar Market at the commencement of the fortnight, after some fractional fluctuations, showed a decline in prices of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. at the end of the week and the tone was quiet. At the opening last Monday firmness characterised the market, and quotations marked an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for old and new crop, but this improved feeling subsided towards the close and has been succeeded since by varying phases of steadiness and flatness, leading to a shrinkage in prices of about 1d. for old and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. for new crop as compared with quotations last mail. The quotations yesterday at the opening of the Market were: September, 9s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., October/December, 9s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., January/March, 9s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., and May, 9s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., and the tone was flat.

F. O. Licht gives the consumption for the 12 months, September/August, as:—

	1906/7.	1905/6.	1904/5.	
Europe	4,411,655	4,348,066	3,833,150	Tons.
America	1,963,688	1,950,599	1,828,779	..
	6,375,343	6,298,665	5,661,929	..

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	897,700	1,150,000	790,000	1,100,000	1,490,000	Tons.
United States	235,000	220,000	180,000	150,000	180,000	..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	307,400	140,000	430,000	260,000	270,000	..
Total	1,440,100	1,510,000	1,400,000	1,510,000	1,940,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, Sept. 30th:—	9s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	9s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	8s. 10d.	10s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	8s. 4d.	

Grocery West Indian.—A quiet tone has predominated in this Market, and there has been little business passing: the moderate supplies at auction having met with little demand. Trinidad and St. Lucia crystallised have realised 18s. for middling yellow. In sympathy with the tendency in beet, this market is a shade off, and a small parcel catalogued the end of last week was all bought in for want of bids. **Muscovado.**—The demand is very slow and there is little or no business to report. **Molasses Sugar.**—Syrups are scarce, and there is consequently scarcely anything to report in West India; 500 mats Mauritius syrups have been sold at 11s. 9d. as well as a further parcel of 675 mats at 11s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 12s. 6d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	27,867	46,000	32,000	36,000	20,000	Tons.
Deliveries	28,562	37,000	30,000	37,000	32,000	..
Stocks (Sept. 21)	9,214	18,000	12,000	11,000	16,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: (nominal) 18s. 0d.

16s. 6d. 17s. 0d. 18s. 3d. 16s. 0d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, Sept. 21st:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	9920	9500	10,000	11,300	11,600	Puns.
Demerara	6079	4700	5500	8200	7400	..
Total of all kinds	24,266	21,000	23,600	28,000	29,500	..

The proof Market is firm, and the recently landed shipment of 700 puns. per *Dee*, referred to last mail, has been cleared at 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 2d. The *Stavia* is due with 300 puns., for which an advance will be required. Quotations are for Demerara, 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 2d. proof, and for Jamaica unchanged at 2s. 7d. for common, to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and for good to fine export qualities, 3s. to 8s. Jamaicas are quiet, but prices are well maintained.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Sept. 21st:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	6983	12,000	24,000	29,300	18,300	Bags.
Grenada	2582	7100	16,000	15,000	11,200	..
Total of all kinds	41,026	63,000	90,000	97,600	69,800	..

The Market has been firm in tone though quiet. At public auctions last week the total quantity offered met a slow demand, but where sales were effected firm prices were realised, and in some instances rather higher rates were obtained than those ruling privately. Trinidad was all bought in, owing to high limits by sellers. Grenada being much wanted, sold at extreme rates. Other West India was slow and only partly sold. The business done was: Grenada at 118s. 6d. to 121s. 6d.; Dominica at 112s. to 120s. (part sold); St. Lucia at 120s. to 120s. 6d.; Jamaica at 105s. 6d. to 117s. (part sold); Demerara at 120s. Since, small sales have taken place, comprising: Trinidad, Ceylon, and African, at 120s., but towards the close of last week there was a pause in the demand.

COFFEE.—Santos for October delivery, 30s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The spot Market has been steady, and small sales have

taken place at full prices, but chiefly in Central American kinds. The demand continues fair, and previous rates to some advance have been obtained. Nine barrels Jamaica were sold, middling to middling greenish at 48s. 6d. to 57s. In futures a steadier tone has prevailed, and prices show an improvement of about 3d.

COTTON.—For the week ended September 29th, 69 bales West India cotton were imported. Sea Island cotton

has been in rather better request since last report. The best Georgias can now be purchased at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. About 250 bales West India have been sold, including Barbados 18d. to 21d., St. Kitts 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 21d., St. Martin 18d. to 21d., St. Thomas 22d., Montserrat 19d., Nevis 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 19d., Antigua 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 23d., St. Vincent 19d. to 21d., and Linters 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

ARROWROOT.—A large sale was reported after going to press last mail, amounting to about 2,800 barrels

St. Vincent, partly at slightly easier prices, ordinary to good manufacturing at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; good at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. None has been offered at public auction in the fortnight, but privately about 180 barrels St. Vincent were reported as sold at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for fair to good manufacturing, and recently a further 300 barrels at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., for fair to good manufacturing. There is not, however, an active general demand.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon. Distilled oil, easier, 2s. 9d. to 2s. 10d.

per gallon. Hand pressed, easier, 4s. to 4s. 6d. per gallon. Concentrated, easier, £24 5s.

PIMENTO.—Steady and firmly held by importers, and the small offerings at auction were all bought in at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

NUTMEGS.—West India kinds steady. **MACE.**—West India sorts steady, 14 packages sold, pale and reddish at 1s. 2d., fair to good red at 1s. to 1s. 1d., good pickings at 1s., broken at 10d. **GINGER.**—Has been in slow demand, and no West India has been offered at auction. **COPRA.**—Quiet but steady, value of fair merchantable West India £22.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

CIII.



Colonel S. Lushington, C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Oct. 14th, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8642 CENTRAL.

IN August and September last, produce-exhibitions were held in Toronto and Halifax respectively, at which the West Indies were represented by Trinidad, Barbados, and Grenada. Such exhibitions have now become a regular means of extending a knowledge of the West Indies and their possibilities for inter-Colonial trade, and the excellent shows which the above islands make, and the admirable descriptive handbooks which they issue in connection with them, cannot fail to help on the great object: closer trade relations between Canada and the West Indies. To place, however, the commercial relationship of these colonies on a better footing something more is required. A knowledge of the description of products available for merchants, and of the attractions for tourists, is of no use unless trade and tourist facilities in the form of cable, mail, and steamship communication exist. Full opportunities for cabling and shipping at low rates are the *sine qua non* of success in trade, while good boat and hotel accommodation is essential if a tourist industry is to be established. The present system of cable communication can hardly be said to be

industry is to be established. The present system of cable communication can hardly be said to be

satisfactory. Breakdowns are frequent, and apart from this the high rates charged form a serious obstacle to freedom in the transmission of messages. Again, the one subsidised line of steamers, no matter how good it may be in itself, is quite insufficient in the growing relations of Canada and the West Indies. What then is required to develop trade between these naturally reciprocal trade centres further is that cable communication be placed on an entirely new basis, also that improved steamer services be provided. If the latter could be arranged to work as regards mails in some manner in connection with the present Royal Mail Service, mail communication would be much facilitated. We consider that the time has now come when these matters should be seriously taken in hand. It would be more than a pity if at the present moment when trade between Canada and the West Indies promises to be established on a sound basis that its development should mainly be checked from the causes we have mentioned. West Indian sugar has now a firm hold upon the Canadian market. We look to the time when fruit, oranges, limes and bananas, cacao, cotton, coffee, in fact, the many agricultural products of the West Indies will also be represented there on an equally substantial basis. In return for this the West Indian buying which now takes place with the United States could be transferred to Canada. It is true that Canada by allowing her refiners to import 20,000 tons of beet sugar on the preferential basis, has postponed for quite three years the date when she will be able to take the whole of the output of sugar of British Guiana and the West Indies, and consequently the hope of any immediate reciprocal arrangements. All the same, the West Indies, who import so much timber, flour and fish, have much to offer, the time cannot be far distant when the Dominion of Canada and the West Indies are drawn closer together by something stronger than sentimental ties.

WE desire to call the attention of our readers in this country in general, and those in London in particular, to the announcement which appears on another page regarding the gala night which MR. ALFRED J. WEST is organising for October 31st. We have frequently had occasion to refer to MR. WEST'S tour made under the auspices of the West India Committee through British Guiana and the West Indian islands with the object of securing animated photographs of their life and scenery, and it is to give our readers an opportunity of seeing the tangible results of his work that the present arrangements are being made. Of MR. WEST'S ability as a photographer it is unnecessary for us to speak, as it has been so generally recognised. As an ardent Imperialist he has contributed in no small degree towards strengthening the bulwarks of the Empire, for it is admitted that his pictures of "Our Navy" and "Our Army" have had a sensible effect upon recruiting for those services. He now promises to go a step further and to tell his audiences something about the colonies which he has visited. All will, we imagine, agree that a large amount of good must result from the publicity which will thus be obtained, and MR. WEST is therefore deserving of the fullest measure of support which we can give him. Already he has been showing some of the West Indian pictures under the title of "Our Navy, Our Army and Our Colonies," but on the 31st he will confine his programme entirely to the West Indies, and he hopes that he will be able to show nearly the whole of the photographs which he obtained during his recent tour. MR. WEST has recently given what the Press has described as "an Imperial feast" and "patriotism on the screen," and if we are not very much mistaken the tickets for the evening of October 31st will be considerably over-applied for, in view of the deep interest which must be taken in this movement to make our West Indian colonies better known.

THE West Indian tourist season is rapidly approaching, and the time has come when those who are fortunate enough to be able to afford time and money to escape the rigours of an English winter, are beginning to look about them with a view to selecting suitable *hiemalia*. It is important therefore, that we should record, as we are able to do, that the health of the West Indies generally is

quite good at the present time, and that there no quarantine is in force to mar a pleasant cruise in the Caribbean. The Queen's Park Hotel in Trinidad, which we are sorry to say was shut for some months, has now re-opened its doors, and in all the islands active preparations are being made for the reception of a large number of tourists. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., as is their wont, have organised a special series of tours between December and April at prices ranging from £55 to £75. The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service are able to report that in Jamaica their Constant Spring Hotel, now renovated and repaired, is in thoroughly good working order and that they are ready for a large influx of visitors. The Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co. will, as usual, carry many tourists from New York, and so will Messrs. Pickford & Black from Canada, while Dr. LUNN with his steam yacht *Argonaut* will once more enter the lists. We know that by some in the West Indies tourists are considered a nuisance, but it must be admitted that they confer a benefit on such colonies as the West Indies, where new blood and new ideas must always be *desiderata*. It must, moreover, be remembered that of the tourists, while all are pleased, many are induced to invest capital in the islands, while others become landed proprietors. This we know from experience. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the West Indies generally will lay themselves out in their characteristic fashion to enable the visitors to see their colonies under the most favourable auspices. In such countries as Switzerland, where the tourist business is thoroughly understood, visitors are never allowed to suffer from a dull moment. Even when the weather is bad and the scenic attractions are no longer visible, the welfare of the tourist is provided for by a continuous round of amusements, and there is no reason why it should not be the same in the West Indies. Visitors are apt to get satiated with scenery alone, and require to be amused as well as edified. Of late years much progress in this direction has been made in the West Indies—golf links have been established in many of the islands—but much still remains to be done before the West Indies can be brought into line with European winter resorts.

COLONEL S. LUSHINGTON, C.M.G.

Colonel Lushington, who forms the subject of our celebrity portrait in this issue, was born in January 1864. He was educated at Eton, and subsequently entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1882, receiving his commission in the Royal Artillery in 1884. Colonel Lushington has served in India, Canada, and the West Indies, and is still on the active list of the Royal Field Artillery. In 1902 he was appointed Inspector-General of Police and Colonel-Commandant of the Militia in British Guiana, from which appointment he has recently retired, and he was complimented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the manner in which he dealt with the Georgetown riots in December 1905. Colonel Lushington, who has recently become a member of the West India Committee, was made a C.M.G. in June last.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

It is hoped that it will be borne in mind that the subscriptions of new members elected to the West India Committee during the last three months of the current year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1909, and that a large increase in membership will result. Since we last went to press two elections have been held. The first eighteen candidates whose names are given below, were elected at a meeting of the Executive, Sir Nevile Lubbock presiding, on October 3rd, and the last seven on October 10th.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
J. R. YEARWOOD (St. Kitts).	A. D. C. Adamson.	C. Forbes Todd.
WILLIAM BINNIE.	E. D. & F. Man.	Jonas Browne & Son.
W. UTHWATT.	H. S. Cox.	H. F. Previt�.
ROBERT CHALLENGER (Barbados).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	Henry A. Pile.
JAMES O. DOLLY (Trinidad).	Dr. A. B. DUPREY.	Edgar Tripp.
FREDERICK HERRERA (Trinidad).	L. Bert de Lamarre.	R. Rutherford.
AUGUSTINE GAVILLER.	T. J. Wilkinson.	R. Rutherford.
LEON CENTENO (Trinidad).	L. Bert de Lamarre.	R. Rutherford.
DERMOT O. KELLY-LAWSON (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	H. A. Trotter.
H. FARQUHARSON KERR (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	W. P. B. Shepheard.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
L. A. WHARTON, K.C. (Trinidad).	G. Bruce Austin.	H. F. Previté.
JAMES MILLER (Trinidad).	Hon. G. Goodwille.	G. Bruce Austin.
THOS. J. C. CRUMP (Grenada).	P. J. Dean.	W. Gillespie.
WM. ARCHIBALD (Tobago).	Robert S. Reid.	C. W. Stevens.
G. W. PENRICE (Dominica).	D. Mackintosh.	E. L. Marshall.
EDGAR TURNBULL (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	W. P. B. Shephard.
CHARLES E. ISAACS (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	H. A. Trotter.
C. M. FARQUHARSON (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	H. A. Trotter.
MISS AGNES R. H. HOWELL.	Lady Briggs.	John T. Haynes.
T. GEDDES GRANT (Trinidad).	Thomas I. Potter.	H. F. Previté.
W. W. KEATING (Barbados).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	J. W. D. Thorp.
J. O. MASON (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	C. E. de Mercado.
GEOFFREY BROOKE (Dominica).	T. C. Hart.	A. D. Riviere.
HENRY HADIDA.	H. S. Cox.	Smith Bros. & Co.
MAJOR MARESCAUX (Jamaica).	C. E. de Mercado.	Cyril Gurney.

Full 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.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND THE EMPIRE.

To the list of representations made to the Home Government regarding the Brussels Convention by commercial bodies throughout the Empire, which have already appeared in our columns, we append the following:—

North Queensland.—The Australian Sugar Producers' Association which has been lately formed in Queensland, and is the official mouthpiece of those engaged in the Australian sugar industry, cabled to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on August 16th, that "Australian Sugar Producers' Association in session Townville unanimously resolved strongly protest against any denouncement Brussels Convention as such would be ruinous Australian sugar industry."

Cawnpore.—Mr. A. Shakespear, Secretary of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, addressed the following letter to the Secretary to the Government of India on June 8th last:—

"My Committee have had an opportunity of reading your letter No. 3199-27 dated the 16th April last, addressed to the Secretary of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, in which the statement is made that the Government of India have reason to believe that the question of the future policy of the British Government towards the Brussels Sugar Convention is under consideration in England, but no information is available as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government in the matter.

"My Committee view with grave concern the possibility of England's withdrawal from the Convention, and the consequences which might be anticipated to follow such a step, viz., the defection of the other contracting parties and the revival of the sugar bounties. There are indications that the Indian sugar industry is at last emerging from the depression into which it had fallen prior to the inauguration of the Indian Government's policy towards the bounty system, and it is of capital importance that everything possible should be done to prevent a relapse. For this country to be again exposed to imports of bounty-aided sugars selling at prices below the cost of production would, my Committee feel convinced, result in a general set back alike in cultivation and manufacture, which could not be contemplated without serious misgivings.

"My Committee regard the Brussels Convention as a powerful instrument for the maintenance of fair trade in sugar, and although the imposition of the countervailing duties probably went further in restoring equality of conditions between the imported bounty-aid articles and the Indian product, they desire to be associated with the opinions expressed by the Chambers of Commerce of Bengal, Madras and Karachi as to the need for England's adherence to this treaty.

"At the time I am to express the hope that in representing to His Majesty's Ministers in England the strong claims of India in conjunction with the British sugar-producing colonies to the fullest consideration in regard to this vitally important question, His Excellency the Governor-General will take the opportunity of declaring the Government of India's intention in the event of a revival of the sugar bounties to re-impose the countervailing duties."

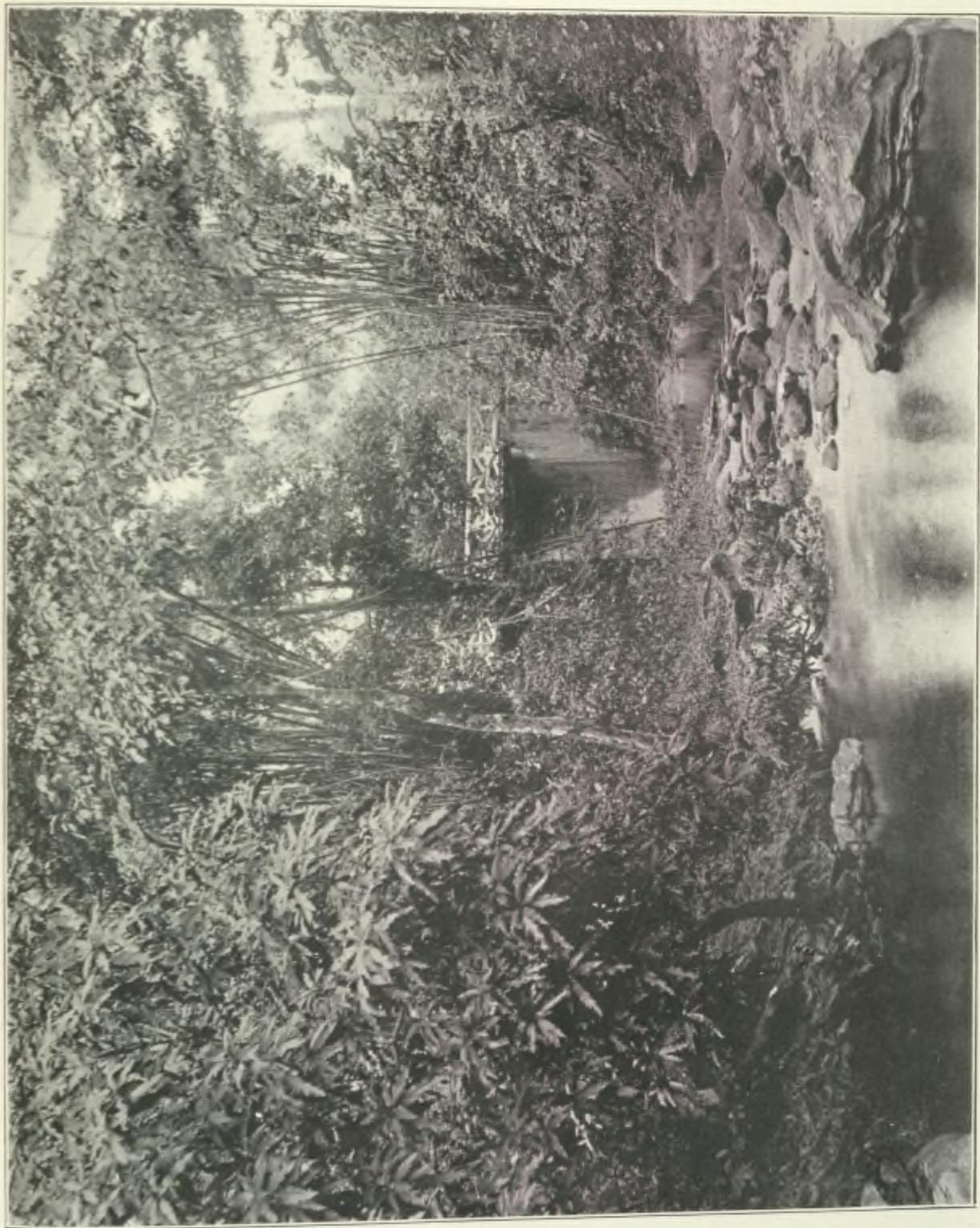
In reply the Under Secretary to the Government of India wrote:—

"With reference to the concluding paragraph of your letter under reply, I am directed to say that the Government of India are at present not prepared to make any pronouncement in regard to the policy which they will follow in the matter of countervailing duties, in the event of the Brussels Sugar Convention coming to an end."

It may be mentioned that the promised Parliamentary paper giving the representations made by public bodies and private associations in India upon the Sugar Convention has just been issued.

SUGAR-CANE EXPERIMENTS.

The results of the manure experiments carried on in Antigua and St. Kitts during 1905-6 under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, have been published. These experiments have now been maintained for six years with plant and for five years with ratoon canes.



A PICTURESQUE VIEW IN TRINIDAD.

The manures dealt with comprised pen manure, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, basic phosphate, superphosphate, dissolved guano, and potash. Taking experiments on plant canes, the "no manure" plots, which by the way received a customary application of twenty tons of pen manure, compared with the "pen manure" plots, in two instances gave higher results, in one instance equal results, and in two instances but slightly lower results. From these the conclusion was drawn that the extra twenty tons of pen manure had had no beneficial effect. As regards artificial manures, the use of sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda either alone or in conjunction with phosphates and potash failed to give remunerative results. Similar experiences were obtained with phosphoric acid and guano. Summing up the plant experiments, it was concluded, therefore, that advantage was gained by the use either of pen manure, guano, or artificial manures applied in addition to the customary application of pen manure. These experiments, however, throw no light on the question of the value of artificial manures as against pen manure. We imagine, however, that in the soils of St. Kitts and Antigua the use of pen manure is so essential to the maintenance of the character of the soil that it was not worth while experimenting without its preliminary application. The results, as regards plant canes, have been so much in accordance throughout the experiments that this series is to be discontinued. The experiments on ratoon canes were carried out on the plots from which the plant canes had been reaped the previous season, the manuring being carried out in the same manner. The St. Kitts experiments only, however, were gone on with for the year under review, and were brought down, from various causes, to one estate. The results of the five years clearly showed that nitrogenous manures, sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda, were essential to the successful growing of ratoon canes. Phosphate manures, potash and guano, had no remunerative action. With the view of determining how far the artificial manures applied to the plants had affected the ratoons, a new series of ratoon experiments was started, the line of work being considerably extended, six stations being brought into operation. This series is too young for conclusions to be drawn from the results at present obtained, but Mr. Tempany, who presents the report in the absence of Dr. Watts, states that the effect of phosphates has been in all cases to decrease the yields in accordance with results previously obtained. We wish that reasons had been assigned for this, and for the application of artificial manures to ratoon canes (which have not received artificial manures as plants) resulting in every case in monetary losses. The serious drought which had been experienced is assigned as the reason for results so directly at variance with previous experiences. The report contains comprehensive tables of the individual results obtained, and an appendix gives useful information and hints on the subject of pen manure.

THE MANUFACTURE OF CASSAVA STARCH.

Much attention has recently been given to the development of cassava cultivation in sub-tropical and tropical regions. The plant has probably reached its highest development in the West Indies, Brazil and other South American countries, as well as in Java and India, where long cultivation and selection have evolved a large number of cultural forms or varieties. Cassava starch has hitherto been produced on a small scale and by comparatively crude methods, and it is on this account that it has not competed with corn or potato starch. An average of something more than 100 analyses of the fresh cassava roots shows the presence of from 25 to 27 per cent. of starch. In the Florida factories seldom more than 20 lbs. of starch is obtained from every 100 lbs. of roots, but by an improved method now adopted in the West Indies, the *Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist* states 25 lbs. out of a possible total of 26 to 27 lbs. present are recovered. The method of starch extraction universally used up to 1903 has been, in brief, as follows: the roots are washed, peeled and grated; the pulp flows over long sieves placed on an inclined plane, and is acted upon by streams of water. These sieves are subjected to interrupted lateral motion, so that the wet pulp is shifted about and constantly subjected to the jets of water thrown upon it. The starch milk which passes through the sieves flows into vats or tanks, where the starch is repeatedly washed to separate out the impurities. It is either allowed to settle in tanks or is concentrated by means of vacuum pans in the cold. It then goes through further washings and is treated with dilute alkalies, with the view of purifying and bleaching the product and at the same time creating uniformity of grade. The purified starch is finally kiln-dried with dry air. In the new method of manufacturing starch from cassava roots, the burr-stone of the flour miller, modified for the treatment of wet grain, is used to grind the roots, so that its ultimate cells are ruptured. The second improvement is in the adaptation of machinery used in the extraction of precious metals from fine milling ores. The principle is that the rate of motion of bodies falling in a fluid varies in accordance with the ratio of their specific gravity to that of the fluid. The amount of friction developed varies with the size of the particles. If particles of equal specific gravity, starch grains for instance, fall through an upward moving column of water, the fluid exercises a weighing capacity, so that the starch grains, which are of uniform specific gravity and

size, are separated from the particles of cellulose and fibre constituting the bulk of the mass of the finely ground cassava roots. The finely ground cassava pulp, falling through a vertical pipe into a conical separator is met by an ascending current of water which carries the starch grains upward through a wire gauze diaphragm, while the cellulose and fibre remain within the cone. The impure starch milk flows from the upper part of the separator and is conducted down to iron settling tanks with conical bottoms. The milk flows down a tube to the bottom of the cone. It then ascends in the increasing sectional area of the cone, in which the liquid suffers reduction of velocity. The downward motion of the starch grains overcomes the upward motion of the fluid which continually flows away as dirty water through a pipe of the upper part of the vessel, while the starch, in a highly-concentrated state is continually drawn through a valve in the bottom of the cone. The concentrated starch milk is then treated with alkali, washed in shakers and run into a final battery of purifying cones. The purified starch milk is run into vats, and the starch kept in suspension by agitators. From the vats the milk runs into wooden boxes with perforated bottoms, lined with muslin. These boxes are placed in a vacuum chamber, and the water extracted. The solid blocks of starch are then cut, wrapped in paper, and dried, and are then ready for shipment.

MANY YEARS AGO.

West Indian Mail Services.

In the closing years of the eighteenth century, the West Indies received a monthly mail. One packet for Barbados, the Windward and Leeward Islands, and another for Jamaica left England in alternate fortnights. At a meeting of the West India Committee on December 21st, 1787, Mr. Beeston Long being in the chair, a proposal of the Postmaster-General that the Jamaica packet should call at Barbados to deliver a mail there for the neighbouring islands, was considered. After some discussion it was resolved—to quote the original wording—

“That since the Planters and Merchants were contented with the former dispositions made for despatching the packets to the Windward and Leeward Islands and Jamaica, and since the idea of altering these dispositions entirely originated on the part of Government for its own accommodation without any suggestion from the Planters and Merchants; that it is against the opinion of this meeting that any additional expense should be imposed upon the West Indies or upon their correspondence, in consequence of any such alterations.

“That as the proposition made by the Merchants of having an express employed where necessary, in the distribution and collection of the packet letters in the Island of Jamaica, was founded on the supposition that Government was disposed for its own objects to abridge the usual stay of the packets at that Island, so as upon some occasions to render answers to the packet letters from distant parts of the Island impossible by that opportunity; the expense of such express where employed, as being occasioned by the alterations of Government, ought not to fall upon the island of Jamaica or its correspondence; especially as the expense of the express will be compensated by the stay of the Packet being shortened in consequence of it.

“That it is the opinion of this Meeting that the expense (if any) of circulating the Windward and Leeward letters proposed to be left at Barbadoes by the Jamaica Packet, in any event will be inconsiderable, provided Government shall see no objection to employ its own vessels or brigs stationed in these smaller Islands, in this service.”

Times are changed. It is now recognised that the more adequate the communication is the better the trade is bound to be, and the West Indian Colonies have shown themselves prepared to join with the Government in providing an efficient mail service.

PROFESSOR CARMODY AND OBEAH.

The report of the Trinidad Government Analyst and Professor of Chemistry for the year 1906-7 shows a net decrease of 466 analyses as compared with the previous year, the number being 1,309 for 1906-7 as against 1,775 for 1905-6. Petroleum showed a decrease of 197 in Custom's samples, and food and drugs a decrease of 181. In the criminal department, which forms an important branch of Professor Carmody's duties, no less than 128 cases of poisoning and other offences were investigated, and among the latter we notice four samples connected with Obeah. The story connected with the latter was, Professor Carmody says, of the usual incredible order. The mixture was said to be intended to facilitate burglary by inducing deep sleep among the inmates of the house. It was used in an ordinary clay pipe, which it was presumed the burglars would smoke, and consisted of crushed bones, tobacco, and scraps of tinsel paper! Under the head of food and drugs it is interesting to note that only 10.6 per cent. of the samples of milk examined were found to

be adulterated. This decrease in milk adulteration has evidently been brought about by the additional punishment or refusal of renewal of license to persons convicted of adulteration. In connection with cane cultivation, a disease of the sugar cane occurred in August 1906, which caused withering and rapid decay of the growing canes. The Department investigated the disease and published a report on the subject, and during the investigation an observation of some importance was made, viz., that the frothy covering of the nymphs of the froghopper (the cause of the trouble) contained potash in sufficient quantity readily to give the violet flame, and that the abstraction of the potash thus brought about from the under rootlets was likely to prove a contributory cause of the rapid withering of the canes. Professor Carmody commenting upon the tendency of the various Government Departments to forward samples for analysis without reasonable consideration of the practical ability of the results, or the time required to obtain them, which had led to an excessive amount of work, says that the new system of charging fees on a moderate scale has come into operation with most satisfactory results in the direction of the reduction anticipated. The report concludes with tabular statements showing the results of the monthly analysis of the Port of Spain and San Fernando water supplies, and special milks from the Government farm. We regret to see that no reference to seedling cane experiments, which form so important a part of the associated work of Government chemists and botanists in the West Indies, appears in this very able and interesting report.

CRUISE OF THE "ARGONAUT."

We are glad to learn that Dr. Henry S. Lunn has decided to send the touring steam yacht *Argonaut* to the West Indies for a winter cruise, and it is expected that she will carry a full complement of tourists. Five years have elapsed since she visited the West Indies, and many people will, doubtless, be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity of a fifty-six day's holiday for forty guineas, which is what Dr. Lunn offers. The itinerary of the *Argonaut* (3,274 tons) will be as follows, and we give the dates so that our friends in the West Indies may be prepared for the arrival of their visitors. She will leave Marseilles on the morning of Saturday, November 23rd, and after calling at Gibraltar and Teneriffe will reach Barbados on the night of Tuesday, December 10th. She will leave again on the night of Thursday, December 12th; and her subsequent movements will be as under:—

St. Kitts	... ..	Arrive	Saturday, Dec. 14th, morning	... ..	Depart	Saturday, Dec. 14th, night.
Kingston	... ..	"	Wednesday, Dec. 18th, morning	... ..	"	Thursday, Dec. 19th, night.
Port Antonio (Jamaica)	... ..	"	Friday, Dec. 20th, morning	... ..	"	Friday, Dec. 20th, night.
Santiago de Cuba	... ..	"	Saturday, Dec. 21st, morning	... ..	"	Saturday, Dec. 21st, night.
Montserrat	... ..	"	Wednesday, Dec. 25th, midday	... ..	"	Wednesday, Dec. 25th, midnight.
Dominica	... ..	"	Thursday, Dec. 26th, morning	... ..	"	Thursday, Dec. 26th, morning.
St. Pierre (Martinique)	... ..	"	Friday, Dec. 27th, morning	... ..	"	Friday, Dec. 27th, evening.
St. Lucia	... ..	"	Saturday, Dec. 28th, morning	... ..	"	Monday, Dec. 30th, morning.
Madeira	... ..	"	Thursday, Jan. 9th, morning	... ..	"	Friday, Jan. 10th, night.
Tangier	... ..	"	Monday, Jan. 13th, morning	... ..	"	Monday, Jan. 13th, night.
Marseilles	... ..	"	Thursday, Jan. 16th, morning	... ..	"

Possibly some of our readers will like to participate in the expedition, and it may, therefore, be well to mention that full particulars regarding it may be obtained from Dr. Lunn, at 5, Endsleigh Gardens, London, N.W. The cruise will afford a good opportunity for some absentee proprietors to visit their estates!

COLONIAL OFFICE REORGANISATION.

At a banquet given by Sir Alfred Jones, President of the British Cotton Growing Association, on October 9th, Sir Francis Hopwood, permanent Under-Secretary of State for the colonies, made an important statement regarding the pending reorganisation of the Colonial Office. There was, he said, now being formed a great department for the purpose of grouping together the work which flowed to and from the great Dominions beyond the seas. It was possible that in the future they might find that this new organisation would enable them to arrange in the Crown Colony Department, over which Mr. R. L. Antrobus would preside, for something in the nature of a commercial department within the Colonial Office. If it were possible to form, as he hoped it might be, such a department, the Secretary of State would desire to see established—in fact, he had made arrangements to establish—standing committees which would have allocated to each of them important duties affecting the commercial world. Through these committees the commercial community would have an opportunity of expressing the aims and objects which they had in view. In the course of the evening Sir Alfred Jones read the following telegram he had received from Mr. Chamberlain:—"Heartily congratulate you on progress of cotton-growing enterprise. A little protection in the way of railways will give to this country a new demand for its manufactures while it promotes colonial development in the way of

raw products for our greatest industry.—Joseph Chamberlain." The other speakers were the Duke of Marlborough, who supported the Chair in proposing "Our Guests," and Major Seeley, M.P., who proposed "The British Cotton Association," which was responded to in an interesting speech by Mr. J. Arthur Hutton. Mr. Newton gave the Chairman, which was cordially received and responded to in characteristic style.

THE JAMAICA DROUGHT.

Since the beginning of November, says Mr. Barclay in the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* for August, very little rain has fallen on Jamaica, but if the usual heavy season rains had occurred in May the result, although immediately bad, would not have been so serious. A period of dry weather in the tropics, when the earth bakes and vegetation is at a standstill, corresponds, to the agriculturist, to a period of hard frost in the north. It is good for the soil and for the following crops. Immediately rain falls on the parched dry soil, vegetation comes on with a rush; there is a profuse blossoming and generally a large bearing. So that if the May rains had come, the island would not probably have suffered financially. As matters stand, however, the dry weather has caused serious loss in every direction, except to coffee, which in the inland mountain districts is a good crop; though in places exposed to the sea breeze, it is like other crops—gone. In dry districts every crop, whether annual or half-yearly, whether permanent or catch-crop, has failed. Food-crops are extraordinarily scarce all over the island; only in exceptionally seasonable places, like North Manchester, North Clarendon and Northern St. Andrew is there a good corn crop. There it is, like the coffee, good.

Worse, however, than the shortage of food has been the great lack of water. Rains that fell in May and June in the most seasonable districts were just sufficient to start a fair growth in vegetation, but have not been enough to fill ponds, tanks, and streams. The plains of St. Elizabeth have suffered most of any districts, as they usually do in dry weather; but in St. John and St. Dorothy, although less outcry has been made, the people are just as badly off. The districts that are usually visited by drought are just those that ought to suffer least, as forearmed should be forewarned. After the drought of 1897, the Agricultural Society acting upon this principle, preached the necessity of safeguarding against drought and followed preaching by practice.

The thing to do, the journal goes on to say, is to plant crops that would stand protracted drought; they had them in St. Elizabeth already, but more could be added. Grape vines grew naturally in the savannahs and bore best in dry weather, but only a few settlers had planted them, although there was always eager demand for the fruit. Jamaica was not supposed to be a grape-growing country, yet in its poorest districts grape vines were growing practically without effort and bearing good grapes all through the driest weather. If cassava is plentiful and selling at 2s. per cwt. in December, and in May at 6s. or 7s., and in June cannot be got at all, the obvious thing is to hold a supply over either in the ground where it keeps, or out of the ground baked into bread or made into meal, in which form it also keeps. Water also, is nearly always scarce, but few of the settlers have tanks, yet these are easily and cheaply made of material to be found at hand. The Agricultural Society established a small grape vine nursery on the savannahs in order to try other varieties than the common black grape, and to have a centre for the distribution of young vines. The lessons to be learnt from the drought, Mr. Barclay remarks, are the same as ten years ago, which the Agricultural Society has constantly striven to keep forward since then. These are (1) That heavy mulching is a safeguard to cultivation against the effect of drought. As an example of this, six acres of bananas planted in the spring of last year in the hot red soil of Manchester, but heavily mulched with banana trash, kept green and fresh all through the drought, notwithstanding that ponds were dry and pastures bare all round, while the trees bore fine bunches all looking as well in the drought as bananas in the best alluvial soil in ordinary weather. (2) That as the strength of the weakest link is the strength of the chain—so the amount of stock that can be fed and watered through a drought is the maximum to be held. (3) That each January, reserve fields or paddocks of green forage should be held untouched from October on every penn. Cattle have been kept alive by cutting breadnut leaves all through the drought. If these trees were systematically planted over all the rockstone parts instead of bush they would be invaluable, and there are many other drought-resisting fodders which can also be encouraged. (4) That small settlers in the driest districts should be encouraged to make farine when cassava is plentiful, and store it in barrels, as well as bread-fruit meal; and to grow Guinea corn and cotton.

WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.

The Bishop of Trinidad was entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club on October 9th, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., presided, and among those present were: General Sir John Campbell, Bart., C.B., Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. A. J. Baxter, Mr. H. Bailey,

Mr. E. du Boulay, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. P. J. Dean, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. G. E. St. George, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Canon Hombersley, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. Henry Kirke, Lieut.-Colonel Louis, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. M. Malcolm, Mr. A. J. Martin, Mr. Mitting, Mr. J. E. Munro, Col. A. H. Nourse, Mr. Louis M. Paret, Mr. A. E. Perkins, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. G. W. Sampson, Rev. R. H. Sinclair, Mr. David Slinger, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. Philip Somerville, Mr. A. Wakefield, Mr. D. A. Wiles and Mr. Chas. Wilson. In proposing the health of the guest of the evening, the chairman alluded to the long connection of his family with that of the Bishop, and spoke of the excellent work done by the latter in this country before leaving for Trinidad. The Bishop in replying, eulogised the climate of Trinidad and the work of his staff, and paid a warm tribute to the memory of Archbishop Flood, whom he had always looked upon as a personal friend. The toast of Canada was given by Mr. A. N. Lubbock, who pointed out the increasing trade connection between that country and the West Indies, and the desirability of further development. This could only be done by improved cable and steamship communication, and by more intimate knowledge of mutual requirements. Mr. Hamar Greenwood, whose name was coupled with the toast, said that the great obstacle to the development of trade between Canada and the West Indies was the diverse interests of the latter, and the want of unanimous action. What the West Indies needed was confederation, and if there were a Dominion of the West Indies as there was of Canada, matters would be greatly simplified. From his connection with the Colonial Office, Mr. Greenwood went on to say, he was sure that no objection would be taken to a step in this direction, provided it was initiated in the West Indies.

NEVIS AND ITS POSSIBILITIES.

A short time back, with the view of stimulating the progress of Nevis, Mr. A. E. Aspinall offered a prize for the best essay on the possibilities of the island, to be competed for among the inhabitants. The prize was won by Mr. G. H. King, whose excellent essay, in which what Nevis was and what Nevis may be is admirably set forth, we now produce for the benefit of our readers:—

An American tourist has been credited with the statement that the most remarkable feature of Nevis is its "wornoutness." This opinion is largely borne out by the fact that in few places is there more visible evidence of a past prosperity, of a grandeur that is gone, of dignity in decay. The ruins of fine residences are to be found at every town, and the abandoned sugar works and plantations outnumber those that are still in working existence. When one sees the extent of land that used formerly to be planted in cane, and thinks of the value of the crops that were produced, it is a matter for wonder that a place in which so much wealth was realised should retain so little real substance of the past. One is also prompted to ask if what has been may not be again.

The answer to this should be a qualified affirmative. That the "good old days" should return is neither possible nor desirable. The days when sugar was cheap at £40 per ton, when a West Indian trader was a synonym for a Croesus,* when estates comprising less than 200 acres each supported resident proprietors or well-paid attorneys in substantial and comfortable residences, when teams of oxen or fields of cane changed hands at the hazard of the dice, when life was easy and the punch-bowl never lacked the wherewithal for replenishing, those spacious days are gone, and are not to be recalled. But that a measure of prosperity, to be gauged by the extent of capital and common sense expended in its acquirement, may return to Nevis, there should be little cause to doubt.

The geology of Nevis and facts resulting therefrom have had a great deal to do with the recent condition of the island. Comparing the soil with that of its sister island St. Kitts, the nearest point of which is but a couple of miles distant, a remarkable difference is observed.† In the latter, a light porous surface soil is found which is easily worked and is to a great extent free from stones. There the cane cannot stand ratooning for more than a year or two, and frequent tillage, urged by necessity and cheaply attained, has preserved a fertility that is at once her adornment and support. Here, on the other hand, a boulder-strewn stiff clay surface prevails, in which the cane can be ratooned for years. This circumstance has induced planters to take advantage of it, with the inevitable result of slowly reducing the lands' productivity. As far back as 1782 we find the people of Nevis petitioning Count de Grasse, their French conqueror, to reduce the levy of cattle for provisioning his fleet, on the ground that their farmyard manure was already inadequate for the support of their failing lands. While the price of sugar was high, the system of taking out much and putting back little into the land, which was more or less extensively pursued, was not severely felt, but when a world-wide competition brought the sugar market to its present level, lands that presented some difficulty

* Readers of Dickens will note how many of his rich men are West India merchants.

† The cause may possibly be sought in the difference in age and eruptive activity of their respective volcanoes.

to work without making a commensurate return, were gradually abandoned or passed into the hands of peasant proprietors, to whom the sweets of ownership, with a small return, compensated for the market value of their labour. The fortunes of Nevis thus declined, until a few years ago she reached the nadir of distress. Recently, owing to new conditions, her star has been rising, and there is no reason why it should not shine long and brightly above the horizon. The soil, though to a great extent unfit for the profitable growing of sugar at its present price, and with antiquated methods of manufacture, is capable of producing other crops at a moderate cost and with considerable profit.

In an island where, within the distance of a few miles, the land slopes up from the sea to a height of nearly 4,000 ft., it is to be expected that soils and temperatures suitable to a variety of products are to be found, and thus it follows that the Nevis planter can find himself in charge of an estate whose circuit can be traversed in a few hours and upon which may be cultivated the staple of the low-lying sea islands of the western world side by side with the coffee and cocoa that are chiefly associated with the highlands of the east. While it is a striking commentary upon the want of enterprise in these parts that there are only two estates of this description in Nevis, it is an encouraging reflection that, though at an incomplete stage of development, their promise of success is in a good way towards fulfilment. The gold and silver medals given by Sir Alfred Jones for seed cotton and lint respectively have gone to these plantations, while cocoa pods from one of them took a first prize at the recent agricultural show in St. Kitts. It may be added that on one of these estates sugar is largely cultivated, and on the other the sugar industry has but recently given place to cotton. The fact that sugar in the past paid such large profits, has, by inducing its exclusive cultivation, done some harm to the West Indies by creating the belief that they are unfitted for any other cultivation. This fallacy has been exploded in the case of several islands which, being practically ruined by sugar, have, by the exploitation of other industries, gradually risen to positions of comparative affluence. Nevis, unfortunately, has been very late in turning her attention to anything new, and even now the tendency seems to be in the direction of cotton, and that alone. Considerable areas in which the varied products of the tropics may be tried with every promise of success remain in unremunerative bush and forest for want of a little enterprise and capital. Cotton, of course, by reason of its producing so quick a return, offers exceptional inducements to its cultivation, and those who have a limited capital to invest are most likely to place it where the earliest profit is assured. It is a pity, however, that latent possibilities should be neglected to the extent that they are, and the examples of the estates just mentioned deserve to be followed in every practicable instance.

While it is hardly possible, and, perhaps, undesirable, within the limits of an ordinary essay, to enter into agricultural details, a few facts and figures relating to cotton, which is beginning to be regarded as the future staple of Nevis, may not be out of place. The largest recorded return of lint from a number of acres is 3,090 lbs. from 10 acres, being an average of over 300 lbs. per acre. Other good returns are 230 lbs. per acre from 27 acres, 240 from 40 acres, and 251 from 50 acres. Supposing the cotton to sell at 1s. 3d. per lb., a price frequently obtained for Nevis cotton,* and the average cost of production to be £10 per acre, the result would show a profit ranging from 40 to nearly 100 per cent. on the outlay.† The value of the seed is not here taken into account. None of the lands from which these quantities were reaped were in any way specially prepared and they are somewhat remote from each other. While these figures may be taken as guides to possibilities they are not to be accepted as absolute criterions. Cotton, like other crops, is subject to weather conditions, and, perhaps, more than most, to the care and intelligence with which it is treated. These factors doubtless had their influence in the above cited cases and should be kept in mind, and it is also to be considered that in this island the cotton industry is not yet five years old, and its limitations are by no means fixed. Sea Island cotton is the only variety that is being grown in Nevis, its comparatively high market price causing it to be preferred to the cheaper, though more productive and hardier, varieties. A short staple cotton‡ that is stated to have given extraordinary results in Australia is being experimented with in St. Kitts, and should it be successful there, it is quite possible that considerations of soil and seasons may induce its introduction into Nevis as supplementary to Sea Island cotton.

On the southern side of the island is a considerable extent of land that, having been abandoned as cane land, has lately been to a great extent reclaimed for cotton. From its situation and the absence of foliage that would act as a rain attractor, the district is subject to drought, and cotton

* 1s. 6½d. last year and 1s. 11d. this year are the highest prices for which Nevis cotton has been sold.

† See the *Agricultural News*, March 3rd, 1906. The cost of production is a very variable quantity according to circumstances. £5 6s. per acre during a period of three years has been given as the cost on one estate, no allowance being made for expenses of management, manures or rent. Some persons lay claim to a record of just over £3, but this, if correct, must be very unusual. The larger the scale of operations the less the average expenses are likely to be, and on a well-equipped plantation, certain expenses which are elsewhere considerable, become negligible quantities.

‡ Caravonica. 500 lbs. of lint per acre, value about 9d. per lb., may be reasonably expected from this variety.

sowings have suffered considerably therefrom. The remedy for this would appear to consist in the growing of trees, and, perhaps, the most economic trees in such a district would be cocoa-nuts. This region might well be converted into a forest of cocoa-nuts with frequent clearings of cotton interspersed. The readiness with which these trees grow in arid places and the commercial value of their products should be an inducement to their cultivation, while their climatic effect in congregated numbers would be probably marked. While growing they might, if planted sufficiently close, serve as wind breaks for cotton, and on the sea side as shelter from sea-blast.

It is a noticeable fact that though Nevis supplies the live-stock market for St. Kitts, and frequent small exportations of ponies, mules, and other stock are made to other islands, stock raising on a commercial scale has not been attempted. With the price of American mules at \$150 apiece and upwards, a fair demand in the larger islands for horses, and the undoubted quality of Nevis cattle, there is no lack of inducements to mixed stock farming. Hardiness, good bone, and general shapeliness are characteristic of Nevis ponies, and with the tendency in warm climates for horses to "grow small," the American polo pony market ought not to be too far a cry for these animals.* The small Jamaica thoroughbred crossed with selected native mares should make a good foundation for polo pony stock.

(To be continued.)

MR. WEST'S PICTURES.

Tickets for the gala night to be given by Mr. West, under the auspices of the West India Committee, at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, when he will show the whole of the animated photographs taken by him during his recent visit to British Guiana and the West Indian islands, can now be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. There will be two prices only, 4s. and 2s., and the seating capacity of the hall being limited, it is hoped that those who wish to be present will make an early application for tickets. The proceedings will be opened at 9 o'clock sharp, and among the views which will be shown will be sugar estates in Demerara, the Fitch Lake in Trinidad, scenes in Grenada and St. Vincent, Pigeon Island, Diamond Rock, Fig Tree Church in Nevis, Brimstone Hill in St. Kitts, and many others.

NATURE NOTES.

PHOSPHATES.—The experiments of Messrs. Whitson and Stoddart on field results with phosphoric acid show that acid soils need phosphates, and that it is possible by a careful test of a soil with litmus paper to say if it needs or will need in the immediate future a phosphate fertiliser.

"PIPERACEA."—The Bulletin of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture for June and July contains an account of a botanical expedition to Jamaica by Prof. D. S. Johnson, of the John Hopkins' University, Baltimore. The plants most studied were the native species of *Piperaceae* and *Choranthuceae*, with which Jamaica abounds.

A NEW SOURCE OF ALCOHOL.—The Monthly Bulletin of the French Chamber of Commerce at Barcelona states that a Colombian chemist has discovered that the fleshy pulp which encloses the coffee bean and is removed by machinery in preparing coffee for the market, can be used as a source of alcohol. Hitherto this product has not been utilised, and it is pointed out that if alcohol can be prepared from this material cheaply it may give a fresh impetus to coffee cultivation.

TURMERIC AND RUBBER.—A writer in the *Madras Mail* recommends the cultivation of turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) as a profitable catch crop for young rubber clearings. In ordinary circumstances, he says, 2,000 lbs. of roots may reasonably be expected from each acre planted. The time for planting depends upon the rains, and the crop is either lifted at the end of ten or eleven months or left for twenty-one. By the former method the produce is said to be less in quantity and inferior in quality. Good points about turmeric cultivation are that the curing after harvesting is simple, and a market at hand is always attainable. The preparation of the soil necessary for turmeric is similar to that for ginger, but lands intended for the former need not be worked so fine as for the latter.

IRRIGATION DEPOSITS.—The United States' Department of Agriculture have published the results of investigations on the silt deposit of various streams used for irrigation. The Rio Grande and the Brazos and Colorado rivers in Texas carry from 0.65 to nearly 3 per cent. of sediment. The Brazos for example during the year, contained enough sediment to cover 40,000 acres 1 ft. deep. In Arizona

* One of the drawbacks to pony raising in temperate latitudes is the tendency to "overgrowth."

the sediment of the Gila river would furnish on the average 214 lbs. of potash per acre annually, 37 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and 28 lbs. of nitrogen; the Salt river 18 lbs. of potash, 6.6 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and 5.5 lbs. of potash per acre annually, and, in the case of the Colorado river, 113 lbs. of potash, 10 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and 4.8 lbs. of nitrogen were deposited. In California, however, samples of creek water used for irrigation in the Santa Clara Valley showed that a 12 in. irrigation with these waters added only 4.55 lbs. of available potash, and 1.3 lbs. of phosphoric acid to each acre of land.

UGANDA'S COTTON.—The Report on the Uganda Protectorate recently issued by the Colonial Office this year indicates good prospects for the production of cotton and rubber, which may be regarded for the present as the principal products of the Protectorate. The exports of cotton in 1905-6 amounted to only 43 tons, but nearly 200 tons were purchased from the natives, the result of little more than a year's effort on commercial lines. There seems to be a likelihood of the culture of this product becoming a national industry. American Upland cotton appears to be the most congenial to the climate and country, and the natives are beginning to grow it extensively. Egyptian Abassi cotton also thrives, though to a lesser extent. A company has been busy extending its operations, and making ready for the expenditure of a considerable sum in developing the cotton industry. Tests in rubber cultivation are going forward and show promising figures. There has been much commercial activity in regard to this product, and ventures on a large scale were pending at the end of last year.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Trade in Mexico.

Some idea can be formed of the enormous development of Mexican trade by the following table given by Mr. Consul Jerome in his report on the trade of Mexico:—

Fiscal Year.	IMPORTS.			Fiscal Year.	IMPORTS.		
	United States.	United Kingdom.	Germany.		United States.	United Kingdom.	Germany.
1899-1900...	£6,205,283	£2,096,640	£1,334,769	1903-4 ...	£8,521,754	£2,003,230	£1,908,216
1900-1 ...	7,037,991	1,984,910	1,415,990	1904-5 ...	9,997,705	2,104,370	2,045,143
1901-2 ...	7,806,438	1,653,219	1,290,219	1905-6 ...	14,560,031	2,034,464	2,081,455
1902-3 ...	8,102,909	2,123,069	1,914,802				

In the same way the value of the exports have increased from £19,669,051 in 1903-4, and £20,852,045 in 1904-5, to £27,113,880 in 1905-6.

Cacao and rubber in Bahia.

The cultivation of cacao in Bahia is in the hands of a number of small "fazendeiros." These planters have not, so far, elaborated any system of co-operative action, and they do not possess sufficient capital to instal the plant necessary for preparing the cacao in the best manner for the market. Thus, much of the Bahia cacao is badly prepared, and, in consequence, fetches but comparatively small prices. As regards quality, it may be said that Bahia cacao equals, grade for grade, that grown in the island of St. Thomé. The Bahia and the St. Thomé varieties of cacao, Mr. Consul O'Sullivan Beare states, are alike inferior, in the matter of flavour, to the cacaos grown in Trinidad and in Caracas. The superior flavour of those latter cacaos is due, doubtless, to the existence of certain peculiarities of soil in the districts in which they are grown, which are lacking at both Bahia and St. Thomé. In the Ilheos district and elsewhere throughout the State of Bahia, the area under cacao cultivation is being rapidly extended; and there can be no doubt that the output of cacao from Bahia will continue to increase steadily year by year. It has lately been discovered that the State of Bahia is very rich in a rubber producing tree, locally known as *Jigué Manicoba*. This tree is a new and distinct species of manihot, which apparently is peculiar to the State of Bahia. The rubber obtained from it would seem to be fully equal in quality to the best product of the Para district.

Cotton in Portuguese East Africa.

The Consul-General at Lourenço Marques reports that the Portuguese Government are promoting to their utmost cotton cultivation in Portuguese East Africa. The terms upon which land can be obtained appear to be very generous and should do much to start that industry, which does not at present exist. A lease of suitable ground can be obtained for 10 reis a hectare, which is practically a nominal sum a year, and a remission of rent may be granted as soon as one-fifth of the conceded land is under cultivation. The area that can be taken up by any one leaseholder is limited to 1,000 hectares, equal to 2,471 acres. The land must show evidence of improvement at the end of five years, and at the end of two years at least one-fifth part must be under cultivation. If

these provisions are not observed it is provided that the land shall be confiscated or the lessee shall pay an annual fine of from 100 to 500 reis (from 5d. to 2s. 2d.) per hectare for such portion of the ground as shows no evidence of improvement, and if this annual fine remains unpaid for three years the ground shall revert to the State. Cotton grown in the Portuguese colonies is exempt from export duty for a minimum period of fifteen years and from import duty into Portugal and the adjacent islands. It is also exempt from all other taxes, except the "industrial contribution," when imported into Portugal either in Portuguese ships, or in foreign ships in cases where no national line of ships is established. All machinery, instruments, and articles required for the cultivation and manufacture of cotton, including material used for its transport, are likewise exempt from duties. In the event of lack of private initiative, provision is made for the establishment of experimental plantations by the Government. Along the banks of the Maputo and Umbelusi rivers, and to a lesser extent along the Inkomati river, all three of which empty themselves into Delagoa Bay, are large tracks of land which appear and which are stated to be extremely suitable for the cultivation of cotton. The same holds good for the delta of the Limpopo, whose outlet to the sea is about 100 miles north of the bay. The rivers are navigable for vessels of light draught, so that the expenses of transport should not be unduly heavy. Concessions of land have already been applied for and granted, and if capital is forthcoming there seems to be a fair prospect for the new industry.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* left Barbados at 7 a.m. on September 25th and reached Southampton at 7.45 p.m. on October 7th. Among her passengers were Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Branch, of Grenada. The R.M.S. *Port Kingston* from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, October 8th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua and cane farming.

In a letter dated September 4th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that although the mail service would not be a very convenient one for Antigua, they were most thankful to get any regular service at all.—A visit from the *Scylla*, which left the island on August 19th, gave an opportunity for them to re-make the acquaintance of His Majesty's Navy and do what they could to entertain it. The marksmanship of the tars was not equal to that of the local Defence Force either in Antigua or Dominica.—Both factories had stopped grinding, and were finishing up the second sugar. At Bendals 6,192 tons of peasant canes were purchased, and £2,696 paid out to the peasants for them, materially increasing the prosperity of this class in the neighbourhood of the factory. But for the Brussels Convention not a penny of this would have been spent, and the land on which this cane was grown would now be rough grass and bush. At Gunthorpe's, too, the amount of peasant cane had increased considerably. Of course, the making of so many peasants from estate's labourers into small farmers had deprived the estates of many of their labourers, and the competition for labour had resulted in a considerable rise in rates; some reduction of the cultivation on the estates had also been necessitated by the inability to get enough labour. There would be plenty of labour for everyone and a most prosperous Antigua if they could only get the people to work six days a week, but their requirements and standard of life did not demand this, and as a rule the working week consisted of three to five days with them, certainly as far as the estates were concerned. The necessity of labour-saving implements was therefore an important question if estates had to maintain their usual area of cultivation, and in this connection the introduction of the labour-saving implements in use in Louisiana promised to be very valuable to the planter where estates could be laid out so that they could be worked. In most cases the fields had to be laid out anew, and in this connection the steam-ploughs came in very useful by filling up the old trenches. After the steam-ploughs had thoroughly broken up the soil, the present experience of planters in Antigua was that their utility ended; the Louisiana implements could then come into operation and cane could be raised practically without the use of the hoe end of the fork except for digging trenches.—The weather for August had been too dry, and rain was much wanted for sowing cotton seed, as well as for the young crop.—The area in cotton was certainly still on the increase and to some slight extent cotton was taking the place of cane on the sugar estates. This, of course, was sound agriculture, and the more they could practise rotations of this kind, the cheaper would be the cost of raising both crops.

A promising cotton crop in Barbados.

Writing on September 22nd, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said it was very satisfactory that a *modus vivendi* had been arrived at by which the Sugar Convention would be practically carried on for five years after 1908, and it was hoped that its operation would be as effectual as that of the

former one. The Government could not help being impressed by the representations which the West India Committee was the means of obtaining from all parts of the Empire.—The *Trent* had brought out the crew and officers of the *Eden*, and the new scheme for the mail service was to come into operation at once. It was hoped that the delays and inconveniences to which they had been subject for the last two years would never occur again.—While congratulating Mr. C. P. Lucas on his promotion to the headship of an important Department of the Colonial Office, all West Indian visitors who had business at the Colonial Office would regret his absence from their own department, where they were always received with the greatest courtesy and interest.—Unfortunately, September had not been on the whole a favourable month, as the showers were not continuous. On Friday the 13th, a heavy rain fell over Bridgetown and the neighbourhood, in fact a general rain, only varying very much in amount. The southern part of the island, and part of St. Lucy's and Scotland had 2½ ins. and more, but St. James', St. Peter's and St. Thomas little over one inch, and part of St. Lucy's less than half an inch. Since then nothing had fallen, and it was needless to say that the soil was now as dry as ever. The small rainfall for the year was getting very serious. Few estates had marked more than 27 ins. for the nine months, and many less, and it was impossible for the next three months to produce enough to bring the total up to 60 ins., which was supposed to be necessary for a fair crop. On Porter's estate they had had to date 9 ins. less than last year, which was a very dry one. After each of the rains the canes had re-sprouted at once, but as no showers followed, they were soon checked.—Cotton did not require so much rain, and the general crop showed great promise; the worms and other pests did not seem so malignant as last year, and Mr. J. R. Bovell and the officers of the Department of Agriculture had been giving practical illustrations of various methods of dealing with them. One such exhibition was held at Husband's estate in St. Lucy on September 19th, when a large number of planters interested in cotton attended. Experiments were made of dusting the plants with Paris green by means of bags, powder-bellows, and powder-guns, and advice was given as to the proportion to be used. Further meetings were to be held in other parishes. These practical experiments could not fail to do good and encourage the planters.—Writing two days later, Mr. Alleyne said that both on the 23rd and 24th nice showers had fallen, which had amounted to some .60 parts. He would add that there were "appearances of more," did he not know from fatal experience that, on using that expression, clouds instantly vanished.—All in Barbados heard by telegram with the greatest regret of the death of Lord Aldenham. To the writer he was an old and personal friend; but to the whole of the commercial world Henry Hucks Gibbs, for years the head of Antony Gibbs & Sons, was well known and honoured.—The new mail contract had begun well, the *Orinoco* being up to time on the day of writing.—The health of the island was good.

Immigrants for British Guiana.

The S.S. *Mutlah*, the second steamer for the season, left for Calcutta with some 700 return immigrants, on September 20th, the day on which Mr. J. C. McCowan wrote. Dr. Ireland, late of the medical service in British Guiana, had the care of the immigrants.—Refining crystals were quoted at \$2.17½ to \$2.20. No sales were reported for the fortnight.—The weather had been hot and dry. Good showers were wanted generally. Canes to be reaped at the end of the year were expected to be very short, and the yield, it was feared, would be most disappointing.—Messrs. Wieting & Richter reported that great activity prevailed in the collection of balata in the interior.

A fresh record for Dominica limes.

The weather continued fair with heavy rains and ample sun, when Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on September 21st. In some districts the rains had caused damage but not generally. The year would be a record one for limes. Crop prospects were, perhaps, a little short, but the second crop immediately to follow would more than make that up. Now the trees were flowering again heavily in most districts. Taken in conjunction with present prices, planters should be well satisfied.

Jamaica's progress with cotton growing.

Mr. E. A. de Pass, who is now on his way back to this country *via* New York, writing on September 19th, informed us that the drought, which has been almost without precedence within the last fifteen years, has done an enormous amount of injury throughout the island, and especially in Vere.—On September 19th, Mr. L. G. Desporte, of Half Way Tree, and Mr. J. M. Lewis, of Yallahs, were awarded the Sir Alfred Jones' gold and silver medals respectively, for cotton cultivation. In making the presentations, Sir Sydney Olivier referred to the work being done by the British Cotton Growing Association, and encouraged the small growers.—Mr. R. C. Guy of the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph* has, we understand, retired from the position of editor of the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph*, and is returning to this country.—Mr. Eustace Burke, the Government Commissioner for Canada in

Jamaica, died suddenly in New York on October 3rd.—The *Daily Gleaner* of September 26th gave the details of an important scheme formulated by the Assistance Committee for the distribution of the Relief Fund.—At a special meeting of the Merchants Exchange on September 25th, a scheme for connecting the railway with the wharves along the foreshore was unanimously approved, the proposals being embodied in a report of a sub-committee consisting of Mr. E. A. de Pass and Mr. S. Soutar. It was hoped that the proposals would be approved by the Government.—Sir Alfred Jones having telegraphed to Sir Daniel Morris suggesting that the Agricultural Conference to be held in Jamaica might be postponed until 1909, the Board of the Jamaica Agricultural Society has asked the Governor to approach the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. as to whether they would be willing to convey the delegates from the islands to Jamaica in 1908, as at first arranged.—The Quarantine Board were quarantining all vessels arriving from Cuban ports for ten days.

Montserrat and "wireless."

In his letter dated September 19th, the Hon. Fred Driver said he understood that the Trinidad-Tobago wireless telegraph was working well, but the cost was something like £800 per annum, which made it prohibitory for Montserrat.—The new mail service would suit the island admirably.—The weather, which had been very dry, broke up on the 11th, when there was a heavy thunderstorm. From about 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on that day there was a gale of wind with some severe squalls. The barometer was unsteady and things did not look at all nice, but fortunately the disturbance passed. Showers had fallen daily since then, and the appearance of the island had improved.—With regard to the Militia there was a Defence Reserve force in the island, consisting at present of eighteen efficient members. The Government provided rifles and a limited supply of ammunition, and paid the Inspector of Police £20 per annum as instructor. This force had absorbed the rifle club which existed for many years.

St. Kitts' increased cotton acreage.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported on September 20th that the weather during the fortnight had been very disappointing; there had been a daily promise of heavy rains and as often only light showers had fallen. On the evening of the 17th there was a nice shower varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. (the writer had .59 at Brighton, and Mr. Todd at Molineux 2.46 ins. all in half an hour), but the cane crop needed a lot more to get the proper growth for the time of year.—Cotton was looking fine, and in a few forward fields picking had begun, and the yield promised to be good both in quantity and quality. There would probably be an increase of about 25 per cent. in the acreage this year, that is to say, 2,000 acres, as against 1,500.

Opening up the Carib country in St. Vincent.

The Governor was at St. Vincent when Messrs. D. K. Porter wrote on September 23rd, and it was understood that he would stay in the island for a few weeks, and as he had been to the Carib country and seen things for himself, it was hoped that something would soon be known of his policy in dealing with that fertile district. Meanwhile, the writers had heard nothing of Mr. Bovell's report. Things in general, so far as the agricultural part of the island was concerned, were very promising, and should there be a continuance of good weather, the cotton crop ought to be a record one.—Writing on the same date, Mr. W. N. Sands said that considerable progress was being made with the Carnegie free library building. The chief corner-stone was laid by the W.M. and Brethren of the St. George's Lodge of Freemasons on the 11th, and a full report of the ceremony appeared in the *Sentry* of the 13th.—Crop prospects continued favourable. It was to be hoped that the price of Sea Island cotton would keep up high enough to allow a fair profit to be made, or the industry would receive a set-back. No doubt it would soon be known what price they could expect. All in the island were very anxious to learn, in view of the favourable reports being received of the American Sea Island cotton crop.—Reports on cacao cultivation were good, so far, and the writer anticipated that the crop would reach 1,500 bags this year.

Trinidad once more has a clean bill of health.

In his letter dated September 23rd, Mr. Edgar Tripp said that since last mail some very heavy rain had fallen in the northern valleys, and on one day Port of Spain was flooded over the lower portion, the streets being completely covered with rushing water. Some of the stores had several inches of water in them and a good deal of damage was done. But elsewhere in the country the weather had been most seasonable. From Naparima the report was "plenty of sunshine with occasional showers in between, all that any planter could desire." From the cacao districts the same good news came. Supplies of cacao had been quite equal to the average at the time of year, and prospects were favourable, but they could not look for anything like quantity until November.

Meanwhile, prices continued to gladden the hearts of the fortunate owners of cacao estates. For ordinary, \$26.25 might be quoted, and for estates', \$26.75.

		SHIPMENTS.				
		Trinidad.	Venezuela	Trinidad.	Venezuela.	
Totals at last report		155,079	30,157	Sept. 13.—S.S. <i>Maraval</i>	1,932	30 New York.
Sept. 7.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem IV.</i>	300	1,202	Europe.	„ 16.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem V.</i>	—	120 „
„ 9.—S.S. <i>Tagus</i>	410	—	„			
„ 12.—S.S. <i>Dryade</i>	452	339	„	Total to date	158,173	31,848

Scarcely any appointment in the island had been received with more universal approval than that of Lieut.-Col. G. D. Swain as Inspector-General of Constabulary. There was the tendency, perhaps quite natural, to make the constable more of the soldier than the policeman. In Colonel Swain they had an officer intimately acquainted with police duties, and admirably qualified in every way to direct the force in the execution of the duties for which it was primarily required.—All were very jubilant over the victory of the Trinidad cricket team in the inter-colonial contest at Demerara, where they beat Demerara by nine wickets and Barbados by ten. The team would have a great reception when they landed with the cup on the 25th. Harragin, the captain (popularly and affectionately known as "Bertie"), was again well to the front, and probably saved and won the game against Demerara with a dashing and brilliant innings of 123, including twenty 4's. The writer could not do better than quote the generous tribute of the *Daily Chronicle* regarding Harragin's performance: "By any standard it was magnificent. Alone and single-handed he pulled the game out of the fire and gave his side an overwhelming advantage. Watchful yet enterprising, strong in defence, yet never sparing a loose ball, he gave an exhibition of cricket that it would be difficult indeed to over-praise." In the subsequent match against Barbados, the holders of the cup, Trinidad led off with 290 runs, (Harragin 37, made up of nine 4's and a single, in 20 minutes, and Learmond a faultless 78). Up to this point the weather had been all that could be desired, and the pitch excellent. The ground at Bourda had no medium quality. It was either perfect, or execrable, a treat to play on, or unplayable. And it was here that the cruellest luck befell Barbados. Trinidad had batted during the perfection period, then the rain fell during the night, and Barbados, playing under practically impossible conditions, were all out next morning for 50. But Barbados is never beaten till the match is over, as Trinidad knew to her cost, and in the follow on, with improving conditions, they piled up in the pluckiest manner the handsome score of 246, thus saving the innings defeat, and showing that the result might have been very different had the luck of weather been on their side. Every one was full of admiration of the great uphill fight they made. P. Bennett, Trinidad's boy bowler and rising hope, trundled with consistent excellence throughout, and more than justified his selection in the team. He bade fair to rival the lost Sydney Smith.—The Report of the Harbour Master for the year ending March 31st, showed the arrivals during that period to have been 2,180, with a tonnage of 963,434. The number of vessels was fewer by 346 than the previous year.—The cable would have conveyed the information that the colony was officially pronounced free of infectious disease on September 8th, eighteen days having then elapsed since the last case of yellow fever, and as there had been no case since, they might rest fairly satisfied that the last of it had been seen. This could not be too widely known, as the tourist season was at hand, and they had suffered quite long enough and severely enough by reason of the absence of the stranger whom they were so pleased to see within their gates. The improved health conditions had resulted already in the colony being honoured with the presence of Lady Carter, who, with Miss Carter, arrived by the mail on the 18th.—The Queen's Park Hotel, thoroughly overhauled, re-opened for the season on October 15th.—It was not necessary to say how truly sorry everyone was to hear that Sir Henry Jackson's health would necessitate a longer stay in England than was expected, but however much they might look for his return, knowing how much was waiting upon and dependent upon it, no one would wish him to leave a day sooner than was prudent.—The principal event of the fortnight had been the second address on cacao cultivation by Mr. O. W. Barrett, delivered before a full meeting of the Committee of the Agricultural Society, entitled, "Pruning and the Care of the Soil," of which revised reports have been forwarded by the mail. The almost entire absence of serious criticism of his statements which, whilst always most courteously made, were none the less sweeping, indicated that the leading planters were impressed with the views and recommendations of Mr. Barrett, and led to the confident belief that his engagement would be productive of great good to the colony. From all parts of the country requests were coming that Mr. Barrett would pay a visit to view plantations and advise with regard to the cultivation, and in most cases his advice was being followed.—The continuance of the Sugar Convention till 1913 gave a new lease of life to the planters, for which, no doubt, they were largely indebted to the skilfully directed energy of the West India Committee. The resolutions received from all parts of the Empire could not fail to have an important effect.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Seismic Stations in the West Indies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—In the Ninth Report of the Committee of Seismological Investigation, of which Mr. John Milne, F.R.S., of Shide, Isle of Wight, is the Secretary, it is stated that the multiplication in the number of stations scattered all over the world has led to a great increase in the work of correspondence and reduction which has to be undertaken at Shide, and that much of this work should be done by an assistant, leaving the Secretary more free to devote himself to scientific problems. The Committee consider the time has arrived when a fund should be established to provide a sufficient income for securing the continuity of the work in future, and Mr. M. H. Gray has given £1,000 to serve as a nucleus of such a fund, but beyond this little more seems to have been done.

At present there are about eighty stations at which teleseismic disturbances are recorded, nearly half of which are in Central Europe, and to obtain a fairly even distribution of stations over the surface of the world some twenty-three more places of observation are required, and of this number at least six stations supplied with seismographs and the means of obtaining good time, are needed in the West Indies.

As illustrative of the practical outcome of seismological investigation, observations on the destructive effects of earthquakes, the knowledge obtained respecting the actual nature of earthquake motion, and from experiments made upon brick and other structures, new rules and formulae for the use of engineers and builders have been established. It would have been well if Jamaica, as in Japan and other countries, had, and will, extensively apply them in the construction of piers for bridges, tall chimneys, walls, ordinary dwellings, embankments, reservoirs, &c., inasmuch as the new types of structures have withstood violent earth-shakings, whilst ordinary types in the neighbourhood have failed. These investigations have yet to be extended so as to minimise further the loss of life and property. The application of seismometry to the working of railways, particularly in Japan, has led to the localization of faults on lines and alterations in the balancing of locomotives with the consequent result in the decrease of the consumption of fuel. Records of the unfelt movements of earthquakes indicate the time, the position, and the cause of certain cable interruptions and the practical importance of this information to communities who may, by cable failures, be suddenly isolated from the rest of the world is evident.

With this knowledge and the recent disastrous experience before us, it cannot surely be long before the Governments of the West Indies will provide the means, and through Mr. J. Milne, set up suitable and inexpensive stations and recording instruments at places where they are so much required, as at no point in the West Indies does the circular issued by the Seismological Society show a seismic register excepting that sent by the one experimental station at St. Clair, Trinidad, in charge of Mr. J. H. Hart, F.L.S., Superintendent.

I am, Sir, &c.,

J. KEMPLAY.

October 1st, 1907.

[We certainly think that something should be done in the direction indicated by Mr. Kemplay. It will be remembered that we strongly favoured Professor Milnes visiting Jamaica after the earthquake in January last, and we hope that it may still be possible for him to pay a visit to the Island, where his advice, not only on the subject of the establishment of seismological stations, but also on rebuilding in conformity with the laws of earthquake movements would surely be welcome. In Mr. Maxwell Hall, Jamaica has an expert in meteorological matters well capable of controlling one of such stations as are suggested by Mr. Kemplay.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading.

Some Barbados Picture Cards. We are indebted to Messrs. Knight & Co., of Barbados, for a set of twenty-four picture postcards of the Island which they have just published. They are well-printed in the colotype process and have the advantage of space on the picture side for correspondence. The subjects have evidently been chosen with care and several views notably those of a sugar estate with its windmill, steam sugar works, a labourer's cottage and Bathsbeba have considerable artistic merit. Long Bay Castle, too, is admirably portrayed. The cards should meet with a ready sale during the coming tourist season.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

WORK AGAIN.—The Secretary of the West India Committee returned from his holiday on October 5th, and has resumed the duties of his office.

A RECOVERY.—His many friends will be glad to learn that Professor Carmody, of Trinidad, who had the misfortune to break his leg as the result of a bicycle accident, is making a rapid recovery.

WE APOLOGISE.—The name of Mr. L. Devaux was inadvertently omitted from the list of the Volunteer Movement Committee in St. Lucia, which was given in our issue of September 3rd. We apologise.

BRAZIL.—The exports of sugar from Pernambuco for the years 1904, 1905, and 1906 were 77,960, 93,934, and 127,128 tons, respectively; and of cotton, 5,089, 8,502, and 11,688 tons for the same periods.

CORRECTION.—In the account of the annual meeting of the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd., in our last issue, the dividend declared was stated to have been at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, instead of 6 per cent., which is the actual distribution.

FRENCH ANTILLES.—The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* says that the future of the sugar industry in Martinique and Guadeloupe depends upon a change in methods of cultivation and manufacture, brought about with the aid of outside capital.

STROLLING PLAYERS.—Probably the earliest theatrical company known to cross the Atlantic was one which went to Jamaica in 1728. Gay's "Beggars' Opera" comprised the alpha and omega of the *repertoire*, and the sum of £330 was taken at the doors on the night of the first performance.

FOR THE WEST INDIES.—Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co. have concluded contracts for the construction of three twin screw 15-knot steamers for the West Indian and West African trade. Two of the steamers are to be built by Messrs. Harland & Wolff, Belfast, and the other by Messrs. Stephen & Sons, Glasgow.

OUR ILLUSTRATION.—We are indebted to Mr. Edgar Tripp, our esteemed Hon. Correspondent in Trinidad, for the photograph from which our full-page illustration is reproduced. It will help to convey to those of our readers who have not been sufficiently fortunate to visit the Island, some idea of the exquisite beauty of its scenery.

SIR H. JACKSON.—We are glad to learn that Sir Henry M. Jackson, the Governor of Trinidad, who underwent an operation in London a month ago, is now very much better and has gone to Brighton for a change of air. He hopes very much that he will be able to return to Trinidad before the close of the year, and so do we all.

BEATS BERBICE.—The mail service of the Delaware district has, according to the *Globe*, been seriously disorganised by reason of a plague of mosquitoes. These have been in such quantity as to compel both horses and mail drivers to take to the water to get out of their way, with consequent great delay in the delivery of the mails.

COPRA SHORT.—Considerable shortage in the copra and cocoa-nut oil exports from Ceylon, occurred during the first six months of 1907. This, says the *Tropical Agriculturalist*, amounted to 40,027 cwts. in the case of copra, and 61,833 cwts. in the case of cocoa-nut oil. The shortage in copra seems general throughout the tropics.

OBITUARY.—It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. John Ewing, who had been associated for so many years with the firm of Messrs. James Ewing & Co., of Glasgow, and also acted as Hon. Secretary of the West India Association of Glasgow. Mr. Ewing died on Sept. 30th, after a comparatively short illness.

NEW POSTAL RATES.—Our readers are reminded that the prepaid rate of postage on letters from the United Kingdom to British possessions generally is now a penny per ounce. This increase in the weight transmissible for a penny will confer a great boon on those having correspondence with the colonies, and all must be grateful to Mr. Henniker Heaton, the hero of Imperial penny postage, who has secured the reduction. We should like him to get the postage on printed matter reduced!

HEALTHY JAMAICA.—A special commissioner of the *Lancet* who is contributing a series of articles to that journal upon Jamaica as a health resort, speaks of the climate of the middle and upper levels of the island as being "well-nigh perfect." His remarks are sure to be widely read by the medical fraternity, and it is safe to assume that as a result many doctors will be induced to send their patients to Jamaica as a winter resort.

OUR VISITORS.—Among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been Mr. S. E. Jacobson, of Trinidad, Rev. John Price, of St. Kitts, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, Mr. José Anjo, of Antigua, Mr. Frank E. W. G. Austin and Mr. D. M. Simpson, from Barbados, Hon. R. Gervase Bushe, Mr. J. F. Alexander, from British Guiana, *en route* for the East, and Canon Harty, who is making an appeal on behalf of the Jamaica Church, and the Harewood Church in particular.

GOOD FOR US!—Mr. O. Licht in his circular of Oct. 4th, 1907, indicates that the yield of sugar-beet roots per acre is likely to be 25 per cent. less in weight than the actual yield of last year, and that the sugar crop will only amount to 1,295,000 tons raw, equal to 1,115,000 tons refined sugar, instead of 1,410,000 tons raw, equal to 1,216,000 tons refined sugar, as estimated by the Finance Minister on Aug. 15th.

A RUBBER COMBINE.—According to the *Mexican Herald* a movement had been started by several business men of Mexico City to call a Convention of rubber planters and those interested in the Republic, to be held in Mexico City on the 8th and 9th inst. The idea of the Convention is to effect

an organisation of the rubber planters in Mexico, and to promote the industry generally. It is stated that there are at present more acres of planted rubber in Mexico than in any other country in the world.

BRISTOL REFINERY.—A determined effort is being made to re-start the refining industry in Bristol, and it is hoped that the refinery in Old Market Street, which is to be equipped with most modern machinery, will be not only remunerative but of a substantial benefit to Bristol and the West Indies. In this connection it is interesting to note that in 1790 there were no less than eighteen refineries in the city, while the number of West Indian merchants was still more considerable. We are glad that an effort is being made to revive this old-established connection.

MR. BUTTENSCHAW'S DEATH.—Only recently we were congratulating Mr. W. R. Buttenschaw upon his appointment to the Indian Agricultural Service, and now we have to record with sincere regret his death, which took place suddenly at Calcutta on Sept. 9th last. Mr. Buttenschaw, who was only in his thirtieth year, had already made his mark as a scientist. At Aberdeen University he was the first student who took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Not long after graduating he received an appointment to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, being first stationed at Jamaica, and latterly at Barbados. The valuable work Mr. Buttenschaw had accomplished in the West Indies led to his selection for the important office of Economic Botanist for Bengal in the Indian Agricultural Service; and he had just arrived in Calcutta to enter upon his new sphere of labour when his death occurred.

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. 1.—Meeting at the Mansion House in favour of the preservation of Crosby Hall.—Death of Earl Sondes.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., steady.
- Wed., Oct. 2.—Lord Curzon's letter regarding Oxford University Appeal published in the *Times*.—Lord Mayor opened new wing of the City Guilds Technical College in Finsbury.—Sir Daniel Morris's despatch on the progress of cotton growing in the West Indies, published in the *Times*.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., steady.
- Thur., Oct. 3.—Appointment gazetted of Mr. Frederick J. Jackson, C.B., C.M.G., to be Lieutenant-Governor of the East Africa Protectorate.—Serious riots in Calcutta.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., quiet.
- Fri., Oct. 4.—Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman received the freedom of the Royal Burgh of Peebles.—Colliery accident near Bolton.—Beet, 9s. 9d., steady.
- Sat., Oct. 5.—British military airship made a successful voyage from Aldershot to London.—Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman speaks at Edinburgh regarding the House of Lords.—Article on "Jamaica as a Health Resort," in the *Lancet*.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 9½d., steady.
- Sun., Oct. 6.—Lord Brampton (Sir Henry Hawkins) died in his 91st year.—Members of the Paris Municipal Council arrived on a visit to London.
- Mon., Oct. 7.—Lord Coleridge, K.C., appointed a Judge of the High Court.—Dr. G. F. Parkin delivered an address on "Some Imperial aspects of Education" at King's College.—Beet, 9s. 9½d., quiet.
- Tues., Oct. 8.—London County Council re-assembled.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., easier.
- Wed., Oct. 9.—Sir Alfred Jones gave a dinner to Sir Francis Hopwood, and in celebration of the success of British cotton growing.—West Indian Club dinner to the Bishop of Trinidad.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., easier.
- Thur., Oct. 10.—Army airship deflated at the Crystal Palace.—*Lusitania* reached New York after a voyage of 4 days 19 hours, 52 minutes, establishing a record.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., quiet.
- Fri., Oct. 11.—Funeral of Lord Brampton.—Beet, 9s. 6d., quiet.
- Sat., Oct. 12.—Lord Rosebery unveiled a memorial to Queen Victoria at Leith.—Meeting of railway directors to consider request for a conference from the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants on the subject of their recognition.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 4½d., flat.
- Sun., Oct. 13.—Mr. Winston Churchill left Cyprus.
- Mon., Oct. 14.—Dinner of the National Liberal Club at which M. Yves Guyot speaks on "The Present Position of Free Trade in France."—Beet, 9s. 4½d., 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.

- Oct. 17.—Special General Meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.
- Oct. 23.—West Indian Club Dinner to Lord Basil Blackwood.—Lecture on the development of Roman Dutch Law by Mr. W. R. Bisschop, before the Council of Legal Education.

Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures at the Polytechnic.

Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

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.

Liverpool.—A good lecture on the West Indies, with lantern slides, can be obtained from Messrs. E. G. Wood, 2, Queen Victoria Street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Reserve.—£500 is a decidedly small capital for cotton growing, but much depends upon whether you would have that clear after paying all travelling and similar preliminary expenses; if so, it would not be impossible for a man with a knowledge of planting to do something with even that, provided he could rent land and so not lock up an undue amount of capital. It all depends on the man; a thrifty and experienced man would do something, another type would get into difficulties. The Hon. Dr. Francis Watts informs us that there is Government land to be rented at Piccadilly, near English Harbour, Antigua, which could be had at 10s. per acre per annum; it would want clearing from light timber and scrub, which would cost about 30s. per acre, it could be cultivated, planted and reaped for about £4 or £5 per acre. Then there are the owner's expenses for living, say for eighteen months, before his crop comes in; even allowing £100 a year, this comes to £150. From this you will see there is no margin on £500, and if anything unforeseen happened, want of capital might mean disaster. A local man might do something with that amount, but a stranger always finds things more expensive. If the Leeward Islands Act, under which the Government makes cotton loans, were in operation, this would enable a man to borrow on his crop, and so he would probably get along with £500, but it is doubtful whether the Act will be in force next year.

Warner's Tomb.—The slab on Sir Thomas Warner's tomb from Middle Island Churchyard in St. Kitts has been sent to England to be restored. The following is an exact copy of the inscription before much of it was destroyed, as given in the Davy MSS. :—

An Epitaph vpon The
Noble & Mvch Lamented Genr^l Sir
Tho. Warner, K^t Lievtenant
General of y^e Carribee
Ielands & Gover^r of y^e
Ieland of S^t Christopher
Who Departed This
Life the 10th of
March 1648.

First Read then weepe when thou art hereby taught,
That Warner lyes interr'd here, one that bought,
With losse of Noble bloud Illustrious Name,
Of A Comander Greate in Acts of Fame.
Trayn'd from his youth in Armes, his courage bold,
Attempted brave Exploites, and vncontrold
By fortunes fiercest Frownes, hee still gaue forth
Large Narratiues of Military worth.
Written with his sword's poynt, but what is man
In the midst of his glory, and who can
Secure this Life A moment since that hee
Both by Sea and Land, so longe kept free
at Mortal Strokes at length did yeeld
grace) to conquering Death the field
fini Coronat.

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.

Extension of leave has been granted to His Honour P. C. CORK for three months. MR. T. R. IRELAND, L.R.C.F., L.R.C.S., retired on a pension from the Government Service of British Guiana as from May 1st, 1907. The Governor of Grenada has been pleased to appoint MR. C. R. TAYLOR to be His Excellency's assistant private Secretary. MR. E. A. HINSON has been appointed to act as Parochial Treasurer of St. George, Barbados, during the absence from the Colony of MR. K. MASON. MR. J. A. COLLYMORE, Officer of Customs, Barbados, resumed his duties on Sept. 2nd. MAJOR R. B. TODD, Inspector of Police, Barbados, has been granted extension of leave until Dec. 31st. The following gentlemen have been appointed members of the Executive Committee of Barbados: The Honourables W. P. LEACOCK, M.L.C., G. A. GOODMAN, M.C.P., MR. J. W. C. CATFORD, M.C.P., MR. C. P. CLARKE, M.C.P., and MR. H. G. YEARWOOD, M.C.P. DR. J. R. PHILLIPS, M.C.P., being appointed to act for MR. GOODMAN while the latter is acting as Attorney-General. MAJOR R. B. TODD, Inspector of Police, Barbados, has been granted an extension of leave of absence till December 31st next. HON. C. T. COX, C.M.G., Government Secretary of British Guiana, has returned to the colony and resumed his duties, and MR. J. HAMPDEN KING, who was acting in his place, has now arrived in England on a few months' holiday. MR. J. J. NUNAN, B.A., LL.B., Solicitor General, has returned to British Guiana and resumed the duties of his office. DR. HENRY LEWIS CLARE, has been appointed Surgeon-General and Medical Officer of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, in succession to DR. J. A. DE WOLF, resigned.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 4% on Thursday, August 15th, 1907). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) $82\frac{1}{2}$.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	95-97
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935 ...	100	4%	102-104
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42 ...	100	4%	100-102
1,098,907 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934 ...	100	4%	103-105
85,479 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " 1919-44 ...	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	100-102
422,593 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " Inscribed Stock 1917-42 ...	100	4%	101-103
600,000.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " " 1922-44 ...	100	3%	84-86
100,000	20	The Colonial Bank	£6	6%	5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$
900,000.	Stock.	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Ord. Stock ...	100	—	45-50
600,000.	Stock.	" " " " " Pref. Stock ...	100	5%	93-96
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	87-90
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.,	5	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$
46,874	5	" " " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	—	—
329,775 $\frac{1}{2}$.	Stock.	" " " " " 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4%	73-78
335,800	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ...	100	6%	98-102
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	—	18-21
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " " 7% Preference ...	100	7%	101-104
31,250	10	" " " " " 4% Extension Preference ...	10	4s.	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " " " " 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4%	94-96
57,000.	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%	—
28,900.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	100-102
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5%	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	7 $\frac{1}{8}$ -7 $\frac{3}{8}$
34,563	10	" " " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	10	8s.	7-8
4,669	10	" " " " " 2nd " ...	10	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$
80,000.	100	" " " " " 5% Deb. ...	100	5%	99-102

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

A special meeting of this Company is called for Thursday, October 17th, to ask the authority of the shareholders for the creation of debenture stock to the extent of two-thirds of the existing capital of the Company. Existing terminable debentures amounting to £500,000 become redeemable on January 1st, and in view of this fact, and "the great expansion of the Company's business," the Court of directors had decided to ask the proprietors' sanction to the new creation of debenture stock. The subscribed capital being £1,500,000, the amount to be issued in debenture stock for which sanction is asked will be £1,000,000. The directors say that the Company's business "indicates financial improvement."

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts of this institution, which were submitted to the proprietors at the 139th half-yearly general meeting on October 9th, show a gross profit of £49,767 6s. 6d., making with the amount brought forward for the last half year a total of £80,381 17s. Expenses in the London office and at eighteen branches and agencies absorbed £33,872 16s. 7d., leaving a balance of £46,509 0s. 5d. Out of this the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30th, free of income tax, leaving £28,509 0s. 5d. to be carried forward to the next half-year. In their report the directors stated that with the exception of the destruction by earthquake and fire of the City of Kingston referred to in the last report, no event of serious importance to the Bank occurred during the half year ended June 30th. The rainfall generally throughout the West Indies had been deficient, and crops had not come up to estimates, there being a falling off in shipments both of sugar and cocoa; on the other hand the production of cotton had increased, but not in proportion to the larger area sown. The profits of the half-year, after providing for a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, added to a sum of £2,000 from the amount brought forward, provided fully for all loss accrued, or likely to accrue through the catastrophe at Kingston. The re-construction of the Bank building would be provided out of the Fire Insurance fund. With extreme regret the directors had to announce the death of their colleague, Mr. James Fletcher, who was a director of the Bank for upwards of sixty years, and who for twenty years occupied the position of Deputy-Chairman. The loss of his experience and mature and sound judgment would long be felt at the Board. They recommended that his seat be filled up at the ensuing general meeting. It was a matter for congratulation that Governments concerned have provisionally agreed to adhere to the Brussels Sugar Convention for a further period of five years from September, 1st, 1908, the British Government, however, being released from the obligation to penalise the importation into the British Islands of bounty-fed sugar. The general meeting was held on October 9th, at the Bank House, Bishopsgate Street Within. Mr. H. H. Dobree presided. In proposing the adoption of the report, the Chairman said that the depreciation in the value of investments was beyond the control of the directors. Most of the Bank's investments were of the gilt-edged class, and it was the value of these which had suffered most. Considerable distrust prevailed among the investing classes, and he believed that an improvement would not come very quickly, or as long as this country was threatened with the abolition of the House of Lords and a considerable confiscation of the rights of landed proprietors. Mr. E. B. Hoare seconded the motion, which was adopted; and a resolution was passed declaring a dividend of

3 per cent. for the half-year. Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham was elected to fill the vacancy on the board caused by the death of Mr. Fletcher.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) October 10th. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), October 5th. "Weather is too dry." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended September 25th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "19th to 22nd, fine; 23rd and 24th, rainy; 25th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), October 7th:—Mr. A. Araujo, Capt. C. Anderson, Mr. A. Arp, Miss G. Berkeley, Mr. H. D. Bindley, Mr. E. R. Blundstone, Mr. and Mrs. G. Branch, Mrs. and Miss Cabral, Rev. Father Cahill, Dr. M. Dominguez, M. H. Dumas, Captain and Mrs. R. A. Ellis, Mr. A. Ewert, Mrs. A. Fennings, Miss H. Franklin, Mr. H. Geers, Master D. Gilbert, Miss Greig, Mr. J. Gutierrez, Mr. G. Gutierrez, Mr. B. Gutierrez, Mr. J. B. Gutierrez, Mr. J. Hampden-King, Mr. F. W. Helliwell, Mr. R. H. Holland, Mr. T. H. Irving, Mr. J. Irving, Mr. H. R. Killick, Mr. T. La Blonde, Mr. F. Leonardi, Mr. Lundell, Mlle. Le Valois, Mr. J. Matthews, Miss M. Maury, Mr. F. McGill, Miss M. Morla, Miss E. Morla, Mr. E. Morla, Mr. Morla, Capt. A. Morrell, Master C. Nascimento, Miss E. Ponguillo, Miss Reece, Miss A. Rodriguez, Dr. P. J. Rubira, Mr. and Mrs. Rymer, Mr. S. L. Sedgwick, Mr. and Mrs. F. da Souza, Mr. G. A. Stewart, Rev. A. De Stoop, D.D., Mr. E. Tamayo, Mr. C. Tune, Miss T. Vilela, Mr. F. Vyva, and Mrs. Waylen.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Orinoco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), October 16th:—Mr. W. Mearns, Mr. H. A. Nisbet, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Moore Bevan, Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mr. C. H. Nicholson, Mrs. H. Fleischmann, Miss R. Carrascosa Fleischmann, Miss V. Fleischmann, Miss E. Fleischmann, Miss H. Buzello, Mrs. H. Lange, Mr. C. M. Rice, Miss L. Mackay, Miss K. Grant, Mrs. M. Milnes, Mr. and Mrs. de Freitas, Mrs. Twose, Miss A. M. Smith, Mr. A. Rivas, Mrs. J. Adams, Mr. P. Scheidegger, Dr. M. Galavis, Mr. E. W. F. English, Mr. E. Pollitt, Dr. P. Marshall, Mr. C. Rohmer, Mr. and Mrs. H. Dodgson, Mr. J. Leggo, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mrs. N. O'Connor, Mr. H. Chatterton, the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Barbados, Mr. J. Lynch, Mr. H. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. R. Roden, Mr. H. S. Cox, Mr. A. Curtis, Mr. R. Willems, Mr. A. Hunter, Miss Lietti, Mr. Greig, Mr. Cussian, Mr. Runciman, Miss Flood, Mrs. J. E. Adams, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Horne, Mr. W. G. Smellie, Mrs. A. Smellie, Miss L. F. Simpson, Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. H. Spence, Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Wallace, Mrs. Summerson, Mr. J. J. Chapman, Rev. and Mrs. Millar, Mrs. Bryden, Mr. A. S. Bryden, Mr. T. A. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Simpson, Mr. F. Parsons, Mrs. H. Moore, Dr. T. C. Orford, Mr. G. K. Bryant, Mrs. Drinkwater, Mr. and Mrs. V. Gale, Mr. A. Wakefield, Mr. L. W. Sampson, Mr. D. A. Miles, Miss S. Lees, Mrs. F. W. Bolton, Mr. C. Bolton, Mr. and Mrs. L. Mallet-Paret, Mrs. Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. B. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Nivel, Miss C. Rostant, Mr. and Mrs. T. Roberts, Miss E. Roberts, and Mrs. M. A. Brerton.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. Watson), October 30th: Miss P. Prada, Mr. and Mrs. Deighton, Mr. R. Abercrombie, Mr. R. Clark, Mr. H. Dawes, Mr. G. Perch, the Hon. Douglas and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. G. C. Edghill, Miss G. Burns, Rev. E. Meanwell, Mrs. F. Kassel, Miss Morris, Mr. A. Vieron, Mr. E. Loveluck, Miss Loveluck, Mr. and Mrs. F. Herrera, Dr. and Mrs. J. Godfrey, Mr. C. Monckton, Mrs. and Miss Mackinnon, Mr. D. Mackinnon, Mr. and Mrs. G. Sierra, the two Misses Sierra, Mr. R. Sierra, Mr. E. Sierra, Mr. and Mrs. A. Carmichael, Mr. C. Waite, Mr. C. Oehren, Miss Burns, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lang, the two Misses Lang, Mr. E. Walker, Mr. W. Droscher, Mr. G. Stewart, Miss L. Jones, Capt. and Mrs. W. H. Coombs, Mrs. L. Schoener, Mr. Schoener, Mrs. R. Schoener, Miss Schoener, Miss Moffat, Mr. R. Blackman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hayward, Miss Gonzales, Rev. B. Theissling, Rev. B. Regonin, the four Misses Willems, Dr. and Mrs. Eakin, Mr. and Mrs. Fairbairn, Mrs. Hohenkerk, Mr. and Mrs. P. Dillon, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Mrs. and Miss Fenwick, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. A. Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Braithwaite, Mr. and Mrs. Alleyne, Colonel and Mrs. W. Armstrong, Miss E. Armstrong, Miss Catford, Dr. and Mrs. Mackinnon, Mr. and Mrs. J. de Gutierrez, Mr. J. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. E. Sellier, Mr. and Mrs. Cork, the two Misses Cork, Rev. F. Tapon, Mr. P. Flynn, Rev. A. Hammersley, Miss B. Agostini, and Mr. P. Prada.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), November 13th:—Miss A. Olding, Mr. C. Awdry, Mr. and Mrs. W. Fletcher, Miss C. Awdry, Mr. C. Weiting, Miss Weiting, Mr. H. Dawkins, Mr. W. Erskine, Mrs. Thurston, two Misses Thurston, Mr. G. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stainer, Mr. G. St. George, Mr. and Mrs. Darnley, Miss Bichnell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Armaya, Mrs. and Miss Lines, Mr. and Mrs. Nourse, Miss E. Ince, Mrs. T. Miller, Mrs. M. Warner, Mr. E. Twose, Mr. R. J. Wreford, Mr. and Mrs. G. Yearwood, Consul-General G. Vollner, Mrs. R. Anstead, Mr. and Mrs. Horn, four Misses Horn, Mr. A. Behrens, Mr. and Mrs. H. Williams, Mrs. S. Edwards, Mrs. W. McDonald, Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Mr. O. Harley, Miss Agostini, Mrs. Agostini, Mr. R. Ponto, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Miss Donaldson, Miss A. Weiting, and Mr. A. Gaillard.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), October 8th:—**Jamaica**: Dr. F. G. Auld, Miss Ruth Capper, Miss Cooke, Mr. A. Elmslie, Mr. Fontaine, Miss Julie Greg, Mr. D. C. Henriques, Lieut. Hill, Mr. J. L. King, Mr. Matthews, Junr., Mr. and Mrs. Hislop, Rev. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. Harold Moody, Dr. F. A. Norton, Miss Nixon, two Misses Ollivier, two Misses Pearman, Miss Pipkin, Dr. J. Z. Rous, Mr. M. C. Swinhoe, Mrs. Sailman, Mrs. Sims, Lieut. Tracy, Mr. H. E. Wortley, Miss Y. M. Warlters, Mrs. Allen, Miss B. Clarke, Mr. Fred Butler, Mr. Bordwell, and Mr. Ballingall.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Selve), October 5th:—**Jamaica**: Mrs. E. A. Ashton, Mrs. Appleton and two children, Mr. E. P. Beresford, Miss Beresford, Mr. Brice, Mr. A. Chidgey, Doctor J. Costa, Mr. H. F. Dickens, K.C., Mr. A. R. Hamilton, Mr. Frank Jackson, Captain W. P. Marley, Mrs. Nosworthy, Mr. W. Owen,

Mr. A. S. Phillips, Mr. C. R. Relph, Mr. A. G. Smith, Doctor H. J. Strong, M.D., J.P., Mrs. Strong, Miss Ida Smith, Miss Kathleen M. Smith, Miss Cecilia L. Smith, Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Whitehouse, Mr. D. B. Hinson, Mr. F. V. Arrarte, Mr. H. Darby, Mr. C. Jukel, Mr. J. Marshall, and Mr. R. Vernon.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R. M. S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), October 19th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Alexander, Canon and Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Alone, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Batiste, Miss E. Booth, Mr. John Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Hood Daniel, Mr. S. H. Davies, Mrs. Davies, Miss E. Ffrench-Mullen, Miss Frewin, Major Grant, Miss Gossett, Mr. Eustace Greg, Mrs. and the three Misses Grenfell, Miss N. Jenner, Miss Haughton, Mr. E. S. Mayor, Mr. J. W. Mitchell, Miss Masters, Rev. MacNee, Mr. Evaristo Obregon, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, Doctor John Pringle, Miss Pringle, Mr. P. F. Robertson, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Henry Scott, Miss Scott, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thornton, Mrs. M. Thompson, Mrs. Taylor, the two Misses Turner. **Bermuda**: Mrs. Broderip, Mr. W. J. Cox, the four Misses Darrell, Mrs. Drake, Miss Exham, Miss M. C. Godfree, Mr. and Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. A. Hipplesley, Mrs. Hunter, Capt. H. B. H. Johnstone, Mrs. Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Middleton, the two Misses Middleton, Major and Mrs. P. B. Norris, Mrs. P. Robinson, Miss Thorburn, Major and Mrs. Trethewy, and Miss A. Trott.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Oct. 16—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>	Oct. 15, mdn't.
.. 18—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Spheroid</i>	.. 18, noon.
.. 19—	Jamaica and Bermuda	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>	.. 18, 6 ^p .m.
.. 24—	The West Indies	Liverpool	Harrison Line	<i>Wanderer</i>	.. 23, 6 p.m.
.. 24—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)...	Glasgow	Direct Line	<i>Crown of Navarre</i>	.. 23, 6 p.m.
.. 25—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)...	Portland	East Asiatic Co.	<i>St. Thomas</i>	.. 25, 10 a.m.
.. 30—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>	.. 29, mdn't.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Oct. 21—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>
.. 23—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Henderson</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1906/7	1905/6
Sugar ...	33,319	49,947 Tns.	46,894	50,403 Tons.	8,789	8,540 Tons.	406,362	505,021 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses ...	62,015	61,099 Pns.	372	2,010 Pns.	...	...	3,983 258 277	2,581 Puns. 366 Tcs. 102 Brls.	...	...
Rum	10,220	10,618 Puns.	949,739	956,903 Galls.	1,428	992 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	4,760	6,048 Tons	...	...	26,992,260	21,465,390 lbs.	60,173	54,161 Bags.
Cacao	63,283	15,927 lbs.	29,078	35,749 Cwts.	18,019	15,560 "	...	...
Coffee	6,719,368	2,961,457	7,783,108	8,499,705	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	234,891	51,088	...	...	13,251	13,085 Bags.	...	...
Copra	3,200	13,165 lbs.	...	...	934	1,015 Bales
Cotton	94,736	106,010 Tons.	...	...
Seed
Asphalt	4,538,537	15,820,636	...	...	...	...
Oranges	8,895,084	8,827,882 Stems.	...	...	...	...
Bananas	20,780	36,127 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice	7,258	5,324 Brls.
Gold	46,443	66,006 OZS.	...	...	...	...	714	608 1/2-Brls.
Diamonds	1,364	1,908 carats	...	...	...	...	857	509 Cases.
Rice	4,468,244	843,439 lbs.	...	...	...	...	82	142 Bags

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The beet sugar Market continues to be dominated by weather conditions. Early in the fortnight the fluctuations in prices established a rise of about 1d., but last week the reports of continued favourable weather on the Continent led to realisations and selling on German account, resulting in a set back in prices of 2d. to 3d., according to positions, as compared with last mail's values. Quotations being: October/November, 9s. 5d.; December, 9s. 5½d.; January/March, 9s. 7d.; May, 9s. 8½d.; August, 9s. 10½d. Mr. F. O. Licht reports in the Magdeburg district the weight of roots as 587 grammes, against 614 last year, and percentage of sugar 18.32 per cent., against 18.70 per cent. last year, and estimates the yield in Germany as 13.56 per cent., against 12.66 per cent. last year.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	889,900	1,130,000	760,000	1,100,000	1,470,000	Tons.
United States	236,000	190,000	210,000	150,000	150,000	..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	225,300	170,000	350,000	310,000	300,000	..
Total	1,351,200	1,490,000	1,320,000	1,560,000	1,920,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, Oct. 14th:—	9s. 5d.	9s. 3½d.	8s. 10½d.	11s. 1d.	8s. 9d.	

Grocery West Indian.—Crystallised, although steady, has been in limited demand, and the small quantity offered last week in auction was only partly disposed of, but prices showed no alteration. The prices realised were: Trinidad, part sold at 18s.; Jamaica, 17s. 6d. (one lot 17s. 9d.); Surinam, part sold, 18s. Privately, ex previous sales a fair amount of business has been transacted at steady prices. **Muscovado.**—A few good Jamaicas sold at 14s. 6d. **Molasses Sugar.**—127 bags Surinam syrups sold at 13s. 9d. to 14s.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	28,260	46,000	32,000	36,000	20,000	Tons.
Deliveries	29,530	38,000	32,000	38,100	33,000	..
Stocks (Oct. 5)	8,318	17,000	10,000	10,000	16,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised:	18s. 0d.	16s. 6d.	17s. 0d.	18s. 6d.	16s. 0d.	

RUM.—Stocks in London, Oct. 5th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	9773	9200	9600	11,300	11,500	Puns.
Demerara	5043	3900	5300	7900	7100	..
Total of all kinds	23,271	19,865	22,124	28,075	29,489	..

The proof Market is firm. The *Statia's* shipment of 300 puns, recently landed, has been sold at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. proof, being ½d. advance in each case. Jamaicas are steady and prices are unchanged. Quotations: Demerara, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. proof; Jamaicas, 2s. 7d. for common, to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and for good to fine export qualities, 3s. to 8s.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Oct. 5th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	5539	11,500	23,500	28,700	17,600	Bags.
Grenada	2265	5800	13,400	14,400	10,600	..
Total of all kinds	37,818	61,400	87,300	95,800	67,900	..

The Market has been exceedingly quiet, not to say stagnant, and the demand very slow. At the auctions during the fortnight the trade evinced little disposition to do business and the bulk was bought in. Trinidadians have been firmly held and no sales were made, 118s. being refused for fine. Grenadas have sold at rather easier rates in small lots, prices realised being 113s. to 122s. 6d., and for common quality 114s. 6d. Other West India kinds have also been sold at rather easy rates. Statistically the position continues strong, and stocks in London show a further reduction. Quotations are: Trinidad, low middling, grey and red, 114s. to 115s., middling red, 115s. 6d. to 116s., good middling red, 116s. 6d. to 117s., fine and superior, 118s. to 122s.; Grenada, ordinary to good fair, 114s. to 115s., middling to fine, 116s. to 121s.; Jamaica, 110s. to 118s., and St. Lucia, 115s. to 119s. 6d.

COFFEE.—Santos for October delivery, 30s. 9d., steady. The Market has been steady, and towards the close at the auctions there was a good demand for Santos at very fair prices, and privately a small business has been done at firm rates for most kinds. Futures, on larger receipts, declined 3d. to 4½d., and have since been quiet.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended October 10th, 103 bales West Indian cotton were imported. Sea Island descriptions have been rather quiet and prices are without change. The sales include Barbados at 21d., Antigua at 24d., St. Croix at 18d., and Nevis at 19d., with a few stains.

ARROWROOT.—Quiet; 172 barrels offered at auction (Oct. 2nd) of which 41 sold good manufacturing at 2½d. to 3½d. Privately about 150 barrels sold at steady rates. No public sales held last week, and only a few sales have occurred privately.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon. Distilled oil, easy, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 7d. per gallon. Hand pressed, quiet, 4s. to 4s. 3d. per gallon. Concentrated, easier, £22 5s. to £22 10s.

PIMENTO.—Steady, 270 bags bought in, fair, at 3½d. **NUTMEGS.**—Steady, 689 packages West India sold in the fortnight at auctions. **MACE.**—Steady. West India sold, ordinary, 1s. to 1s. 1d., fair, 1s. to 1s. 3d., pale, 1s. 4d., broken, 10d. to 1s. **GINGER.**—Dull, and nearly all offerings were bought in. **COPRA.**—Steady, West India fair merchantable, £22 5s. to £22 10s.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—The shipments which have arrived recently are welcome additions to the stock which the sales during the past fortnight have materially reduced; only one auction has been held, but at this the competition was active, and practically all the wood offered was sold at firm, and for some descriptions, higher prices. **HONDURAS:** The recent auction cleared one cargo, which is replaced by the one just arrived; the demand continues very good and prices quite firm for all except minimum wood which is rather easier. **Cedar.**—Cuba, HONDURAS, and MEXICAN: Stocks are light, but it is only for good boat-building logs that there is any active demand. **Logwood.**—Quotations: £4 to £4 10s. c.i.f., and Fustic £4 2s. 6d. to £4 12s. 6d. c.i.f., both are only in limited demand.

RUBBER.—Para.—The market during the fortnight has been flat and lower, and a fair business has passed at about 2d. per lb. decline since last mail for fine, including hard on the spot, and for October delivery at 4s. 4½d. and 4s. 3½d. Last week's prices declined for fine soft to 4s. 1½d., and there are sellers found at this price, but later the market was firmer and prices recovered, resulting in a sharp advance of 1½d. to 2d. per lb.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXII.

Entered at Stationers Hall.

TUESDAY, OCT. 29th, 1907.

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No. 237.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

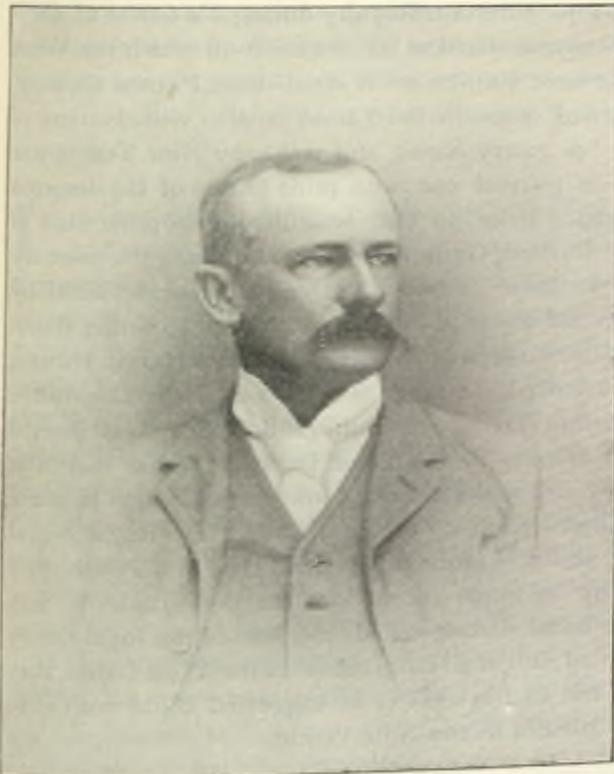
CIV.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SRETHING LANE, LONDON,

Oct. 28th, 1907

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



Hon. F. J. Clarke, C.M.G.

SHOULD cacao from the Portuguese islands of San Thomé and Príncipe, which it is alleged is produced under labour conditions differing very little, if at all, from slavery, be boycotted? This is a question which has for some time past been exercising the minds of all connected with the great cocoa industry of this country. Though our principal cocoa manufacturers fully recognise that gross cruelty attends the collection of labour for these two islands in the hinterland of Angola, that out of the many thousands of men and women who have been brought from the mainland nominally under contract for a short term of years scarcely any have returned, and that the death-rate among these able-bodied labourers is extremely high and the birth rate proportionately low, yet they have decided to continue to purchase the cocoa from these sources, believing by so doing they will be able to make representations to the Portuguese Government, which must carry more weight than if made by ordinary members of the public. Such is the purport of

Mr. CADBURY's statement made before the Council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on

Monday, October 31st. The Council, while deploring "the state of affairs which apparently exists in San Thomé and Príncipe," expressed themselves in a resolution as satisfied with this action. If we may venture to read between the lines of MR. CADBURY'S remarks, it seems clear that the report of MR. BURT, the representative who was sent out to the islands, is sufficiently grave to necessitate prompt action on the part of the Foreign Office, and it will be remembered that SIR EDWARD GREY in the House of Commons stated that the Government were prepared to communicate to the Portuguese Government any authentic information at their disposal tending to show that anything in the nature of slavery existed in those parts. We may, therefore, feel confident that the matter will not be allowed to rest where it now stands. Believing as we do in the whole-hearted desire of MESSRS. CADBURY, FRY & ROWNTREE to put a stop to a state of affairs which is not only demoralising to all concerned, but also extremely unfair to those cocoa producers whose labour arrangements are conducted in an honourable manner and upon an equitable basis, we cannot but think that in the event of the Portuguese Government declining to ameliorate matters, they will follow the example of MESSRS. VAN HOUTEN and decline to use San Thomé cocoa, and that they will, moreover, induce firms on the Continent to do the same.

AT the dinner given by the West Indian Club to LORD BASIL BLACKWOOD, the newly appointed Colonial Secretary of Barbados, on Wednesday last, MR. ARTHUR PONSONBY, who occupied the chair, made the important suggestion that an endeavour should be made to secure the visit of some member of the Royal family to the West Indies. Subsequent speakers cordially endorsed MR. PONSONBY'S remarks, and LORD BASIL BLACKWOOD was able to testify to the immense value of the visit of Royalty to our colonies, from his experience as the son of a distinguished father, the late MARQUESS OF DUFFERIN, who frequently had occasion to entertain Royalty during his tenure of high Imperial positions. We think that we are right in saying that the last occasion on which the West Indies were honoured in this manner was when our present PRINCE OF WALES—then PRINCE GEORGE OF WALES—opened the Jamaica Exhibition in 1891, and when in the *Thrush* he also visited many of the islands. To this day an inscription which runs, "A merry Xmas and a happy New Year 2 you all," (*sic*) and is alleged to have been written by him is pointed out with pride in one of the deserted buildings at the dockyard at English Harbour, Antigua. Prior to that was the memorable visit of the young Princes, the late PRINCE EDWARD and PRINCE GEORGE in the *Bacchante*, the memory of which is still ripe in the minds of so many West Indians. There is scarcely an island visited by them which has not its trees planted to commemorate the occasion. Then to go back to earlier times, readers of West Indian History will recollect the enthusiasm with which PRINCE WILLIAM HENRY, DUKE OF CLARENCE—who, by the way, frequently attended meetings of the West India Committee of which he was a strong supporter—afterwards KING WILLIAM IV., the sailor king, was greeted wherever he went. It will be a satisfaction to our friends in the West Indies to know that it is intended that the sons of the present Prince of Wales will make a similar tour to that which he made himself with his brother in the *Bacchante* after the completion of their studies at the Royal Naval College. But that cannot be for some little time yet, and it is much to be hoped that MR. PONSONBY'S suggestion may be adopted, and that a joint effort may be made throughout the West Indies by way of resolution or otherwise, in the direction of inviting some distinguished member of the royal family to visit them. The King has no more loyal or devoted subjects than those in the West Indies, they have therefore little to learn in the matter of loyalty, but such a visit as is suggested could not fail to stimulate the social life and business activity of our Colonies in the New World.

FOLLOWING close upon two meetings at which eighteen and seven candidates respectively were elected to the West India Committee, comes one which has added ten more names to the list of

members of this old-established organization. To the Executive Committee this extension of membership must be extremely gratifying, and to the Members of the West India Committee, who must recognise in the numerical strengthening of their ranks an increase in the solidarity and unity of West Indian interests, and consequently of power of making their voice heard, it should be no less satisfactory. Last year 150 new members were elected, and already during the current year, 118 have successfully sought the privilege of membership. There are two full months of the year still to run, and, inasmuch as the subscription of candidates elected during those months will cover the period until January 1st, 1909, it is possible that, with the assistance of Members, last year's total will be exceeded. A noteworthy and, at the same time, significant indication of the widening of our circle is provided by the fact that THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR now finds its way to every part of the British Empire, and notably, India, Canada, Queensland, Victoria, Natal, the Straits Settlements, and East and West Africa. Moreover, such widely different parts of the world as the United States, Egypt, the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Peru, Porto Rico, Cuba and Madeira, are now on our posting list. In this connection we may be excused for mentioning again a matter on which the success or failure of a publication must so largely depend—that of advertisements. A glance at our well-filled advertisement pages will indicate sufficiently well the influential nature of the support which we are receiving from many important firms, support for which they are rewarded by substantial orders as we can prove by unsolicited letters which we have before us. We are pleased also to be able to discern an increasing tendency on the part of our readers to patronise those firms whose varied commodities and products are so well depicted and described in our pages. When we point out that the CIRCULAR has been in the main built up by a rapidly increasing circulation and our advertisement *clientèle*, we may be pardoned for making the above remarks, which may at first appear to have been made in a vaunting spirit. Such is not the case. We have made them because we are ambitious and anxious to do still more than we have hitherto done towards consolidating West Indian interests and working for the good of our oldest and once most prosperous group of colonies. Powder is required as well as shot—financial powder which will the more effectively drive our shot home when there is occasion to use it.

IN various parts of the Empire the work of prospecting for oil is proceeding apace, and the Admiralty are, it is stated, completing plans for the establishment of liquid fuel stations for the supply of our ships of war in various parts of the Empire. Many naval engineers have expressed opinion that oil fuel will supersede coal, and already a large proportion of vessels now burn oil in addition to coal. In the circumstances, it is natural that the progress of the oil industry in the West Indies, and especially in Trinidad and Barbados, should be watched with interest. While in Trinidad much has been done in recent years, matters have been somewhat at a standstill in Barbados, and it is hoped, therefore, that some active measures may be taken in the near future to develop an oil industry in that island on a stable basis. An application has been made to the Legislature of the island by the HON. A. C. PONSONBY for the confirmation of a provisional order which was granted to him by the Governor in Executive Council under the Oil Mines Act of 1904, empowering him to bore for oil. The provisional order confers powers on the licensee pursuant to the Act referred to, and the matter will, we may rest assured, receive close attention in the island. It is clear that the application for a provisional order must involve preliminary arrangements on the part of the applicant, which cannot be indefinitely prolonged. If, therefore, it is the intention of the Legislature to confirm such orders, it is clearly desirable that some understanding should be arrived at so that the provisions of an Act should not be reduced to a dead-letter. It cannot be in the interests of the colony to place restrictions on the development of any industry which might be of benefit to it; and this must, we feel sure, be appreciated in Barbados.

THE HON. F. J. CLARKE, C.M.G.

The Hon. F. J. Clarke worthily upholds the dignity and tradition of the Speakership of the House of Assembly of Barbados, to which position he was appointed after the death of the Hon. A. J. Pile in April 1906. Mr. Clarke, who is a member of the Executive Council of the island, is a true Barbadian, that is to say, he is loyal, staunch and devotedly proud of the island which is his home. As might be expected, Mr. Clarke is a sugar estate's proprietor, being the owner of Coverley Estate, and as all good people connected with the West Indies should be, he is also a member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club. No one knows more about the history of his island than does the subject of our portrait, who has made it a special study, and it is an open secret that an important contribution towards West Indian literature is to be expected from his pen. He is deservedly popular, and the honour conferred upon him on the occasion of the King's birthday this year, when he was made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, gave genuine satisfaction to his numerous friends, among whom we could wish nothing better than to be included.

"A NIGHT WITH OUR COLONIES."

We advise those of our readers who have not yet secured tickets for Mr. Alfred J. West's "Night with our Colonies," to be held under the auspices of the West India Committee, at the Polytechnic on Thursday next at 8 p.m., to take an early opportunity of doing so. The reserved tickets are limited in number, and consequently applications must be strictly dealt with in order of receipt. The mention of Mr. West's name, which is so well known in connection with animated pictures of "Our Navy, Our Army, and Our Colonies," is a sufficient assurance that an interesting evening will be spent, and it is also a guarantee that the animated and other pictures shown will be of the highest standard. Mr. West is an ardent Imperialist, and the effect of his lantern lectures cannot but be beneficial to all connected with British Guiana and the West Indian islands. On the following day Mr. West is going to hold a "Scholars' Night" in the same hall, during the course of which he will make an announcement regarding essays, which he will invite those present to submit and for which he is kindly presenting prizes. The prices of tickets for Thursday, which are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, are 4/- (reserved), and 2/- (unreserved).

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

We would again remind our readers that the subscriptions of new members elected to the West India Committee during the last three months of the current year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1909, and that a large increase in membership will result. The following candidates were elected at a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, October 24th, Mr. Spencer Curtis presiding:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
ROBERT W. GORDON (Trinidad).	Edgar Tripp.	George Grell.
MICHAEL J. ROBERTS (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	Spencer H. Curtis.
GEORGE C. JOHNSON (St. Kitts).	A. D. C. Adamson.	C. Forbes Todd.
WILLIAM M. McDONALD (St. Kitts).	A. D. C. Adamson.	C. Forbes Todd.
VALARIUS C. GOMES (Antigua).	J. Harper.	Hon. A. St. G. Spooner.
CHARLES W. SCOTT (Trinidad).	Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope.	W. P. B. Shepheard.
CLARENCE L. ALLEYNE (Barbados).	G. C. Edghill.	S. Manning.
GEORGE STOTHARD.	H. E. McCulloch.	George Hughes.
JAMES F. JOHNSON (Dominica).	Bankhead, Hill & Co.	R. Rutherford.
EDWIN C. WILSON (Trinidad).	H. F. Prévité.	R. Rutherford.

MANY YEARS AGO.

An old Manuscript Chart of Kingston Harbour.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

Port Royal in Jamaica has seen strange vicissitudes and has experienced violent geographical as well as social and political changes, during the last few centuries. After being for some time one of the richest places in the Empire, the meeting place of the Assembly of the island, the residence of the deputy-Governor, the haunt of the buccaneers and freebooters, the starting point of many a naval expedition, the temporary home of many of England's most famous seamen, it has almost sunk into

insignificance. Deserted by the navy in 1905, it is now used solely as a military station. Whether it will re-arise as a sanatorium as is suggested remains to be seen. But the mere suggestion, by one of our leading hygienic authorities, that this former hot-bed of yellow fever should be turned into a health resort, is significant.

The accompanying chart, a reduced facsimile^o copy of a manuscript map, on loan in the Institute of Jamaica, entitled "A plan of the Harbour of Port Royal in Jamaica, survey'd in the year 1724, an carefully examin'd in the year 1728, by Capt. John Gascoigne," tells of the severe shocks which the town and harbour have received within historical times. Situated on a spit of land called the Palisadoes, geographically part of the plain of Liguanea, the town has more than once found itself an island. When Jackson in 1638 landed and sacked St. Jago-de-la-Vega, the spit on which Port Royal now stands was an island, and indeed when Penn and Venables came in 1655 it was only beginning to be joined to the Palisadoes by a ridge of sand. In the map prepared from the survey made by order of Sir Thomas Modyford, accompanying the first edition of Blome's "Description of the Island of Jamaica" (1678), Port Royal is shown as an island, while curiously enough in the second edition (1687) the same map has been altered so as to make it connected with the Palisadoes. After the great earthquake of 1692, it again became an island, and in a letter written from Jamaica in 1712, it is referred to as "a small island about fourteen miles from Spanish Town." As we see by the accompanying map, the hurricane of 1722 once more cut it off from the isthmus to which it is now connected, if, indeed, the passage existing ten years before had silted up.

Professor Robert T. Hill, in "The Geology and Physical Geography of Jamaica," writes:—

"The Kingston formation is the oldest of the formations of old gravel and other alluvium occurring upon the plains of the Liguanea type. This is the formation upon which the city of Kingston and suburbs are built, including the strip of land known as the Palisades, and the plain extending back of Kingston to the foot of the mountains. The material consists of boulders, gravel, and pebble of varying sizes, usually very angular, and representing every known material of the Blue Mountain series. These are embedded in a matrix of dull red arenaceous clay, producing a chocolate soil and derived from the Minho beds so completely exposed *in situ* in the mountains north of Kingston."

With reference to the chart, Mr. Charlton Thompson, R.N., the Harbour Master, writes as follows:—

"I have always been of opinion that the Palisadoes were originally coral cays joined gradually by sand-spits. To my knowledge of Port Royal Point (31 years), I am sure it had grown out about 50 ft. during that time, which portion sank during the last earthquake; and the depressions or subsidences which took place then were all made-up land. There were also subsidences in the Palisadoes marked Q.Q.Q."

The following account of the hurricane above referred to is from "A Voyage to Guinea, Brasil, and the West Indies; in His Majesty's ships the *Swallow* and *Weymouth*" by John Atkins, a naval surgeon (2nd edition, London, 1737). "The present hurricane was a week after our arrival; began at eight in the morning, two days before the change of the moon, gave at least 48 hours notice, by a noisy breaking of the waves upon the kays, very disproportioned to the breeze, a continued swell, without reflux of the water; and the two nights preceding, prodigious lightnings and thunder; which all the old experienced men foretold would be a hurricane, or that one already had happened at no great distance. I was ashore at Port Royal and found all the pilots returned from the windward part of the island, (where they customarily attend the coming down of ships) and observing upon the unusual intumescence of the water, so great the day before, and beat so high, that our boats could not possibly put on shore at Gun Kay to take the men off that were set there, to the number of twenty, for trimming up our cask; themselves making signals not to attempt it. Betimes next morning, the wind began in flurrys at N.E. and flew quickly round to S.E. and S.S.E. where it continued the stress of the storm, bringing such quantities of water that our little island was overflowed 4 foot at least; so that what with the fierce driving of shingles (wooden staves used instead of tiling upon their houses) about our ears, and the water floating their boats, empty hogheads, and lumber about the streets, those without doors were every moment in danger of being knocked on the head, or carried away by the stream. Within it was worse, for the water sapping the foundations, gave continual and just apprehensions of the houses falling, as in effect half of them did, and buried their inhabitants. Nor indeed after the storm had begun, was it safe to open a door, especially such as faced the wind, lest it should carry the roofs off; and escaping thence, there was no place of retreat, we remaining in a very melancholy scituation, both from wind and water. *The perils of false brethren was nothing to it.* It may be worth notice, what became of the purser in this common danger; I was regardless at first, as suspecting more of timidity in the people, till finding myself left alone proprietor of a shaking old house, the streets full of water

^o The only alteration made is that, as the reduction rendered them indistinct, the reference letters have been made plainer

and drift, with shingles flying about like arrows; I began to meditate a little more seriously upon my safety, and would have compounded all my *credit* in the victualling, my hoops, and bags, for one acre, (as *Gonzalo* says in the *Tempest*) of barren ground, long heath, or brown furze, to have trod dry upon. Our neighbours had retreated towards the church, as the strongest building, and highest ground, which I was luckily too late to recover; but endeavouring to stem upwards for a safer station, was taken into a house in the lower street, with an old woman wading in the same manner from her ruined habitation. We were no sooner in, but new fears of this also falling, thrust us into the yard (the water then at eleven o'clock, breast high) where we helped one another upon a low brick-built out-house, that being more out of the wind, and surrounded with others, kept the water still. The unhappiness of those who suffered in stronger, was their facing the wind, which brought the sea in upon them with violence. A platform of one and twenty guns and mortars were drove, some of them to the market-place; the two lines of houses next the sea, with the church was undermined and levelled with the torrent, and in their ruin was our safety; for altho' we had a greater depth, they were by such a bank made motionless. The whole rise of the water was computed at 16 or 18 feet, very admirable at a place where it is not ordinarily observed to flow above one or two. At 5 in the evening the waters abated, and with so quick a retreat as to leave the streets dry before 6, when every one was congratulating his own safety in the condolancies upon the loss of their friends. Of 50 sail in this harbour, only 4 men-of-war and 2 merchant-ships rid it out, but with all their masts and booms blown away. All the men we left at *Gun Kay* were washed off and perished, except one *Indian* that drove into harbour, upon a broken gallows, that had been there erected. Wrecks and drowned men were everywhere seen along shore; general complaints of loss at land (least at *St. Jago*) which made it a melancholy scene, and to finish the misfortune, the slackness of the sea-breezes, calms, and lightning, stagnating waters, broods of insects thence, and a shock or two of earthquake that succeeded to the hurricane, combined to spread a baneful influence, and brought on a contagious distemper, fatal for some months through the island. There being no volcanos, the earthquakes felt here are always after great rains, on a parched earth that admits their penetration, and possibly nigher the coast, as at *Port Royal*, may be from the sea in a long process of time, undermining in some manner a loose earth, or finding in its deep recesses new caverns; or subterranean heats working towards them, the dreadful contest shocks."

The hurricane occurred on the tenth anniversary of one that visited Jamaica on August 28th, 1712. In it about four hundred persons perished, and August 28th was appointed by the House of Assembly as a "perpetual anniversary fast."

The following is the key to the map. In no other map known by the writer are there gaps shown on the Palisadoes, such as those indicated on the accompanying map:—

Explanation.

- A.—The Leading Mark into Port Royal Harb^r. through ye Western Channel.
- B.—The Leading Mark in through ye Ea^t Channel.
- C.—Leading Mark through ye Sth Channel.
- D.—Mosquito point between which and the North part of Salt-pond Hill, Several Houses were Built and Call'd Quenstowne, but were Demolish'd in the Huricane 28th of Aug^r 1722.
- E.—A place proper to build a Fort on for defences of ye Passage to Kingston.
- F.—A very safe little Harbour the ground stiff-black Clay all over to ye Edge of the Shoal the Fittest Place in the whole Harbour to lay a hulk in. Ye Southampton moor'd there in July 1725.
- G.—New Cut-Path made for ye more Commodious passage of ye Wherry's between Port Royal and Kingston.
- H.—A Tan house demolish'd in ye Hurricane, 1722.
- I.—The Palisadoes here sloop's carine.
- K.—The Ruins of ye North gate of Port Royall as it stood before the Earthquake 7th of June 1692 where Half ye Town at least sunk.
- L.—Chocolata hole where a very Commodious Carining Place may be made on ye King's Ground.
- M.—The Cockling Pond.
- N.—The Ruins of a carining wharf built by Mr. Charles Brayne, alias Obrien of Kingston, demolish'd by ye Hurricane, 1722, where the ships were allway's oblidg'd to right when the sea breeze came in Fresh because of the Sea and y^t ye Fire cou'd not be kept to ye bottom in Breaming.
- P.—New Cay thrown up by ye Hurricane, 1722, Before which there were only single points of Rocks above ye water, which from their Appearance were call'd Tortoise Heads.
- Q.—Breaches made the Isthmus by the Hurricane, 1722, but the ground is Rocky even to ye water Edge.
- R.—The Place Mr. Harris carin'd at and where the Merchant Ships carine one by another very unhealthy being just the Leeward of Stinking Swamps.
- +++.—Wrecks lost in the Hurricanes 1722 and 1726.

The "Cockling Pond" at M, was probably a place where oysters were gathered from the mangrove roots. Lady Brasseley ("In the Trades, the Tropics and the Roaring Forties") speaks of "the mangrove swamps, or cockle-ponds."

In regard to note N, it may be mentioned that to bream is a little used word (known only since 1600, and connected either with *brem*, broom, or *bren*, burn), meaning to clear (a ship's bottom) of shells, seaweed, ooze, &c., by singeing it with burning reeds, furze or fagots, thus softening the pitch so that the rubbish adhering may be swept off. (*cf.* Murray's Dictionary).

FREE OR SLAVE-GROWN COCOA.

At a special meeting of the Council of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool and the Committee of the African Trade Section which was held on October 31st, Mr. W. A. Cadbury on behalf of Cadbury Bros., Fry & Sons, and Rowntrees, Ltd., made an important statement regarding the position of those cocoa manufacturers as to the purchase of cocoa produced in Portuguese West Africa, where it is alleged—as has often been pointed out in the CIRCULAR—that the labour conditions differ little from slavery. After assuring the meeting that it was a mistake to suppose that the English cocoa manufacturer had done nothing in the matter, he went on to say “the methods of recruiting the labourers employed on the cocoa plantations in San Thomé and Príncipe and their treatment on these islands first received our serious attention in 1903, when I visited Lisbon, and had interviews with the British Minister, the Portuguese Minister of Colonies, and various influential planters. The upshot was that the latter denied the charges of permitting slavery. They alleged that the statements made by Mr. Stober and other missionaries in Angola (from which district labourers for the two islands are mainly obtained) were inaccurate, and they challenged us to send out a man on our own account who, they promised, should have facility to visit every plantation in the islands, and who should bring a first-hand report to us. This was more than a year before Mr. Nevinson's visit to Angola. We obtained the best man we could find (Mr. Joseph Burt) gave him a thorough training in Portuguese and my own firm of Cadbury Bros. in conjunction with Messrs. Fry, of Bristol, Rowntree, of York, and Stollwerck, of Cologne, sent him out to San Thomé and Príncipe. He remained there for about six months, visiting a large number of the plantations on both islands. Mr. Burt subsequently spent nearly twelve months on the mainland, and, in company with Dr. W. Claude Horton, whom we sent out to join him, he took a long journey into the far interior of Angola, from which most of the indentured labourers come, and made an extremely thorough and careful investigation of the whole subject. He returned to this country in April last, after an absence of nearly two years, and his report is now complete. Last year I paid another visit to Lisbon on the matter. I may, perhaps, say that our investigations into the subject have cost the four firms concerned some thousands of pounds.”

“Since Mr. Burt's return we have had several interviews with our own Foreign Office. They have discussed the matter very fully with us, and, though our communications have necessarily been of a confidential character, I may say that they are fully alive to the importance of the matter, and are instructing the British Minister, at Lisbon, at an early date, to present a statement on the subject to the Portuguese Government, accompanied by Mr. Burt's report, and to make inquiries as to what action they propose to take. These steps have been somewhat delayed owing to the recent political crisis in Portugal, and the absence in Africa of their Colonial Minister. Directly after the Portuguese Government has received the report, representatives of the British cocoa makers are to meet Mr. Burt in Lisbon, and present the report to the planters who asked for the inquiry. The Foreign Office especially requested us not to publish the report, or allow ourselves to be drawn into a newspaper agitation in this country until the representation to the Portuguese Government had been made. Owing to the publicity given to the resolution passed by your committee, the Foreign Office considers that there is now no reason why a statement of our action should not be made public. Mr. Burt's report must however, for the present, be regarded as confidential. You will, I think, readily understand that the first persons to see it must be the Portuguese Government, and afterwards the planters at whose suggestion our inquiry was set on foot. You will, as business men, appreciate the reasons which caused the Foreign Office to deprecate anything in the nature of a public agitation until their representations had been made to Portugal. In compliance with their request, we have refrained for the present from replying to, or dealing with, the scurrilous statements which have appeared in some newspapers reflecting upon the English cocoa manufacturers, who have been represented as tacitly acquiescing in the production of cocoa by slaves. We have at no time minimised the gravity of the case. Granting that the labour conditions on the islands are infinitely better than in some parts of the African Continent, that the best plantations are equipped with excellent hospitals, and medical attendance is free, that the hours of labour are not excessive, that the food is ample, that there exist on paper excellent regulations for the repatriation of the labourer—there still remains the unchallenged fact that, of the many thousands of men and women who have been brought from the mainland, nominally under contract for a short term of years, scarcely any have ever returned. The death-rate among these able-bodied labourers is extremely high, and the birth-rate disproportionately low. There is also no reason to doubt the evidence of reliable eye-witnesses of the gross cruelty attending the collection of this labour in the hinterland of Angola.”

“And now I come to the request of your committee, that the English cocoa firms should at once refrain from purchasing cocoa produced in Portuguese territory. At first sight this might appear a short cut to reform. But there is another side to the question. At the present time the English cocoa firms, as large purchasers of this cocoa, have undoubtedly some influence with the Portuguese

planters, and this influence is being exercised. If we decide to buy no more we shall have thrown away our chief weapon, and our views will have no more weight with the Portuguese than those of ordinary members of the public. England is but the fourth largest cocoa consuming country in the world, and the amount of St. Thomé cocoa used here is not more than about one-twentieth of the world's supply. The whole of this would be very readily absorbed by other nations, who do not concern themselves with the method of production. I may mention that we asked one of the largest cocoa manufacturers outside this country to join with us in our representations to the Portuguese planters, but we only received a reply that this was a matter in which they took no interest. In a few months after our refusal to buy, things would adjust themselves: the whole of this cocoa would go to other nations, and English imports of cocoa from other districts of production would be proportionately increased, and we as manufacturers would have no longer any right to complain of conditions of labour in the Portuguese territories."

"We have consulted the Foreign Office more than once, as to the wisdom of declining to buy any more St. Thomé cocoa, but they were clearly of opinion that it was unwise for the present to take this step. The existence of great commercial interests gives our Government a much stronger lever than if the case were based alone on questions of the treatment of native labour in Africa, with regard to which our own country has not always been free from criticism. We have throughout been in touch with the Anti-slavery and the Aborigines' Protection Societies, and they have concurred with us in our course of action up to the present."

"The foregoing statement will have made clear the grounds of the decision of our three firms to continue to purchase African cocoa until we have presented our report to the planters in Lisbon and they have had reasonable time to reply—after that reply has been received we shall most carefully consider what further steps it will be right for us to take in the best interests of the natives of Angola."

CACAO FROM THE GOLD COAST.

It is stated on good authority that the cacao crop of the Gold Coast is likely to prove a heavy one this year. In this connection the following table, showing the remarkable increase of cacao exports from the Gold Coast since 1894 will, doubtless, prove of interest:—

Year.	Quantity. lb.	Value. £	Year.	Quantity. lb.	Value. £
1894	20,312	547	1901	2,195,571	42,837
1895	28,906	471	1902	5,367,405	94,944
1896	86,754	2,276	1903	5,104,761	86,250
1897	156,672	3,196	1904	11,451,458	200,025
1898	414,201	9,616	1905	11,407,608	186,809
1899	714,929	16,064	1906	20,079,300	336,269
1900	1,200,794	27,280			

CANE-FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

Mr. George C. Wyatt, the Secretary of the Cane-Farming Association, who has been closely connected with the cane-farming industry for the last five years, states in a letter to Mr. Tripp, our Trinidad correspondent, that cane-farming has now begun to take a permanent hold on the people, thanks to the encouraging spirit shown of late by both the New Colonial Company and the authorities of Messrs. Tennant, Sons & Co., which is much appreciated by farmers. "This is already producing, although slowly, good results. The farmers are taking a more intelligent interest in their cultivations, and, with the timely financial assistance afforded them, are forking, weeding and draining with greater zeal than they have hitherto shown. The fact that they are able to drain at this time is particularly fortunate, for despite the continued severity of the weather, the cultivations can favourably compare, taking everything into consideration, with the Estates. I am particularly observing a farmer on the Lothians Estate, who is bent on producing 36 to 40 tons per acre, and, although I think his estimate is high, yet I do not think that he will get less than 30 to 33 tons." Mr. Wyatt adds that unless the undesirable happens, the crop for 1908 will be a great improvement on the last crop, not only as regards the quantity, but also the quality of the canes. His remarks are founded on his observations in the southern quarter, especially in the Savanna Grande districts.

THE PRICES OF HAMBURG BEET AND SUGAR IN NEW YORK.

The Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer, of October 12th, gives a useful table showing the parity of 88% beet and 96° polarization cane sugar, duty-paid New York, as well as cost and freight for Cuban centrifugals, basis 96°. The figures have been arrived at without taking into consideration

THE PRICE OF SEA ISLAND COTTON.

It is at present quite impossible to say what prices West Indian Sea Island cotton will command this season, as much depends upon the quality and also what the Americans do with their crop. It is probable, however, that the course of prices will be lower than it was last season, and a good authority has ventured to suggest 16d. to 18d. as a likely price for Sea Island cotton. If, however, the quality keeps up, there is no doubt that the prices of West Indian cotton will compare favourably with those of American Sea Island cotton, and fancy prices will be always obtainable for superfine lots. The American holders are trying to sell their ordinary Islands at 22d., and this quality will probably settle down at 18d. to 20d., but at the moment everything depends upon the quantity shipped.

THE TAPPING OF RUBBER.

The all-important fact in connection with the tapping of rubber, says Mr. J. C. Willis in the *Tropical Agriculturalist*, is that renewed bark is not, in general, ready for tapping under three years, or according to some authorities, four years. In other words, the original bark must be made to last three or four years. Now, at the rate at which some planters cut it away, this will not be the case. If an excessive rate of cutting be adhered to, it is evident that the original bark cannot last out the necessary time to allow of the growth of the renewed bark, and consequently there must come a time when a tree has to be left alone. This should not be. The tapping should be arranged to cover at least three, and better, four years on the original bark, either by dividing the bark into sections or by tapping so slowly on the old bark that it will take time to reach the renewed bark. The tappings on many estates follow one another at intervals of two days, but there is no need for them to be so frequent; the wound response will appear up to at least a week. If the tappings be less frequent there is more rubber in the milk, and it would appear that the rubber is better matured. One great fault in the tapping as at present conducted, is that the coolie cuts away too much bark. He often has the idea that the deeper he cuts the more milk he will get. In actual fact, with the best knives, there is no need to cut away more than about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch at each cut, and the wasting of bark from excessive cutting should be prevented. A fair standard of cutting would be $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch per month, and this should certainly not be exceeded by more than 10 per cent.

LORD BASIL BLACKWOOD.

Lord Basil Blackwood, the newly appointed Colonial Secretary of Barbados, was entertained by the West Indian Club at dinner on October 23rd. The Hon. Arthur Ponsonby presided, and there was a large attendance, among those present being: Mr. J. Rippon, Hon. E. J. Cameron, C.M.G., Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., Mr. Horace Douglas, Mr. George Carrington, Commander W. H. Coombs, R.N., Mr. H. Martin, Mr. C. A. Hampton, Hon. G. T. Fenwick, Mr. H. F. Smith, Mr. H. C. Webster, Mr. J. Shore, Mr. Dudley Johnstone, Mr. R. Wynne, Mr. J. J. Sabey, Mr. D. Slinger, Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. Horace Bell, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Mark Kerr, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. R. P. Goffe, Mr. W. P. B. Shepheard, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. J. A. Corcoran, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Dr. Cooke, Mr. P. J. Dean, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. Scott Johnson, Mr. A. M. Gilchrist, Mr. F. G. Austin, Mr. Butler Humphreys, Hon. G. Ponsonby, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. L. de Mercado, Col. F. C. Trollope, Mr. C. G. C. Kerr, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. F. A. Conyers, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. R. C. Bromhead, Mr. C. Manton, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. C. W. Anderson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. Wright, Mr. A. G. Evans, Mr. R. Rutherford, Dr. E. Sturridge, Dr. C. A. Moseley, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. J. C. Hoad, Mr. C. Yearwood, Dr. R. M. Johnson, and Dr. Philipps. In proposing the toast of the guest of the evening, Mr. Ponsonby referred to Lord Basil's illustrious father, the Marquess of Dufferin, and while expressing the hope that the new Colonial Secretary would follow in his father's footsteps, he said that if Lord Basil would, as he was sure to do, act on the motto of his family, "Straightforward," he could not fail to endear himself to the people of Barbados. He went on to say that he hoped that the day might come when there would be an Advisory Council to confer with the Colonial Office on West Indian affairs, and he welcomed Sir Francis Hopwood's recent statement that committees would be appointed in the Colonial Office with the object of enabling that Department to keep more closely in touch with the needs and requirements of the Crown Colonies. In conclusion, he said that he hoped in the coming year a visit of some member of the Royal Family to the West Indies might be arranged, feeling sure as he did that such a visit would be greatly appreciated in the West Indies. Lord Basil Blackwood, who was greeted with cheers, said that he was deeply touched by the reference to his father. Though he had never resided for any length of time in the West Indies, he had passed through the British islands on his way from Haiti, and had spent a short time in Barbados. He

cordially welcomed the suggestion that a member of the Royal Family might visit the West Indies, as he recollected the benefits which accrued from a visit of Royalty when his father was Viceroy of India. In conclusion, while thanking the members for the kindly manner in which they had entertained him and received the toast of his health, he proposed "Prosperity to the West Indian Club." Mr. Hamar Greenwood responded, and Mr. George Carrington, who spoke as a Barbadian born, proposed the toast of "The Chairman." Mr. Ponsonby having replied, Mr. Shepherd rose and asked the members of the West Indian Club to elect Lord Basil Blackwood a member of their body by acclamation. The motion having been carried with enthusiasm, the proceedings were brought to a close, and a pleasant evening was passed in the Club Room, where the members enjoyed the privilege of conversation with Lord Basil Blackwood.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

In the course of the inaugural address delivered at the opening of the winter session of the London School of Tropical Medicine on October 21st, Sir Lauder Brunton, after describing the manifestations of malaria in his own case, and drawing attention to a number of points in regard to the action of the disease, said that since he began to suffer from malaria their ideas regarding the pathology of the disease had undergone several changes. Very few discoveries had had such important bearings upon the possibility of life in the tropics as that of the definite proof of the part played by mosquitoes in the transmission of disease. Already the discovery had saved very many lives, and rendered residence in malarial districts almost free from danger when certain precautions were adopted. Yellow fever had been shown to depend upon inoculation of the disease germ by a species of mosquito, and in some districts of the Southern States of America, where it was formerly so much dreaded, it had been almost entirely stamped out by destroying mosquitoes in the same way as for malaria.

Mr. R. L. Antrobus, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, who presided, said that the Colonial Office had helped the London School of Tropical Medicine, and he thought that if it were pressed upon them that it was very important that more money should be devoted to the study of pathological entomology they would be able to obtain grants for that purpose. The knowledge of tropical diseases was of importance to them in the Colonial Office, in connection with the administration of our tropical colonies and their commercial development, and he considered that that knowledge was already beginning to bear fruit. There had been a most marked improvement in the health of the British colonies and protectorates in West Africa, and also in the way in which service there was regarded. Men went out there with much greater confidence than they did two or three years ago, and that was due no doubt to the greater knowledge of tropical medicine which had been gained. West Africa was not a healthy place yet, but it was not as bad as it had been. If our knowledge of tropical medicine went on improving as it had done during the last few years, he saw no reason why we should not eventually make West Africa one of the most healthy parts of the Empire. For the improvement which had taken place they were indebted to the schools of tropical medicine, and especially to the London school, with which the Colonial Office had been so closely and happily associated. (Hear, hear.) At the annual dinner of the school, which was held at the Savoy Hotel in the evening, Fleet-Surgeon P. W. Bassett Smith presided. Among those present were Sir F. Lovell, Dr. C. W. Daniels, Sir P. Manson, Sir W. Treacher, Colonel A. Alcock, Colonel A. Duncan, Professor R. T. Hewlett, Colonel Oswald Baker, Colonel C. H. Sarkies, Colonel Scanlan, Dr. Sandwith, Mr. H. J. Read, Dr. Rankin, Mr. W. Turner, Mr. G. C. Low, Mr. J. Cantlie, Commander Hodgkinson, Professor Nuttall, Mr. C. Orford, and Mr. P. Michelli, C.M.G., Secretary.

HURRICANE AND EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE.

Another hurricane season has practically passed without a "blow" of any consequence being experienced in the West Indies. The underwriters are, therefore, naturally more disposed to look favourably on the somewhat hazardous business of hurricane and earthquake insurance, as they have a certain amount of premium in hand to meet possible losses in future. Readers of the CIRCULAR have been made aware through various articles on the subject, of the several steps which resulted in Messrs. Henry Head & Co. formulating a scheme of insurance on those lines. Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, when he was Administrator of Dominica, first conceived the idea, and he communicated with Messrs. Henry Head & Co., one of whose Directors, Mr. Christopher Head, has paid several visits to the West Indies. The volume of hurricane business is, of course, still small, and will probably remain so until a hurricane occurs. The terms are now more favourable than those originally proposed, and the amount of any loss that the underwriters require the assured to bear himself has been reduced considerably. Specially favourable rates are given for buildings of large value, and

particularly to buildings with parapet walls, such as are to be found in Barbados; and in the case of cultivation, such as cocoa or lime trees, underwriters have agreed to pay claims in full, and to give a return of $\frac{1}{4}\%$ in the event of there being no claim. A considerable reduction will be made next year in the rates for Nevis and St. Kitts, which were, perhaps, somewhat high. There has been a very large increase of business in Barbados, and in another year or two it is hoped that every building of importance in the island will be covered against the risk. This increase is particularly gratifying to the underwriters, as they met the wishes of planters and others by a considerable reduction in the case of good classes of buildings on the rates originally proposed. There has also been a large increase of business in Antigua, where the two central sugar factories and a considerable number of the estates are now insured. The other islands are somewhat slower to follow, but in all of them a certain amount of business is now being done. The only island which shows any falling off in the volume is, curiously enough, Dominica, where the scheme originated. The Government decided to discontinue the insurance of the Government buildings, and this, possibly, served to discourage the planters from insuring. Now that the island is in a very prosperous state it may be questioned whether planters are wise to continue to run such a serious risk themselves, when they can place it elsewhere. There have been a good many enquiries as to insuring lime and cocoa crops, but so far, no satisfactory scheme has been hit upon. The difficulty must always be that the crop being naturally a very perishable article, and the loss in the event of a hurricane being necessarily—if not a total loss—a very severe one, the premium that underwriters have to ask is a high one. The most satisfactory scheme, if it could be arranged, would be one of mutual insurance by the planters, the underwriters paying for any loss that exceeded a certain percentage, so as to protect such a mutual association from having its funds unduly depleted, if not altogether extinguished. It is hoped that eventually some such sort of mutual scheme will be arranged.

With regard to Jamaica everything has naturally been in a state of some confusion since the earthquake. A certain number of insurances have been effected by Messrs. Henry Head & Co. direct, or in conjunction with other brokers. In most cases these are either against the risk of earthquake and fire caused by the same alone, or of a comprehensive nature covering fire, earthquake, hurricanes, &c. The rates for the earthquake risk are now somewhat easier. Some misapprehension, too, as to the scope of the insurance in the case of hurricanes seems to exist in the minds of some, owing to the fact that underwriters are not prepared to take bananas. They are prepared to take other forms of cultivation, but refuse to take the former because of their being so easily damaged by wind that the premium would have to be extremely high. Further, there would be considerable difficulty in assessing damage, owing to their being very perishable. The crop, however, of two estates in the Blue Mountain coffee district has been insured with the buildings. Here the difficulties of assessment are not so great, as the average of the sales over a long period is taken, and in the event of there being a hurricane, compensation is based on the sales of the crop produced after a hurricane and that of an average year. Specially favourable terms have been arranged for the insurance of mortgages on buildings against these risks, and probably in the future this form of insurance, when it becomes better known, will be largely availed of. Underwriters, in such cases, are able to give better terms, as a mortgage rarely exceeds two-thirds of the value of a building, and the mortgagee's security is, therefore, not imperilled until one-third of the value is damaged. On the other hand, the mortgagee is protected, and his claim is paid in full.

Arrangements were made this year in Barbados and Antigua for Messrs. Head's representative to accept risks and issue certificates in the same way that fire insurance business is done. It was hoped that similar arrangements might be made for Jamaica, but in view of the high stamp duties, and the cost of a licence, it has been found more satisfactory that the risk should be forwarded to London in the ordinary way. It is hoped that next year there will be a considerable increase of business, and it is satisfactory to think that it has now been put on a sound basis.

NEVIS AND ITS POSSIBILITIES.

By MR. G. H. KING.

(Concluded from page 493).

Nevis is coming to be regarded as a place in which the sugar industry is practically played out, and well it may if cotton is to fulfil its early promise and no attempt be made towards improved methods of manufacture. The undoubted success, however, of the factory in Antigua, where muscovado sugar has for years been spelling ruin, induces the belief that there is still hope for the struggling remains of the industry in Nevis. The economy of the central factory system compared with the wastefulness of the muscovado process is as marked as the difference in the value of their respective products, and, given the capital for the establishment of the former, the inference is plain that the industry which, if admittedly moribund, has not been quite killed by the latter, retains some vitality,

and must be capable of resuscitation. A factory capable of turning out 5,000 tons of sugar would probably be large enough, and the cane planters who patronise it would probably be cotton planters as well. Mixed cotton and cane-planting succeeds well in St. Kitts, and is also practised to some extent in Nevis, where the enlargement of the system should be merely dependent upon the wherewithal to procure it. Capital, and that with a not very large "C" is the great desideratum, enterprise and up-to-date methods are indispensable, and for the rest, a disposition to reap fortune slowly, and not to be put back by temporary disappointment. This last is said with direct reference to the note of gloom that has been sounded in consequence of the effect of an unusually bad season upon the cotton crop. While it is true that there have been many disappointments and unrealized expectations, it is equally certain that one good season may counterbalance several bad ones, and it would be a great mistake to accept a temporary result as the criterion of future possibilities.

West Indian planters enjoy an unusual privilege in the existence of an Imperial Department of Agriculture, and Nevis is no less benefited than other islands by the advantages derived from it. It may be said that the more a community is in need of the services of the Department the more willingly are those services rendered, and any who have agricultural objects in view may rely on all possible help from an efficient and industrious department. "Nevis, Limited," is the designation of a cotton ginning and oil extracting company that has recently established a well-equipped plant in Charlestown.

Just outside of Charlestown on an eminence above the sulphur springs stand the ruins of the old Bath House Hotel. Built before the days of steamships and tourist trips it was always too large for its purpose, and when the island's fortunes declined it was allowed to fall into decay. The greater portion of its walls, however, remain, and a solid masonry roof surmounts the shutterless windows from which the beaus and belles of the early nineteenth century days looked out upon scenes of natural beauty and historic interest that remain unchanged by the chances of time and fortune. Right below is the little town in which was born the man who stands next perhaps to Washington in the regard of the American people—Alexander Hamilton. In the bay to the left Nelson stayed a prisoner on board the *Boreas*, while his arrest was being sought by those who resented his uncompromising adherence to his duty. A couple of miles away on the right are the ruins of the house where he was married to a daughter of the land, and not far off is the church in which the record of the marriage is preserved. On the right front the stately mountain that gives its name to the island looks down upon the placid Caribbean, which even on the roughest day appears, from here, a picture of repose. A classic breadth of water that which fills the interval between the sister isle and this. There it was that Hood with odds against him, outmanœuvred and tactically defeated De Grasse in an action that stands "in the very first rank of naval engagements." In the distance rises St. Eustatius where Rodney rifled the Dutchmen's warehouses and took away over £3,000,000 sterling. Just before it, on the other shore, stands the "Gibraltar of the West Indies," where a small garrison, under adverse circumstances, gallantly upheld the honour of the British flag, and directly helped to bring about the issue of England's most historic war. Above the fortress towers the peak which, as legend says, gave to St. Christopher the name of the New World's great discoverer, while to the right is found the spot where Warner, pioneer of West Indian colonisation, sleeps beneath the varied greenery of the "Fertile Isle." Where in all the world can there be found within so small a compass a scene that is more replete with Nature's beauty and the memory of the deeds of men? And what men these were! Columbus, Warner, Nelson, Rodney, Hamilton, Hood, all of them truly great men, the contemplation of whose genius is an education in itself, the emulation of whose deeds a morality, history-makers of the highest rank, stars of the first magnitude in the firmament of fame.

It is only a step from the hotel to the mineral springs which flow in a stream of gradually lessening temperature down to the sea. The old bath that had been allowed to fall into disrepair has lately been put in order, and those who like to "take the waters" may do so at a moderate charge. The virtues of the bath are undeniable, and it is probably from want of advertisement that it is not widely patronised. Should fortune once more smile upon Nevis it may be hoped that the old building, whose monumental appearance is a speaking reminder of the past, sufficiently renovated for the requirements of a moderate sized hotel, may yet in part fulfil the purpose of its creation. As a resort for the health-seeker Nevis is no whit behind any of the West Indies. Her poverty alone is the cause of her neglect, and tourists pass by because she is too little known to be noticed. A climate where the thermometer ranges from 70 to 85 degrees during the greater part of the year is too benign not to be enervating to those who reside long in it, but to those who need rest and change from the busy outer world or wish to escape the rigours of a northern winter Nevis offers an ideal clime. Let him however, who visits Nevis, take warning from the experience of those who have tried it, not to drink too freely of the Bath-stream water nor of the pigeon pea-soup of the place, lest, like the lotus eater,

* Capt. Mahan. † See "The Gibraltar of the West Indies," a pamphlet.

he should desire no more to leave the land. The seductiveness of the climate and the ease of living will enter into his bones, and he will wish to live for ever in this land of the lotos, this "place where it seems always afternoon."

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

In the current number of the quarterly magazine published by the McGill University at Montreal, the Canadian Postmaster-General, Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, gives a history of *The Intellectual Preference*, which is the apt phrase for the Canadian policy of encouraging the introduction of newspapers and magazines from other parts of the Empire. Until recently American periodicals were transmitted to Canada at the rate of one halfpenny a pound, while the rate from this country was fourpence a pound. It is unnecessary to say what the result of such a condition of things was, and notwithstanding the fear of loss of revenue, agitation induced Canada to conclude a fresh convention with the United States, increasing the mutual rate to twopence a pound, and the rate from Great Britain was also reduced one penny a pound. The increase in British periodicals sent to Canada has, as a matter of course, exceeded all expectations, the May and June mail bags sent by the Canadian line of steamers being nearly two and a half times the corresponding number last year. The *Morning Post* states that after all the Imperial benefit of cheap postage is as nothing compared with that which would follow a corresponding reduction of telegraphic charges. In order that the Empire may become a unit for telegraphic purposes, an Imperial girdle of State-owned cables—of which the Pacific Cable already forms the first link—is a vital object of Imperial statesmanship. With this view all West Indians must be in hearty accord.

CONSULAR REPORT.

British Jam in Belgium.

H.M.'s Consul-General at Antwerp reports that British jams are sold in Belgium in most of the grocery establishments of any importance, and have a considerable reputation. The imports from the United Kingdom of marmalades, jams, and jellies, &c., amounted in 1906 to 112,967 kilogrammes.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Atrato* which left Barbados on October 9th at 7 a.m., reached Southampton at 2.30 p.m. on October 21st. The R.M.S. *Port Henderson* from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, October 23rd. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Mechanical tillage in Antigua.

The Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on October 5th that the weather had been all that could be desired, steamy heat and frequent showers, and good therefore for planting potatoes, corn, late cotton, &c. Cane prospects had much improved after the dry August, and cotton generally looked very well. The leaf blister mite, however, seemed in evidence rather earlier than usual, although so far the cotton worm had not done much work.—Great progress was being made in Antigua in the substitution of implemental for manual tillage, principally owing to the difficulty with labour on most estates, and quite a number of Louisiana implements were being imported. The use of these, even if the number of labourers on estates be largely reduced, would enable much better wages to be paid to those who were employed, and a higher general standard of intelligence must result.—Crop was at last finished, the lateness of the reaping being due to the inability to get canes cut any sooner.

Mr. Challenor joins the Barbados Committee.

Some nice showers had fallen in Barbados, some districts being much more favoured than others. In his letter of October 6th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that they still wanted a heavy rain over the whole island, which they had not yet had. The canes were green and healthy and were quite ready to respond. Some very good returns of cotton were being made, and the crop on the whole was promising. The weather latterly had been rather hot, and it was hoped that it might mean rain.—Mr. Robert Challenor had been appointed a member of the Barbados branch of the West India Committee in the place of his father.

The rubber concession in British Guiana granted.

Mr. J. C. McCowan reported in his letter of October 4th that a hitch had occurred between the British Guiana Rubber Corporation and the Government over granting the concession applied for.

It was understood that the Governor would not sign it unless Colonel Link withdrew the appeal to the Privy Council connected with the recent suit. This the Colonel at first declined to do, but on October 5th it was announced that he had withdrawn the appeal and that the Governor had granted the concession.—A meeting of the Court of Policy was held on September 23rd, when the report of the Select Committee on the Rubber Regulations was laid on the table. Full details of the report and meeting will be found in the mail edition of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*. A vacancy had occurred in the Eastern Division, Demerara, for the Court of Policy, Mr. M. L. Gonsalves having overstayed his leave. The Hon B. Howell Jones had been requisitioned to stand for the vacancy in the planting interest, and Mr. Dias, the solicitor, who was at present Financial Representative for S.E. Essequibo, was opposing.—The Governor had been on a visit to Berbice, and during that time his party paid a visit to Orealla, on the Corentyne river. Col. Marshall was leaving the colony shortly to take up his appointment as Deputy Inspector-General of the police in Trinidad.—There was nothing doing in crystals, the price being quoted at \$2.15, and the shipments being made were all in first hands. Crop operations were now in full swing throughout the colony. The weather had continued hot and dry until September 27th, when there was a fall of over three inches of rain, fairly general over the colony. Since then it had set in dry again, and showers were wanted for the young canes.

Hebdomadaire movement in Dominica.

Mr. E. A. Agar stated in his letter of October 5th that a movement was on foot to get the day on which the mail steamer called for Barbados, altered from Sunday. It was undoubtedly a hardship to have one's day of rest occupied in shipping produce; otherwise the mail arrangements were not bad.—Normal weather had been experienced during the past fortnight, with a good deal of thunder. Cacao was beginning to ripen and the lime crop slackening, but the "second" crop that would begin in a few weeks looked splendid.

Grenada fights against the black blight.

Writing on October 5th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton reported that a regular general meeting of the Agricultural Society was held on September 20th, and although there was a very small attendance a fair amount of business was done. A resolution was passed in favour of holding the Agricultural Conference in Jamaica in 1908, and expressing the earnest hope that it might be possible for Grenada to be represented thereat. Messrs. Allan T. Lang, G. A. H. Rannie, J. A. Edwards, C. K. Douglas, Martin Elliot, and M. D. Passeo were elected members of the Society. At a meeting of the Agricultural Experiments Committee on September 25th, it was decided to forward Mr. Ballou's report in connection with the treatment of black blight and other insect pests in Grenada to the Government, and to call their attention specially to paragraph 16 of that report, and to ask them to vote a sum of £100 for the purpose of making an experiment for the eradication of black blight on the lines suggested by Mr. Ballou.—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 September 30th last:—

CROPS. 1st Oct. 30th Sept.		COCOA. Bags.		SPICE. Packages.		COTTON. Bales.		COTTON SEED. Bags.
1906—1907	...	60,087	...	8,985	...	934	...	4,742
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

of which the following were shipped to North America and the remainder to Europe.

CROPS. 1st Oct. 30th Sept.		COCOA. Bags.		SPICE. Packages.		CROPS. 1st Oct. 30th Sept.		COCOA. Bags.		SPICE. Packages.
1906—1907	...	15,519	...	1,761	...	1903—1904	...	13,830	...	909
1905—1906	...	10,686	...	1,491	...	1902—1903	...	9,766	...	1,642
1904—1905	...	12,258	...	1,407	...					

Jamaica's copper mine in Clarendon to be developed.

Writing on October 10th, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim said that fairly good rains were falling, but Vere was in want of water.—A company had been formed under the laws of the State of Maine, called the Jamaica Consolidated Mining Company with a capital of 6,000,000 dollars, for working a copper mine in Clarendon.—As the result of a meeting on September 25th, the Merchants' Exchange had brought about an agreement whereby the insurance companies agreed to fight the policy holders on the so-called "earthquake clause" only, without resorting to the improper defence of technicalities. The Merchants' Exchange, therefore, on October 9th, rescinded their resolution of the 25th, condemning the action of the insurance companies in pleading technicalities.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., had intimated to the Government that they found it impossible to detail a steamer for the purpose of taking the delegates to Jamaica for an Agricultural Conference, and the project of holding

the conference in Jamaica had therefore been postponed.—Mr. F. N. Martinez was paying a visit to Kingston on his return from Colon. Mr. G. P. Myers had been re-elected Mayor of Kingston.

Rainy Montserrat.

The rains, which commenced in the middle of September, were continuing when the Hon. Fred Driver wrote on October 5th, and things in the island were looking most promising.—The new mail service suited Montserrat admirably and could scarcely be better. Any important letters could be answered right away, and the rest had a fortnight in which to be attended to.

Cotton prospects in St. Kitts.

In his letter dated October 4th, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson said that during the fortnight there had been frequent showers, but they had been very local and far too light for cane requirements at the time of year. Brighton estate only recorded 3.35 inches against an average for the last ten years of 7.42 inches for September. The light showers had suited cotton admirably, and on those places where picking had begun they had not interfered with the reaping in any way; a little trouble from caterpillars had been reported from a few places, but so far, the island generally had had but little trouble on this score.—The King's birthday would be the occasion of a race meeting, and there was every indication that the events would be well filled and that the meeting would be a success.

The proposed property tax in St. Lucia.

In a letter dated October 8th, Mr. Sydney D. Melville reported that the Governor-in-Chief had recently paid the island a visit of some duration, during which a meeting of Council was held for the purpose of voting the necessary funds for the carrying out of the Royal Mail contract.—Since the departure of His Excellency, the Government had set down for a first reading on the 9th, a Property Tax Ordinance. At present there was in force in St. Lucia a Road Tax in the shape of a modified income tax, to which all males in the colony were required to contribute. This, under the plea of difficulty of collection it was proposed to abolish and substitute in its place the aforesaid Property Tax. Under this measure all owners of property, land, and houses were to be taxed on the value of such property. The amount of the tax and the method or basis of valuation were not embodied in the bill, two very important matters, surely. The amount of the tax was to be as the Governor-in-Council should from time to time provide, and if the owner did not put what the Government considered a fair value on his property, their own appraiser would be sent to rectify the valuation, though how he was to proceed was not stated; and as the only appeal against any increase, should there be any, was to the district magistrate, the Government stood the better chance. By this Ordinance a large section of the community who now contributed to the public purse would be, without any apparent reason, exempted from the liability to do so, and the burden placed entirely on the portion of the population who owned land or a house. This did not seem fair or politic; unfair because the man who lived on a salary or invested money, though he enjoyed equal protection under the law and participated in a like manner with his neighbours in the benefits of Government, escaped if he owned no real property from his fair share in the expenses of Government. It was not politic, because it would retard and not hasten the development of the colony; they required above everything in St. Lucia that the island should be opened up and its fertile lands brought into cultivation. If a would-be settler were confronted with the certainty that the more his land became of value as a result of his enterprise and energy, to the greater extent would the Government mulct him, leaving his landless and houseless neighbour severely alone, he would certainly be discouraged and not encouraged to invest his money in the island. It would, in short, divert capital from the place, and as the industry was taxed as well as the land, would put an extra burden on those industries that were struggling in the face of great difficulties, and were the means of circulating large sums of money in the colony to the great benefit of the Government. The Ordinance in its present shape would certainly be opposed, but of course if the Government were determined to pass it, passed it would be; they were used to the methods of Crown Colony Government.—The Government had denied all liability to compensate those who sustained loss or damage of property during the late riots.—Some fine rains had fallen.

Governor Ralph Williams' visit to St. Vincent.

The Governor's visit ended on the evening of October 7th, the date of Messrs. D. K. Porter's letter. He had been busy all the time he was at the island, and seemed to have made himself thoroughly acquainted with that part of his Government. Although he had not disclosed to anyone his policy, those in the colony could not but commend him for the attentive and sympathetic bearing he had given to all, high or low, who had approached him on any subject tending to the benefit of the people of St. Vincent.—Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on the same date, also testified to the way in which the Governor had been busily occupied in dealing with various matters of importance, a good many of which were in connection with the acquirement of land, the labour supply, the resuscitation of the

Carib country, and the cotton industry. He had gone into the details of all very thoroughly, and obtained information from a large number of people. In the *Sentry* of October 4th will be found a full report of a speech he delivered before a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, in which his views on the different questions are stated. In the report referred to, mention is also made of a discussion opened by the writer on the appearance of the cotton worm, which pest, fortunately had not so far done much damage, but which, if disregarded, might prove a very serious one, as it was in the other islands. The arrowroot worm was doing a good deal of damage in some districts at present, and it was feared that the estimated output would have to be somewhat reduced. With much less arrowroot produced, it seemed strange that the market should be so dull. The prospects of the cotton crop still continued satisfactory. One reads of long spells of dry weather in other islands, and it was indeed a blessing that St. Vincent rarely suffered in this respect.

Matters agricultural, sporting, and social in Trinidad.

In a long and interesting letter dated October 7th, Mr. Edgar Tripp said that Lady Carter gave her first "at Home" on the afternoon of the 1st, the function being largely attended. Fortunately the weather was very fine, enabling the reception to be held in the grounds, which were looking at their



Silver plate presented to Mr. Walsh Wrightson, C.M.G.

As stated in the CIRCULAR of August 20th last, Mr. Walsh Wrightson was entertained at a banquet prior to his departure from Trinidad, where he had been Director of the Public Works for thirteen years. He was also a recipient of the silver plate depicted above, which was presented to him by his many friends in the island.

best.—In connection with the recent systematic efforts to destroy mosquitos in Port-of-Spain, it was interesting to record that the health authorities used large quantities of Trinidad crude petroleum for the purpose, finding it much less expensive and more lasting in effect than the refined kerosene.—The annual sports of the Constabulary were held at the St. James' Barracks on October 4th and 5th, and proved a signal success. The Inspector-General and officers were "At Home" on the occasion, and issued a large number of invitations, which were generally responded to. Sir Gilbert and Lady Carter were present on both days. All the events were keenly contested, the competitions on horseback being especially good.—The successful cricket team returned to the colony by the *Oruro* on September 25th and met with an enthusiastic reception. The Committees of the Queen's Park and other Clubs engaged went off to meet them in one of the Government steamers. The shipping in the harbour was dressed, as also the flag staff and signal station, and nearly all the stores on the sea front. On nearing the shore it was found that a dense crowd lined the wharf who maintained one continuous cheer, which culminated in a frantic ovation when Harragin, with the cup, landed and led his men up the jetty. Then the crowd took possession of them and practically carried them up the street, gay with bunting everywhere, until at last they found refuge from their too demonstrative admirers in the Union Club, where a number of the members waited to give them

decorations. In the commendatory letter which the Archbishop gave me he specially mentions the church of which I am rector, and for which, along with others in the diocese, I plead. I quote his words:—

"The church at Harewood was so terribly damaged by the earthquake that it is now being taken down, preparatory to rebuilding. The estimated cost is about £1,000. The people are making strenuous efforts to raise £500, and it is hoped that Canon Harty will be successful in his appeal to the British public, and will collect a substantial amount towards meeting the remainder of the cost."

I beg to ask your influence and help to enable me to take back a substantial sum to His Grace. The Archbishop has come forward as the "man of the hour" on Jamaica's behalf, and I trust there will be a ready response to lighten his present cares and burdens in finding funds to replace the ruined structures. I may add that not one farthing of the Mansion House Fund, nor of the free grant of £150,000, and the loan of £800,000 from the Imperial Government, can be used, or will be used to rebuild, or assist in rebuilding any church. The Archbishop has, therefore, to depend entirely on the liberality and generosity of church-folk in England, and it is to be hoped that they will respond willingly to the appeal for the £30,000.

19, Clarendon Road, Notting Hill, London, W.
October 8th, 1907.

I remain, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

THOS. HARTY.

OUR LIBRARY.

Messrs. Collier & Co. announce for early publication a volume entitled "**The Cruise of the Port Kingdon**," by Mr. W. Ralph Hall Caine.

The Wild and Cultivated Cotton Plants of the World. A revision of the Genus *Gossypium*, framed primarily with the object of aiding planters and investigators who may contemplate the systematic improvement of the cotton staple. By Sir George Watt, C.I.E., M.B., C.M., L.L.D. (Abd. and Glasg.), F.L.S., &c. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 30s. net. A review of this important addition to literature on cotton will appear in a future edition of the CIRCULAR.

"**Down the Islands, a Voyage to the Caribbees**," by William Agnew Paton; "**Nigh on Sixty Years at Sea**," by Robert Woolward; "**Twenty-five years in British Guiana**," by Henry Kirke. We have to thank Mr. Llewellyn Jones, a member of the West India Committee, for the gift of these well-known and interesting works, which will fill vacant places on the shelves of the library at the Committee Rooms. May we hope that others of our readers will look through their libraries and see if they cannot spare any volumes regarding the West Indies, &c., for presentation to the West India Committee? The library has recently been catalogued, and it is proposed early in the New Year to publish the catalogue in pamphlet form with a special page devoted to the names of benefactors.

Barbados Cricketers' Annual for 1906-7. Edited and compiled by J. Wynfred Gibbons, Barbados *Globe* office, 1907. In a recent market report issued by Messrs. Wieting & Richter in Demerara, the following appeared:

CRICKET is now the largest business in the British Empire; games and matches between Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana, have been performed in our colony during a whole week; and as nearly all the offices and stores were closed up before mid-day—very little work has been done.

The increasing size of Mr. Gibbons' record, which now appears for the thirteenth year, bears witness to the great interest which is taken in cricket in the British West Indies. Beginning with the laws of the game and ending with the fixtures for the season 1907-8, there seems to be nothing connected with the game as played locally, and its votaries, which is omitted. "Joyous wedding bells" and "More wedding bells" sufficiently indicate the nature of the paragraphs which they crown, and we are also treated to some facts not generally known, such as various records and sensational scores, &c., made during the tourist season, while Mr. G. Challenor contributes an interesting though brief critique on the tour of the second West Indian Team in England.

The St. Vincent Handbook Directory and Almanac, 1907. Edited by Robert M. Anderson. Kingstown, St. Vincent: C. A. De Bique, printer. 2s. net. We welcome the appearance of this small volume, which will fill a long-felt want. Hitherto no handbook or directory of St. Vincent has been published, but the success of the cotton industry has given such promise of a return of prosperity to the island that Mr. Anderson, who is Clerk to the Registrar of the Supreme Court, felt that the moment was opportune for the publication of such a work. The editor, who has performed his task with ability, points out that the handbook is not an official publication, but all the information which it contains has, it seems, been drawn from official and other reliable records. The arrangement of the book is similar to that of the admirable little Grenada handbook, which has annually called forth our praise, and none better could be devised. There is a map of St. Vincent, and numerous illustrations from photographs taken by the editor, Mr. J. C. Wilson and the Rev. T. Huckerby. They are not so well reproduced as they might be; but in the next issue, which is promised for 1908, improvement will doubtless be noticed. There is much interesting matter regarding the history, the scenery and the sights of St. Vincent, and Mr. C. W. Branch contributes some notes regarding the Caribs. The Directory comprises a list of principal residents in Kingstown, Calliaqua, Mesopotamia, Georgetown, Layou, Barouallie, Chateaubelair and the adjoining villages, as well as the St. Vincent Grenadines. Mr. Anderson is to be congratulated upon his enterprise, and it is to be hoped that other handbook-less islands will follow his example. The book, a copy of which everyone interested in St. Vincent should purchase, is dedicated to Mr. E. J. Cameron, C.M.G., the Administrator of the island.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

CONGRATULATIONS.—We congratulate Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker on the happy event announced in the press, namely, the birth of a daughter on the 18th inst.

BON VOYAGE.—Mr. H. F. Prévité, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, leaves Southampton to-morrow in the *Kronprinzessin Cecilie*, for New York and Philadelphia.

BISLEY, 1908.—The West Indian Club has sent £10 to Capt. S. C. Sanguinetti for the purchase of prizes to be shot for by members competing for inclusion in the 1908 West Indian Team, which is now being arranged.

COOLIES AND CROPS.—From advices received from India by the West India Committee, it appears that the United Provinces are suffering from drought, and a failure of the crops is apprehended. This should facilitate emigration to the West Indian lands of plenty.

KAISER AND SUGAR.—The German Emperor has, says the *Express*, again shown keen interest in commercial enterprise by investing £3,250 in a sugar refinery at Friedrichstahl, near Pyritz. The refinery belongs to a private company, in which the Emperor is now one of the principal shareholders.

GOVERNOR H. H. BELL.—Hitherto the administrator of the government of the Uganda Protectorate has been styled Commissioner, but the King has paid a well deserved compliment to Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the present Commissioner, who was formerly Administrator of Dominica, by appointing him Governor of the Protectorate.

OUR VISITORS.—Among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been Lord Basil Blackwood, Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell, Mr. P. J. Dean, Mr. Gay C. Edghill, Mr. Samuel Manning, Mr. Delos J. Martin, Mr. Jason Jones, Mr. Julian G. Rust, Mr. P. C. Cork, Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, C.M.G., Mr. Joseph Shore and Mr. W. Gordon Gordon.

GUIANA'S MOTTO.—Unlike Barbados and Trinidad who, as was shown in the CIRCULAR of August 20th, sought the inspiration for their mottoes from Virgil, British Guiana favoured Horace. Her motto, *Damus petimusque vicissim*, which may be translated "We give and ask in turn," is taken from the "*Ars Poetica*," line 11, which runs, *Scimus et hanc veniam damus petimusque vicissim*.

PROFITABLE SWEETS!—The directors of Maynard's, Ltd., the well-known confectioners, have recommended the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares of the company. This does not look as if the lollipop industry was being ruined by the Sugar Convention! The net profits of another confectionery company, the Sweetmeat Automatic Delivery Company, have risen from £17,239 in 1904 to £35,336 in 1906.

WHILE BRITAIN SLEEPS.—Must we wait for ever for a better cable service? Between London and Guiana the rate is 7s. ½d. per word. Between London and Cuba it is only 1s. 8d. We coquet with wireless, which our American cousins have rejected except as a "feeder." The completion of a new cable from New York to Cuba is announced, in addition to one laid between New York and Santiago-de-Cuba in August last. *Verb. sat sap.*

CANOE OR STEAMER?—Prominence is given to the following appeal in Mr. R. M. Anderson's "Handbook of St. Vincent," a review of which appears on another page: "COASTAL STEAM COMMUNICATION IN ST. VINCENT is a pressing need. The frequent occurrence of open-boat accidents is sufficient to justify the idea that Coastal Steam Communication will be A PAYING CONCERN. Capitalists would do well to invest in such a business as it is sure to be lucrative, therefore they should ESTABLISH IT NOW." Here is an opportunity for one of the numerous shipping companies which are connected with the West Indies.

BEET PRODUCTION.—Mr. F. O. Licht gives the following estimate of probable beet sugar production for 1907-8:—

			1907/8.	1906/7.	1905/6.	
Convention Europe	...	...	4,850,000	4,802,000	5,550,649	Tons.
Russia	...	...	1,300,000	1,470,000	968,000	"
Other countries	...	...	430,000	465,000	415,000	"
Total	...	...	6,580,000	6,717,000	6,933,649	"

A HISTORIC ESTATE.—The freehold sugar estates, Bryan Castle and Brampton Bryan in the parish of Trelawny, Jamaica, will be offered for sale by auction in one lot at the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, by Messrs. W. W. Jenkinson & Co., on Thursday, Nov. 28th, at 12 o'clock. They are advertised as being in good cultivation and equipped with steam machinery, building and fixtures, and ample live and dead stock, and have a total area of 2,737 acres. The residence of Bryan Castle, formerly known as Bryan Hall, is of historic interest, for it was the seat of Bryan Edwards, and Lady Nugent in her journal stated that it was there that he wrote the greatest part of his "History of the West Indies." The estate was settled in or before 1792. Bryan Castle is within three miles of the Port of Rio Bueno. A view of the house is given in the new edition of Lady Nugent's journal, edited by Mr. Frank Cundall, which was recently published by Messrs. A. & C. Black.

THE LATE MR. GARTH.—By the death of Mr. T. C. Garth, proprietor of Colleton estate in Barbados, the West India Committee has lost one of its oldest supporters. Mr. Garth, who was well known as a famous and respected Master of Hounds, was highly esteemed by all to whom he was known, and his death will very generally be regretted. Son of Captain Garth, of the Royal Navy, he was born in 1822 and succeeded to his estates in 1841 while he was at Christchurch, Oxford. The numerous letters from Mr. Garth on the files of the West India Committee testify to the keen interest which he took in West Indian affairs; and as showing at the same time the loyalty and grit of this well-known sportsman, it may be mentioned that on the occasion of the special meeting held at the West India Committee Rooms, then at Billiter Square Buildings, on January 30th, 1901, to pass a resolution of condolence with the King upon the death of the late Queen Victoria, Mr. Garth, though in his eightieth year, rode on horseback to the meeting from Twyford.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Wed., Oct. 16.—Railway disaster at Shrewsbury—18 killed.—Beet, 9s. 4d., easier.
 Thur., Oct. 17.—Marconi service of wireless telegraphy from Cape Breton, Canada, and Clifton, Ireland, opened for Press messages.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., steady.
 Fri., Oct. 18.—Mr. Lloyd George intervenes in railway crisis.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., quiet.
 Sat., Oct. 19.—Railway Unions federate.—Letter in the *Outlook* on the Sugar Convention.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 3½d., steady.
 Mon., Oct. 21.—TRAFALGAR DAY.—Mr. John Morley spoke at Arbroath on the state of India.—The Winter Session of the London School of Tropical Medicine opened.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., quiet.
 Tues., Oct. 22.—Financial crisis in New York—Knickerbocker Trust suspended payment.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., quiet.
 Wed., Oct. 23.—Panic in New York.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
 Thur., Oct. 24.—Four more banks suspend payment in New York.—Earthquake in Calabria (Italy); over 200 killed.—Mr. Lloyd George received a deputation upon the subject of a proposed Channel Ferry.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
 Fri., Oct. 25.—Lord Milner's address on Tariff Reform at Tunbridge Wells (*Times*, p. 12).—Beet, 9s. 3½d., quiet.
 Sat., Oct. 26.—The King addressed the Lords Lieutenant regarding the Territorial Army.—Accident on Metropolitan Railway at Hampstead; 3 killed.—Second article in the *Lancet* on "Jamaica as a Health Resort."—Beet (morning call), 9s. 4d., steady.
 Sun., Oct. 27.—Lord Nunburnholme (Mr. Charles Wilson) died.
 Mon., Oct. 28.—Presentation of the honorary freedom of the City of London to Lord Cromer.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., steady.

COMING EVENTS.

- Oct. 31.—Special view of Mr. A. J. West's Animated West Indian Pictures at the Polytechnic. Plan and tickets of the Secretary, West India Committee Rooms.
 Nov. 1.—West Indian Club Dinner.
 .. 11.—Entries to West Indian Club Billiard Handicap closes. Entrance fee, 5s.
 .. 12.—Royal Colonial Institute, 8 p.m. "Twelfth Month of Imperial Evolution," by Mr. Richard Jebb. Dr. G. R. Parkin in the chair.
 .. 20.—West Indian Club Dinner to Mr. C. P. Lucas, Grand Hotel, Trafalgar Square, W.C.
 .. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (The West India Committee will gladly receive exhibits).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Herald.—The present motto of Grenada is "Clarior e Tenebris," but it would seem that "Hae tibi erunt artes" was the motto formerly in use. It will be remembered that in the interesting article regarding the mace of the colony which was sent over for the Colonial Exhibition of 1905, Mr. Frank Cundall pointed out that the latter motto appeared on a shield on the mace above a representation of negroes feeding a cane mill. Possibly the change was made when sugar ceased to be the staple of Grenada. Can any of our readers enlighten us?

Layman.—The West Indies and South America form a province of the Church of England with eight dioceses, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, the Windward Islands, Honduras, Guiana, Nassau and Trinidad. In 1824, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Honduras, were created a Bishop's See, but the Bahamas and Honduras have since been made separate dioceses, and the diocese now consists of Jamaica. The diocese of Barbados was formed in 1824, those of Antigua and British Guiana were formed in 1842, Trinidad in 1872, and the Windward Islands in 1878.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

MR. G. A. GOODMAN, Solicitor-General, Barbados, has been appointed to the post of Attorney-General, and Mr. C. P. CLARKE, M.C.P., succeeds him as Solicitor-General.—COLONEL MARSHALL has been offered the Deputy Inspector Generalship of the Police in Trinidad, and is leaving British Guiana shortly to take up the appointment.—MR. GEO. D. BAYLEY is acting as Assistant Government Secretary, British Guiana, during the absence on leave of MR. J. HAMPDEN KING.—MR. L. A. WHARTON has been appointed to act as Solicitor-General of Trinidad as from October 4th.—Sub-Inspector A. E. HARRAGIN has been appointed Pay and Quartermaster to the Constabulary, Trinidad, in addition to his other duties.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate 4½% (changed from 4% on Thursday, August 15th, 1907). Consols (2½%) 82½.

St. Lucia Usines and Estates Company (1907), Ltd.

This company was registered on October 14th. £62,000 (£1) (14,000 "A" preference, 21,000 "B" preference, 11,000 "C" preference, and 16,000 ordinary). To acquire the business of a company with a similar title (incorporated in 1885), to adopt an agreement with the said old company and its liquidator, and to carry on in the Island of St. Lucia, and West Indies, and elsewhere the business of sugar planters, manufacturers of and dealers in sugar, molasses, rum, and other products of the sugar-cane, &c. No initial public issue. The first General Managers are C. D. O'Bryan and J. R. Drake. E. du Boulay (practical manager of the old company) to be practical manager of sugar estates and works at St. Lucia, comprising the Usines at Roseau and Vieux Fort.

The Demerara Railway Company.

The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th, which are to be submitted at the 122nd ordinary general meeting on Friday, October 25th, show that the receipts amounted to £662,500 and expenditure to £661,130, leaving a credit balance of £1,369. The net revenue amounted to £4,788. To this is added the Government subsidy, £6,250, and the

balance forward from the half-year ended December 31st, £1,693, making a total balance of £12,731. Out of this sum there falls to be paid the dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the Extension Preference Shares, and the directors further recommend an interim dividend for the half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the 7 per cent. Preference Stock; £1,500 is appropriated to the renewal fund, and £956 is carried forward. The number of passengers and goods carried during the six months under notice was as follows:—

PASSENGERS.			GOODS.		
Demerara Railway	...	158,331, against 156,831 in 1906.	Demerara Railway	27,275 tons, against 23,679 tons in 1906.	
Berbice Railway	...	26,127 .. 27,767	Berbice Railway	3,864 3,214	
West Coast Railway	...	56,502 .. 52,164	West Coast Railway	3,662 3,913	

The damages awarded to the employes who were injured by the boiler explosion in January, 1906, amounting with costs to £744 19s. 4d., are included in the expenditure in the half-year's revenue account of the West Coast Railway.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Presiding over a special general meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel, on October 18th, for the purpose of considering a resolution authorizing the creation and issue of new debenture stock, Mr. Owen Philipps said it was proposed to ask authority for the creation of debenture stock for an amount not exceeding two-thirds of the paid-up capital, which would give the court of directors the power of creating debenture stock for £1,000,000, but it was not their intention to issue that amount at the present time. They required £500,000 in order to meet the existing debentures falling due on January 1st next, and the balance would be available as might be required from time to time to meet the steady expansion of the company's business. The second resolution authorized the directors to fix the rate of interest, terms of redemption, &c., as they deemed expedient. In the present state of the money market, they considered it desirable in the interests of the proprietors that they should have a free hand in settling these matters. He had been asked what rate of interest they proposed to pay on the new debenture stock. In view of the ample margin of security both for capital and interest, and the steady progress which the company had been making for the last five years, he had hoped that it would have been possible to issue debenture stock bearing 4 per cent. interest, but in the state of the money market they would probably have to pay a somewhat higher rate, perhaps 4½ per cent. The company's business continued to make steady progress. When the accounts for 1907 were closed, it would, he believed, be found that the progress shown in previous years had been fully maintained, and that there had been a considerable improvement in the net profits over the year 1906. At the annual meeting in May he stated that they proposed in future to pay the dividend on the preference stock half-yearly, and he hoped that the directors might see their way to declare an interim half-yearly dividend on the preference stock early in November. He moved resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting. Both the motions were seconded by Mr. A. S. Williams and carried unanimously, without discussion. The Court of Directors have since recommended out of the profits of the current year the payment of an interim dividend at the rate of ½ per cent. per annum (less Income Tax) on the preference stock. The dividend warrants will be posted to the proprietors on Nov. 8th.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) October 23rd. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), October 16th. "Dry weather continues." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), October 21st. "Too dry, crops will be short of estimate." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended October 16th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "10th to 12th, fine; 13th to 16th, heavy rains." **KINGSTON**: "10th, fine; 11th to 13th, rain; 14th, fine; 15th, rain; 16th, fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. Watson), October 21st:—Mr. A. Auerbach, Mr. W. V. Atkinson, Mr. A. H. W. Butler, Dr. J. F. E. Bridger, Mr. Joseph Clarke, Mr. O. H. T. Dudley, Mr. D. Forbes, the Venerable the Archdeacon and Mrs. Hendrick, Mr. Kettle, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. John Lemon, Dr. and Miss Meyer, Mr. G. Moore, Mr. C. H. Prodders, Mr. C. Park, Mr. E. Roman, Mr. J. C. Rust, Mr. D. Swift, Mr. J. Singer, Professor Dario Saavedra, Mrs. and Miss Schoener, Mr. E. G. Sinckler, Mr. and Mrs. J. Teyras de Granoval, and Mr. W. Well.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. H. Watson), Oct. 30th: Miss L. Jones, Capt. the Hon. W. H. Coombs, R.N., Mrs. Coombs, Mrs. Schoener, Mr. Schoener, Mrs. J. M. Schoener, Mrs. R. Schoener, Miss Schoener, Miss Moffat, Mr. R. Blackman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hayward, Rev. B. Theissling, Rev. B. Regonin, three Misses Willems, Dr. and Mrs. Eakin, Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Fairbairn, Mrs. Hohenkerk, Mr. and Mrs. Dillon, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., Mrs. and Miss Fenwick, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. A. Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Braithwaite, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Alleyne, Colonel and Mrs. Armstrong, Miss E. Armstrong, Miss Catford, Dr. and Mrs. MacKinnon, Mr. and Mrs. de Guttierrez, Mr. J. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. E. Sellier, Mr. and Mrs. Cork, the two Misses Cork, Rev. F. Tapon, Mr. P. Flynn, Rev. A. Hambersley, Miss B. Agostini, Mr. P. Prada, Miss P. Prada, Mr. and Mrs. Deighton, Mr. R. Abercrombie, Mr. R. Clark, Mr. H. Dawes, Mr. G. Perch, the Hon. and Mrs. Douglas Alexander, Mr. C. Edghill, Miss G. Burns, Rev. E. Meanwell, Mrs. Kassel, Miss Morris, Mr. A. Vieron, Mr. E. Loveluck, Miss Loveluck, Mr. F. Herrera, Mrs. Perreira, Dr. and Mrs. J. Godfrey, Mr. C. Monckton, Mrs. and Miss Mackinnon, Dr. D. Mackinnon, Mr. and Mrs. G. Sierra, the two Misses Sierra, Mr. R. Sierra, Mr. E. Sierra, Mr. and Mrs. A. Carmichael, Mr. C. Waite, Mr. C. Oehrens, Miss Burns, Mr. E. Walker, Mr. W. Droscher, Mr. G. Stewart, Capt. Brockelmann, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lang, the two Misses Lang, Mr. and Mrs. J. de D. Gutiérrez, Mrs. M. Gutiérrez, Mrs. and four Misses Pezano, Mr. J. A. Rapsey, Mrs. Lowe, Miss Musgrave, Mrs. and two Misses Puttock, Mr. Reginald Puttock, Mr. E. Scipio Pollard, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Schoener, Mr. O. Harley, Mr. and Mrs. S. Guarin, three Misses Guarin, Mr. G. Guarin, Mr. T. B. MacQuaide, Mr. G. S. Blake, and Rev. A. G. Burnham.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), November 13th:—Miss A. Olding, Mr. C. Awdry, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Fletcher, Miss Awdry, Mr. C. Wieting, Mr. H. Dawkins, Mr. W. Erskine, Mrs. and two Misses Thurston, Mr. G. W. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stayner, Mr. G. St. George, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. DaCosta, Miss Richnell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Armaya, Mrs. and Miss Lines, Miss E. Ince, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Warner, Mr. E. Twose, Mr. R. J. Wreford, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Yearwood, Consul-General G. Vollmer, Mrs. R. Anstead, Mr. and Mrs. H. Williams,

Mr., Mrs. and four Misses Horn, Mr. A. H. Behrens, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. McDonald, Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Mr. O. Harley, Mrs. and Miss Agostini, Mr. R. Ponto, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Miss Donaldson, two Misses Weiting, Mr. A. Gaillard, Miss T. Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Seeman, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kent, Miss R. Langridge, Mr. and Mrs. F. Chaves, Mr. and Mrs. Holguin, two Misses Holguin, Dr. and Mrs. Harbe, Mrs. N. Cox, Dr. J. M. de Freitas, M.B., C.N.Ed., Mr. and Mrs. R. Francia, Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Ryon, Mrs. de Bogarull, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. de Saint Martin, Mrs. d'Heilly, Mrs. Dolley, Mrs. Steenlorum, Mrs. Jacquin, Mrs. Klein, Mrs. de Campignelles, Mrs. de Saint Quentin, Mrs. Ciria, Mrs. Guaristi, Mr. A. Vade, Mrs. E. I. Read, Mr. L. Villegas, Mr. W. H. Richardson, Mrs. J. Miller, Mr. G. A. Stewart, Miss Lamont, Mr. W. B. Fairbairn, Mr. P. Burton, Mr. N. Lamont, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wright, Mr. G. Tilly, Rev. Father C. V. Sutherland, Mr. A. Chaves, Miss Wylie, Mr. W. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Manning, Mr. J. Black, Miss Pison, Mr. R. Gordon, Mrs. Fitzgibbon, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gordon, Mr. R. Eyerlof, and Mr. R. Jones.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), October 23rd:—**Jamaica:** Rev. Wm. Noble, Dr. and Mrs. J. Hawtrey Benson, Mr. Twitching, Mr. and Mrs. Bickerdike, Mr. A. Appleby, Mr. Kitchener, Miss V. Colton, two Misses Lyon, and Mr. E. P. Gibson.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), Oct. 19th:—**Jamaica:** Canon and Mrs. Austin, Mrs. H. M. Alone Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Alexander, Lieut. J. S. Biscoe, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Batiste, Miss E. Booth, Mr. John Cameron, Mr. F. J. Constable-Curtis, Rev. H. G. Constable-Curtis, Mr. G. Challoner, Miss Da Costa, Miss Clerk, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hood-Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Davies, Mrs. H. F. Dickens, the two Misses Dickens, Miss Ethel Ffrench-Mullen, Sub-Inspector C. de M. Grant, Miss D. Gossett, Mr. Eustace Greg, Mrs. and the three Misses Grenfell, Mr. Hislop, Mrs. Hislop, Mrs. Halsall, Mr. H. W. Hayward, Miss Haughton, Miss Nellie Jenner, Mr. T. R. Matthews, Mr. J. W. Mitchell, Mr. E. S. Mayor, Mr. Dalex Marcel, Mr. Evaristo Obregon, Miss Oliver, Mr. T. Baden-Powell, Hon. Dr. J. Pringle, C.M.G., Miss Pringle, Mr. H. L. Paxton, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Quallo, the two Misses Quallo, Mrs. Roper, Mr. P. F. Robertson, Mr. H. T. Sier, Mrs. and Miss F. Scott, Mr. J. Thornton, Mrs. and Miss Tivy, Mrs. M. Thompson, Mrs. Taylor, the two Misses Turner, the two Misses Vetter, Mr. G. Wishart, Miss S. Walker, Mr. Arthur Courtney, Mr. W. J. Down, Mr. W. R. Furnival. **Bermuda:** Mrs. Broderip, Miss Brockman, Mr. W. J. Cox, Mrs. Drake, the four Misses Darrell, Miss E. Elsdon, Miss Exham, Miss I. Frewen, Captain B. C. Gardiner, Miss M. C. Godfrey, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Hippisley, Captain H. B. H. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Middleton, the two Misses Middleton, Mrs. Mansfield, Miss Masters, Major and Mrs. P. B. Norris, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Perkins, Mr. W. A. Smellie, Major and Mrs. Trethewey, Miss Thorburn, Miss A. Trott, Mr. H. Cheney, Miss Carringham, Mr. and Mrs. S. Halliday, Miss Johnson, Mr. R. Muuro, Mr. G. Robinson, and Miss Travares.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Oct. 30—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>	Oct. 29, mdn't.
Nov. 1—	The West Indies and Demerara (Jamaica excepted)	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Statia</i>	Nov. 1, noon.
" 1—	Jamaica, Antigua, Montserrat, & St. Kitts	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Convoy</i>	" 1, noon.
" 2—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Henderson</i>	" 1, 6 p.m.
" 5—	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	<i>Carmelina</i>	" 4, 6 p.m.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Nov. 4—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Trent</i>
" 6—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Oct. 8		Jan. 1 to Oct. 11		April 1 to Sept. 28.		Jan. 1 to Oct. 5		Oct. 1 to Sept. 26.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1906/7	1905/6
Sugar ...	33,319	49,947 Tns.	80,977	55,540 Tons.	8,843	8,554 Tons.	407,012	505,001 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses ...	62,015	61,099 Pns.	372	2,970 Puns.	...	...	{ 4,183 293 298 }	{ 2,581 Puns. 266 Trns. 102 Brls. }	...	...
Rum	10,469	10,870 Puns.	956,776	974,880 Galls.	1,539	1,130 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasquit	3,802	6,243 Tons	...	...	...	...	60,689	54,243 Bags.
Cacao	64,594	73,577 lbs.	29,117	36,090 Cwts.	27,367,060	21,520,610 lbs.	...	...
Coffee	18,692	16,354 "	9,380	16,960 "	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	313,505	52,188	7,416,918	3,186,657	8,294,408	8,758,105	...	...
Copra	15,640	14,235 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	5,200	16,882 lbs.	...	...	934	1,014 Bales
" Seed	4,747	5,692 Bags
Asphalt	9,531,841	22,128,306	...	...	...	...
Oranges	9,504,619	9,551,753 Stems.	...	...	...	...
Bananas	33,697	40,837 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice	7,221	5,493 Brls.
Gold	49,014	69,752 ozs.	...	...	...	...	776	602 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	1,758	1,997 carats	...	...	...	...	859	512 Cases.
Rice	4,731,794	889,299 lbs.	...	...	...	...	88	122 Bags

PRICE.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The speculative beet Market during the fortnight fluctuated a good deal under the pressure of persistent selling owing to the continued prevalence of fine weather for the harvesting of the beet crop. The estimates of Mr. F. O. Licht produced a flatter tone for the time being, but owing to more reassuring advices the movements in quotations have since improved again, and at the close last week there was a decidedly better tone, with an improved demand for all deliveries, and values showed hardly any change as compared with last mail's rates for November and December, while for the long distance positions next year, quotations marked an advance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Quotations: October 28th, 9s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.; November, 9s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.; December, 9s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Jan./March, 9s. 6d.; May, 9s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d.; August, 9s. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. New York, last week: \$3.90 for 96 per cent. centrifugals, \$3.40 for 89 per cent. muscovado.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Europe	619,200	710,000	580,000	770,000	1,160,000 Tons
United States	218,000	180,000	230,000	150,000	140,000 ..
Cuba and cargoes afloat	186,000	120,000	260,000	230,000	240,000 ..
Total	1,023,200	1,001,000	1,070,000	1,150,000	1,540,000 ..
Quotations of 88% Beet, Oct. 28th:—	9s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.	9s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	8s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	10s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	8s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Grocery West Indian.—CRYSTALLISED has been in small supply, but prices are easier. Some 2,500 bags Trinidad sold last week at 17s. 6d., being 6d. down from the late highest point. **Muscovado.**—There is very little of this description here and very little to arrive, consequently business has been very restricted. The value of an 89% cargo would be 9s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., floating landing. **Molasses Sugar.**—A fair quantity of syrups has been sold, but there has been no variety, the offerings mostly consisting of low descriptions which sold last week at auction at previous prices, viz., 11s. 3d. to 11s. 6d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Imports... ..	27,727	46,000	33,000	36,000	20,000 Tons
Deliveries	30,757	39,000	33,000	39,000	34,000 ..
Stocks (Oct. 19)	7,310	9,000	9,000	9,000	14,000 ..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised:	17s. 6d.	16s. 6d.	16s. 0d.	18s. 9d.	15s. 9d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, Oct. 19th:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	9343	8963	9300	10,900	11,100 Puns.
Demerara	5104	3373	4900	7200	6800 ..
Total of all kinds	22,467	19,163	22,200	25,700	28,300 ..

The proof Market remains very steady but business is restricted owing to the absence of supplies. Prices are without change. Jamaicas are fully steady and prices are maintained for the moderate quantity offering. Quotations: Demerara, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. proof; Jamaicas, 2s. 7d. for common, to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and for good to fine export qualities, 3s. to 8s.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Oct. 19th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Trinidad	5044	10,900	21,400	28,300	16,500 Bags
Grenada	1398	4720	12,400	13,200	9,800 ..
Total of all kinds	32,650	57,530	80,400	94,300	63,700 ..

The Market has been very quiet, but at auction last week about 3,500 bags were offered, mostly of foreign kinds, for which there was a good demand and a large proportion was sold at fully steady prices and in a few cases rather higher rates were realised. Trinidad met more demand on buying for Government account. Grenada, which was in small supply, sold steadily, and other West India kinds were disposed of at full rates. Quotations: Trinidad, low middling, to 120s.; Grenada, ordinary to good fair, 112s. to 116s., middling to fine, 117s. to 120s. 6d.; Jamaica, 117s.; Dominica, 110s. to 113s., and St. Lucia, 114s. to 118s.

COFFEE.—Santos for October delivery, 29s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., December, 29s. 9d., flat. The Market has been steady on the spot, and firm prices have been obtained in auction, and privately 87 barrels Jamaica offered last week part sold well, mid-dull greenish at 55s. 6d. to 58s., good bold at 72s. 6d., peaberry at 69s.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended October 24th, 17 bales West Indian cotton were imported. Since last mail a moderate business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton. Prices are rather easier in sympathy with the decline in American Sea Islands. The latter have recently been offered at 1d. to 2d. per lb. decline. The sales of West Indian Sea Island amount to 160 bags from 18d. to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

ARROWROOT remains quiet. At public sales last week 105 barrels of St. Vincent were offered and 20 sold at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for good manufacturing. Privately a small business has been done at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for fair to good manufacturing.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon. Distilled oil, easier, 1s. 11d. to 2s. per lb. Hand pressed, tone unchanged, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per lb. Concentrated, easier, £21.

PIMENTO.—Quiet. Privately a little business has been done in fair quality at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. **NUTMEGS.**—At last auction 30 packages West India sold at cheaper rates, 75's at 8d., 77's at 6d., 92/103's 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 112/134's at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

MACE.—Steady, but quiet. **GINGER.**—Quiet, and in small demand. Privately there has been rather more enquiry but transactions have been limited to a few barrels. **COPRA.**—The market continues about steady with small fluctuations, and for fair merchantable sun-dried £22 is the value.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—The arrivals have been very light and stocks are materially reduced by the sales effected at the three auctions which have been held, at all of which the competition was good and nearly all the wood offered was sold at satisfactory prices. **HONDURAS:** The demand remains active for all good logs from medium to large sizes, but minimum wood still shows some weakness as the demand for it has fallen off. **ST. DOMINGO, JAMAICA and GRENADA:** Sound logs, of fair size or figury, would realise well. **Cedar.**—CUBA, HONDURAS, and MEXICAN: The demand remains very quiet and although unsold stocks are quite moderate only really good, boat-building logs are wanted. **Logwood and Fustic.**—Very quiet and scarcely any business is passing. Quotations are unchanged, logwood, £4 to £4 10s. c.i.f. and Fustic £4 2s. 6d. to £4 12s. 6d. c.i.f.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . .

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

CV.



Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell, C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Nov. 11th, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6042 CENTRAL.

IN the next session of the Combined Court of British Guiana, a motion will be submitted for the acceptance of an offer of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company to instal a system of wireless telegraphy between Georgetown and Port of Spain, Trinidad, on condition that the present subsidy of £3,000 be paid to the Company for another period of five years. This brings the question of West Indian cable communication once more prominently to the front. We cannot help comparing the policy which has hitherto been adopted with regard to it to that of the intending purchaser of a motor-car who continually defers making his purchase in the hope that some perpetual storage battery may be invented or other improvements effected before he takes the plunge. The Government is coquetting with wireless, but year after year passes, nothing is done, and the trade of the West Indies is checked by excessive cable charges and an unreliable service, especially so far as British Guiana is concerned. *Rusticus expectat* and it would really seem that we must

wait *in omne ævum* for improved telegraphic facilities. Who could believe it to be possible that

while messages can be sent to Cuba for 1s. 8d. per word, it still costs 7s. 0½d. per word to send a cable message from Great Britain to British Guiana! It has been shown that by an all-British line cables can be sent to Jamaica for 3s. per word, but owing to an unfortunate agreement with the Cuban company, to which reference has often been made, foreign territory has to be traversed to reach the other West Indian colonies, and a charge quite out of keeping with modern commercial requirements is levied. To this our friends in British Guiana must be keenly alive, and they will, doubtless, give full consideration to the fact that a reduction in the message rate is scarcely of less importance than reliability before they bind themselves for a further period of five years. They will bear in mind that in spite of wireless two new submarine cables have—as we pointed out in the last CIRCULAR—been laid between America and Cuba within the last three months. It is really time that some definite step was taken to ameliorate matters, and no action of the Government would be more popular than the taking in hand of this question seriously, and nothing would tend to draw closer the bonds between our oldest group of colonies and the mother country. The work begun by Imperial penny postage would be effectively completed by an all-British cable *via* Canada, and a low message rate. The pressing need of improved cable communication was never more strikingly demonstrated than it was while the negotiations regarding the maintenance of the Brussels Sugar Convention were in progress. Except in the case of Jamaica, which was kept closely posted (if one may use such an expression with regard to cable messages) by the Direct West India Cable Company, British Guiana and the West Indian Islands generally were treated to what can only be called a scant summary of the important events which were happening in connection with the Brussels negotiations between June 6th, when SIR EDWARD GREY made his momentous announcement in the House of Commons (which by the way was communicated to Jamaica on the same day, but to the other islands only on the succeeding day) until the end of August. We have searched the papers for telegraphic news, but as far as we can see nothing appears to have been sent to the West Indian Islands between June 10th and August 2nd, although during that period MR. CHURCHILL had announced in the House of Commons the receipt of seventeen representations from Chambers of Commerce and other important bodies in the colonies, an important debate had taken place in the House of Lords on the cultivation of beet in the United Kingdom, MR. HAROLD COX had moved a clause to the Finance Bill reducing the sugar duties by half, and the Permanent Sugar Commission had re-assembled in Brussels, all of which important facts had been duly reported to Jamaica. We have been at pains to compare the Press messages sent by the Direct West India Cable Company to Jamaica with those transmitted—over foreign territory—by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, and we find that from July 26th until the end of August the former company was sending bulletins almost daily to Jamaica regarding the position of affairs, while British Guiana and the West Indian Islands generally received only three messages. Even in those instances where the telegrams sent to British Guiana and the islands generally were as full as those of the Direct West India Cable Company, they did not arrive until a day later. Surely in such old and valuable colonies as the West Indies it is a question of national as well as local importance that better telegraphic relations should be established. Cannot a joint and determined effort be made towards securing reform? The Canadian trade delegates who visited the West Indies early this year laid great stress on the need of improved cable communication, and it is much to be hoped that since their return they have kept the matter before their respective Boards of Trade. Will not all-powerful Canada help the West Indies?

THE apparent unwillingness of Russia to join the Sugar Convention, except on terms which are unacceptable to the other Powers, is causing doubts to arise as to whether Germany, France and Austria will agree to ratify the Additional Act. It may be assumed, however, that no definite decision on this score has as yet been arrived at on the Continent, inasmuch as the re-assembling of

the Permanent Commission has been postponed from November 7th to November 18th, in order to give time for the matter to be considered in all its aspects, and in order also that an effort may be made to induce Russia to adhere to the Convention. By announcing their decision that they could no longer consent to enforce the obligations under the penal clause of the Convention after September 1908, the British Government threw away the one weapon which could most successfully have brought Russia into the fold. There can be no doubt that the feeling in this country in favour of the continuance of the Convention is growing apace. The advantages which have accrued from the agreement are becoming more fully appreciated, and it is difficult to see how it could be otherwise, having regard to the fact that the sources of the world's supply of sugar have been increased, and the sugar production last year was the largest on record. In the circumstances it would be deplorable if the Convention were allowed to go, and every effort known to diplomacy should be used to induce Russia to modify her attitude. Assuming that she continues resolutely to decline to do so, what will be the outcome? For a short time she will be privileged to dump her sugar on the British market. Refiners may decide not to avail themselves of it, and our confectioners, whose export trade is growing very rapidly, will not dare use it for fear of reprisals which have already been threatened from the Continent. Then, again, the present British Government will not remain in power for ever. In whatever guise they carry the country, the Opposition will adopt a very different attitude towards Russia. This may be sooner than people may think at present; Russia will then be in the position of having disturbed the sugar industry of the world and her own industry, all to no purpose. But it seems difficult to believe that the Government could allow the Convention to come to an end. They would, though legally within their rights, be laying the country open to a serious charge of perfidy towards France, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Holland morally, in having first induced them to come into a Treaty whereby they disarmed themselves by abolishing their bounties and then at the earliest opportunity throwing them overboard and leaving their industries to the risk of being ruined by that of the largest bounty-giving country in the world, viz., Russia. It would seem that our Government is in honour bound to continue the Convention as it stands for another twelve months if necessary rather than lay their country open to so serious a charge of want of good faith.

THE mantle of ALBERT SMITH, whose lectures on Mont Blanc at the Egyptian Hall caused many of our forbears to visit Switzerland, appears to have fallen upon the shoulders of MR. ALFRED J. WEST. Embowered in bananas, tropical fruits and flags, in lieu of Swiss chalet, chamois and alpenstock, MR. WEST is daily delivering an interesting lecture, accompanied by his animated photographs of the West Indies, which should serve to stimulate the flow of tourists to the New World during the coming tourist season. On another page we give a brief account of the successful meeting held at the Polytechnic on Thursday, October 31st. The Imperial note was supreme. The hall was gaily decorated with a handsome set of West Indian flags presented to the West India Committee by the Governments of the various West Indian Colonies, and the large audience, which included many members of the West India Committee, as well as the Agents-General of the various colonies, expressed themselves highly delighted. The West Indies cannot be too grateful for what MR. WEST is doing to bring home their tropic splendour to poor shivering mortals at home in foggy England, and while voicing as we do this gratitude, we may add the hope that our numerous readers will carry on the propagandist work and induce their friends to support, by their presence at the Polytechnic, this unique advertisement which is being secured of the charms of a voyage to the West—shall we say ALFRED J. WEST?

MR. R. W. S. MITCHELL, C.M.G.

To a large number of our readers, in British Guiana particularly, the features of the subject of our celebrity portrait will be familiar, while to all his name must doubtless be well known. Since 1884, Mr. Robert William Span Mitchell has been Emigration Agent in India for the Government

of British Guiana, a position which he only resigned on July 1st last, after forty years and one month's service (fourteen years in the Trinidad service and twenty-six in that of British Guiana) twenty-nine years of which were spent in India. Born in 1840, he was appointed Immigration Agent-General in Trinidad, Government Emigration Agent in India in 1873, and Acting Emigration Agent for Jamaica three years later, while from 1881 to 1884 he resided in British Guiana as Agent-General for Immigration for that colony. He has received the thanks of His Majesty's Royal Commissioners for special services during their enquiry into the treatment of immigrants in Mauritius, and gained the distinction of C.M.G. in 1892. Mr. Mitchell showed his solicitude for his friends in the West Indies at the time of the Jamaica earthquake by opening a fund in Calcutta, which resulted in the collection of a sum of £200 for the sufferers from that disaster. Mr. Mitchell is at present in this country, but finds the climate of India more congenial than that of England. He proposes, therefore, to return to Calcutta in January next.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive held on Thursday afternoon, November 7th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following candidates were elected to Membership of the West India Committee.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
JOHN C. McCORMICK (Porto Rico).	E. A. de Pass.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
ALFRED D'COSTA (Jamaica).	E. A. de Pass.	W. P. B. Shephard.
KENNETH T. RAE (Antigua).	Hon. A. St. G. Spooner.	J. H. Lee.
JAMES D. WALL (Antigua).	Hon. R. A. L. Warneford.	Dr. Wykham.
ARTHUR C. LEE (Nevis).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	W. B. Kingsford.

Subscriptions from new members elected during the last two months of the current year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1909, and we hope that a large increase in membership will result.

THE CUBAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

A good deal of attention is being directed to the outcome of the next Cuban Sugar crop in consequence of the recovery of the beet-sugar crop. According to estimates recently issued, the latter will, owing to the ideal weather prevailing in September and October on the Continent, apparently fall very little short of the total weight of the last campaign. The following extracts from the letter of the Havana correspondent of the *Louisiana Planter and Sugar Manufacturer* of October 19th afford ample confirmation to the pessimistic reports of the Cuban crop current in London, and will doubtless be of great interest to all connected with the sugar industry: "It is," he says, "generally admitted as a certain fact, that there will be a heavy decrease in the next crop, owing to the diverse weather that has prevailed throughout the island since last December, the frequent cane fires which occurred during the drought of the first half of this year and the lack of requisite attendance upon the fields, on account of the scanty monetary resources and scarcity of labour the majority of planters and cane growers have to contend with. Though it is as yet impossible to exactly calculate the amount of the decrease of the coming crop, it may be stated just now, that it will certainly be very large, if the weather to prevail henceforward is not exceptionally propitious to the growing cane. Plantings, which have, unfortunately, been very scanty this year, are doing well; but owing to the lack of confidence in the future, land is being prepared for new ones on a very limited scale and in few districts only. No doubt can be entertained regarding the crisis the Cuban sugar industry is undergoing, owing to the disastrous financial results of the last crop; in one of my previous letters I alluded to a certain number of factories that would be unable to take off their crops next year, some, from lack of cane, or of financial resources; others, to arrange their situation on firmer bases; several on account of difficulties between their proprietors and their mortgage holders, and many, because they are unable to reform their machinery, in order to obtain a higher extraction from the cane; finally, several others will pass into new hands better prepared to run them in good condition. Immigration appears to be the greatest problem Cuban sugar interests will have to face. The determination of Spain to prevent her labouring classes from leaving home is a great menace to Cuba because upon Spanish immigration the island has been almost entirely dependent. Nineteen out of every twenty immigrants coming to Cuba are Spaniards, and without this class the situation of the island's sugar interests will indeed be embarrassing, especially when it is taken into consideration that the government is realising great public works throughout the country and is paying wages far in excess of those which the sugar planters can afford to pay. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were lost by the planters last year on account of the scarcity of labour, and then there was, comparatively speaking, no public works being realised. Now with little or no immigration in sight, the government

is spending several millions of dollars in building roads, bridges, waterworks and other public works. If the government of Spain carries out its threat Cuba will have to seek immigration immediately elsewhere, or the losses will be enormous. Some of the local newspapers are urging the government to try to induce Italian labourers to come to Cuba."

THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

The meeting of the Permanent Commission under the Sugar Bounty Convention, originally fixed for November 7th, has been postponed until the 18th, in order, it is said, to give the powers more time for considering the position with regard to the suggested adhesion of Russia to the Convention. In a telegram dated November 4th the *Times* Paris correspondent said: "The request of Russia to be allowed to join the Sugar Convention, which will come up for discussion before the permanent International Sugar Commission at Brussels on the 18th inst., was the subject of an exchange of views, suggested by the Austrian and Hungarian Ministers of Finance, which took place yesterday and to-day at the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in Paris between the representatives on the Permanent Commission of the four principal sugar-exporting States which have adhered to the commission—namely, France, Germany, Austria, and Hungary. These meetings, which were presided over by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and were attended by one French delegate and by two Austrian, two Hungarian, and two German delegates, have been held with the object of agreeing upon concerted action at the approaching meeting of the Permanent Commission at Brussels in the matter of the Russian proposal. The proceedings were not public, and I am indebted to a foreign *confidant* for the following information. The conditions upon which Russia asks to join the convention are regarded as involving a menace to the interests of the other exporting States, which would also be damaged by failure to renew the convention. In these circumstances, an understanding with Russia is desired. The concession which Russia has announced her readiness to make—namely, a reduction of the duty imposed in that country upon foreign sugar—is represented as valueless, as the duty still remains prohibitive. If Russia were to secure access to the English market while maintaining her bounty system and protectionist duties, it is considered that the result would be the swamping of that market by Russian sugar, which might even be sold there under cost price, and the ousting of the other exporting States which grant no bounties. The delegates of those States which have met in Paris recognise that Russia cannot be asked to change her system, and have sought another means of protecting the interests of their own countries. This is by fixing the quantity of sugar which Russia should be entitled to export. At present the Russian export of sugar amounts to about 14 per cent. of the home consumption. It was from the first realised that this should be considerably increased if Russia were to be induced to accede to the arrangement. The French delegate argued that this fixed proportion should apply exclusively to exports to England, but the Austrian and Hungarian delegates wished it made general. It was eventually decided to let the latter proposal lapse, as in the East the matter is regulated by the Capitulations. All the delegates were agreed that, if Russia maintains an uncompromising attitude, the dissolution of the Convention is inevitable. In view of that eventuality, there was some talk of special conventions between the four States, in which Belgium and Holland should be allowed to join, with the object of averting a monopoly of the English market by Russia on the expiration of the Sugar Convention. A unanimous agreement was eventually arrived at by the delegates this afternoon to the effect that Russia should be asked to modify the proposed conditions of her adhesion to the Sugar Convention by accepting the principle of a fixed proportion for her exports, the exact figure of that proportion being left open for subsequent negotiations. The French Government is said to have undertaken to communicate this proposal to Russia and to recommend its acceptance."

CACAO FROM THE GOLD COAST.

In connection with the statement made in our last issue that the cacao crop of the Gold Coast is likely to prove a heavy one this year, it has been pointed out that up to June the shipments were not particularly heavy, amounting as they did to 6,257,279 lbs. It must, however, be borne in mind that the bulk of the crop comes forward later in the year, and the probability is that the total exports for 1907 will be found to exceed those for 1906, which amounted to 20,079,300 lbs. In 1894 the crop was only 20,312 lbs. We give the figures of the monthly exports for the half-year ended June 1907, which were as follows:—

Period. 1907.	Quantity. lbs.	Value. £	Period. 1907.	Quantity. lbs.	Value. £
January	3,038,151	58,940	April	556,859	12,565
February	570,004	11,777	May	888,586	21,576
March	201,390	4,378	June	1,002,289	25,861

A WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER.

We have received the following communication from the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club with a request for its publication in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR:—

Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary of the West India Committee, was, on the occasion of his recent marriage, the guest of the West Indian Club at a dinner held at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand, on Friday, November 1st. A very large and representative gathering of West Indians was present to congratulate the former Hon. Secretary of the club, among them being: Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Sir John Campbell, Bart., C.B., Mr. G. Carrington, Mr. J. Rippon, Colonel F. C. Trollope, Mr. C. W. Anderson, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. Bruce, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. James Clark, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. Edward Easton, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. J. K. D. Hill, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. G. J. Johnson, Mr. C. G. C. Kerr, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. James Z. Mayhew, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. C. S. Parker, Mr. E. S. Pasmore, Mr. Mostyn Pigott, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. R. Sullivan, Mr. W. Thorn, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. T. B. Younger, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary, West Indian Club. Sir Nevile Lubbock, who happily combines the offices of Chairman of the West India Committee and of the West Indian Club, presided. At the conclusion of the dinner the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. A. M. Goode) read several letters of regret, among them very cordial tributes from Sir Henry Davson, Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee; Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., Sir Simeon Stuart, Bart., the Bishop of Trinidad, Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. H. H. Dobree, and the Right Hon. J. Parker Smith. All deeply regretted their inability to be present.

Sir Nevile Lubbock then proposed the health of the guest of the evening, and added that he would couple with it the name of Mrs. Aspinall. It was unnecessary, he said, for him to dilate at any length upon Mr. Aspinall's good qualities. All present knew what he had done for the West Indies, as Secretary of the West India Committee, Hon. Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League, in which capacity he acted for some time, and formerly as Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club. Everyone wished him the prosperity that he deserved in his married life.

On behalf of the Executive of the West India Committee Sir Nevile Lubbock then presented Mr. Aspinall with the handsome silver tray and tea and coffee service, which, with other gifts mentioned below is depicted in the full page illustration in the present issue. On the back of the tray were engraved the facsimiles of the signatures of those who had subscribed to the gift, while on the face the tray bore this inscription:—"Presented to Algernon E. Aspinall by the Committee of the West India Committee with best wishes on the occasion of his marriage, Sep. 4th, 1907." On behalf of the Committee of the West Indian Club he then handed to the guest of the evening two silver entr e dishes bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Algernon E. Aspinall on the occasion of his marriage by fellow-members of the Committee of the West Indian Club, Sep. 4th, 1907."

The Chairman then presented Mr. Aspinall with two massive silver candlesticks, inscribed:—"Presented to Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq., by the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society in recognition of his untiring energy in furthering the interests of the Colony." In doing so, he regretted that Mr. P. J. Dean, who had hoped to make the presentation on behalf of the Society, had been compelled to return to Grenada by last mail. Mr. Dean had asked him to emphasise the fact that Mr. Aspinall had taken charge of exhibits at various Exhibitions, and that he kept the Society always well posted with information and recommendations. For the British Guiana Planters' Association Sir Nevile Lubbock next handed to the guest of the evening a loving cup, purchased with part proceeds of a cheque the bulk of which was to be spent in the purchase of a piece of jewellery for Mrs. Aspinall, with this inscription:—"Presented to Algernon E. Aspinall as a slight recognition of the very able manner in which he has furthered the interests of the Planting community."

Mr. W. Gordon Gordon was then called upon by the Chairman to offer on behalf of the friends in Trinidad a large silver cigar and cigarette box. In a short speech Mr. Gordon voiced Trinidad's sincere appreciation of Mr. Aspinall's work on behalf of the West Indies. Mr. Aspinall's energies and abilities were nowhere more admired and appreciated than in Trinidad and Tobago. The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR as they all knew had sprung up and grown under Mr. Aspinall's genius and care to be one of the most creditable and interesting publications that reached the West Indian colonies. Knowing how acceptable was a "pipe of peace" after the day's toils were finished, he had selected this case to commemorate what they all hoped would be the happiest event in Mr. Aspinall's life. He then presented the case to Mr. Aspinall and read the following inscription:—"Presented to Algernon E. Aspinall as a small mark of appreciation from Trinidad, September, 1907."

Mr. Edward Easton, at the request of the Chairman, presented Mr. Aspinall with a most

interesting German marriage mug, nearly two hundred years old, the history of which proved no less entertaining than the speech which accompanied it. The Chairman then asked all present to rise and drink the health of the guest of the evening and of Mrs. Aspinall, and the Howard Hotel rang with the strains of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. Aspinall, in reply, said that there were moments in a man's life when his heart was too full to speak. Such a moment was when he was entering the portals of St. Andrew's Church, and another was surely the present. He would confine himself, therefore, to thanking the West Indian Club for the great compliment which they had paid him in making him the guest of the evening, and thanking all concerned for the magnificent gifts with which the table before him was loaded. They would be appreciated as much by his wife as by himself. He felt that the West India Committee and the West Indian Club were doing, each in its own particular sphere of utility, a useful work for the colonies, but much more remained to be done, and would be done with the staunch and loyal co-operation of the members. It was particularly satisfactory to find members of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club seated side by side at the festive board. It was significant and it augured well for the future. It showed, at any rate, that they were living up to the splendid motto of the West Indian Club, "*Vis unita fortior.*"

Mr. Mostyn Pigott, who was present as a guest, proposed the health of "Mr. Aspinall, Barrister-at-Law." Mr. Pigott, in a very humorous speech, told his hearers that he had the privilege of coaching Mr. Aspinall for the Bar, and expressed his delight at finding his old pupil married and so much appreciated by those with whom he had come into contact since he was called to the Bar.

What was generally declared to be a most successful dinner came to a close when Mr. E. A. de Pass proposed the health of the Chairman, and voiced the debt of gratitude of all West Indians to Sir Nevile Lubbock, whom he described as too young to be called the "Grand Old Man of the West Indies," yet who might well be termed "The Guardian Angel of the Sugar Interests." Sir Nevile Lubbock responded with a brief speech.

A NIGHT WITH OUR COLONIES.

That instruction requires a judicious admixture of amusement to be made palatable, is an axiom of all successful entertainers. Those who were privileged to attend Mr. West's cinematographic display last Thursday week will agree that he combined these two objects in a manner worthy of admiration. Mr. West is an ardent Imperialist, and he has chosen the cinematograph as no mean instrument towards furthering the object he has in view. To the most uninitiated spectator, Mr. West's slides and films afforded a considerable insight into the scenery and life of the West Indies. It was satisfactory to notice a number of West Indians present, among the visitors being Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. M. Garnett, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Mr. John Haynes, Mr. George Hughes, Mrs. Trent Stoughton, Miss E. S. Price, Lieut.-Col. Trollope, Mr. Charles S. Parker, Mr. J. S. de la Mothe, Mr. A. G. Low, Mr. L. Guggenheim, Mr. Duncan Mackintosh, Mr. D. J. Martin, Lady Sendall, Captain Feilding, Mr. Adamson, and the Secretary of the West India Committee. Their delight as scene after scene—long familiar to them—swept over the screen, was in itself abundant testimony to the success of the evening. Mr. West, after explaining the delights of the voyage, took his audience on a trip over British Guiana. Having seen the process of sugar manufacture in the great Diamond sugar factory, and made the railway journey from Wismar to Rockstone—to mention two only of Mr. West's capital films—they were transported to Trinidad, where the wonders of the Pitch Lake and the method of exporting the pitch were explained. After seeing a quaint reproduction of a scene from Robinson Crusoe at the island of Tobago, Grenada was next visited, where the arrival of Governor Ralph Williams was witnessed. In true tourist fashion, the "sights" of Barbados were next seen, Trafalgar Square, Nelson's Monument, Codrington College, and the surf-beaten Windward coast. The animated pictures of the diving boys, perhaps Mr. West's masterpiece, invoked a great deal of enthusiasm. Passing rapidly over St. Lucia, Martinique, the scene of the volcanic eruption in 1902, was reached. After inspecting the curious Diamond Rock, on which guns were mounted by the British in 1804, when it appeared in the Navy List as H.M.S. *Diamond Rock*, the audience were, metaphorically speaking, conducted over the remains of the capital, St. Pierre, now overgrown by vegetation.

Continuing their travels, our tourists were surprised and delighted at the surpassing beauty of Dominica, with its Roseau valley and river; the film of the washerwomen was life-like and amusing. Skirting Montserrat, where the blacks still talk with an Irish brogue, owing to an early immigration of Irish, and Antigua, where Nelson refitted his ships before sailing for Trafalgar, Mr. West next showed Nevis, where he had secured some excellent slides. A great object of interest was Fig Tree Church, with its tablet recording Nelson's marriage at Montpelier. Nevis is an island with a great past, as its ruined buildings amply testify, and by the help of its energetic inhabitants, it is hoped that it will

have a still greater future. St. Kitts was next visited, and its grim fort, Brimstone Hill, the Gibraltar of the West Indies, was duly inspected. Thence on to beautiful St. Thomas, the home of the famous Bay Rum. Passing on to San Domingo, interesting from the fact that it was the second place visited by Columbus on his first voyage, the tree to which Columbus is alleged to have tied his ship, was shown. The tourists finally arrived at Jamaica, the last island of the cruise. Here were shown the palatial Titchfield Hotel with its beautiful gardens, and an extremely interesting view of bananas being loaded on board ship, and of a fancied executioner, who, however, seems to have decapitated nothing more serious than the superfluous banana stalks. Mention must also be made of the very amusing spectacle of two negro boys climbing for cocoa-nuts and their subsequent consumption of the nuts. An efficient orchestra discoursed appropriate incidental music. From the first slide there was never a doubt as to the success of the evening, and the tokens of appreciation must doubtless have proved a source of gratification to Mr. West. On the following evening Mr. West held a scholars' evening, and invited those present to compete in an essay competition, for which he is very generously offering prizes. We shall have more to say about this later on.

THE ARTIFICIAL RUBBER SCARE.

In view of the fact that rubber-growing has taken hold in British Guiana and upon many islands in the West Indies, and that many acres are being devoted to its cultivation, we think that it will interest our readers to know that we have made extensive inquiries in the City with regard to the new synthetic or so-called compound rubber, and with reassuring results. It has been declared that samples of it have been submitted to rubber brokers, and that they have proved satisfactory, but the older brokers unite in condemning it, and in declaring that there is nothing in it which can in any way compete with the real article. Mr. W. G. Tarbet, an authority on rubber, has issued the following statement:—

"I do not desire my statements to be taken at over their value, but having had occasion for a number of years past to examine practically every rubber substitute or synthetic rubber brought forward in my profession of analytical chemist and editor of the leading rubber technical journal, my experience may be of some service. During that time I had scores of samples, all of which were going to revolutionise the industry. Not one of them proved even interesting—except two or three where the interest was confined to the detection of the swindle—and the rubber industry remains as it was. I have spared no pains in obtaining samples up to the present day, and nothing has been shown me of any merit whatever. As regards synthetic rubber, the only known sample was made by Professor Tilden over thirty years ago, and cost about 200 times the price of the raw material. I know that I am safe in saying that Professor Tilden to-day does not believe in the manufacture of synthetic rubber commercially. Dr. Weber, one of the greatest rubber chemists, acknowledged to me before his death that after thirty-five years of patient research he was as far off even a passable substitute, far less a synthetic rubber, than when he had started. Every rubber manufacturer will confirm my statement that up to this time no satisfactory substitute has been found."

This view of the matter has been amply corroborated. Mr. Ed. C. de Segundo, Consulting Engineer to the New Gutta Percha Company, Ltd., in a letter to the *Daily Mail*, writes:—

"I have been approached on numerous occasions with samples of all sorts and descriptions of synthetic rubber and so-called substitutes, some of which I have been led to subject to long-continued and exhaustive tests, the results of which, however, have only served to demonstrate the uselessness as substitutes for pure rubber or for the rubber compound owned by the company for whom I act. I had the privilege, during the lifetime of Dr. Carl Otto Weber of going exhaustively into the question of synthetic rubber with him, and the views he expressed to me on the possibility of producing rubber artificially by synthesis were decidedly and unequivocally adverse."

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Additional Act to the Sugar Convention.

Correspondence respecting the Additional Act to the Brussels Convention of March 5th, 1902, signed at Brussels on August 28th, 1907, has been published as a Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 3,780]. It opens with Sir Henry Bergne's despatch to Sir Edward Grey reporting the proceedings of the Permanent Commission with special reference to the relief of the British Government from the obligations to enforce the provisions of the Penal Clause, and transmitting a draft protocol drawn up with the object of enabling Great Britain to remain a party to the Convention, and also a form of the proposed certificates of origin. With regard to such certificates he pointed out that while they would be necessary for refined sugar from Great Britain entering the countries of the other signatories he had made it clear that in regard to sugared products Great Britain could not undertake to furnish certificates of origin. The Netherland Government at first objected to the compulsory duration of the Additional Act, but withdrew an amendment on the subject. Germany raised various objections, notably the need of consulting German parties interested, and the uncertainty as to the adhesion of

the Russian Government. It was pointed out to them, however, that they would only consider themselves definitely bound when they had ratified the arrangements, and they subsequently agreed to sign. Though a summary of the Additional Act has already appeared in the CIRCULAR, we append the full text, as it will be useful for the purpose of reference:—

The Governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden and Switzerland, having settled to conclude an Additional Act to the Convention of the 5th March, 1902, relative to Sugar Regulations, the Undersigned, duly authorized for this purpose, have agreed upon the following:—

Article I.

The Contracting States undertake to maintain the Convention of the 5th March, 1902, in force for a fresh period of five years, commencing on the 1st September, 1908.

It shall, however, be possible for any one of the Contracting States to withdraw from the Convention after the 1st September, 1911, provided one year's notice has been given, if the Permanent Commission, at the last meeting held before the 1st September, 1910, have decided by a majority of votes that circumstances warrant such power being granted to the Contracting States.

For the rest, the provisions of Article X. of the above-mentioned Convention of the 5th March, 1902, concerning the denunciation and continued operation of the Convention will still be applicable.

Article II.

Notwithstanding Article I., Great Britain will be relieved, after the 1st September, 1908, from the obligation contained in Article IV. of the Convention.

After the same date the Contracting States may demand that, in order to enjoy the benefit of the Convention, sugar refined in the United Kingdom and thence exported to their territories shall be accompanied by a certificate stating that none of this sugar comes from a country recognized by the Permanent Commission as granting bounties for the production or exportation of sugar.

Article III.

The present Additional Act will be ratified, and the ratifications thereof will be deposited at Brussels, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as soon as possible, and in any case before the 1st February, 1908.

It will only become legally binding if it is ratified at least by all the Contracting States which are not affected by the special provisions contained in Article VI. of the Convention. In the event of one or more of the said States not having deposited their ratifications by the proper time, the Belgian Government will, in the course of the month which follows the 1st February, 1908, call upon the States which have already ratified to give a decision as regards the putting into force among themselves alone of the present Additional Act.

The States which have not ratified before the 1st February, 1908, shall be considered as having denounced the Convention in time for it to cease to have effect as far as they are concerned after the 1st of the following September, unless a contrary decision shall have been come to, at the request of the Parties interested, by a majority of the States called upon to deliberate, as arranged for in the preceding paragraph.

In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Additional Act.

Done at Brussels, the 28th August, 1907, in a single copy, of which a certified copy will be given to each of the Signatory Governments.

For Germany:	(L.S.) (Signed)	HEINRICH XXXI. REUSS.	For Italy:	(L.S.) (Signed)	BONIN.
For Austria-Hungary:	(L.S.) (Signed)	COMTE CLARY ET ALDRINGEN.	For the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg:	(L.S.) (Signed)	LE COMTE D'ANSEMBOURG.
For Austria:	(Signed)	LEOPOLD JOAS.	For the Netherlands:	(L.S.) (Signed)	BARON E. VAN TUYLL VAN SREOSKERKEN.
For Hungary:	(Signed)	TELESZKY, JANOS.	For Peru:	(L.S.) (Signed)	D. GAMIO.
For Belgium:	(L.S.) (Signed)	CAPELLE.	For Sweden:	(L.S.) (Signed)	FALKENBERG.
For France:	(L.S.) (Signed)	D'ORMESSON.	For Switzerland:	(L.S.) (Signed)	JULES BOREL.
For Great Britain:	(L.S.) (Signed)	ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.			

At the moment of proceeding to the signature of the Additional Act of the Convention respecting Sugar Regulations, concluded on this day's date, between the Governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, and Switzerland, the undersigned, duly authorized for this purpose, have agreed upon the following:—

Sole Article.

It is understood that if the ratifications which are necessary before the above-mentioned Additional Act can be made valid in accordance with Article III. have not been obtained by the 1st March, 1908, His Britannic Majesty's Government will be able to denounce the Convention on this date as from the 1st September, 1908, without entering into the question whether they have previously ratified the aforesaid Additional Act or not.

The present Protocol of Signature, which will be ratified at the same time as the Additional Act concluded under this day's date, shall be of equal force and validity.

In faith whereof the undersigned have drawn up the present Protocol.

Done at Brussels the 28th August, 1907, in a single copy, of which a certified copy will be given to each of the Signatory Governments.

(Signed as above).

For the purpose of preventing any doubts which might arise in regard to the possible application of paragraph 3 of Article III. of the Additional Act of the Sugar Convention, concluded to-day, the undersigned, duly authorized for this purpose, declare that they denounce conditionally, as far as may be necessary, the Convention of the 5th March, 1902, in the event of their respective Governments not having ratified in time the above-mentioned Additional Act.

Done at Brussels, the 28th August, 1907, in a single signed copy, of which a certified copy will be given to each of the Signatory Governments.

(Signed as above).

At the moment of the signature of the present Declaration, the Swedish Plenipotentiary states, in the name of his Government, that in spite of the great hesitation to which the provision, in accordance with which the ratification must be deposited, at latest, on the 1st February, 1908, has given rise on the part of Sweden—this because the Diet does not meet before the 15th January—the Swedish Government have nevertheless authorized him to sign the above arrangements, with the conviction that, in the event of the approval of the Diet not being given at the proper time before the 1st February, a request for the extension of the time allowed for the deposit of ratifications would be favourably received by the other Governments.

Brussels, August 28th, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Leeward Islands' increasing trade with Britain.

To Mr. E. St. John Branch, Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands is due the credit of presenting the first of the series of West Indian colonial reports for 1907. In this document he shows that the aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1906-7 (exclusive of grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £8,159 9s. 4d.) was £138,154 14s. 5½d., showing a net increase of £1,099 12s. 4d. over that for the previous financial year. The following table shows the amount of revenue and expenditure collected in each Presidency during the last five years:—

Presidency.	REVENUE.					EXPENDITURE.				
	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
Antigua ...	£46,395	£43,812	£44,295	£48,798	£44,175	£48,992	£50,209	£48,670	£54,383	£45,206
St. Kitts-Nevis	42,773	39,127	43,905	47,145	49,613	43,713	44,782	43,063	44,026	46,067
Dominica ...	31,045	31,443	30,982	31,200	33,209	30,419	31,331	31,033	34,187	30,115
Montserrat ...	6,294	7,599	7,237	7,433	8,732	9,917	9,364	8,361	7,107	6,578
Virgin Islands	1,848	2,167	2,503	2,478	2,425	1,854	2,342	2,431	2,511	2,032
Total ...	128,355	124,148	128,922	137,054	138,154	134,895	138,028	133,558	142,214	129,998

While trade with the United Kingdom showed an increase of £38,644, that with the United States expanded by £2,904 only, and trade with British colonies and foreign countries fell by £48,148 and £42,186 respectively.

St. Kitts produced an average crop of sugar during the past season; much benefit has resulted to this island from the introduction of new varieties of sugar cane such as B 147 and B 208, whereby larger crops and freedom from disease have resulted. The crop of Antigua was again small on account of the continuance of drought. The central sugar factory at Gunthorpe's continued its operations successfully, making 2,348 tons of sugar. Some additions to plant and a small extension of railway were made and paid for out of the year's working expenses, thus in some measure reducing apparent profits. Towards the end of the year a considerable extension of railway was made and additional plant added to the factory, including a Krajewski crusher to be used in the crop of 1907. This is now in operation and doing excellent work. The operations of the factory were extended by three additional estates entering into contracts to supply canes from 1907 onwards. Bental's factory was improved by the addition of Babcock & Wilcox water tube boilers. The operations are greatly facilitated by the existence of its tramway, which now extends over about three miles. The factory was very successfully operated, the output for the season being 1,178 tons. Both these factories are under contract with the Government to purchase such peasants' canes as may be offered during a term of years, Gunthorpe's to the extent of 4,500 tons, and Bental's 1,500 tons a year. There were actually purchased 1,811 tons at Gunthorpe's and 4,728 tons at Bental's. This has given great impetus to the cultivation of canes by peasants, and very much larger quantities are forthcoming in the crop of 1907.

Improvements have been made in three muscovado sugar works whereby the whole of the boiling is conducted by steam instead of open fires, thus affording better control of the process of sugar making. At the same time improvements have been made in the furnaces, enabling them to burn the megass direct from the mill without subjecting it to a preliminary drying; this makes the work independent of weather conditions besides effecting many other economies.

One large firm has started an important series of experiments on a very large scale in an effort to introduce the methods of cultivation in vogue in Louisiana and some other countries, whereby instrumental tillage and weeding will largely replace hand labour. These experiments, which are of considerable importance, are watched with great interest.

The rapidly extending cotton industry.

The cotton industry continues to make very considerable progress, and it is now regarded as

to open negotiations which should at least secure for them the right to claim from both the United States and Spain the benefit of most-favoured-nation treatment. These negotiations, in the conduct of which our Chairman, SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, personally took part at Washington, so as to give information to the British Ambassador as to the requirements of the West Indies, resulted in the United States submitting a draft Convention for commercial reciprocity between the United States and the British West Indies and Guiana. Under this Convention, sugar not above No. 16 D.S., and, with the exception of rum, all the leading articles of production in the West Indies, were to be admitted into America free of duty. This most favourable arrangement was rejected by LORD GRANVILLE, then Foreign Minister, on account of his interpretation of the most-favoured-nation Article being opposed to that of the United States' Government—an interpretation which has since been modified on our part—otherwise it would have prevented the settlement of the bounty question by the Brussels Convention. When the projected treaty failed, Barbados endeavoured by legislation to secure some of the advantages thus lost, and passed an act in 1885 for promoting the trade relations of Barbados with the United States by a reciprocal tariff between the two countries. This act was disallowed by LORD GRANVILLE, then Colonial Minister. It seems, therefore, an historical fact that the interests of the West Indies and Guiana were sacrificed needlessly and irrationally on the occasion we have referred to, and the advantageous opportunity then presented has not occurred again. Thus at the present time the products of the West Indies are subject to the full general tariff of the United States, which is not recoverable on the market because their chief competitors are either free of duty or on preferential terms.

WE refrained from dealing with the question of the Brussels Convention in our last issue, as negotiations, which we were following closely, were then in a very critical condition. Now we are glad to say that, owing largely to the admirable diplomacy of SIR HENRY BERGNE, the adhesion of Russia has been secured, and there seems little reason to doubt that the countries concerned will ratify the Additional Act and Protocol, which provides for the continuance of the Convention on the terms already set out in our pages for another five years from September 1st, 1908. Russia keeps to her fiscal and customs system, but undertakes not to increase the advantage to the producers in the maximum price fixed for sale on the home market. She engages, moreover, not to export more than one million tons of sugar during the six years beginning with September 1st, 1907, and the apportionments for the six years will not exceed 300,000 tons during the first two years, and 200,000 in any one of the succeeding years. This stipulation does not apply to Finland, Persia, and the neighbouring countries in Asia. Russia will join the Convention from September 1st, 1908. The Additional Protocol is to be ratified before February 1st, 1908. It is, of course, understood that as regards the British market the penal clause will continue in force until September 1st, 1908. None, therefore, of the 300,000 tons will be admissible to the British market before that date, and it is to be assumed that by that time a considerable amount of the 300,000 tons will already have been disposed of elsewhere.

MR. R. L. ANTROBUS, C.B.

Mr. Reginald L. Antrobus, C.B., who is the subject of "Our Celebrity" portrait, has succeeded Sir Charles Lucas as head of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office. Born in 1853, he was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, of which he was a scholar, obtaining a First Class in Moderations, and Second Class Final Classical School. He entered the Colonial Office after a competitive examination in 1877. He afterwards acted as Private Secretary to the Earl of Kimberley, 1880-2, to the late Earl of Derby, 1882-5, to Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. Stanley, M.P. (now Earl of Derby), 1885-6, and to Earl Granville, 1886. He acted as Governor of St. Helena, 1889-1890; and two years later became Private Secretary to Mr. Meade and to Mr. S. Buxton, M.P., and

one of the important staples of the Leeward Islands. The season, on the whole, has been an unfavourable one for cotton throughout the West Indies, but the industry appears to have been little checked thereby. The quality of the cotton, particularly in Antigua, has been considerably improved during the last year or two. At Antigua several estates, which have not been under cultivation for many years, have been cleared and planted in cotton. A number of young men have purchased land and settled in the island with the intention of growing cotton. Some of them are now reaping remunerative crops. Two additional ginneries have been erected, and the ginnery hitherto profitably worked by the Department of Agriculture has been transferred to a company. There is thus much activity in connection with this industry. In St. Kitts the industry is very successfully carried on in conjunction with sugar. Owing to the easily worked character of the soil of this island, a crop of cotton can be grown on the sugar fields immediately before the sugar crop is planted, thus dividing the cost of cultivation between the two crops; cotton has thus, in this island, become a valuable ally to sugar. In Nevis a large area, some 1,700 acres, was planted in cotton, but, owing to unpropitious seasons, the crop is but a small one. There does not appear, however, any disposition to abandon the industry, which will be vigorously carried on for the next year's crop. In Montserrat the industry has been quite successfully carried on and has now become a principal industry, ranking in importance with lime juice. Very considerable progress in cotton-growing has been made in Anguilla, resulting in most marked changes in the welfare and condition of this small island, which has thus been restored to a degree of prosperity beyond what it has enjoyed for a great number of years. Owing to conditions peculiar to this island, the crops of cotton are not heavy; they are, however, quickly and cheaply grown and are of excellent quality. Over 1,000 acres are now under cotton, and there are three ginneries at work. In Nevis and Montserrat it would appear that cotton is gradually taking the place of cane as the staple crop. The extension of the cultivation of the crop has been largely assisted by the British Cotton Growing Association. This Association has done much, in the way of providing money, machinery, and advice, for the advancement of the industry, which is now rapidly getting out of "leading strings" and being established on sound commercial lines. The agricultural work has largely been under the direction of the officers connected with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, to whose efforts the successful field work, the combating of pests, and the improvement in quality owe much. The department watches the industry very closely in all its stages, and is engaged in experimental work connected with the improvement of the quality of the cotton, the selection of seed, and the study of the various pests to which the crop is subject. The manner in which the cotton growers and the Department of Agriculture have worked together forms one of the most striking illustrations of the functions and usefulness of such a department.

Limes and Cacao show good progress.

The lime industry both in Dominica and Montserrat is in a satisfactory condition, and continues to make steady advance. From both Presidencies citrate of lime is now being shipped on a large scale; the production of this article is held to be an improvement on the manufacture of concentrated lime juice. Concentrated juice is, however, still shipped in large quantities. Considerable quantities of raw juice are also shipped from both islands, for use in preparing beverages. Lime fruits are also shipped in increasingly large quantities to Europe and America. Pickled limes also form an article of export. The essential oils prepared from the lime, either by hand or by distillation, constitute exports of some importance. Cacao continues to be one of the most important industries in Dominica, where the cultivation is being steadily extended. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has under its control a large number of experimental plots for the cultivation of cacao in various districts of the island, designed with the object of ascertaining the effect of various manures and different methods of cultivation on the crop. Some of these experiments have given highly interesting results, demonstrating that the productiveness of the cacao trees can be very greatly increased. The results obtained in certain of these experiments have attracted wide attention and are likely to have considerable influence on the methods of cultivation. The details are given in the annual reports of the Dominica Botanic Station and in the West Indian Bulletin. In Nevis, small pioneer cacao plantations are making good progress; small crops will soon be reaped. It is not, however, probable that any considerable area of Nevis will be found suitable for cacao. The small plantations of cacao in St. Kitts are making sufficiently good progress to warrant further extensions, and larger areas are now being planted in a tentative manner. The experimental plots of cacao at Tortola have made more progress than was anticipated; as a result other small plots are being planted in favoured localities, and it appears possible that cacao may here become a peasant industry. During the year under review 725 acres of Crown land were sold in the island of Dominica to small peasants, and 983 acres to new settlers. The interior of Dominica has been opened up by the "Imperial Road"; but roads are now required through the fertile valleys that lead down to the sea, and which are suitable for nearly every sub-tropical product and especially cocoa and limes. The value of land in the colony varies in accordance with

was decorated for services in connection with the negotiations with France relating to West Africa, 1897-1898. In the latter year he was appointed an Assistant Under-Secretary of the Colonies.

IN A TROPICAL GARDEN.

Our full-page illustration is from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo, the talented photographer in Antigua. It represents one of the many picturesque spots in the Botanic Garden near St. John's in that island. Such of our readers who are addicted to photography will envy Mr. Anjo's skill in the selection of his subjects, and the manner in which he has mastered the art of exposure, which is no easy matter in the tropics. How greatly the magnificent cabbage palms (*oreodoxa oleracea*) contribute to West Indian scenery may be judged by the reader himself by covering those in the picture with a piece of paper. It was of these trees that Charles Kingsley wrote when he first saw them in St. Kitts: "Grey pillars, which seemed taller than the tallest poplars, smooth and cylindrical as those of a Doric temple. . . . It was not easy . . . to believe that these strange and noble things were trees."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Northside Sugar Planters' Association has been appointed a corresponding body to the West India Committee for Jamaica, and Mr. Wilfrid Wigley, Hon. Correspondent for Anguilla and the Virgin Islands.

The next election of members to the West India Committee will take place on Thursday next, 12th inst. The minimum subscription from members is one guinea per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The subscriptions of candidates elected during the remaining weeks of this year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1909. Candidates' application forms and further particulars regarding membership can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The West India Committee Rooms are situated opposite Mark Lane Station on the Metropolitan Railway.

DR. CARL BOVALLIUS.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Dr. Carl Bovallius, the eminent Swedish scientist, which took place in British Guiana on November 8th, at the age of fifty-eight. Dr. Bovallius graduated at Upsala University, where he was Professor of Zoology until 1897. He was commissioned by the Swedish Government in 1889-1895 to report upon the forests of Northern Sweden, and it was upon those reports that the new forestry laws are based. An intrepid explorer, he has contributed much by his explorations in Nicaragua, Southern Venezuela and the Amazonas Valley. He brought back from his extensive travels in Central America valuable zoological, archaeological, and ethnographical collections, for which the British Museum and the Cambridge Natural History Museum are indebted to him. At the time of his death, Dr. Bovallius was engaged by the New Essequibo Exploration Co. in a rubber farming enterprise in British Guiana, an industry to which he has devoted considerable attention. He was also a writer of no mean attainments, and many scientific works and translations stand to his name. His recent trip to the falls on the Ireng River, British Guiana, has excited considerable attention, although it appears that they had already been visited by Mr. Barrington Brown, as stated on another page. Dr. Bovallius' death will be regretted by a large circle of friends. He was a member of the West India Committee, and frequently attended meetings at the West India Committee Rooms.

CACAO REPORTS VI.—CUBA, 1906.

At the request of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vice-Consul Griffith has furnished the following special report on the cacao industry in Cuba for the West India Committee. This forms the sixth of the series of reports submitted at the request of the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society, through the Committee. The cacao producing countries already dealt with in the CIRCULAR have been: Bahia (in CIRCULAR No. 213); Cuba (No. 214); Ecuador (No. 216); Fernando Po (No. 233); St. Thomé and Príncipe (No. 234). No official data are available respecting the production of cacao in Cuba and the figures given in the following report are approximate only and based upon information gathered from the most reliable sources, except those referring to the amount and value of the exports which have been furnished by the Statistical Department of the Treasury. The total production of cacao during 1906, which was unusually heavy owing to a copious rainfall which occurred at the right time, amounted to 8,614,691 lbs., of which about 6,700,000 lbs. were grown in the Province of Santiago de Cuba or, as it is now more commonly called, Oriente. The

its suitability for sugar-cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10s. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 per acre.

A hopeful outlook for the islands.

In his general observations, Mr. Branch speaks of the great utility of the Department of Agriculture, which has been a conspicuous success in the colony. The sugar factories at Gunthorpe's and Bental's in Antigua continue to be a success and the fullest advantage is taken by the labouring population of the obligation on the part of the owners of the factories to grind peasants' canes. St. Kitts-Nevis which emerged in 1902-3 from dependence on the Imperial Government showed steady progress. The finances of Dominica continue to be eminently satisfactory. The Presidency has grown and is annually growing on a solid foundation in the wealth of her resources. These resources are being opened out and applied year by year. During the past ten years many newcomers have settled in the island. Some have acquired private lands already under cultivation, and others have purchased from the Crown upwards of 5,000 acres, in the aggregate, of forest land. These lands they are now actively clearing and placing under cultivation. Peasant proprietors have also acquired within the same period some 1,200 acres of Crown land. The two principal products are limes and cocoa, and the high prices obtained of late have greatly encouraged the further extension of these industries. Whether the new settlers in certain lands in the interior of the island will find their estates as profitable as those situated nearer the coast can only be at present a matter for conjecture, and it will be as well, perhaps, if caution were exercised as regards expensive ventures in this direction. At the present time two projects are being worked out by private parties for the development of the timber industry and the occupation of the forest lands as they are cleared. In connection with one of these schemes it is proposed to construct a tramway to the sea-board to facilitate the transport of the timber cut and of the produce from the interior of the island. The manufacture of citrate of lime, as a substitute for concentrated lime juice, has given most promising results, and the export of this article is likely to show a considerable increase. Citrate of lime is a purer product than concentrated lime juice, and is more favoured by citric acid makers in England and America. Its increased production in Dominica will raise the lime industry and make for its stability.

Cotton has become the staple industry of Montserrat, and the high price obtained for this article has resulted in the peasants taking eagerly to its cultivation to the exclusion even of ground provisions. This is unfortunate, as any failure of the cotton crop would be attended by unhappy results in the absence of an adequate food supply. While the great increase in the prosperity of the Presidency, which is so largely due to the success of cotton and limes, is eminently satisfactory, it is well to bear in mind that cotton may prove a precarious crop. It is peculiarly subject to the effect of unpropitious seasons, and of pests, while the prices realised during the past seasons have been abnormally high. Some time must, therefore, be allowed to elapse before it can be claimed with certainty that Montserrat has seen the end of its industrial difficulties, though there is reason to hope that this is the case. The citrate of lime industry is rapidly progressing, and an interesting attempt is being made to create an industry in preserved fruits, jams, jellies, pickles, and other similar products. An important business in drawn-thread and needlework is also being developed. The prosperity of the island is severely handicapped and its progress greatly retarded by the absence of cable connection with the other islands, and the irregularity of the steamship call.* On several occasions during the year under review large quantities of fresh fruit have been lost owing to the non-arrival of expected steamers.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The West Indian papers to hand by the mail contain a full account of the West Indian exhibits at the Canadian Exhibitions, held at Toronto. It would appear that the West Indian Court was a great success, and those who participated fully deserved the award of a Gold Medal and Diplomas of Merit which they received. Our best thanks are due to Messrs. Pickford & Black for the fine photographs of the Court which they have sent us. The R.M.S.P. *Trent*, which left Barbados on October 22nd, at 3 p.m., reached Southampton at 4.45 p.m. on Saturday, November 2nd, being about 36 hours before schedule time. The R.M.S.P. *Port Royal*, from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, November 6th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our hon. correspondents:—

Activity at English Harbour, Antigua.

Writing on October 16th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that the weather had been very wet lately, in fact, too wet for most planters; there had not been enough sunshine between the showers to produce the best growing results. Cane generally looked well, but cotton had been largely attacked by an aphid, and to some extent also by leaf blister mite, and for these pests they had as yet no remedy.

* This latter trouble has since been adjusted.—ED.

The cotton worm was not very troublesome as yet, and should not be at any time if careful supervision were exercised and plenty of Paris Green kept ready.—The Defence Force had been in peaceful occupation of the old naval quarters at English Harbour for the past week, and proved themselves capable of military occupation in all its branches, combined with having a good time at that historic spot.

A change in Barbados' weather.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne was glad to be able to report the most favourable account of the weather of the fortnight that he had been able to make for months. They had not had one good rain and then an entire cessation, but several rains of over an inch and good showers in between. In some places it had been very abundant, over 5 inches at a fall having taken place in Scotland. At Porter's they had had 5.91 inches for the month to date (October 20th), and that was probably about the average. If this continued for the rest of the year, the prospects of the crop would be considerably improved. Cotton, too, was growing very nicely, and every care was being taken to counteract the pests.—A public dinner was to be given to the Acting Governor, Mr. Knaggs, at the Marine Hotel, on October 25th. He was to leave to take up his post at Trinidad on October 29th. Sir Gilbert Carter was expected to return to Barbados on November 5th, and during the few days interim the Government would be discharged by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. T. Grannum.—The Royal Mail steamers now arrived with great regularity, and it was a comfort to have the old state of things restored.—The *Indefatigable* had returned from her repairs in Bermuda, and was in their waters.

Some bye-elections in British Guiana.

Mr. J. C. McCowan reported on October 18th, that the Hon. B. Howell Jones was defeated by Mr. Dias by a majority of fifteen at the recent election for M.C.P. for Eastern Demerara. Mr. Dias' seat as Financial Representative for South East Essequibo was now vacant, and Mr. Stuart Cameron was again offering himself to the electors. He would be opposed by Mr. McArthur, Barrister-at-Law, who was supported by the People's Association.—A meeting of the Combined Court had been called for October 21st, when judging from the list of questions that were to be brought up by Messrs. Thorn and Dargan and others, the proceedings were likely to be interesting.—The Militia had been disbanded in February last at the annual meeting of the Combined Court; the Police, Mounted Police, and Volunteer Corps being considered sufficient for all purposes.—The sugar market continued inactive, and the price was quoted at \$2.07½ nominal.—The weather had continued hot and dry during the fortnight, and good showers were wanted generally.

British Honduras resents the new land tax.

Hon. A. R. Usher wrote on October 18th that the Stann Creek Railway was being pushed ahead as fast as possible, and it was understood that the rails and other materials were expected shortly.—The Government were bringing in an Ordinance to increase considerably the Land Tax, but it was thought that no further taxation should be imposed which would in any way hamper the mahogany and logwood industry of the colony, and the People's Committee at one of their meetings recently passed the following resolution, which had been forwarded to the Government, viz :—

"That this meeting of the People's Committee, 1907, having considered the Bill entitled 'An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the land and property tax,' whilst recognising the fact that the present mode and rate of taxation in the colony is unsatisfactory and unjust and that the tax needs early readjustment, is of opinion that in its present form the Bill is one which will cause irreparable damage to the principal industries of the Colony."

There had been no floods in the north so far this year, and a considerable quantity of mahogany and logwood was locked up.

Dominica's most prosperous year in modern times.

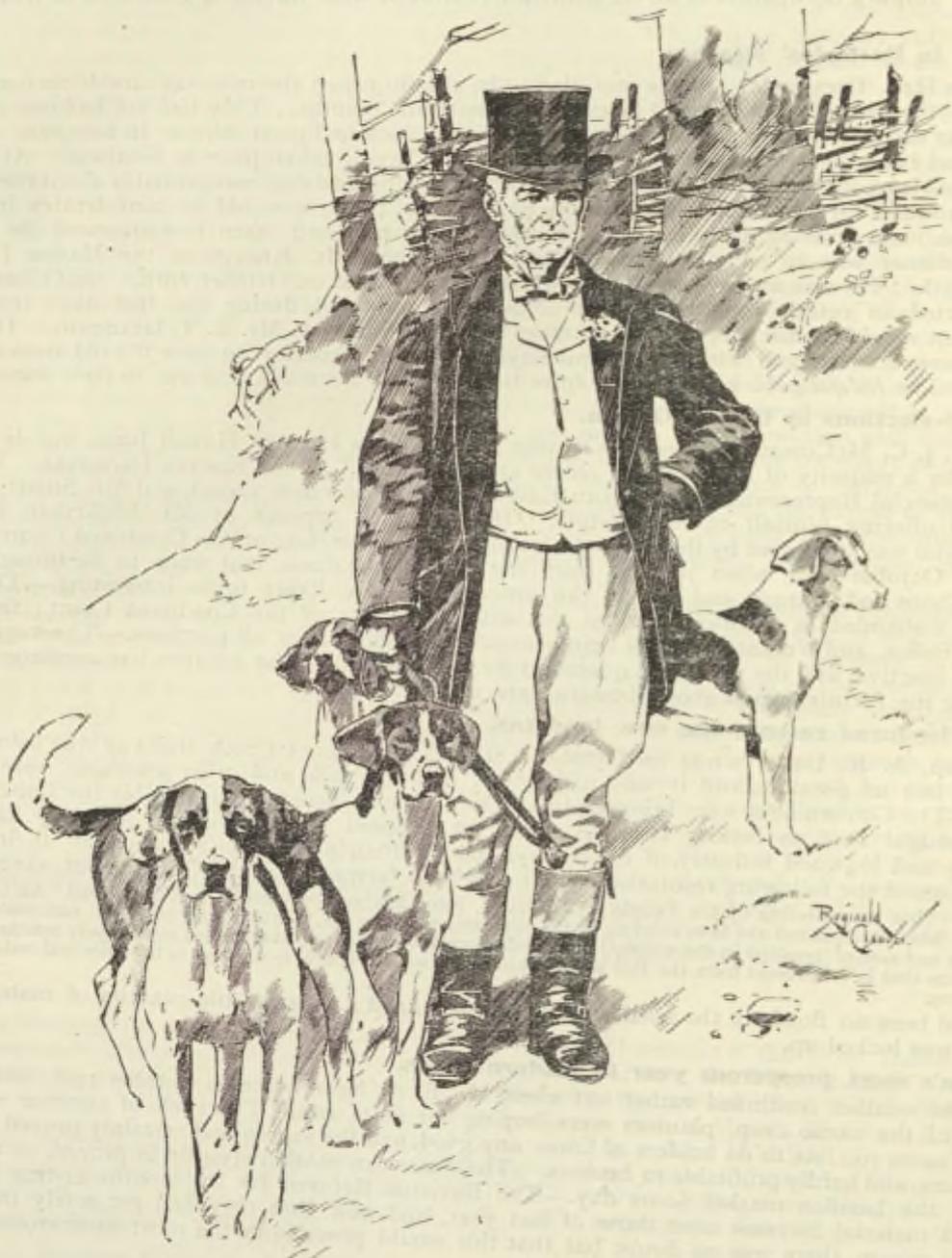
The weather continued rather wet when Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on October 19th, and with the opening of the cacao crop, planters were hoping for more sun. The spell of summer weather in England came too late to do holders of limes any good, and the season had certainly proved disastrous for shippers, and hardly profitable to brokers. The American market steadily improved, so there were hopes of the London market some day.—The Revenue Returns for the months ending June 30th showed a material increase over those of last year, and now that they had got safely through the hurricane season, there was no doubt but that this would prove to be the most prosperous year that had been experienced in modern history.

A crime in Grenada—Mr. N. Lockhart shot at.

Mr. C. Falconer Anton, in his letter of October 19th, stated that on the morning of that day Mr. J. R. Benjamin, a Revenue Officer, attempted to shoot Mr. N. Lockhart, the Colonial Treasurer. No authoritative information on the subject had yet been received by Mr. Anton when he closed his letter.—The weather was on the whole favourable.

Cotton experiments in Jamaica.

Good rains had fallen during the fortnight even in Vere, when Mr. J. L. Ashenheim wrote to us from Jamaica on October 24th.—The export returns, which are published elsewhere, showed an



The late Mr. T. C. Garth.

In our last issue reference was made to the death of Mr. T. C. Garth, proprietor of Colleton estate, who in his eightieth year rode on horseback to London to attend a meeting of the West India Committee to pass a resolution of condolence with the King upon the death of Queen Victoria. By permission of the editor of the *Daily Graphic* we are enabled to reproduce the above portrait of the grand old West Indian sportsman, which will, we feel, be much appreciated by our readers.

United Kingdom. Sir Frederic Hodgson said that at the meeting of the Cable Communication Committee on which he served in London, the chairman pointed out that the Imperial Government was not prepared to give any annual subsidy, so that the Direct Cable Company, the representative of which gave evidence before the Committee, although quite willing to extend their operations, found themselves unable to do so because of the expense which would not be recovered by a subsidy or by such guarantees as were asked for by the West India and Panama Company in connection with the establishment of communication with Trinidad by means of wireless telegraphy. In his judgment they had better take what was offered. Mr. Wood Davis said that they should limit the payment of the subsidy to three years. They would be shelving the question of an all-British cable, of the achievement of which he did not abandon all hope. The Company's charges were not in reason with the economy of the day. Mr. Cameron urged that provision should be inserted for the infliction of penalties in the event of cessation of communication, and the Government should have the right to terminate the contract on giving notice of six months or a year. The Governor then said that he did not abandon the idea of an all-British cable, but he thought that what would first happen would be that they would have an all-British system of wireless telegraphy. Reference had been made to the rates charged, but he might say that the matter had not been overlooked, and as soon as a convenient time came there would be an effort to get the rates reduced. The resolution was then carried *nem. con.*

The question of the high message rate was dealt with in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of November 12th. Since then a remarkable article regarding "Wireless" has appeared in the *Electrical Review* of November 26th, which deserves careful consideration. The writer, Prof. R. A. Fessenden, whose name is well known in connection with radio-telegraphy, states that this system is not as yet adapted owing to (1) slow speed; (2) lack of secrecy; (3) liability to interference; (4) atmospheric disturbances.

THE COLONIAL FRUIT SHOW.

At the earlier shows of colonial fruits at the Horticultural Hall the West Indies were predominant. Now it would seem that the larger self-governing colonies appreciate these exhibitions to a greater extent than do our friends in the West Indies, for whereas at the eighth show, which was held on November 28th and 29th, there was a magnificent display of fruits from British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario, &c., the West Indies were, comparatively speaking, poorly represented as regards quantity. We say "quantity" advisedly, for the exhibits were excellent in their way. This was particularly the case as regards the West Indian Produce Association, who were deservedly awarded a gold medal for the immense variety of produce which they showed—to give a list would be to enumerate nearly all the products of the West Indies—and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who won the highest award for botanical specimens, which were set out to advantage by Mr. Ward. The Norbrook Preserving Company, of Jamaica, gained the encomiums of the judges for the manner in which their preserves were bottled, and the greatest credit is due to Mrs. W. H. Sharpe, of Grenada, for a very complete collection of preserved fruits and jellies, in which much interest was shown. The cacao cheese, made from the pulp which surrounds the cacao bean, in particular attracted much attention. The Committee were awarded a gold medal for the manner in which the West Indian exhibits were set out, but the judges did not see their way to make an award to the individual exhibitors on this occasion, as they did in the case of the magnificent displays from Dominica at former exhibitions. It is safe to assume, however, that the West Indies will not grudge this compliment being paid for once in a way, though the Committee themselves would have preferred the award going to one of the colonies. We are glad to see that Mr. Hamel Smith, the editor of our contemporary *Tropical Life*, gained a Bronze Banksian medal for a large selection of varieties of cocoa. On this occasion the West Indies were quite out-numbered and out-classed by the several self-governing colonies represented, whose fruits seem to bring into the hall the sunshine from the colonies whence they came, so excellent was their condition and arrangement. Mention must be made of the special boxes in which the fruit from Trinidad was shipped. These were 13 in. by 16 in. in size, perforated on two sides, the holes being covered with perforated zinc. Each box contained four trays, in which the fruit was carefully laid. The judges, while feeling that for exhibition purposes such packing arrangement was admirable, expressed some doubts as to whether it could be adopted for commercial purposes, on the score of expense. A specimen of the box is now at the West India Committee Rooms, where it can be inspected by those interested. The cacao from Grenada was submitted at the close of the exhibition to experts in Mincing Lane, who placed it in the following order of merit: First, that grown by Mr. A. H. B. Gall (Waltham Estate), then, in order, those of Mr. G. Paterson (Herman Estate), Mr. F. Harford (Springs Estate), Rev. G. W. Branch (Good Hope Estate), Mrs. McEwen (Cardrona Estate), Mr. W. M. Smith (Diamond Estate), Mr. F. Harford (L'Esterre Estate), and Mrs. McEwen (Sans Souci Estate). It was satisfactory that on this occasion, at the suggestion of the West India

unfortunate falling off in bananas, cocoa, oranges and ginger, this being attributable to the drought.—Cotton was growing well in St. Andrew, and an experiment was being made with St. Vincent Sea Island cotton seed.

St. Kitts' rainfall.

Writing on October 18th, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson said that since last advices there had been heavy rains, and the improvement in the sugar crop was already most marked; some slight damage was caused by the washing out of cotton in a few places, and a good deal of mould and sand was deposited on the roads, but the good done far out-balanced the losses so caused. The fall of rain had been most "spotty," though as a matter of fact every estate got as much as was wanted. On Saturday night, October 12th, at Dieppe Bay and neighbourhood there was absolutely no rain, but going both east and west all round the island the fall increased till 7 inches was recorded in the Basseterre neighbourhood. The following night the programme was just reversed, Basseterre getting something less than an inch, with the heaviest rainfall registered on the north west part of the island. (A most interesting rainfall map accompanied Mr. Adamson's letter, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.)—Cotton picking was beginning now, and Spooner's ginnery was to start work in the following week, so that next mail would probably take a shipment; a few bales sent to Nevis to be ginned had already been shipped. Caterpillars had been rather more aggressive lately, and the recent rains had been in their favour, not letting the Paris Green stop on long enough to be effective.—A meeting of the Commercial and Agricultural Society had been held, his Honour the Administrator in the chair, at which Mr. Ballou spoke on the subject of cotton as he found it in St. Kitts, and he expressed satisfaction at the general appearance of the crop; he explained the plan adopted in Barbados for seed selection, and advised that something similar to it should be adopted. It was also decided to hold an Agricultural Show in the early part of next year. In talking to different planters after the meeting, the writer found that the consensus of opinion was that the good done by the late rains far outbalanced any damage done by wash to growing crops.

More Enterprise in St. Vincent.

Cotton picking had begun in a small way on most places when Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co. wrote on October 21st, but would hardly be general for another month or six weeks. The weather was favourable, and if they were fortunate and did not get too much rain in November the crop ought to be a good one.—Mr. W. N. Sands wrote on the same date, having just returned from the Carib country, where he was pleased to see the progress which had recently been made, cotton, pigeon peas and cane cultivations already making a good show. Although cotton cultivation in the district had not hitherto been very successful, the plants this season looked much better, and promised to give a fair return. Cotton picking had commenced on several estates, and would soon become general. Samples that had been examined appeared to be of very good quality, and well up to the usual standard. It was rather early yet to form an idea of what their crop would amount to, but with over 3,000 acres in cultivation and with favourable reports from the various districts, the writer estimated that they should turn out between 1,400-1,500 bales of 360 lbs. each this season, or double last year's production. The Central Cotton Factory was being got ready to start ginning early next month. Two extra gins had been put down, and other improvements made in anticipation of a much bigger cotton crop. Mr. C. J. Simmons had erected a ginnery to deal with his cotton crop, and his enterprise might very well be followed by other proprietors having a large acreage.—Very favourable reports had been received from the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture of the creditable display the exhibit of commercial products of St. Vincent made at the Canadian exhibitions, and it was to be hoped that they would soon participate in the benefits likely to arise as a result of making their arrowroot, cassava starch, sugar, cotton, cacao, &c., more widely known. Arrowroot was now being reaped on some estates, and was ripening early and rapidly.—Weather conditions had been favourable for the crops during the past fortnight.

A new French steamer calls at Trinidad.

Owing to the premature departure of the mail Mr. Edgar Tripp wrote on October 20th that he was without his usual information from some of the out-districts, but judging from conditions in town he thought that the weather continued favourable for all classes of cultivation. There had been a succession of dry days, and the dry weather alarmists had of course taken the place of the wet. It seemed strange that they should forget that a fortnight's dry weather, otherwise the Indian summer, was most seasonable, and exactly what was to be expected in October, and what the meteorological returns proved that they received from year to year. However, during the past three days sufficient rain had fallen to satisfy the most thirsty, and any possible fears of drought had been dissipated. From the Naparimas the writer learnt that the canes looked well and promising, and he thought that the same opinion might be expressed about other districts.—The fine weather had suited the coming cacao crop well, and picking would soon be general. If the same conditions continued, the shipments

between the date of writing and the end of the year would certainly be beyond the average. It was satisfactory to be able to state that most of the planters realised the soundness of the opinions and advice given by Mr. Barrett (and in many cases by Mr. Hart before him), and were acting accordingly. Quotations on the 19th were for Ordinary \$24.50, Estates \$25.25. One lot of Venezuelan fetched \$26.

		SHIPMENTS.				
Totals at last report		Trinidad.	Venezuela.	Trinidad.	Venezuela.	
Oct. 5.—S.S. <i>Prins Frederik</i>	161,392	33,889		Oct. 9.—S.S. <i>Dahome</i>	... 205	— Canada.
<i>Hendk.</i> ...	...	45	15	" 9.—S.S. <i>Caribee</i>	... 2,823	152 New York.
.. 8.—S.S. <i>Atrato</i>	... 228	—	..	.. 15.—S.S. <i>Prins Mauritz</i>	106	..
.. 9.—S.S. <i>Patagonia</i>	...	—	156	Total to date	...	164,799 34,212

In the report of the Registrar-General just issued, the population of the colony was estimated at 338,992 against 331,613 on March 31st, 1906. Of the total, the Indian population was put down as 102,848.—Two immigrant ships had arrived, the steamer *Ganges* and the sailing ship *Forth*. The former came *via* Demerara and landed 350 souls, being, male adults, 218; female, 90; children, 42; all in good health. Births during voyage, 4; deaths, 6. The latter vessel had a voyage from Calcutta of 100 days, having been delayed by putting in to Mauritius to land the people rescued from the S.S. *Fortunatus*, which was burnt at sea. She brought 660 immigrants, being seven less than the number embarked. Fifteen deaths occurred on the voyage and eight births.—The *Guadeloupe*, the first of the magnificent new fast steamers of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique put on this route, made her first call at Trinidad on the 9th inst., and attracted much notice. No hitch had occurred on the voyage. From Europe to Point à Pitre, the first point in the West Indies touched at, she averaged a speed of 15½ knots, the best run being for two days at 390 knots a day. The run was made in eight days twenty-three hours. The cabins were mostly on deck or upper deck. She was ventilated throughout by electric exhaust fans, and noiseless electric winches were used. The saloon and other accommodation for the comfort and safety of passengers had not been surpassed by anything in these waters before. The provision of a fast and luxurious alternative line for mails and passengers, such as this, must make for the good of the colony.—The appointments were announced of Mr. E. C. Skinner as Consul for Panama and Peru, and of Mr. A. M. Sucre as Consul for Costa Rica.—Mr. Tripp regretted very much to report the death of Mr. A. E. Hendrickson, one of the most able and eloquent of the many able and eloquent men at the Trinidad Bar. Mr. Hendrickson in his profession would principally be remembered as the criminal lawyer of the colony. Bench and Bar alike had testified to the loss they had sustained.—On Friday morning, October 18th, it was announced that, contrary to all precedent, the mail would close on Sunday October 20th, at 11.45 a.m., instead of Monday at that time as usual, and according to time tables. As the American mail also closed on Saturday, the inconvenience of this change was rendered greater. As they paid no subsidy, they had clearly no right to grumble. Incidentally it showed that the Colony might suffer in more ways than anticipated from their failure to secure Trinidad as the headquarters of the mail service.—Sir Daniel Morris had written to the Acting Governor from Toronto, stating that the West Indian exhibit at the show there had been entirely successful, and that great interest was taken in it by the visitors, who numbered nearly three quarters of a million. The West Indian Court had been awarded a gold medal, and a Diploma of Merit to the separate exhibits from the colonies. Sir Daniel was good enough to speak highly of the representative and excellent character of the Trinidad exhibit.—The German training-ship *Charlotte*, 1,899 tons, under the command of Captain Musculus, arrived on the 17th, and would remain at the island for some time. There were 50 midshipmen and 200 other boys on board. There had also arrived (18th) the United States' armoured cruisers *Tennessee* and *Washington*, the first instalment of the fleet proceeding to the Pacific. They were both of 14,500 tons burthen, and each had a complement of 960 men and 20 guns. Admiral Sibree was in command on board the *Washington*. They would stay at Trinidad several days, and coal in the harbour. With their four funnels and heavy upper work they presented a very imposing appearance. The whole Pacific fleet, it was understood, would make Trinidad a port *en route*, and would, no doubt, leave very substantial evidence of their visit amongst the stores in the town; for no fleet spent more freely than the American.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

A Barbados Petroleum Industry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I have read with interest in your issue of the 29th ult. your reference to the development of a petroleum industry in Barbados. The Provisional Order applied for by me under the 1904 Act of the Colony granting certain facilities for boring test wells is in accordance with the terms of that Act, which was passed unanimously by the Legislature (in 1904) in order to provide increased facilities for boring wells, &c. My application was made last November (1906); was subsequently granted by the Governor in Executive Committee, and accepted by the Colonial Office as being in

accordance with the Act and as not conferring a monopoly. It passed the House of Assembly in July with but one vote against it, and, being late in the Session, was deferred by the Council till the next Session of Legislature. During the adjournment (August till November) some landowners announced their desire for further safeguards of their interests, and, with a view of obtaining this, have proposed an amending clause to the effect that no landowner, unless he so desires, is to be subject to the terms of the Provisional Order at all, which amendment not only destroys its value but nullifies the Act of 1904; in short, the amendment, if carried, refuses the facilities the Act expressly provided for, a position which, apart from being misleading to persons prepared to work under the provisions of an existing Act of that Colony, would, it appears to me, be a departure from the principle of consistency which is a tradition of the Barbados Legislature.

London, November 8th, 1907.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR PONSONBY.

[The amendment of which Mr. Ponsonby speaks would, as he says, practically reduce the Oil Mines' Act of 1904, so far as Section 7 is concerned, to a dead letter. On the other hand in his report on the Blue-Book for 1906-7 just issued, Mr. S. W. Knaggs, Acting-Governor of Barbados, says that the sanction of the Legislature will, no doubt, be given to the order asked for by Mr. Ponsonby, and he adds "it is very desirable in the interest of all that some measures should be taken to ascertain the actual value of this asset (petroleum) to the colony."—Ed.]

OUR LIBRARY.

A Handbook of Trinidad Cookery. By Mrs. J. E. Lickford. Published by Richard Powle, Ross, Herefordshire. To the housewife in England such items as Salmis d'Agouti, Avocado Pear Soup, Bread Fruit Balls, Stewed Rose Apples and Pomerac Pie, must seem strange, but to the charming creoles of Trinidad they will be all-significant titles, and Mrs. Lickford's little book, which extends to 126 pages, will help to solve the daily puzzle, "What shall we have for dinner?" 435 receipts are given, which should go far towards solving the problem. Every recipe has been used and tested by the contributor, and no materials or utensils are mentioned which cannot be procured in the island. In addition to the recipes provided, many household hints are given which should prove useful in the tropics.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

WEST INDIES, COPY.—Henceforth fruit exports from Cape Colony may, at the option of the exporter, be branded by a Government inspector.

A NEW EDITOR.—Mr. John Stewart, whose name will be familiar to our readers, as that of a recent contributor to our columns, has now assumed the position of manager and editor of the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph*.

A NEWCOMER.—The negotiations in progress for establishing a new steamship service between Halifax and Jamaica by the Furness Line are nearing completion, and it is expected the sailings will commence next month.

FOR JAMAICA.—The West India Committee have received and have forwarded to the Archbishop of the West Indies, Chairman of the Assistance Committee, a donation of £152 12s. 4d. towards the fund for the relief of the sufferers from the earthquake in Jamaica of January last.

R.M.S.P. CONCERT.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who can boast much musical talent, gave a Bohemian concert on October 25th, in aid of the funds of the Ibero-American Benevolent Society. The function was well attended, and was eminently successful in every way.

GUIANA'S MOTTO.—A correspondent writes to remind us that Horace was not an "Ass poeticus," and was not responsible for the false quantity which our sub-editor put in his mouth. "*Damus petimusque vicissim*" is undoubtedly British Guiana's motto, but Flaccus' line runs "*Scimus, et hanc veniam petimusque damusque vicissim.*"

AUSPICIOUS EVENTS.—The Right Hon. J. Parker-Smith, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been adopted as Unionist candidate for Greenock. Mr. and Mrs. Parker-Smith celebrated their silver wedding on August 10th, an event on which West Indians will offer them most sincere felicitations.

OUR VISITORS.—Among the numerous callers at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been: Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. D. W. A. McKinnon, Mr. Joseph Shore, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. Julian Rust, Mr. Charles S. Parker, Mr. John McNeil, Mr. B. C. Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Manning, Miss Wiley, Mr. W. Morris Fletcher, and Mr. H. Hamel Smith.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The Stirling Boiler Co., Ltd., notify that their head office has been transferred from Motherwell to 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, London. Their telegraphic address will be "Stirlinico," London, and telephone numbers 559 and 822 Westminster. The company has branch offices in Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Cardiff.

R.M.S.P. "AVON."—Sir Alfred L. Jones visited Southampton on Thursday, October 31st to inspect the system of ventilation on the R.M.S.P. Company's new steamer *Avon*, with a view to the possible installation of a similar system on the vessels being built for him by Messrs. Harland & Wolff for the West African—not West Indian, as has been recently stated—trade.

A WEDDING.—We have to congratulate Dr. J. F. E. Bridger, M.B., B.S., &c., Medical Officer of Health,

Barbados, who was married in Edinburgh on October 25th to Katharine, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edie, 19, Upper Gilmore Place, Edinburgh. Dr. Bridger is only paying a flying visit to this country, and will shortly return to Barbados to resume the duties of his office.

NOTABLE PASSENGERS.—Among the passengers by the mail to-morrow are Sir Henry Jackson, the popular Governor of Trinidad, and Lady Jackson, and the following members of the West India Committee: Mr. and Mrs. W. Morris Fletcher, Mr. Darnley C. and Mrs. DaCosta, Mrs. Warner, Dr. J. M. de Freitas, Mr. and Mrs. S. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. G. Yearwood, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gordon, and Mr. A. B. Thompson, to all and several we wish bon voyage.

LORD GORMANSTON.—We regret to have to record the death of Viscount Gormanston, a well-known figure in West Indian circles, which occurred in Dublin on October 28th. His lordship, who was in his 71st year, was taken suddenly ill on October 26th, and never recovered consciousness. Viscount Gormanston was Governor of the Leeward Islands from 1885 to 1887, and of British Guiana from 1887 to 1893. He is succeeded by his eldest son, the Hon. Jenico Edward Preston.

IF THE CAP FITS!—We hope that the ears of those few members who have failed to pay their subscription to the West India Committee for the current year have been burning when their delinquency has been spoken of in London. Joking apart, it is neither honourable nor honest of certain subscribers to fail to pay their dues, and though there are only a few now outstanding, we earnestly hope that those gentlemen in our debt will remit their subscription immediately, and thus obviate the necessity of their names being struck off the List of Members.

TRINIDAD OILFIELDS.—The Government of Trinidad has published an interesting report by Mr. Cunningham Craig on the Central and Northern Anticline in the Western District, in continuation of his previous report on the Southern Anticline. Mr. Cunningham Craig examines in detail the question of the origin of the famous "Pitch Lake," and gives an elaborate description, illustrated by a map, of the geological structure of the whole district, with an account of the numerous indications of oil occurring in it. He considers that the prospects of oil production throughout a large part of the area appear distinctly good.

AN IDEA.—No stone is being left unturned to popularise St. Vincent arrowroot. A small pamphlet which has just been issued by D. K. Porter & Co., is a revelation of the number of uses to which it can be put. We glean from it that its use should run through the whole gamut of culinary specialities, from kidney soup to shortbread. The arrowroot is now being packed in the island in penny packages, which should be popular. When the Christmas "hawking" season begins on Ludgate Hill, a pedlar should be able to dispose of any number of such trim little packages. St. Vincent would benefit.

PLEASE NOTE.—Mr. E. B. Ellis, who was, from its inception until September 1st last, Manager in London of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Company, Ltd., and previous to that for nearly fifteen years with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, has taken over the business of Passage, Tourist, and Freight Agent, hitherto carried on at 110, Leadenhall Street, by Messrs. O. H. Lunham & Co. His knowledge of the West Indian, Brazil and River Plate trades is extensive, and he should, therefore, be able to give every satisfaction to any who may entrust him with their business. We wish him every success in his new undertaking.

MORE ESTIMATES.—In the last CIRCULAR we gave Mr. F. O. Licht's estimates of the low sugar beet crop, amounting to 6,580,000 tons. The "Factory" estimates have since been published, as follows:—

	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.
Germany	1,997,000	Belgium	238,000	Russia	1,390,000
Austria	1,394,000	Holland	166,000		
France	704,000	*Other Countries ...	470,000	Total	6,359,000

Mr. Otto Licht has increased his estimate from 6,520,000 tons to 6,690,000 tons.

AFTER FORTY-SIX YEARS.—We have pleasure in extending our congratulations to Mr. Thomas Cantrell, the late Secretary of Messrs. Manlove, Alliott & Co., Ltd., of Nottingham, the well-known manufacturers of sugar machinery. After forty-six years' connection with that firm, Mr. Cantrell has retired, failing health making it desirable that he should take a well-earned rest. An opportunity was therefore taken of presenting him with a silver tea service and salver, subscribed for by the directors, staff and workmen of the Company, in recognition of his long connection with the firm. Mr. Cantrell has been connected with the firm since 1861, for many years occupying the position of Secretary. We take this opportunity of wishing Mr. Cantrell long life and much happiness in his retirement.

HELPFUL.—The West Indies have become quite a popular subject for lectures in this country, and the West India Committee has been able to assist many of the lecturers with lantern slides as well as information. Thus, the Rev. J. Eames lectured on Jamaica, in aid of the Church, at Sydenham on October 25th; while Mr. Hamel Smith, the editor of *Tropical Life*, has been lecturing on bananas before the members of the Paddington Radical Club. He is also speaking in the good cause on November 27th at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, on January 24th at the Men's Club, Highgate, and

* Two small countries not included, estimated at (say) 169,000 tons.

on February 13th at Skegness, each lecture being under the auspices of the Social and Educational League, of which Sir Oliver Lodge, Lord Courtney and Mr. Sydney Webb are members of the Council. **SINCERE FLATTERY.**—The *British Australasian* of the 24th of last month said: "What is required in the Australian trade is something in the nature of the excellent organisation which watches over the progress of the West Indian colonies—the West India Committee, which has an Executive Council, and a Secretary at the London headquarters, who possess first hand knowledge of these colonies. The offices in London are able to give the latest information on any matter of West Indian affairs. The leading firms and business men, and, indeed private individuals resident in those colonies or at home, belong to the 'Committee,' which is honoured by a Royal charter. This is, in point of fact, a really 'live' institution, and, no doubt, of the greatest assistance to all concerned in West Indian business. The idea is brought before the Australian trading community with the hope that it may be thought over."

TO HONOUR SIR C. LUCAS.—There is every probability of there being a large and influential attendance at a dinner to be given at the Grand Hotel on November 30th by the West Indian Club to Sir Charles Lucas, on the occasion of his recent appointment to the Dominion Department of the Colonial Office, and as a token of sincere appreciation of his great services to the West Indies. Sir Nevile Lubbock will preside, and amongst those who have accepted invitations to be present are: Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for Canada; Sir Richard Solomon, Agent-General for the Transvaal; Sir William Arbuckle, Agent-General for Natal; Sir Thomas E. Fuller, Agent-General for Cape Colony; Capt. R. M. Collins, Agent-General for the Commonwealth of Australia; The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton; Mr. R. L. Antrobus, Assistant Under-Secretary of State; Sir Henry Bergne; Mr. G. Martineau, C.B.; and many other prominent representatives of Colonial interests.

COTTON BALING.—The Cotton Conference, the sittings of which at Atlanta have recently been concluded, passed the following important resolution: "That cotton be packed in a bale similar to the Egyptian bale, having a covering of osnaburgs or burlaps; the minimum weight of the bale to be 500 lbs., the maximum weight 750 lbs., and the bale to be marked both ends, showing grade, staple, and weight; that the ginners inspect the cotton before it is baled, marking the grade on the bale; and that samples accompany the bale to obviate the necessity of opening it until it is actually delivered to the spinners." Representatives of the farmers' associations who attended the Conference declared that the farmers were willing to stamp the name and address of the producer and ginner on the bale in order that the purchaser may readily trace them in the event of complaint as to the cotton. The Conference also recommended that cotton be held for thirty days before ginning in order that much of the moisture now complained of may evaporate, and that greater uniformity as to the length of staple be secured when packing.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.—As we go to press the welcome intelligence has reached us that Mr. Charles Prestwood Lucas, C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary of State of the Dominions Department at the Colonial Office (until recently of the West Indian Department), has been appointed a K.C.M.G. We cordially endorse the comment of the *Times* upon this appointment: "For services to the Empire at large Mr. Lucas's K.C.M.G. will perhaps be received with the widest satisfaction. Now Under-Secretary of the newly-constituted Dominions Department of the Colonial Office, he has proved by ungrudging labour his devotion to the Empire's interests and has helped by his books to make his countrymen better acquainted with their responsibilities; while here in London the Working Men's College, of which he is Vice-President, has long been the care of his leisure hours." Mr. Ralph Champneys Williams, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands is also made a K.C.M.G., while Mr. William Douglas Young, the Administrator of Dominica, becomes a Companion of the same Order. To each of these gentlemen we offer our sincere congratulations.

A TIMELY REMINDER.—For the convenience of our readers we give the following table showing the latest dates on which letters, cards, parcels, &c., can be forwarded from London, so as in due course to reach the West Indies about Christmas or New Year's Day:—

DESTINATION.	LETTERS, &c. Date of despatch to secure arrival about.		PARCELS. Date of despatch to secure arrival about.	
	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.
West Indies (British)—				
Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts...	Nov. 27	Dec. 11	Nov. 26	Dec. 10
Barbados	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 10	Dec. 10
Dominica	Nov. 27	Dec. 11	Nov. 26	Dec. 10
Demerara	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 10	Dec. 10
Grenada	Nov. 27	Dec. 11	Nov. 26	Dec. 10
St. Lucia	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 10	Dec. 10
St. Vincent	Nov. 27	Dec. 11	Nov. 26	Dec. 10
Tobago	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 10	Dec. 10
Trinidad	Dec. 4	Dec. 13	Nov. 29	Dec. 13
Jamaica				

In order to be included in these mails, letters, parcels, &c., must be posted in the United Kingdom in time to be forwarded to London or the port of departure, as the case may be, generally by the night mails of the day preceding that of despatch; but, to prevent disappointment, inquiry should be made in good time at the local post-offices. Almost invariably, on the despatch of mails for places abroad, letters and other articles reach the despatching office too late to be included in the outgoing mails, although obviously intended to go by such mails. In most of these cases posting has been delayed until the days appointed for the closing of the mail, or for the departure of the steamer; and the letters, parcels, &c., consequently reach the despatching office too late to be forwarded.

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. 29.—Lord Gormanston died.—Accident to the Queen of Spain's train near Cherbourg.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
 Wed., Oct. 30.—King and Queen of Spain in London.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
 Thur., Oct. 31.—The Railway Directors meet Mr. Lloyd George.—Bank rate raised to 5½%.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., steadier.
 Fri., Nov. 1.—Municipal election returns: rout of the Socialists.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., steady.
 Sat., Nov. 2.—R. M. S. P. *Trent* arrived 36 hours early.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 3½d., steady.
 Sun., Nov. 3.—Railway men's ballot: 76,925 to 8,773 in favour of a strike.
 Mon., Nov. 4.—Bank rate to 6%.—Beet, 9s. 4d., quiet.
 Tues., Nov. 5.—Kaiserin postpones her visit to England.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., quiet.
 Wed., Nov. 6.—Railway dispute settled at a conference held by Mr. Lloyd George.—Beet, 9s. 4d., steady.
 Thur., Nov. 7.—Bank rate raised to 7%.—"The West Indian Problem" in the *Contemporary Review*, by Mr. N. Lamont, M.P.—Beet, 9s. 4d., quiet.
 Fri., Nov. 8.—German Bank rate raised to 7½%.—Improvement in financial position at New York.—*Lusitania* established a fresh record.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., flat.
 Sat., Nov. 9.—The King's Birthday.—Lord Mayor's Day, Sir J. C. Bell, Lord Mayor.—Birthday Honours published. Lord Chesham and Lord Kilmaine died.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 3d., steady.
 Sun., Nov. 10.—The Kaiser arrived in British waters.
 Mon., Nov. 11.—Speeches at the Guildhall Banquet reported.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., 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.

- Nov. 13.—Sixty-first ordinary general meeting of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.
 ,, 20.—West Indian Club Dinner to Sir C. P. Lucas, Grand Hotel, Trafalgar Square, W.C.
 ,, 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (Trinidad, the West Indian Produce Association, and the Norbrook Canning Company and others will participate.)
 Dec. 9.—Royal Geographical Society Lecture: "The Jamaica Earthquake, and After," by Dr. Vaughan Cornish.
 Jan. 13, 1908.—Royal Geographical Society Lecture: "Among the Volcanoes of Guatemala and St. Vincent," by Dr. Tempest Anderson.

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.

Centipede.—The contract with Messrs. Pickford and Black for the Canada-West Indian mail service is terminable on June 30th, 1910. It provides for a service for twelve days from St. Johns to Halifax, Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara and back. The total subsidy is £27,000, of which half is paid by the Imperial Government and the remainder by Canada.

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.

DR. CLAUDE H. BELLOT, Medical Officer, Dominica, has been granted six months leave of absence.—Mr. J. W. WILSON, Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, Trinidad, has been appointed to be Inspector in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Brierley.—His Excellency the Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief has been pleased to accept the resignation of the Commission held by MAJOR A. P. LANGE, Commanding Trinidad Light Horse, as from October 9th,

1907, and to place him on the Reserve of Officers with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, dated October 10th, 1907.—His Excellency the Acting Governor has been pleased to recognise Mr. E. C. SKINNER as Consul in this Colony for the Republic of Peru, provisionally and pending the receipt of His Majesty's Exequatur.—HON. FRANCIS GURNEY and HON. D. S. DE FREITAS have been re-appointed Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council of Grenada for a further term of six years.—HON. A. G. BELL, M.Inst.C.E., Colonial Civil Engineer, British Guiana, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace in and for that Colony.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate 7% (changed from 6% on Thursday, November 7th, 1907). Consols (2½%) 81½.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Court of Directors in an interim report state that the company's business showed a continued expansion with considerably improved financial results for the half-year ended June 30th last. The new twin-screw mail steamer *Avon* (11,073 tons gross register) was delivered by the builders, Messrs. Harland and Wolff, in June last, and has completed three voyages in the Brazil and River Plate mail service. The superior passenger accommodation afforded by this and the other new "A" steamers has been appreciated by the travelling public, and the addition of these fine steamers to the fleet has placed the company in a stronger position. Another and somewhat larger steamer of this class, the *Asturias* (12,200 tons gross register) was successfully launched by Messrs. Harland and Wolff on September 26th last, and it is intended that she will make her first voyage in the Australian mail service, leaving Tilbury on January 24th next. Since the publication of the annual report and accounts in May last three cargo steamers of good carrying capacity have been purchased. The new passenger service between Southampton and Havana and Mexican ports has been regularly maintained. Reference is also made to the arrangements recently completed with regard to the West Indian mail services and the interim dividend at the rate of £5 per cent. on the preference stock, which was paid on November 8th.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co.

The directors of this company in their report for the six months ended June 30th, 1907, state that the amount to credit of revenue is £43,832 10s. 7d., against £36,999 8s. 2d. for the corresponding half-year of 1906, and the expenses have been £30,028 10s. 9d., against £25,680 17s. 11d. The result of the half-year's working, therefore, leaves a balance £13,803 19s. 10d., to which is added £1,621 7s. 9d. interest on investments, and £626 13s. 2d., brought forward from last account, making an available total of £16,052 0s. 9d. The directors propose that this amount be used in paying a dividend of 6s. per share for the six months to June 30th on the First Preference shares, which will absorb £10,368 18s., and £1 per share on account of dividends accrued to June 30th, 1907, on the Second Preference shares, £4,669, leaving a balance of £1,014 2s. 9d. to current half-year's account. The Board have much satisfaction in being able to recommend the above payment to the Second Preference shareholders on account of dividends which have been accruing since June 30th, 1906. The traffic receipts for the six months show an increase of £4,489 0s. 11d. as compared with the corresponding period of 1906. The expenses of repairing cables, including the cost of restoring communication between Dominica and St. Lucia, referred to in the last report, amount to £13,787 5s. 5d. The cables continue in good working order.

British Guiana Bank

The directors in their report, which was adopted at the 141st half-yearly meeting on Monday, September 23rd, were able to show a credit balance of \$166,352.24 in favour of the Bank, consisting of credit of provision for bad and doubtful debts account, \$32,928.95; the surplus fund, \$103,771.41; and profit and loss account, \$29,651.88. Among the investments certain life policies are held for the amount of \$36,770.59, the surrender value of which is about \$24,000. The average age of the insured is 62. The directors have pleasure in stating that the Bank's business during the half-year just ended shows an appreciable increase as compared with the figures for the corresponding period of 1906. Owing to the exceptionally heavy weather during the first six months of this year, the sugar crop had suffered considerably; prices, however, were slightly in excess of those during the same period in 1906. The uncertainty as to the effect of the action of the Imperial Government with respect to the Brussels Convention stopped any increase of the area under cane cultivation and also restricted the importation of machinery, which is much to be regretted. Plantation Vergevoegen has suffered with other estates from the excessive wet season, but the crop ending on December 31st next will, it is hoped, yield a fair profit. Land is being readily taken up for rice growing, and some 60 acres have been disposed of as building lots at prices varying from \$100 @ \$120 per acre. The rice cultivation continues to extend throughout the Colony, and before the end of this year several well-equipped factories will have been erected in addition to those already working. There are indications of revived interest in the gold and diamond industries which should lead to good results in the near future. The planting of rubber will, it is hoped, soon be carried out to a large extent, and this article should prove later on one of the Colony's most valuable exports. The payment of an interim dividend of 2% out of the profits for the half-year amounting to \$29,651.88 was authorised. This will require the sum of \$18,530.40, leaving a balance of \$11,121.48, of which it is proposed to place \$1,000 to the credit of bad and doubtful debts account, and \$10,121.48 to the surplus fund.

Pure Jamaica, Ltd.

The statutory meeting of this company was held at 24, Victoria Street, London, on October 30th, Mr. W. W. Rutherford presiding. He said that in the report it would be noticed that the number of shares allotted was 50,235 ordinary shares of £1 each and 1,000 deferred "B" shares of 1s. each. The whole had been allotted on the footing that they were to be paid for in cash. No paid-up shares had been issued. When such a valuable asset was acquired as a practical monopoly of a business like that of Jamaica rum, this must be considered a remarkable achievement in the history of company formation. Then he desired to point out that this company had got a practical monopoly for a long term of years of the trade in Jamaica rum exported from the island. It was true that there were a few estates with which agreements had not been made, but they represented a comparatively small amount, and the practical monopoly of the rum trade was secured by the company. The importance of that fact could not be exaggerated when they remembered that Jamaica rum was an article as superior and as distinctive, when compared with other rums, as the Havana cigar was as compared with other kinds. The first great object was to do good to the Island of Jamaica and to improve the position of the planters. They wanted the active co-operation of planters as shareholders, and they wanted to give those who had not hitherto done so an opportunity of participating in the financial advantages; they intended, therefore, to make a further issue of shares for Jamaica alone, to be called Planters' shares. A very small sum of money would be asked for

on application for these shares, and the planters would be given facilities for paying up the shares to the required amount by means of a small payment in respect of each puncheon of rum, or some arrangement of that description, so that they would not be asked to find at any one time, or under any circumstances, any serious amount of hard cash. This would give them every facility and every inducement to come into the company as shareholders, and participate in its financial advantages. Mr. C. S. Farquharson was the able representative of the company in the island, and one or two members of the Board would go to Jamaica to start the business there. The resolution for the adoption of the report was put to the meeting by Major W. H. Edwards, and carried unanimously. Mr. J. C. Nolan, on behalf of the planters of Jamaica, whom he said he represented, seconded a resolution of thanks to Mr. Rutherford, which was proposed by Mr. Kavanagh, as representing the Irish shareholders of the company.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) November 6th. "Seasonable weather but rain still wanted." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), October 30th. Weather very dry, rain much wanted." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), November 4th. "We have just had an average fall of 1 in. **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended October 30th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "24th to 27th, fine; 28th to 30th, raining." **KINGSTON**: "fine." November 8th. "The average rainfall throughout the whole of Turks and Caicos Islands since October 26th, 6 ins., many parts swamped; no serious damage.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), November 2nd:—Mrs. E. Anstruther, Capt. Becke, Mr. E. H. Brocksopp, Mr. Brett, Mr. W. E. Clement, Mr. A. Drysdale, Mr. and Mrs. E. Heurtemathe, Mr. C. Hellmund, Mr. and Mrs. Hobson, Miss Hill, Mr. Henderson, Mr. E. M. Hynd, Mr. and Mrs. G. Kalbreyer, Mr. James Kerr, Dr. Kenny, Mr. E. J. Langton, Col. Link, Dr. Miley, Mr. G. W. B. Martin, Mr. W. McFarlane, Mr. T. Nikelsen, Mr. L. Norzagaray, Mr. A. Natursky, Miss F. Obarrio, Mr. W. J. Parsons, Capt. Peebles, Miss Pile, Mr. E. W. Quirk, Mr. L. Seibel, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Spottiswoode, Mr. T. Sloane, Mr. J. Sullivan, Mr. S. A. Trumpler, Mr. F. Gonzalez Vyver, Mr. H. F. Way, and Mr. C. L. Whittle.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. T. R. Pearce), November 13th:—Miss A. Olding, Mr. C. Awdry, Mr. and Mrs. W. Morris Fletcher, Miss C. Awdry, Mr. and Misses C. Wieting, Mr. H. Dawkins, Mr. W. Erskine, Mrs. and two Misses Thurston, Mr. G. W. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stayner, Mr. G. St. George, Mr. and Mrs. Darnley C. DaCosta, Miss Bichnell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Armaya, two Misses Armaya, Mrs. and Miss Lines, Miss E. Ince, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Miss Donaldson, Mr. A. Gaillard, Mr. and Mrs. Seeman, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kent, Miss T. Walter, Miss R. Langridge, Mr. and Mrs. Felipe Chaves, Mr. and Mrs. Holguin, two Misses Holguin, Dr. and Mrs. Hurbe, Mrs. Cox, Dr. J. M. de Freitas, Mr. and Mrs. R. Francia, Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Ryon, Mrs. de Bogarull, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. de Saint Martin, Mrs. d'Heilly, Mr. E. Twose, Mr. R. J. Wreford, Mr. and Mrs. G. Yearwood, Consul-General G. Vollmer, Mrs. R. Anstead, Mr. and Mrs. H. Williams, Mr., Mrs. and four Misses Horn, Mr. A. H. Behrens, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. McDonald, Sir Henry Jackson, K.C.M.G., Lady Jackson, Mr. O. Harley, Mrs. and Miss Agostini, Mr. R. Ponto, Mrs. Steenlorum, Mrs. Jacquin, Mrs. Klein, Mrs. de Campignelles, Mrs. de Saint Quentin, Mrs. Ciria, Mrs. Guaristi, Mr. A. Vade, Mrs. Read, Mr. L. Villegas, Mr. W. H. Richardson, Mrs. Miller, Mr. G. A. Stewart, Miss Lamont, Mr. W. B. Fairbairn, Mr. P. Burton, Mr. N. Lamont, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wright, Mr. G. Tilly, Rev. Father C. V. Sutherland, Mr. A. Chaves, Miss Wylie, Mr. W. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. S. Manning, Mr. J. Black, Miss Pipon, Mr. R. Gordon, Mrs. Fitzgibbon, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gordon, Mr. R. Everlof, Mr. R. Jones, Mrs. Bernstein, Mr. H. Preuss, Mr. H. Heydtman, Mr. J. Levy, Mrs. Farncombe, Mrs. Boyle, Miss Gaskin, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. G. Todd, Mr. J. O. Grubel, Mr. J. Dunn, Lieut. and Mrs. Calthrop, Mrs. B. Kernahan, Miss E. Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Miss Martin, Mrs. A. Bour, Mr. C. Bour, Miss Millie Da Costa, Mr. Thomas Wason, Mr. Manuel Lacayo, three Misses Stewart, Mr. Prodders, Miss A. Hody, Mr. H. G. Rose, Mr. V. L. Bryant, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Trinidad, Mr. A. Beedy Thompson, Mr. F. Doerken, Mr. George Nicholls, Mr. and Mrs. Field, Mrs. Dolley, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Chaves.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), November 27th:—Mr. I. E. Penberthy, Mr. and Mrs. Nourse, Mr. R. B. Nisbet, Mr. F. E. Hunter, Mr. Frederick P. Robjant, Mr. D. S. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. G. Peter, Mr. and Mrs. D. Correin, Mr. J. S. Lister, Lady Hodgson, Mr. J. Bremner, Mr. John Martin, Mrs. J. Chapman, Miss Hodgson, Miss M. H. Kilburn, Mrs. Barnard, Miss M. Law, Mr. Walter Lister, Miss E. L. Lister, Mr. Sidney Beck, Mrs. Bacher, Mr. and Mrs. William McLaren, Miss J. Livingstone Rodger, Mr. James B. Rodger, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Foote, Miss A. Foote, Mrs. and Miss Robb, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bankhart, Mr. and Mrs. W. Mignon, Mrs. Heimenkahl, the Rev. A. E. Jones, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. de Casa Ramos, Mr. F. A. Conyers, Mr. and Mrs. M. de Freitas, Mr. E. E. Pritchard, Mrs. Bryson, Mr. W. Brownhill, Mr. H. F. Blanford, Mrs. and Miss Carrington, Mr. Hammond, Mr. R. Abercrombie, Mr. R. Hyde Clarke, Mr. H. C. Dawes, Mr. H. G. Lord, Dr. and Mrs. O'Neale, Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnson, Miss Pemberton, Miss M. Stedman, and Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Bentley.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. G. Mason), December 11th:—Mrs. T. Clive Sheppard, Mr. Alberto Estrado, two Misses Arriens, Miss A. Veumann, Rosita Estrada, Ernesto Estrada, Rev. Aurelio Luco, Rev. Guglielmo Celis, Rev. Guiseppe M. Valenzuela, Capt. and Mrs. A. Roger, Mrs. J. Norris, Dr. and Mrs. Darwent, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Macdonald, Mr. John W. A. Maginley, Mrs. E. Maginley, Mr. G. M. Perch, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jason Jones, Mr. C. F. Battye, Mrs. F. V. Martinez, Mr. M. Rosenberg, Rev. A. Perez, Mr. G. H. Bruce, Miss Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gordon, Mr. A. H. Anstey, and Miss E. Jackson.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Sefle), November 6th:—**Jamaica**: Mr. C. E. Mellish, Mr. R. H. Goffe, Mr. Chidgey, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford, Mr. W. H. Hesketh, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Smith, Ho Shue Pook, Chung Quee, Miss Turner, and Miss Walters.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The speculative beet Market, which on the publication of the Factories estimate (see Notes of Interest), fell away to the extent of 2d. for October and 1d. to 1½d. for other months, after some slight fluctuations steadily recovered and quotations at the end of the week were about on a level with those current last mail. The rapid increase of the Bank of England rate from 5½ per cent. to 6 per cent., and again to 7 per cent. within the space of one week, had a depressing effect and checked business in all directions; and it is satisfactory that the influence exercised upon the sugar market by the present abnormal state of the money market has not been great. The German Bank rate has been raised to 7½ per cent. For the first time for many years, sugar (350 tons) was imported into the United Kingdom last week from Queensland.

Quotations: November, 9s. 3½d.; December, 9s. 4d.; January/March, 9s. 6d.; May, 9s. 8d.; August, 9s. 10d. New York, last week: \$3.90 for 96 per cent. centrifugals, and \$3.40 for 80 per cent. muscovado.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	627,000	730,000	590,000	770,000	1,170,000	Tons.
United States	208,000	140,000	210,000	140,000	120,000	"
Cuba and cargoes afloat	142,600	70,000	190,000	160,000	210,000	"
Total	977,600	940,000	990,000	1,070,000	1,500,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet, Nov. 11th:—	9s. 3½d.	8s. 7½d.	8s. 0½d.	12s. 9½d.	8s. 7d.	

Grocery West India.—GROCERY CRYSTALLISED was steady at the beginning of the fortnight, and a small quantity of new Demerara met a fair competition and fine yellow sold at previous rates (18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.) but subsequently a very quiet tone has prevailed, and at auction buyers have shown a disinclination to make offers, more particularly for lower kinds which are fully 6d. lower. Privately the business has been of a limited character. **Muscovado**—continues in small supply and scarcely any business has been reported. **Molasses Sugar.**—Syrups have been in limited demand: 1,000 pockets Queensland, low to good brown, sold at 12s. 3d. to 14s. Some coloury Guatemala fetched 15s. 3d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	29,250	47,000	33,000	36,000	20,000	Tons.
Deliveries	31,860	41,000	34,000	40,000	35,000	"
Stocks (Nov. 2nd)	6,991	12,575	8,000	8,000	13,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised:	17s. 6d.	16s. 0d.	15s. 0d.	20s. 9d.	15s. 9d.	

RUM.—Stocks in London, Nov. 2: 1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.		
Jamaica	8,856	8,614	8,672	10,399	10,680	Puns.
Demerara	4,591	2,867	4,882	5,745	6,466	"
Total of all kinds	21,835	18,400	21,155	23,428	27,378	"

The proof Market is without change, but only small sales have taken place at late rates. Jamaica is in limited supply, and transactions in consequence have been very restricted; values have been well maintained, especially for common home trade qualities. Quotations: Demerara, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2½d. proof; Jamaicas, 2s. 7d. for common, to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and for good to fine export qualities, 3s. to 8s.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Nov. 2nd:—	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	4,660	9,543	18,583	26,714	15,013	Bags.
Grenada	1,420	4,382	9,812	12,318	8,116	"
Total of all kinds	30,007	52,366	72,408	87,843	56,978	"

A dull time has prevailed in this market, and at the last auctions held the quantity offered met a slow demand; out of 780 bags Trinidad only 46 bags sold at 1s. to 2s. decline, and 30 bags (part of 59) Grenada sold at easier rates. One feature has been the failure of a large Hamburg firm, whose stock of cocoa has been thrown on the market and sold at low prices. There have been no public sales during the past week, and privately the market remains in a lifeless condition. Quotations: Trinidad, low middling, grey and red, 105s. to 106s., middling red, 107s. to 109s., good middling red, 109s. to 110s., fine and superior, 114s.; Grenada, ordinary to good fair, 105s. to 111s., middling to fine, 110s. to 113s., but these are quite nominal.

COFFEE.—Santos for November delivery, 28s. 9d., flatter. The spot Market is steady, but supplies are very short, and a very good demand exists for suitable kinds. The Market for futures is weak and flatter.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended November 7th 67 bales of West India cotton were imported. Only a limited business has been done in the fortnight in West Indian Sea Island, chiefly on account of the absence of desirable supplies. High grades of the American Sea Island are commanding full prices, but the crop being a poor one the lower qualities are depressed. About 50 bales West Indian Sea Island have been sold. Quotations in Liverpool: West India, good medium 7½d.; West India Sea Island, good medium 18d., medium fine 19d., and fine 20d.

ARROWROOT.—Quiet. Early in the fortnight 145 barrels were offered at auction and bought in. Last Wednesday 309 barrels were offered and all bought in at 2½d. to 2¾d. for fair to good manufacturing. Privately about 300 barrels sold at 2½d. to 2¾d. for good fair, 2¾d. for good, and 3¾d. for fine.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, quiet, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon. Distilled oil, easy, 1s. 11d. to 2s. per lb. Hand pressed, steady, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per lb. Concentrated, quiet, £21. The surplus stock of green limes in London has still to be worked off, though the number of households using the fruit year in and year out increases steadily but slowly.

PIMENTO.—Quiet. 100 bags were offered last week and all bought in at 3½d. for want of buyers. **NUTMEGS.**—Steady in the early part of the fortnight, and 488 packages out of 494 offered were sold at fully steady prices, the smaller sizes being rather dearer, but last week the tendency was to easier rates. None were offered at auction.

MACE.—Quiet. West India was in good supply, and all sold at fully 1d. advance earlier in the fortnight; since, there have been no sales. **GINGER.**—Quiet. Offerings at auction were withdrawn for want of buyers. **COPRA.**—Market quiet and rather easier. Value about £22.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—Two auctions have been held, and most of the wood offered found ready buyers; prices for good logs of fair sizes were steady, but small and inferior wood was in less active demand and rather easier. The arrivals continue very moderate. **HONDURAS:** Good logs from medium to large sizes sell freely at firm prices, but the demand for minimum wood is still weak; Importers' landed stocks are light, and the steamer just arrived brings only a small quantity. **St. Domingo, Jamaica and Grenada:** Logs of fair size or figury wood show good results. **Cedar.**—logs only low prices are obtainable. **COSTA RICA, TRINIDAD, VENEZUELA, &c.:** For small and inferior wood, of which unsold stock mainly consists, there is very little demand at low rates.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

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OUR CELEBRITIES. CVI.

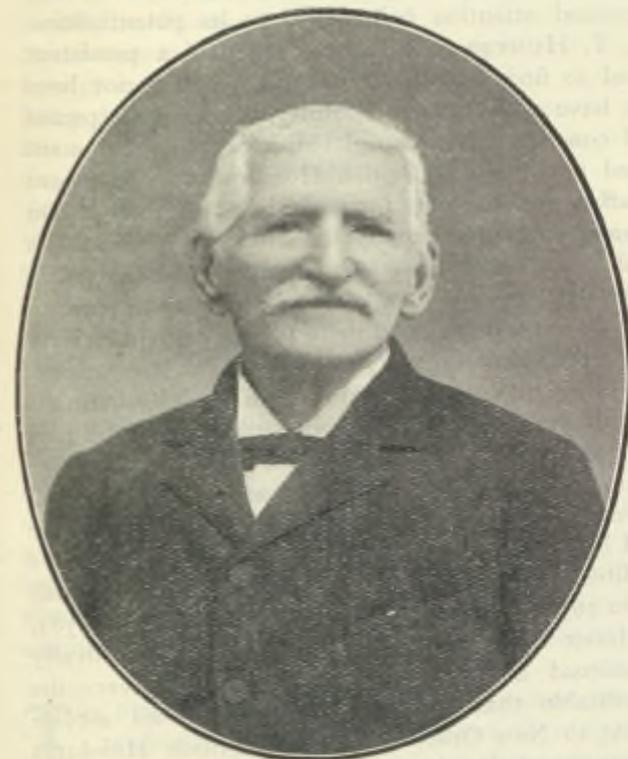
The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Nov. 25th, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6643 CENTRAL.

DURING the ten years in which he was head of the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office there was no more accessible official than Mr., now SIR CHARLES LUCAS, who has now assumed the greater responsibilities of the Dominions Department. Consequently—though not for that reason alone—he has enjoyed a popularity which is rarely attained by those who through the nature of their position are so constantly compelled to say "no" to the requests of their visitors. For all SIR CHARLES has a kindly word, whether it be at the Working Men's Club, an institution with which he is closely identified and for the success of which he has been largely responsible, or in his own room at the Colonial Office. It was to be expected then that the banquet given by the West Indian Club in his honour would be largely attended, and the representative gathering which assembled at the Grand Hotel on Wednesday, November 20th, testified to the high esteem in which he is held. The speeches were decidedly above the average of after dinner speeches, and the tactful utterances of SIR



Hon. George Solomon,
OF JAMAICA.

CHARLES LUCAS were received with rounds of applause. In the course of a speech which abounded as much with wit as it did with wisdom, he said that one of the impressions he had

gained while he was associated with the West Indian colonies was how much they had lost through not being one, and he added that one of the reasons why we lost our American colonies was because they were thirteen instead of one. This reopens the question of federation, a subject which though much canvassed in the past has not as yet evoked any practical suggestions as to how it can be carried out. Attempts have been made to amalgamate the systems of various islands—as for example, in the case of St. Vincent and Grenada—but the hostility to which such action has given rise, makes it sufficiently clear that some wider and more comprehensive scheme is required before the West Indian colonies can be welded into a homogeneous whole. Could not a start be made in the direction by reforms in the matter of currency, systems of taxation, and tariffs, which at present are bewildering in their diversity. As SIR CHARLES LUCAS said, the difficulties are great, but those difficulties would surely be lightened if a greater uniformity could be brought about in a variety of ways. The colonies are wide apart, and the cost of governing tropical possessions must inevitably be greater than in the case of those in temperate climes; but it is impossible to exaggerate how much the importance of the West Indies would be enhanced, and how immensely greater their bargaining powers in such matters as the negotiation of reciprocal treaties would be if they could speak with united voice.

OWING to a variety of causes, British Honduras has always been one of the least known, and, therefore, one of the least appreciated, of His Majesty's dominions beyond the seas. The wants and requirements of the colony, which covers an area of 7,562 square miles, have never been voiced so actively as those of its neighbours in the West Indies. Though it is too early to say "*nous avons changé tout cela*," the prominence which has been given to our very fertile possession in Central America, notably in connection with its railway, through the medium of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, has already resulted in increased attention being paid to its potentialities. Last year we had to deplore the death of MR. C. T. HUNTER, who showed himself a persistent champion of the people of Honduras. We are glad to find that his pioneer work has not been unfruitful, and though the various railway schemes have yet to reach maturity, it may be expected that when the Stann Creek railway, now in course of construction, is completed, a rapid development of the country will result. It must not be supposed that because British Honduras has not been boomed like some wealthier parts of the Empire, it affords no openings for capital and enterprise. On the contrary, careful enquiry leads to the conviction that such a supposition would be baseless. It would be hard to find a country richer in its natural resources, and we have it on the authority of a reliable correspondent that the soil in parts is so rich that bananas can be cut off the same piece of land for ten years in succession, and that sugar-canes have been ratooned there for as many as thirty years, although ploughing and manuring are, practically speaking, as yet unknown in the colony. Gold has been found in the interior, and it is believed that coal lies hidden in the mountainous districts. For some reason or other there appears, however, to exist a sense of suspicion on the part of Downing Street, who do not always seem disposed to encourage private enterprise as much as would seem desirable. The fear of the concession-hunter is, we imagine, at the back of it all. With all due deference we venture to think that a greater readiness to trust the men on the spot, people who have been either born in Honduras or have resided in it for a great number of years, would have beneficial results to the colony. It is hardly credible, and by no means creditable, that British Honduras, which was first settled by the British in 1638, and was ceded to us by Spain in 1783, has no cart roads, and that travelling into the interior involves the use of what are practically cattle-tracks, and that only now is the first railroad being opened up, and one river—the Belize—being rendered navigable. Nor is it creditable that the only subsidised mail service of which the colony can boast is a foreign one plying to New Orleans, and that British Honduras remains one of the few British possessions which receives no help whatever from the Mother country in this connection. It has been suggested that the colony might be linked up by a small steamer to meet the ocean steamer at Kingston, Jamaica, but as the amount of revenue to be derived from passengers and cargo would at first necessarily be small, the subsidy would have to be a considerable one; but we think that it would be an experiment well worth making, as it would bring British

Honduras into closer touch, not only with the West Indian colonies, but what is more important still, with Canada. We have already seen the beginnings of Canadian enterprise in the West Indian islands, where the admirable tramway systems in Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad are due to Canada, and we should like to see our Canadian relations paying similar attention to British Honduras, in which there is, undoubtedly, a wide field for enterprise.

IN a letter which appeared in the *Times* of November 14th, a correspondent drew attention to the result to the consumer of the protection afforded to the home maker of "industrial" methylated spirit by the Revenue Act, 1906. To the hardship of that act to the colonial distiller we have already alluded in our pages. By its concessions were granted to the distillers of alcohol for special industrial purposes. Among these was a bonus—not a rebate as the *Times* correspondent terms it, as the spirit pays no duty—of 3d. per proof gallon given to the maker, while the cost of methylating was materially reduced. This particular spirit was designed to meet the wants of chemical manufacturers and others, and to enable them to compete with foreign manufacturers who used free alcohol in their several industries. At the time we pointed out the injustice to the colonial distiller in not being allowed to compete on fair terms with the home manufacturer of methylated spirit. The operation of the iniquitous spirit surtax places the colonial at a disadvantage to the extent of 5d. per proof gallon, or 40 per cent. of the value of the product, a distinct protection, amounting to practical prohibition of colonial spirit being thus given to the home distiller. Now the effect of this protection is bearing fruit. A convention—a cartel, in fact—has been formed among the spirit manufacturers in this country, who have advanced their prices to an extent which puts the whole of the 3d. bonus in their pockets. The result of this is that the chemical manufacturers and others, for whose benefit the Revenue Act in question was mainly designed, have to pay only a trifle less for their spirit than before the coming into operation of the Act, the condition of unfair competition between British and foreign industries using spirit which it was the supposed intention of this legislation to remove, being thus practically restored. It is true that foreign plain spirit can be "industrialised" in bond in this country, 3d. of the 5d. surtax being refunded to the importer. The 5d. advantage to the home distiller, however, still remains, and it is this advantage which has enabled the latter to maintain the price of industrial alcohol to the detriment of the users in this country, in whose interest the legislation of last year was supposed to have been made. We do not, however, propose to go into the pros and cons of the spirit surtax now. We have over and over again represented to the Government of this country that the very basis on which justification for its imposition is claimed can only exist, if it exists at all, to a very small degree. Now, owing to the operation of the spirit surtax, British manufacturers are prevented from receiving from the British colonies spirit for their industries, and are in the painful position of being completely at the mercy of a combination of home distillers for the supply of a commodity, the cheapness of which is essential to equal competition with foreign makers. We have before us the spectacle of a Government which is so pledged to Free (?) Trade as to declare that it cannot reconcile it with its conscience to throw any obstacles in the way of a notoriously high bounty-fed sugar coming into the British market, no matter what the effect on the British colonial sugar industry and its allied industries on this side may be, giving effect to legislation which not only converts an indirect into a direct excessive bounty to a particular British industry, but maintains a fiscal preference diametrically opposed to British colonial interests and to those of important branches of British manufacture, for the benefit of which the Revenue Act of 1906 was designed.

THE library of the West India Committee has been enriched by many gifts of books from our readers, but it still falls far short of what a complete West Indian library should be. Among the older works it can boast many of the rarer volumes, as [for example: Herrera's "Description des Indes Occidentales," 1622; Richard Blome's "Description of the island of Jamaica," 1672, presented by Mr. J. R. BOOSE, the cultured Secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute; Richard Ligon's "True and Exact History of the Island of Barbadoes," 1673, for which thanks have been accorded to Mr. T. J. WILKINSON; Labat's "Nouveau voyage aux isles de l'Amerique," 1722, presented by the late

SIR WALTER SENDALL; and Griffith Hughes' delightful "Natural History of Barbados," 1750, the gift of SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK; but there are vacant spaces on the shelves which are waiting to be filled by many of the standard works. Among them must be included Bryan Edwards' "History, Civil and Commercial of the British Colonies in the West Indies," a copy of the *first* edition of which has for long been a *desideratum*. We welcome, therefore, MR. LLEWELLYN JONES' suggestion that a library fund should be opened, and cordially endorse the thanks of the Executive which have been voted to him for forwarding an opening subscription to such a fund. During the year, the work of tabulating and indexing the library has been completed, and it is proposed to print and circulate the catalogue among the members of the West India Committee. We trust, however, that before that work is sent to press our readers will help to swell the number of its pages and to bring it up to the scale of importance which it deserves to attain, by presenting books or money towards the library fund wherewith to buy books and maintain the library. Such gifts, whether they take the form of books, pictures or curios—which are always welcome—or money, will be acknowledged in a list of benefactors which will be published at the end of the catalogue.

HON. GEORGE SOLOMON.

Mr. George Solomon, whose portrait appears on the first page of the present CIRCULAR, was born at Southampton on May 29th, 1826, and at the age of sixteen, went out to Jamaica to join his brother, the late Mr. A. H. Solomon, whose partner he eventually became. Mr. Solomon was one of the largest sugar estate proprietors, having at one time been the owner of as many as thirteen estates; but, alas! that thirteen vindicated its reputation as an unlucky number, for although he made a large fortune he eventually lost it in the dark days of the sugar industry. When quite a young man he was Minister of Finance and a member of the Privy Council, of which he was made a life member. Mr. Solomon was in the Jamaica Club at the time of the disaster of January last, and though he was covered with a mass of débris, he escaped injury, and in spite of his advanced years, withstood the shock well. Mr. Solomon, who is an ardent Tariff Reformer, continues to take a deep interest in public life, as his many letters to the Press testify, and he may well be called the "Grand Old Man" of Jamaica.

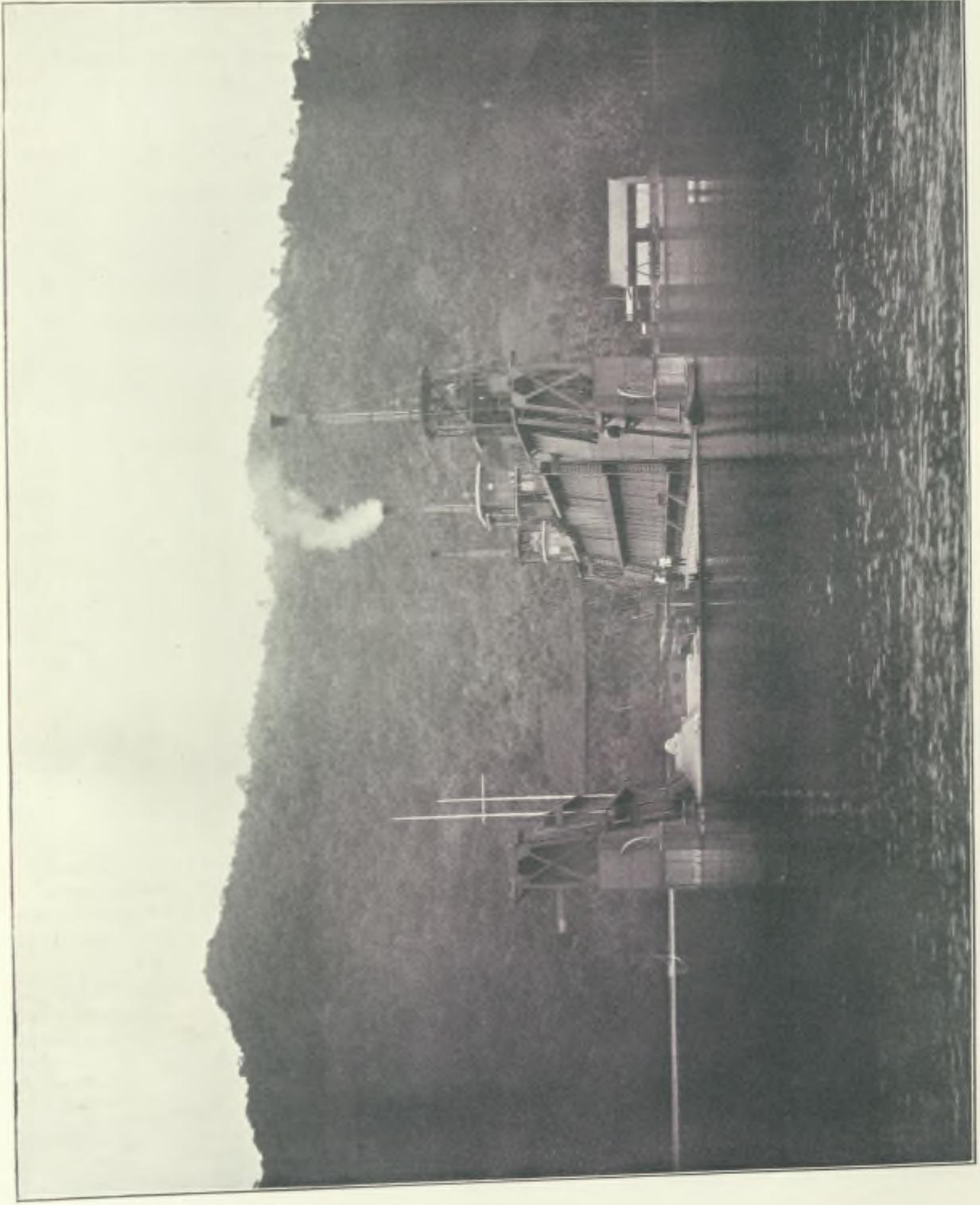
TRINIDAD'S NEW FLOATING DOCK.

The new floating dock belonging to the Trinidad Dock and Engineering Company, Ltd., which forms the subject of our full-page illustration, has now been at work for some months at Chaguaramas Bay, near Port of Spain, Trinidad. The bay is land-locked and the water, sheltered as it is by high hills, is never rough, so that it would be difficult to find a more suitable place for the floating dock. The dock itself is constructed entirely of steel by Messrs. Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson, Ltd., to the order of The Railway and Works Co., Ltd., 37, Old Jewry, E.C. The inside width between pontoons is 56 ft., and length on the blocks 365 ft. The lifting capacity is 4,000 tons. The dock was built to the designs of Messrs. Clark & Standfield, and under the supervision of Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews (the Engineers to the Colonial Office), who also acted as Consulting Engineers for the acquisition of the Company's workshops and other property now owned by the Company in the Colony of Trinidad. These workshops contain all machinery necessary for effecting repairs to ocean-going steamers, and there is a complete foundry where castings in iron as well as in other metals can be expeditiously carried out. The Company enjoys a guarantee from the Colonial Government of three per cent. on its shares and debentures. Hitherto, the only dock in British waters in the West Indies has been Sproston's Graving Dock, Demerara, which is built of granite, with iron gates, and is 230 ft. long, 35 ft. broad, and admits vessels with a draught of 10.6 to 11 ft. The Danish island of St. Thomas has had a floating dock since 1875, owned by an English company—the Floating Dock Company of St. Thomas, Ltd.—which is capable of raising vessels of 3,000 tons gross weight and 300 ft. keel.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive held on November 21st, Mr. S. H. Curtis presiding, the following candidates were elected to Membership of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
NORTHSIDE SUGAR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION (Jamaica) ...	Sir N. Lubbock, G.C.M.G.	Wm. Gillespie.
SYDNEY HARVEY.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Lawes Chemical Manure Co.



TRINIDAD'S NEW FLOATING DOCK.

The minimum subscription from members to the West India Committee is one guinea per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The subscriptions of candidates elected during the remaining weeks of this year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1909. Candidates' application forms and further particulars regarding membership can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The West India Committee Rooms are situated opposite Mark Lane Station on the Metropolitan Railway.

SHADE FOR CACAO.

A summary of Mr. O. W. Barrett's preliminary report to the Agricultural Society of Trinidad on the more dangerous pests affecting cacao cultivation was given in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of October 1st (No. 235). He has since presented a report on Shade for Cacao Trees, in the course of which he said that ever since he had seen the yield of coffee doubled by removing the shade he had believed that shade *per se* for cacao was wrong. He would not, however, advise planters to cut all the immortelles. Cut out dying ones, and thin out gradually where judgment told them the cacao was not getting enough light to make a healthy growth. But until they had effective wind-belts around and through their cacao, and until they had the cover crop—the live mulch—matter well under control, they should not make a bad matter worse by exposing the tender young cacao branches to the whipping and drying action of the winds, nor let their roots be broken and baked by the cracking and drying of the soil during the dry season. Out of scores of leguminous trees which are probably better than either the Bocare (*Erythrina velutina*) or the Anauco (*E. umbrosa*) as shade for young cacao, the Trinidad planter employs one which demands high wages but which refuses to work during the worst of the dry season when most required; of course, evaporation from its leaves is stopped then, but that means that the evaporation from the cacao leaves and from the soil is very dangerously increased. He knew there were beautiful theories about the watery roots of the immortelle yielding up their sap to the thirsty cacao roots during a drought. So, too, are there time-honoured and interesting but piteously unfounded beliefs regarding the influence of the moon upon the so-called "rise of sap," the weight of seeds in a heap of cacao pods, and even the appetites of animals.

His advice, then, to the cacao planter who wished to give his trees a square deal in the shade line was: Shade the ground around the young tree from the very first with some nodule-bearing leguminous cover crop such as the native carpet-like beggar weeds (*Meibomia* spp.) and some erect herbaceous species like the cow-pea, or black-eye pea (*Vigna catjang*) or the wild indigo (*Indigofera anil*) flanked by a wind-fence of pigeon peas, of *Gliricidia maculata*, or of some shrubby rapid-growing legume. Bananas and sugar-cane had some good points. Protect the plantation from winds by planting permanent lines of trees—rubber, if they were preferred—along the boundaries, upon every high ridge and hill, and through the grove at right angles to the prevailing wind every few hundred feet. In level situations the wind-break trees should form a network, *i.e.*, lines running at right angles every 200 to 400 feet; each line should be composed of two to four rows of trees planted as closely as possible. Side branches and tops of these wind-belt trees might be removed from time to time and used as green manure for the cacao. No very definite rules could be laid down for the planting out, pruning, and "thinning out" of these wind-belts; each planter had herein a good opportunity to display his good judgment, and to furnish his over-conservative neighbours food for interminable argumentation.

As a wind-belt tree, he believed they would find few better than the Pois doux (*Inga laurina*), which formed a close head of short branches closely covered with dark green leaves. A sister species, the wild Pois doux (*I. vera*), was, unfortunately, and he believed quite unjustly, regarded with disfavour locally. Still another, the Iniquil (*I. iniquil*) of Mexico had very few faults. Whatever they used should be evergreen. Along highways might be planted hedges of Bauhinia, or of "wild coffee" (*Aralia guilfoylei*), and allowed to grow as tall and dense as possible. He believed in rubber for cacao plantations. If they could only find a leguminous rubber they might try it for shade. Along boundaries and roads, on ridges, or in lines forming hollow squares, plant rubber—either Castilloa or Hevea, but they must not expect to get absolute protection from wind in the dry season—when they needed it most—because of their bad habit of stripping themselves for a few days when their custom demanded. While the price of rubber remained so high they could well afford to sacrifice a few rows of cacao in order to get a thick rubber band stretched around the plantation. They should not forget that while the immortelle or any other legume was putting nitrogen into the soil it was taking out potash and phosphoric acid, and they were allowing, more or less carelessly, these latter valuable elements to wash off from the soil surface which was usually kept so smooth and hard and bare. To sum up, he would advise them to keep their shade until they covered their soil and protected their cacao from wind; then there would be something for the blood-thirsty cutlass to do besides pollarding weeds and grass and killing by inches one of the best economic plants Nature had ever bestowed upon them.

THE PROTECTION TO HOME DISTILLERS.

When the Committee appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce and the Society of Chemical Industry was sitting with a view to urging the Government to introduce legislation to permit alcohol to be used for manufacturing purposes duty free, the representatives of the West India Committee who were permitted to serve on that committee made the strongest possible representations that Colonial spirits should be admitted on the same terms as British. They pointed out that at the present time methylated spirit from our Colonies is practically excluded from British markets by the fact that it is charged not only with the surtax but also the whole spirit duty, and they took the opportunity of urging the injustice of the surtax. It has all along been urged in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR that the treatment accorded to our spirit-producing Colonies results practically in the protection of the distiller in the United Kingdom. That protection is now beginning to bear fruit, as will be seen from the following letter from a correspondent, which appeared in the *Times* of November 14th: "The announcement that an agreement has been made by which the entire output of the makers of methylated spirit will in future be sold through one agency at prices previously agreed upon does not come as a surprise. It will be remembered that it was stated in the *Times* of October 6th last year that 'the first result of the Revenue Act, 1906 . . . has been the formation of a convention among makers of methylated spirit.' The Revenue Act, 1906, provided for the use of manufacturers a special methylated spirit on which the Board of Inland Revenue grants a rebate of 5d. per gallon, and the object of this concession was to encourage chemical manufacturers and those industries in which the use of alcohol is necessary. It was also the intention of the Government to enable British manufacturers to compete with their rivals in those countries who were at that time using alcohol free of duty. Manufacturers naturally expected to benefit to buy their alcohol at 5d. per gallon less than the price which they had been paying prior to the new regulations, but the makers of industrial spirit only deducted 4d. from the former price. A few weeks ago the makers of methylated spirit advanced their prices 3d. per gallon, so that at the present time manufacturers, on whose behalf the concession was made by the Inland Revenue, are paying for their spirit only 1d. per gallon less than they paid before the rebate of 5d. per gallon was allowed. One can only expect that, as a result of this closer combination of spirit producers, the price of industrial spirit may soon be higher than it was before the Government interposed on behalf of the manufacturers. While the price of spirit for industrial purposes is advancing in this country, the price in America is decreasing, and in all probability will continue to decrease, and as a result we may expect to see a large increase in the imports from the United States of those chemicals and other goods in the manufacture of which alcohol is essential. The 'free alcohol law' came into force in America three months after the Revenue Act, 1906, came into force in this country. The effect of the law in America has been to stimulate competition and to increase the production of spirit; the effect of the law in this country has been to check competition and raise the price of spirit. It should be stated, however, that the American law permits of the use of industrial spirit for light, heat, and motive power, and that in America producers of the spirit have been relieved of some of the restrictions which apply in this country; but the fact remains that America in the future, as a result of the new alcohol law, will be a very serious rival to British chemical manufacturers. The combination of spirit makers will also be watched with interest by those engaged in the motor industry. Although the Revenue Act, 1906, did not permit of the use of industrial spirit for motive purposes, the hope was entertained that such an impetus would be given to the spirit industry that in course of time the production in this country would be enormously increased, and that ultimately the cost of production would be below the selling price of petrol. When such a time arrived there is every probability that the Inland Revenue would have allowed the same concessions in respect of spirit used for motive power as for spirit used for manufacturing purposes."

It has since transpired that the combination referred to is entitled the Industrial Spirit Supply Company, Ltd., and it is alleged that one firm alone among those manufacturing spirit for industrial purposes remain outside the company as shareholders. Even their output will, however, pass through the hands of the distributing Association.

CANADA'S PURCHASING POWERS.

Mr. Eyre Hutson, in the course of an article on Canada's purchasing powers in relation to the West Indies, which appeared in the October number of the *Colonial Office Journal*, remarks that there is a good deal of misapprehension as to the quantities and value of southern or tropical products imported into Canada annually and at the present date, and he gives a table prepared from the Board of Trade's statistical abstract for the year 1905, showing the value of imports into Canada of products that can be grown or manufactured in the British West Indies, for the years 1898 and 1905. The results show an increase in seven years of £2,513,154. The actual value of the imports into

Canada from the British West Indies for the same years being £148,823 and £1,545,367 respectively. This shows an increase in seven years of £1,396,544. The value of imports into Canada from the West Indies, other than British, was £84,174 in 1898 against £137,291 in 1905.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION AND THE EMPIRE.

The representations received from every part of the Empire regarding the Sugar Convention form a striking array of public opinion which no Government could dare to ignore. Public and private bodies in the following widely different parts of the Empire have now expressed themselves in no obscure terms in favour of the continuance of the Convention :—

Bengal.	Cairns.	Hamilton.	Mauritius.	British Guiana.
Cawnpore.	Charters Towers.	Regina.	—	Jamaica.
Karachi.	Invercargill.	Victoria.	Sierra Leone.	Trinidad.
Madras.	Maryborough.	—	—	Antigua.
—	Newcastle.	Durban.	Halifax.	St. Kitts-Nevis.
Ceylon.	Townsville.	Inanda.	Montreal.	St. Lucia.
—	—	Natal.	Toronto.	—
Hong Kong.	Auckland.	Orange River.	Vancouver.	Bristol.
Penang.	Canterbury.	Pietermaritzburg.	—	Greenock.
Singapore.	Nelson.	—	Barbados.	Liverpool.

The return of the petitions and representations made by public bodies and private associations in India upon the Sugar Convention, furnished recently at the instance of Sir Gilbert Parker, indicates that the feeling in India is strongly in favour of the continuance of the Convention. The representations made by the Bengal and Madras Chambers of Commerce have already appeared in our columns, and to these may be added the following :

Cawnpore.—Mr. A. Shakespear, Secretary of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, wrote to the Government of India on June 4th, 1907 :

" My Committee view with grave concern the possibility of England's withdrawal from the Convention, and the consequences which might be anticipated to follow such a step, viz., the defection of the other contracting parties and the revival of the sugar bounties. There are indications that the Indian sugar industry is at last emerging from the depression into which it had fallen prior to the inauguration of the Indian Government's policy towards the bounty system, and it is of capital importance that everything possible should be done to prevent a relapse. For this country to be again exposed to imports of bounty-aided sugars selling at prices below the cost of production would, my Committee feel convinced, result in a general set back alike in cultivation and manufacture, which could not be contemplated without serious misgivings.

" My Committee regard the Brussels Convention as a powerful instrument for the maintenance of fair trade in sugar, and although the imposition of the countervailing duties probably went further in restoring equality of conditions between the imported bounty-aid article and the Indian product; they desire to be associated with the opinions expressed by the Chambers of Commerce of Bengal, Madras, and Karachi as to the need for England's adherence to this treaty.

" At the same time I am to express the hope that in representing to His Majesty's Ministers in England the strong claims of India in conjunction with the British sugar-producing colonies to the fullest consideration in regard to this vitally important question His Excellency the Governor-General will take the opportunity of declaring the Government of India's intention in the event of a revival of the sugar bounties to re-impose the countervailing duties."

Punjab.—Mr. James Prentice, C.A., Secretary of the Punjab Chamber of Commerce, Delhi, wrote to the Government of India on May 16th, 1907 :—

" With reference to the letter addressed to you by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce on the 24th ult. on the above subject, I am directed to say that my Committee heartily agree with the opinion stated therein that the continuance of the Convention would be in the interests of the sugar trade in general and of the cultivation of sugar in India in particular."

Karachi.—Mr. A. Thole, Vice-Chairman of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, wrote to the Government of India on April 24th, 1907 :

" My Committee desire me to state that in their opinion the continuance of the Convention would be in the interest of the sugar trade in general, and the sugar trade with India in particular, as the Indian countervailing duties necessitated by the European bounties, were a distinct disadvantage to free working on this side."

The Bombay Chamber was the only dissident from the views of the Karachi Chamber.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN ST. LUCIA.

Both in British Honduras and in St. Lucia there is trouble over the question of land and property taxes. In the former colony the People's Committee are loudly protesting against an ordinance providing for the increase of these taxes. In St. Lucia a political crisis has arisen through the

high-handed action of the Acting-Administrator in endeavouring to force through the Legislature, with the aid of the Official majority, a Property Tax Bill which is distasteful to the majority of the inhabitants. On November 4th the West India Committee informed Lord Elgin that they had received a cabled message to the effect that the unofficial members of the Council had resigned bodily, the Acting-Administrator having refused to appoint a Committee to discuss the Bill. Lord Elgin replied on the 11th that he had not yet received a copy of the Bill as actually introduced, and having received no official intimation of the resignation of the unofficials he must await the Governor's report. Further light is thrown on the subject by a letter which has been received from Mr. Sydney D. Melville, who wrote to the West India Committee on November 5th, as follows:—

The history of the matter there had been as follows: Some time back when the projected Property Tax Bill was first drafted by the Government, the Acting-Administrator, Mr. Laborde, invited the unofficial members of the Council to meet him at a private interview; he then informed them that it was the intention of the Government to introduce some alterations and amendments to the bill which had lately been published to impose a tax on property. The Attorney-General then explained the alterations which it was proposed to make in the measure, and pointed out where and how its present shape differed from the published draft. The unofficial members listened to these explanations, and thereupon informed the Acting-Administrator that without committing themselves one way or the other as to the merits or demerits of the proposed bill, in their opinion before introducing a measure revolutionizing the whole system and incidence of taxation in the colony, it was very advisable that a committee, composed of members from both sections of the Council with power, if necessary, to add to their number, should be formed for the purpose of examining into the whole financial situation of the colony, and to consider whether a tax on property was a necessity or if the funds required could not be raised by other methods, less calculated than was the Bill in question, to disturb the existing state of affairs. In reply to this, Mr. Laborde noted that the members expressed no opinion on the proposed measure, and undertook to transmit their request for a Committee to the Governor-in-Chief. Time went by and nothing more was heard of the matter. Governor Williams came to the island and remained there some weeks, he met the Legislative Council on other business, but during the whole of his stay, nothing transpired in any shape or form connected with the proposed Property Tax. Be it noted, that though so important a measure was pending—the bill had been published—the Governor did not appear concerned to learn the opinions or views of the unofficial section of the Council, though he was fully informed of their desire for a Committee, he maintained absolute silence on the subject, and certainly took no steps to meet, in any degree, the wishes expressed by them. Very soon, however, after the departure of the Governor from the Island, a meeting of the Legislative Council was convened by the Acting-Administrator, and on the agenda of business the first reading of the Property Tax Bill was set down: this was the only response, if response it can be called, which was vouchsafed to the unofficial members to their request for a Committee. This contemptuous silence on the part of the Government, this deliberate ignoring of the views and wishes of the unofficial section of the Council was indicative of what followed and led up to their resignation. Taxed with the matter, the Acting-Administrator admitted that he had communicated the request for a Committee to the Governor-in-Chief, but that his instructions were, to put it shortly, to go on with the bill; that perhaps a committee on the bill, but on the bill only, might be permitted, but that in the event of it sitting no wider reference could be allowed. Upon this Mr. Peter gave notice of the following motion to be brought forward at the next meeting of the Council. It was not the intention of the unofficial members to put up with their snubbing without some remonstrance, and a formal attempt to achieve what they desired. The motion was in the following terms: (1) That in view of the great changes which the Property Tax Ordinance will bring about as regards the incidence of taxation in this colony, a Committee of this Council, with power to add to their number, be appointed to consider the general question of taxation in the colony. (2) That the second reading of the said Ordinance be not proceeded with until such Committee has reported. Before another meeting of the Council was summoned, the unofficial members, willing to endeavour to meet the Government in some degree, wrote to the Acting-Administrator offering to accept a Committee on the proposed Ordinance, provided it was allowed to sit and report before the second reading was proceeded with, as they considered that "full and special facilities should be given for the adequate and full discussion of a bill of such importance and of such a complicated and controversial nature." To this overture Mr. Laborde replied on October 25th as follows: (extract) "The request that you now make that a Committee be appointed to consider the Bill, can be dealt with at the meeting of Council to take place on the 28th inst., but I may state that in the event of the appointment of such a Committee it will have to be understood that the Committee sit at once in order that there be no further delay in dealing with the measure, and that the functions of the Committee will be entirely limited to the details of the bill." Of course, this reply was not considered satisfactory, a Committee on the details of the Bill would naturally follow the second reading, this was therefore a concession *pour vivre*. The Acting-Administrator must have rated very

low the intelligence and discernment of the unofficial members, if he laboured under the impression that a concession which conceded nothing would be accepted by them, and this attitude on his part has been largely responsible for the issue of events. At the meeting of Council on the 28th, Mr. Peter's motion was brought forward and debated. In speaking against the motion Mr. Laborde said he did not see any advantage in appointing a Committee such as was asked for. The Property Tax Bill had been drafted by Mr. Cork and the Attorney-General at great expenditure of time and care, it had been approved by the Secretary of State, and his instructions were to the effect that he was to pass the measure through the Council, so that whatever conclusions a minority of such a Committee might arrive at—as even on this Committee the Government would necessarily be preponderant—it would not be allowed to effect the intentions of the Government in any way, and after it had made its report matters would stand in exactly the same position as they then were in. He hoped, therefore, that the hon. gentlemen, recognising the futility of such a Committee and that it would only waste time would drop the motion and get on with the second reading of the bill. Rarely, in the annals of Crown Colony Government has such a crude avowal been made of the intention to force a measure through the Council *vi et armis* by the weapon of the casting vote, regardless and irrespective of the views of the unofficial section. Here then was an impossible situation created owing to the lack of judgment and tact on the part of the presiding official. The unofficial members were plainly told that their presence at the Council was useless, their counsel was as nought, and their assistance could very well be dispensed with, but they were invited to remain and solemnly kick against the pricks. As they did not relish this attitude they asked for a short adjournment of the Council to "consider their position." An adjournment until the following morning was agreed to. The unofficial members, after considering the position, sent in their resignations in the following letter addressed to the Acting-Administrator:—

"In view of the fact that the Government have rejected our motion for a Committee to consider the Property Tax Ordinance in all its bearings, especially as regards its effects upon the incidence of taxation generally in this colony, before passing the second reading thereof, we feel that our presence in the Legislative Council can be of no further utility in advancing the public interest, as our recommendations seem to carry no weight with the Government even on such a primary point as securing facilities for the free and ample discussion of this measure. This being so, we have no alternative but to tender our resignation as members of the Legislative Council."

The present position is, that owing to the intervention of the Governor-in-Chief, the unofficial members have agreed to allow matters to stand over until the arrival of Mr. Cork in the colony, he being expected on the 14th inst.

THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

It is hoped that the West Indies will not be altogether unrepresented at the Franco-British Exhibition to be held in London next year. Up to the present, however, the only West Indian colony which has seriously interested itself in the matter is Trinidad. The Permanent Exhibition Committee there has passed a resolution expressing opinion that it is desirable that the colony should participate, but only if it be represented in an adequate and creditable manner, a sentiment which should guide all exhibitors. The Committee estimated that an exhibit worthy of the colony would necessitate an expense of from £1,200 to £1,500, and it now remains to be seen whether the Legislative Council will vote the necessary amount. Meanwhile, the arrangements for the exhibition are proceeding apace. It is understood that the French courts will be large and complete, while Algiers will have a special section. Canada, which always occupies a prominent position at exhibitions and values their utility, will occupy a space of 120,000 sq. ft., and will erect a large pavilion. Australia has taken 60,000 sq. ft., and the exhibits of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia, will also be shown in a large pavilion. Among the other colonies which will be included are New Zealand, Southern Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Fiji, Mauritius and Gambia, while Malta and Cyprus will be represented by a number of private exhibitors. The date of the opening of the exhibition has been fixed for the first week in May, and it will remain open for about six months. The Commissioner informs us that the cost of space to the West Indian colonies would be 2s. 6d. per sq. ft., and the West India Committee will be glad to make the necessary arrangements for any colonies which may decide to take part. The fact that the Olympian games are to be held in the exhibition grounds should ensure a bumper attendance, and it would be a pity if there was no West Indian Court.

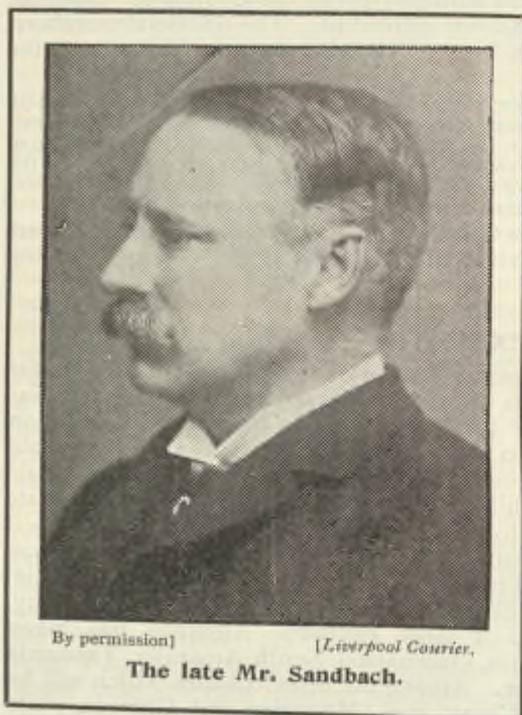
MR. BALFOUR AND TARIFF REFORM.

At the annual conference of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations held at Birmingham on November 14th, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P. was passed unanimously and with enthusiasm:—"That in the opinion of the National Union of Conservative Associations, the first constructive policy of the Conservative and Unionist party should

be the reform of our present fiscal system with the view (1) of broadening the basis of taxation; (2) of safeguarding our great productive industries from unfair competition; (3) of strengthening our position for the purpose of negotiation in foreign markets; and (4) of establishing preferential commercial arrangements with the colonies, and securing for British producers and workmen a further advantage over foreign competitors in the colonial markets." In the course of his speech, Mr. Chaplin read a letter from Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, in which the ex-Premier said that the resolution summarised with perfect accuracy, and much felicity of phrase, a speech which he made to the Council of the National Union on February 15th last. On a resolution of sympathy with Mr. Chamberlain being put to the meeting, the audience rose *en masse*, waved their handkerchiefs and cheered. Later in the day, the Chairman, Sir R. Hermon Hodge, read the following message which he had received from Mr. Chamberlain:—"Please express to the conference my grateful thanks for their kind message. I offer my good wishes for the success of their gathering, which will, I trust, promote the union of the party and the success of the cause to which the party and its leaders are irrevocably pledged."

THE LATE MR. G. R. SANDBACH.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Gilbert Robertson Sandbach, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, which occurred on November 12th.



By permission]

[*Liverpool Courier*.

The late Mr. Sandbach.

Mr. Sandbach, who was in his fifty-ninth year, had been in indifferent health for about two years, but at the end, his death was somewhat unexpected. He and his family had a long connection with the shipping and business life of Liverpool. He was a member of the firm of Sandbach, Tinne, and Co., of Cook Street, owners of a fine fleet of sailing ships engaged in the West Indian trade, a firm which was established in this city about the year 1800 by his grandfather, Mr. Samuel Sandbach, one time Mayor of Liverpool, under the style of Sandbach & Co., as a branch of the firm of McInroy, Parker & Co., of Glasgow, and Mr. Samuel Sandbach was joined in 1813 by Mr. P. F. Tinne, the last Dutch Secretary of Guiana and the grandfather of Mr. J. E. Tinne, when the firm became Sandbach, Tinne & Co.—its present name. Mr. Gilbert R. Sandbach, who was the son of the Rev. Gilbert Sandbach, M.A., of The Woodlands, Aigburth, was educated at Eton and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he distinguished himself both as an athlete and a boating man. His commercial training he received with Messrs. Baring Bros. and Co., Liverpool, on leaving whom, he joined the firm of Sandbach, Parker, & Co., in Demerara, in May, 1873. While in the West Indies, he was part owner of three of the finest estates in Demerara—the Diamond, Wales, and Leonora—and was a member of the Court of Policy during his residence in the colony. Afterwards, in December 1875, he became a partner in the Liverpool house of Sandbach, Tinne & Co., a connection actively maintained up to his death. The late respected gentleman, though a strong Conservative in politics, had no desire for a public career, though opportunities were offered to him in municipal life, but his interests in city affairs were many. He was a director of the North and South Wales Bank, a trustee of the Liverpool Sailors' Home, trustee of the Bluecoat Hospital, and deputy chairman of the West India Association of Liverpool. His connection with the Liverpool Exchange Company began many years ago, and he had been a director since 1884, succeeding Mr. George Holt as chairman in 1892. He was formerly on the council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. Personally, he was more than respected by all who knew him, his genial and straightforward character, as well as his business capacity winning him the confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances in private life as in commercial affairs. Mr. Sandbach leaves a widow and family of five to mourn his loss. Mrs. Sandbach was the elder daughter of the Hon. Everard Rushworth, C.M.G., formerly a Government Secretary of Jamaica, who administered the government of British Guiana with conspicuous ability in 1873-4.

DINNER TO SIR CHARLES LUCAS.

Sir Charles Prestwood Lucas was entertained at a banquet at the Grand Hotel on Wednesday, November 20th, by the West Indian Club, on the occasion of his appointment to the Dominions Department of the Colonial Office, and as a token of appreciation of his many services to the West Indies. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and there was a large attendance, which included most of the representatives of the self-governing colonies. Sir Robert Bond, Prime Minister of Newfoundland, in cabling his regrets at being unable to be present, said:—

"Kindly extend to Sir Charles Lucas expression of my warm congratulations upon his new appointment, which marks first step towards establishment of closer relations between self-governing colonies and mother country. Could have wished it had been possible to join with your club in its tribute of respect and honour to-morrow night."

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, read letters of regret at their inability to be present from Lord Stamford, Sir Alfred Jones, Sir Henry Davson, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, and many members of the club, and he read also the following characteristic letter from Mr. Chamberlain, which was received with cheers:—

Highbury, Moor Green, Birmingham.

"DEAR MR. GOODE,—I am very glad to find from your letter of November 5th, that Sir Charles Prestwood Lucas is about to receive the hospitable welcome of the West Indian Club, and that his long service in the Colonial Office is to be recognised by you. No public servant deserves this appreciation more thoroughly than does Sir Charles Lucas, and my experience enables me with some confidence to join in your welcome and to confirm the estimate you have formed of the value of his services. In fact, I think that the public has hardly yet appreciated what it owes to the splendid permanent Civil Service which in every Department of the State secures for it the position which it has attained in all quarters.

Those who like myself have served only in a political capacity know how much they owe to those who quietly and unostentatiously give their life's best labour to the public service and often deserve the credit which is assumed by their temporary chiefs.

Sir Charles Lucas is the best type of these men, and in gratitude for the help and co-operation which I have received from him, as for the aid he has given to others, I rejoice that you should think well at this time to recognise his unselfish labour.

I hope that I may have other opportunities of recognising his service, and nothing but the state of my health would prevent me from asking to make one of those who have decided to recognise it upon the present occasion.

I am, yours faithfully,

J. CHAMBERLAIN."

November 9th, 1907.

The health of the King having been honoured in the usual manner, the Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, in proposing the health of the guest of the evening, congratulated him upon the well-deserved honour which the King had recently bestowed upon him, namely, his appointment to be a Knight of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He, Sir Nevile, cordially welcomed him as a fellow Knight, and was proud to think that his name would be closely associated with his, Sir Nevile's, own amongst the "L's" in the list of that distinguished Order. He had first met Mr. Lucas, as he then was, in connection with the Emigration Information Committee of the Colonial Office. That committee had done a great deal of very good work, Mr. Lucas acting as its chairman. His, Sir Nevile's, own share in the work of the committee had been but small, for during the five years he served on it there was only one intending emigrant who wished to hear about the West Indies. (Laughter.) He could say, however, that all who served on the committee were much impressed with the very earnest and painstaking manner in which Sir Charles had carried on the work. (Cheers.) That work had been by no means one of supererogation. It had been really hard and most important work, though it had not especially affected the West Indies. When Sir Charles was removed to the West Indian Department he went to even more important duties. Naturally, as Chairman of the West India Committee it had become his, Sir Nevile Lubbock's, duty to be constantly in touch with Sir Charles, and he had found on his part great sympathy with the West Indies. (Cheers.) These colonies had been passing through a great crisis during the past seven or eight years, and Sir Charles had shown such sympathy with them that it had been a pleasure to discuss matters with him. There were many occasions on which he had not agreed with Sir Charles' view, which he might assume was the view of the Colonial Office, but he could say with truth that it was more pleasant to disagree with Sir Charles than to agree with him—(laughter)—for, naturally, when they disagreed the discussions were more prolonged. He did not think he could say much more in praise of Sir Charles than they had heard in Mr. Chamberlain's letter. He was sorry that Sir Charles was leaving his West Indian work. Sir Charles had been placed at the head of the Dominions Department, and he ventured to think that before many years were out that department would become one of enormous importance—in fact, quite the most important department of the State. (Cheers.) He congratulated the self-governing colonies on having obtained Sir Charles' services. (Cheers.) Much would depend on the attitude of the Mother-Country to the self-governing colonies, but he believed that the painter would never be cut, and that all would pull together.

Sir Charles Lucas, who was greeted with loud applause on rising, said he had accepted the invitation for that evening for two reasons. The first was, of course, a personal one. The British

public did not lavish so many marks of affection on gentlemen in public offices that they could afford to refuse a compliment when it came their way. The West Indies, in dispensing with his services, had given him a character—(Laughter)—and he, in dissolving the partnership, entirely declined to part with the goodwill. (Laughter.) His second reason was that he wished to take the opportunity of speaking of the great services rendered by Sir Nevile Lubbock to the West Indies. It was a great advantage to those colonies in the troublous times through which they had passed to have as their spokesman in this country a man whose character was as high as his courage, and who had been always above and beyond the slightest suspicion of self-seeking. (Cheers.) He eulogised also the services of Sir Henry Davson, whose absence through ill-health he regretted; and he paid a graceful compliment to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR in terms which brought blushes to the cheek of the Editor. Since 1897 he, Sir Charles, had been working on the lines of the Royal Commission, and he would add a modest tribute to the Department of Agriculture and its able head, Sir Daniel Morris. He, Sir Charles, had served under three Secretaries of State, one of whom was Mr. Chamberlain. (Cheers.) David Wells, the great American economist, had written that wherever England had gone, two blades of grass grew where one had grown before, and whenever he thought of those words he thought also of Mr. Chamberlain. (Cheers.) Whatever Mr. Chamberlain touched he made it live and grow. (Cheers.) When he lost Mr. Chamberlain, he was delighted to find that his new master was his old friend, whom to know was to love, Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, and after him, he again fell into the hands of another old friend, the present Secretary of State, to whom he owed so much. The past few years had been years of incidents and of accidents for the West Indies. They had had three bad hurricanes, a volcanic eruption in St. Vincent, an earthquake in Jamaica, and three bad riots at least, a sugar crisis, and a sugar grant. He would only trouble them with two of the many impressions which these years had left on him. The first was this: During the years he was connected with the West Indies he was brought face to face with men who were fighting a life-and-death battle against adverse conditions, and it went into his soul how easy it was for a man sitting in an office and drawing a fixed salary to write well-turned homilies to men whose livelihood and fortunes were at stake; and he learnt then that the more humane a Government office was the more it would win and keep the confidence of those outside. (Cheers.) Another impression he gained was how much the West Indies had lost by not being one. We were always being taught by people who thought they knew better than others what were the causes which lost us the United States. As he read history, those causes were largely twofold. The first was that there were no steamers or telegraphs. Edmund Burke had laughed down the idea of an Imperial Parliament, but if he had been living now he would have revised what he then said. (Hear, hear.) The relations then between the colonies and the Mother country were dependent on the wind and tide. But we had lost them, too, he thought, because we had been dealing with thirteen colonies instead of one. If they dealt with a large community it was apt to breed larger men with wider views. They all wished the West Indies were one, but they all knew how great were the difficulties. In the absence of that, value must be attached to the agencies which held them together, such as the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the West India Committee, and the West Indian Club, which extended a hospitable welcome to all. The 19th century had been a time of distress. The 20th century, he firmly believed, would be a time of West Indian regeneration. There were many signs which made them hopeful. Whatever might be the outcome of the sugar negotiations, he would never believe that a system radically vicious and hopelessly wrong, when once it had been rudely shaken, would ever recover its former strength. Looking back on the past and looking forward to the future, he would be a fool who would attempt to set limits to the productiveness of Nature and the ingenuity of man. Who could doubt, for instance, that when the Panama Canal was completed it would bring added wealth and importance to the West Indies? Whatever the future might have in store, good fortune was the due of the West Indies; indeed, it was long overdue. (Cheers.)

Mr. Owen Philipps proposed "The Self-Governing Colonies," coupling with the toast the names of Lord Strathcona, Mr. Pember Reeves, Capt. Collins and Sir Richard Solomon. Lord Strathcona responded. He said that a change had come over the affairs of the colonies quite recently. Parts of the Empire were considered of much greater importance now than they were only a short time ago. He could not believe but that the change would bring the Mother country and the dominions beyond the seas into closer communion than in the past, and would add greatly to the strength and importance of the race. (Cheers.) It was always a good thing to come into contact with men, because you got to know them much better than you would ever do by simply hearing about them. When the different colonial governments came on equal terms together and each could express its own wants and wishes, and give an occasional reminder to the Home Government, and be told now and then that it might do a little more or a little less in such and such a direction, it could not but be good for the Home Government and for the colonies. The self-governing colonies were imperialistic to the backbone. They were truly imperial, and while imperial they could not be otherwise than loyal in the best sense of the word

to the King and the Mother country. (Cheers.) They must think, aye, and speak also imperially if they were to continue on the lines of having one flag, one fleet, and one monarch. There could be no halting with regard to this, and it was to be hoped that the new department which had been formed would be of the greatest benefit in this respect. They were all glad to know that Sir Charles Lucas was connected with the new department. "It is a department of the Colonial Office," he continued, "but I am disposed to believe that it will become at some time, and that before long, as important as is the whole of the Colonial Office at this moment." (Cheers.) In the course of half a century, or even less, he imagined that the population of the colonies would exceed the 40 millions of the United Kingdom. They must all give their best thoughts to these matters. They could not stand still—they must either go forward or backward.

Mr. Pember Reeves, the Commissioner for New Zealand also replied, declaring that if the Colonial Office in the past had made mistakes it had been due rather to want of knowledge than want of will, and the establishment of this new department had rendered these mistakes less likely to occur in the future than they had been in the past. The good-will survived and the want of knowledge was being rapidly mended.

Captain R. Muirhead Collins, who also responded, said that the problem now was how to adjust real economy with imperial unity. Whilst each part of the Empire was intent on its own development and well-being, there was another and greater well-being to bear in mind—that of the Empire. They must all recognise that there is a wider citizenship than that in which they dwelt.

Sir Richard Solomon likewise responded. As an instance of the ignorance regarding our colonies he mentioned a conversation which he overheard between his bedmaker and a friend on his staircase when he first went up to Cambridge—"Any new men on your staircase?" said the friend, "yes, one," replied the bedmaker, "an Australian from Africa" "Oh!" said the friend, "I never could have any truck with foreigners." (Laughter.) He, Sir Richard, hoped that their official connection with Sir Charles Lucas in the future would lead to pleasant results and be profitable to the colonies they represented. On an occasion like this they could not help remembering how the ideas and the people of England had expanded with regard to the self-governing colonies of late. (Hear, hear.) They were all partners in the great firm of "John Bull & Co.," and co-workers in all that made for the greatness of the Empire. He referred to the period of depression through which South African colonies were passing, but it was gratifying to learn from cabled messages that there was a rift in the clouds and that if all the people had worked together, there would have been better times for all. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Robert Llewelyn proposed the health of the chairman, which was duly acknowledged, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

Among those present were: Hon. Sir Richard Solomon, K.C.B., Lord Strathcona, G.C.M.G., Capt. R. Muirhead Collins, C.M.G., Sir William Arbuckle, Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Mr. R. L. Antrobus, Mr. T. C. MacNaghten, Mr. G. Martineau, C.B., Mr. H. W. Just, C.B., C.M.G., Mr. A. E. Collins, Mr. J. W. M. Jarrett, Hon. E. J. Cameron, C.M.G., Sir Hubert Jerningham, K.C.M.G., Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. H. J. Read, C.M.G., Admiral Stewart, Colonel F. C. Trollope, Mr. Walsh Wrightson, C.M.G., Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. B. Baumberg, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. J. F. Braham, Mr. David Bryson, Mr. James Clarke, Mr. J. Cragg, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. J. de Cordova, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Robert Donald, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. W. Scott Evans, Mr. J. Freeland Foote, Mr. R. L. Forbes, Mr. R. H. Goffe, Mr. R. Parkinson Goffe, Mr. C. A. Hampton, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. A. T. Hirsch, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. J. Huett, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. Noel S. Johnson, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. Edward Manson, Mr. H. Martin, Mr. J. Z. Mayhew, Mr. A. E. Messet, Mr. C. S. Parker, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. Thomas Platt, Mr. J. Price, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. Thomas L. Scott, Mr. F. Shelford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. S. Shorter, Mr. H. K. F. Smith, Mr. P. Somerville, Mr. Wm. Cameron Somerville, Mr. R. S. Sullivan, Mr. C. H. Wilkinson, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. Edward Weber, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

It is announced that Parliament will be opened on January 29th.

The Reorganization of the Colonial Office.

This subject is dealt with in a Parliamentary paper (Cd. 3,795) issued on November 14th. The general lines on which the re-distribution of the work of the office has been planned have already been outlined in the CIRCULAR. In a dispatch to the self-governing colonies Lord Elgin now points out that the Office will in future be divided into three branches or departments, one dealing with the self-governing Colonies, a second dealing with the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, and a third—the General Department. The first of these will be known as the Dominions Department, the term being used to

differentiate the status of the self-governing provinces of the Empire from that of the Crown Colonies. All the business of every kind connected with the self-governing communities will be included in its scope, though certain matters of general routine must necessarily be shared with the General Department; and the staff of the Dominions Department will, with the exception mentioned above, be in no way concerned with the Crown Colonies. All questions of emigration will be referred to this Department, and it will keep in close touch with the Commercial Intelligence Committee of the Board of Trade. The Secretariat of the Imperial Conference will be linked to this department without being entirely merged in it. The second department of the Colonial Office, which will be styled the Colonial or Crown Colonies Department, will deal with all the administrative and political work of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates which forms a great and growing charge; and the third, or General Department, will be also the Legal Department, and, in addition to the general routine business of the office, which is now transacted by it, and to all personal questions arising in the Crown Colonies, will deal with various matters common to all the Crown Colonies—such as currency, banking, postal and telegraph matters, education, medical and sanitary questions, pensions, patronage, and so forth. In connection more especially with this Department, four standing committees will be established, viz., a Patronage and Promotions Committee, a Railway and Financial Committee, a Concessions Committee, and a Pensions Committee. The permanent staff of the Colonial Office includes at the head of the office the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and four Assistant Under-Secretaries. The Permanent Under-Secretary of State will remain as now the permanent head of the whole office and the principal adviser of the Secretary of State. The four Assistant Under-Secretaries will be allotted as follows: Mr. Antrobus will take control of the Crown Colonies Department with its very heavy and important work. Mr. Cox will have control of the General Department; he will, as a rule, preside over the Standing Committees; and, as Legal Adviser, his services will, as now, be utilised in connection with all the departments. The Dominions Department will be under the control of the Senior Assistant Under-Secretary, Mr. (now Sir Charles) Lucas, and with him will be associated Mr. Just, the junior Assistant Under-Secretary, whom Lord Elgin has nominated to be Permanent Secretary to the Imperial Conference. Sir Charles Lucas's long experience of Colonial administration in this office is supplemented by special knowledge of emigration questions; and he will bring to bear upon his new duties a long and careful study of colonial history.

NATURE NOTES.

NOVEMBER.—This is also a fine Month for planting Canes, therefore plant all you possibly can. Plant Potatoes and all sorts of Pease; move your Pens for the ensuing Year and with all Diligence prepare this last Dung which will require but little Time to lie before it is used; this Dung should be made of rotten Trash, Stable Litter and finest Mould, as that Dung cannot have an equal Time to remain as the former Dung had, which was made in the dry Season.—*Treatise on Husbandry or Planting, By William Belgrave, a regular bred, and long experienc'd Planter, of the Island of Barbados, 1755.*

JOKOTTO, says the *Clarion* of British Honduras, is a word of African origin, which is given to a large growing variety of spinach which abounds in newly cleared lands which have been overrun by fire. At the end of each leaf—they are generally from 10 to 15 inches in length, and from 4 to 9 inches broad—is a small yellow thorn which is removed before cooking. A half hour's smart boiling suffices to make the leaves and stalks tender. The water is then drained off, the herb is chopped up finely, and you season according to taste. Anthony Trollope, after eating it in Jamaica, declared it to be the prince among herbs. It is extremely easy of digestion and is both alterative and laxative. It abounds in British Honduras. The ripe berries of the plant yield a rich purple juice which the chemist could probably turn to valuable uses.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Barbados benefits from the Sugar Convention.

The Hon. S. W. Knaggs, in his Report for 1906-7, is once more able to show a substantial increase in the Treasury balance, which rose from £17,954 to £18,688, thus increasing the Treasury balance on March 31st, 1907, to £36,644. For the purposes of comparison we have drawn up the following table, showing the revenue and expenditure and the imports and exports of the colony for the past six years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
1901-2 ...	£179,973	£175,350	£1,021,679	£950,175
1902-3 ...	161,585	194,346	872,679	592,464
1903-4 ...	180,831	176,309	821,618	552,891
1904-5 ...	185,056	178,797	1,069,312	860,982
1905-6 ...	192,291	180,932	1,042,562	935,844
1906-7 ...	204,704	186,016	1,192,328	629,319

The revenue exceeded the estimate by £20,603, and was larger by £12,413 than that of 1905-6, the principal increase being Customs, £9,096. The public debt of the colony on March 31st, 1907, was £409,100, but as a set off against this there were sinking fund accumulations to the amount of £60,010 and an unexpended balance of £23,928 out of the loan of £375,000 which was effected in 1895 for the waterworks. If these are taken into account the public debt will stand at £325,162. The imports show an increase over those of 1905 of £149,766, mainly due to large importations of cotton, linen, silk, and woollen goods, manures, coal, staves, and lumber.

As an evidence of the greater stability of the sugar industry, due probably to the combined influence of the Brussels Convention and the operation of the local Plantations in Aid Acts, the following table, showing the value of the machinery imported during the last five years to be used in the manufacture of sugar or rum, may have some interest:—

Year.	From United Kingdom.			From United States.			From other places.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1902	4,766	1	10	16	10	...	78	1	8	4,845	0	4
1903	3,189	1	7	98	9	4	647	11	6	3,935	2	5
1904	7,760	3	4	182	16	0	450	15	11	8,393	15	3
1905	5,813	14	9	342	1	7	920	2	11	7,075	19	3
1906	12,580	1	4	31	9	7	1,522	19	3	14,134	10	2

The staple products of the island for 1906 were estimated at £592,123, of which sugar accounts for £576,039, cotton £26,006, and rum £78. The entire cotton crop was shipped to the United Kingdom. The cultivation of this product continues to make satisfactory progress; the quantity, 488,473 lbs., shows an increase of 144,241 lbs. over that of 1905. The value of the minor products was £37,196, a decrease of £13,629 on 1905. The entire reduction is due to smaller exportations of locally-made biscuits and of bananas, the latter trade having been practically killed by the want of proper means of transportation. The value of the transit trade showed a satisfactory increase of £64,632, having grown from £239,015 in 1905 to £303,647 in 1906. The sugar crop for the year 1906 was 55,879 hogsheads of muscovado, 1,984 hogsheads of vacuum-pan crystals, and 61,398 puncheons of molasses, of the total value of £566,039. This is more than the previous year by 10,766 hogsheads of sugar and 22,019 puncheons of molasses. Although the crop was more than the previous year, owing to the lower price at which it sold, the value was £62,658 less. The progress of the cotton industry has now become firmly established. In 1906 it was estimated that 5,000 acres were under this crop, and it is estimated that about 1,600 bales containing 800,000 lbs. of lint will be exported therefrom, which at the average price of 2s. per lb. is £80,000. Although, owing to the unfavourable weather conditions during the last season, the cotton crop has been short, the prices obtained were so good that the planters have still, in most instances, realised a profit, consequently it is not likely that the area planted this season will be less than the last.

CONSULAR REPORT.

China's declining sugar trade.

The sugar industry of Southern China is being rapidly killed by the cheaper Japanese product, which is imported raw, but more especially after refinement at the Hong-Kong factories and in Japan. The export of brown sugar fell from 562,194 cwts. in 1905 to 197,506 cwts. in 1906 and was 65.78 per cent. under the average export of the previous five years, while white sugar dropped from 55,476 to 8,373 cwts. There was a slight drop in sugar candy and an advance in cane sugar, but the whole export can hardly be called an export in the true sense of the word, for most of it is sent to Hong-Kong for re-entry into China.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

In connection with the reported sickness at Barbados, it may be mentioned that when the mails left in the first week of November the health of British Guiana and the islands was good. Weather conditions had improved, and the outlook generally was more promising than for some time past. The R.M.S.P. *La Plata*, which left Barbados on Tuesday, November 5th at 6 p.m., reached Southampton at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 17th, and the R.M.S. *Port Kingston* from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, November 20th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua—A chance for inventors.

The cotton crop looked fairly well on the whole, when the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on November 4th, but the insect pests were terrible in places, demanding eternal vigilance and unceasing applications of Paris green. The invention of some machine which would rapidly dust the fields without requiring large gangs of people would be a great blessing. The weather had been hot with

occasional showers, and canes generally looked promising.—Sir Daniel Morris addressed the Agricultural Society on November 1st on the subject of his recent visit to the Canadian exhibition. From his remarks there seemed no doubt of the desire of Canada for closer commercial relations with the West Indies, a desire they, on their part, heartily reciprocated. No doubt the imports from Canada would gradually increase with the increased knowledge by Canada of their special requirements, and Sir Daniel had done much to assist Canadians with the best advice as to acquiring this knowledge.

Barbados—A send-off to Mr. Knaggs.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne writing on November 3rd, said that October had been, on the whole, a favourable month and productive of more rain than any previous one during the year. The first half was all that could be desired, but there was a cessation of showers from the 18th to the 30th. On the 31st, however, a general rain fell, varying from 1 to 3 ins. according to the locality. If the remainder of the year only proved favourable, the prospects of their crop would be much improved. There were a great many arrows in some places, which were looked on with disfavour by planters, but the canes were healthy. The young cotton looked well, and so far there were fewer insect pests to contend with than last year. Provisions, such as yams and eddoes, were coming on well, and enormous quantities of potatoes were being exported to Panama. The exodus of labourers seemed to have ceased for the time.—The Acting-Governor, Mr. Samuel Knaggs, was entertained at a public dinner on October 25th, when speeches were made by Sir Herbert Greaves, the Hon. E. T. Grannum, and the guest. Great regret was universally expressed at his departure. He left by the mail of October 29th to take up his post as Colonial Secretary in Trinidad. The Hon. E. T. Grannum, Acting Colonial Secretary, was sworn in as Governor to act until the return of Sir Gilbert Carter, who was expected on November 5th.—The House of Assembly was to resume work on November 5th, and the Legislative Council a week later.—Before his departure, the late Acting-Governor appointed a Commission to enquire generally into the system of education in Barbados. The Bishop was chairman, and the Commissioners were: Hons. E. T. Grannum, G. A. Goodman, F. J. Clarke, and Forster M. Alleyne, Mr. C. P. Clarke, Mr. Henry W. Reece, Ven. Canon T. H. Bindley, Rev. H. A. Dalton, Rev. J. E. Reece, and Rev. J. R. Nichols, Secretary.—The health of the island was good.—A rather serious accident occurred at "Porters" on October 31st. A mason was removing a portion of the wall of the boiling house, when the whole fell on him, and he was buried in the debris. He was speedily dug out, however, and sent to the hospital in an ambulance. He was suffering from shock, but it was believed that he was not internally injured.—There had been a great deal of thunder and lightning lately, but very little wind. Those who had been taking holiday in England last summer were rapidly returning, and not a few of them were glad to find themselves in warm weather again. The Bishop arrived by the last mail, but Mrs. Swaby was unfortunately compelled to remain in England.—The English mails now seemed uniformly to arrive at Barbados on the Monday about noon, and the homeward ones were much more punctual. Indeed, the last one, *Tagus*, arrived unexpectedly at 6 a.m. on Monday and left at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. The mails closed at 10 a.m., and many country residents were shut out, as no notice was issued by the Post Office.

Sugar crop shortage in British Guiana.

Writing on November 2nd, Mr. J. C. McCowan stated that Mr. Cameron was successful in the recent contest for the seat of Financial Representative for S.E. Essequibo, defeating Mr. McArthur by 19 votes (58-39). Mr. Ward, the Science Agricultural Inspector, was a passenger to England by the mail. He had not recovered from the recent accident to his arm, and it was understood that he intended to go into one of the London hospitals for treatment.—There was nothing doing in the sugar market, and the price was quoted at 2 cents.—The weather continued hot and dry for the fortnight until the 1st, when there were some good showers. These appeared to have been fairly general throughout the colony. It was to be hoped that there was more behind it, as young cultivation was sorely in need of rain.—Messrs. Wieting & Richter in their market report of November 2nd stated that steady progress had been made with reaping and a large number of estates would close up in four to five weeks' time. The yield obtained had been very disappointing, owing to the shortness of canes and lack of juice. Canes were yielding 15 to 20 per cent. less juice than the normal average quantity. It was expected that shortage on estimates made in January last would vary from 5 to 35 per cent. on the various estates, and that the average shortage would be in the neighbourhood of 16 per cent. (The average annual crop of the colony for the past three years has been 120,000 tons, viz., 113,000 tons exported and 7,000 tons consumed locally). The shortage on the crop would be nearly 20,000 tons, representing fully \$1,000,000 in value, including rum. Unfortunately this short crop would cost as much to produce as a full average crop would have done, owing to the heavy expenditure incurred during the first six exceptionally wet months of the year on labour, fuel, &c.—A Commission, consisting of Messrs. N. R. McKinnon, K.C., J. B. Laing, and G. R. Garnett, had been appointed to enquire into the Public Hospital.

Dominica—The prospect of limes.

There was a temporary lull in the lime crop when Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on November 1st, but a very few weeks would see the second crop coming in, and with moderately good weather planters should do fairly well with limes next year. Meanwhile, the cacao crop was being reaped and it appeared to be a very fair one, if not quite as good as was at one time hoped, but of course prices, unless they fell very rapidly, would make the crop at least as valuable as was expected. The weather, too, was now much finer, and there had been so far no lack of sun to dry the cacao. Several small shipments of budded oranges were now being made; the trees planted under the advice of the late Administrator, Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, were just coming into bearing.—In his annual report on the hospital, Dr. the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls said that malarial fevers in Dominica are amenable to treatment in the early stages. Most of the cases of malarial diseases under treatment either as in or out-patients came from that part of Roseau bordering on the river. He had found the larvæ of the mosquito, *Anopheles albipes*, in little pools and in runnels along the south bank of the Roseau river close to Roseau; and, as this insect is the carrier of malarial parasites in Dominica, the prevalence of malarial diseases along the northern part of the town is easily explained. If the river were properly embanked, and if the margins of the streams and other places were systematically dealt with by sanitary officers and their employées having some knowledge of the way in which malarial diseases are propagated, Roseau might be freed from such maladies.

Montserrat—A new Government House.

In his letter of November 2nd, the Hon. Fred Driver said that the Governor had been at the island for a fortnight, but went back to Antigua by the mail steamer on the 1st. He had been making arrangements for the building of the new Government House, which was much needed. Mrs. Davidson-Houston laid the foundation stone on Thursday, October 31st, and the work was being pushed on at once.—Montserrat had had a short visit from the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Hon. Dr. Watts during the previous week. At a public meeting in the Court House on October 26th, the Commissioner gave an interesting account of his visit to the Toronto exhibition.—The weather continued favourable for crops generally; there was, perhaps, a little too much rain for the cotton at its present stage, but the island was looking green and flourishing.

Queen's House, Nevis, to be a Hospital!

We have received no letter from our Hon. Correspondent for the last two mails, but we learn from occasional correspondents, as well as from the *St. Christopher Gazette*, that strong feeling exists in the island against the conversion of Queen's House into a hospital. A petition has been forwarded to the Secretary of State against the scheme. The hospital was wrecked by the hurricane in 1899, and since then the gaol has been used for the sick. Objection was raised to the smells which emanated from it, and a movement in favour of a new hospital being built was started, but it was never contemplated that Queen's House would be used for the purpose. The *St. Christopher Advertiser* speaks of the scheme as a "monstrosity," and the need of a new Government House being built for the occasional visits of the Governor, as is proposed, is seriously questioned.

Jamaica—A victory for the policy holders.

The deepest interest was centred, when Mr. J. L. Ashenheim wrote on November 5th, in the insurance test case at Mandeville, Pawsey & Co. v. Scottish Union National Insurance Co., and the feeling of the policy holders was distinctly hopeful.—The export returns showed a large export of oranges, though bananas showed a falling off.—Mr. C. C. Farquharson, Secretary of the Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, wrote that the weather in that parish was ideal for cane-grinding, heavy rains every afternoon and hot sun during the morning. The crops would be late, it being expected that estates would begin grinding about the first week in January instead of the latter part of November; an average crop was looked for.—[It was announced by cable on November 17th that after a hearing of seventeen days, the jury returned a unanimous verdict in favour of the policy holders and found the insurance companies liable. The jury found on the evidence that the conflagration started some minutes before the occurrence of the earthquake, the evidence also pointing mostly to the fact that all the damage was done by one central fire.—On the motion of Mr. Hemmerde, the Acting Chief Justice entered judgment with costs for the plaintiffs, but granted a stay of execution on the application of Mr. Dickens.—ED.]

St. Kitts—Desirability of Reciprocity with Canada.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported on November 1st, that since last advices the weather had been all in favour of the sugar crop, which was now growing most vigorously, and as the rain had fallen mostly at night or on Sundays, the cotton picking had not been much interfered with.—On October 22nd there was a special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society to hear Sir Daniel Morris on

his return from Canada. He had visited the exhibition at Toronto and said that the West Indian exhibit was very good, but erred in the way of being too small. He also strongly advised St. Kitts to take united action with the rest of the West Indies in getting a satisfactory commercial treaty with Canada to ensure their sugar market, but in order to obtain this it would be necessary for them to give preferential terms to imports from the Dominion. There was no doubt that this was a very important question, in view of the fact that Canada was concluding commercial treaties on the "intermediate" preference tariff line. It was hardly likely that the treaty with France would materially affect St. Kitts, but a similar treaty with Germany would be a very different thing.—Cotton picking was progressing rapidly, and the yield promised to be good, which would somewhat compensate for the lower prices which they were fairly sure to get. A good deal of cotton was being sent from St. Kitts to the very efficient ginny and oil factory in Nevis, where they were charged 1d. per lb. lint and got 1½ tons meal per ton of seed.

St. Lucia—The Property Tax.

We give in another column Mr. S. D. Melville's interesting account of the political trouble in St. Lucia. In his notes, dated November 2nd, Mr. G. S. Hudson said that the feeling against the Property Tax was very strong amongst nearly all classes in St. Lucia, and an open-air public meeting was to be held in Castries on the evening of November 4th, which was likely to be most representative and well attended, its object being to endorse the attitude of the unofficial members. This was the third attempt of the Government to impose a Land Tax in St. Lucia, and on each of the two previous occasions the protests were so strong and unanimous that the matter was not pressed. As the writer had remarked in a previous letter to the Committee, there did not appear to be the slightest need for increasing or altering the present mode of taxation. Within the last two years, notwithstanding the removal of the troops, the cash balance at credit of the Colony had increased £5,000, and now stood at £25,000. It was felt that a Land Tax was unnecessary, and would cripple the chance of developing the island agriculturally. It would mean much confiscation of the holdings of peasant proprietors who had hitherto been encouraged as the backbone of the island. Roughly, half the land of St. Lucia was owned by the Crown, and they could not get rid of it. There would be about the same amount of sense in imposing a land tax in the North-West of Canada as in St. Lucia. It was to be hoped that the Colonial Office would at last recognise that, however good in the abstract a "settled policy" of land taxation might be, there were exceptions to the rule, and St. Lucia, in its present state, was one of them.—The weather had been rather wet for the past month, the rainfall record showing about 11 inches. They were then in the midst of the cacao crop, and on almost every side satisfactory reports were heard of pickings and crop prospects.

St. Vincent—Cotton coming on well.

Messrs. D. K. Porter wrote on November 4th that they were still going ahead planting up the Carib Country, and they were now, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Bovell, getting a supply of plants from Barbados of the very best varieties.—Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on the same date, said that after a spell of dry weather they were having some heavy showers, which retarded cotton-picking operations. The cotton was coming in well, and ginning had been started. Arrowroot manufacture would become general during the next few days.—Quite a sensation had been caused on receipt of the news of the attempted murder of the Treasurer of Grenada and the wounding of Mr. MacKie by an ex-revenue officer named Benjamin, the more so as Mr. Geo. MacKie is a Vincelonian, and has a large number of friends in the island. It was good news to learn that both of the wounded officers were getting better.

Trinidad.—Prosperous Indian coolies.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on November 4th, reported that the Hon. S. W. Knaggs arrived on the 30th from Barbados, and at once got into the Colonial Secretary's harness—that is, as far as the continuous string of congratulatory callers would allow him. Appointments in Trinidad had indeed been happy of late, and none more so than that of Mr. Knaggs. He was to be sworn in as Acting-Governor that afternoon, after the departure by the mail of Sir Gilbert Carter, who now returned to his Government at Barbados. Sir Gilbert, during his six months' stay in the Colony, had earned golden opinions for his never-failing courtesy and tact. There had necessarily been no means of judging of His Excellency otherwise than as a courteous gentleman at their head, for the reason that all matters of importance waited the presence of Sir Henry Jackson, for whom everyone was anxiously looking.—Referring to the writer's remarks last mail as to the departure of the mail boat one day before the schedule time, the S.S. *Delta*, of the Orinoco Company, bringing the usual Bolivar connections and cargo for Europe from the Orinoco, arrived, in consequence, too late, causing a fortnight's delay to passengers, cargo, and mail, which, of course, was very serious. Some enthusiasts were fond of calling Trinidad the future Hong Kong of the West, by reason of the trade to be developed in the mighty river at the mouth of which it lay. Their indifference in the matter of regular steam communication was hardly the way

to promote the realization of this fond aspiration. One could not mention steamers just then without referring to the beautiful new French steamer *Guadeloupe*, which, on her return voyage, was "At Home" one afternoon to Trinidad society, and everything was made very pleasant for the guests, who found much to admire on board.—The return ship *Ganges* left on October 26th with the following emigrants: 461 men, 171 women, 51 boys, 45 girls, and 24 infants, 752 in all. They remitted to India \$65,177, and placed in care of the surgeon \$1,454.00 in cash and \$4,800.00 in jewellery—total, \$71,431.00. It might safely be assumed that these thrifty people, who took away nearly £15,000, had not £50 between them when they landed a few years ago.—Some very successful cycle sports were held on the 28th at the Queen's Park Cricket Ground, which were attended by thousands of people. The principal interest centered in the West Indian Championship, a three-mile event. Unfortunately, Demerara, which had some notable riders, was unable to send them, but two representatives came from Barbados, and against them two were selected for Trinidad. In the result, the two visitors were quite out-classed, and the race was fought out between the local men, Holly Laughlin, a very young man, proving the victor after a splendid struggle with the other Trinidadian, Muir. Sir Gilbert and Lady Carter were present, and Lady Carter presented the prizes to the winners.—By the report of the Registrar-General, it would be seen that the mortality amongst the general population for the year 1906-7 was 23.9. This would be much more favourable but for the deplorable infant mortality, principally amongst the lower orders, amounting to over 36 per thousand *under 5 years*. The abnormal death-rate amongst a certain class of children in a climate which was known to be peculiarly favourable to the young, and singularly free from the juvenile ailments common to Europe, was a problem that seemed to demand the early and serious attention of those in authority.—A rather serious fire occurred during the previous week at Arima, destroying the branch store there of Messrs. Smith Bros. and Co., where the damage was about £8,500, of which £7,850 was covered by insurance. Two adjoining buildings were also damaged, one uninsured, and the other, Mr. Marlay's, covered for £1,600. The fire was caused by the explosion of a chemical ant destroyer mixture, which was being bottled by a porter when it exploded. A meeting of the agents of the fire offices was to be held to consider the question of the storage of such articles. That was the first fire of any consequence this year.—The Permanent Exhibition Committee had prepared a small exhibit of fruit, which went forward by this opportunity. Unfortunately, the mail would arrive 10 days before the Horticultural Show opened, which would certainly be trying for some of the specimens.—Lt.-Colonel Marshall arrived from Demerara on the 3rd, to take up the position of Deputy Inspector-General of Constabulary in Trinidad. He was no stranger to the island, having been Staff officer some years ago.—Although the rainfall had been normal for October, viz., 4.70, some districts had not received a fair share, indeed little or none for the past fortnight, and a few heavy showers would be very welcome for all kinds of cultivation in such places. On the whole, however, there was little to complain of, and, given seasonable weather to the end of the year, the rather extended Indian summer of October would probably prove to have been no disadvantage. From Naparima, one of the leading authorities did not "think the weather can be termed unfavourable," unless November should also be dry, which there was no reason to anticipate. "Accounts," he added, "from both cacao and cane planters as to prospects for the coming crop keep satisfactory."—To October 30th there had been shipped of Trinidad cacao since the beginning of the year, 33,361,716 lbs., being 4,733,172 lbs. more than during the whole of 1906. These figures differed considerably from many that were leaving the Colony, but they might be taken as correct. Local values had weakened, as was to be expected, in view of the fall in the market abroad. Prices might be stated about \$23.50 to \$24 for ordinary and \$24.50 for Estates. The bags shipped were as follows:—

		SHIPMENTS.			
		Trinidad.	Venezuela.	Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Totals at last report		164,799	34,312	Oct. 28.— <i>Prins der Nederland</i> ..	68 15 New York.
Oct. 18.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem II.</i>	—	—	47 Europe.	" 30.—S.S. <i>Catalina</i> ...	464 — Europe.
" 19.—S.S. <i>Ocama</i> ...	120	—	5 Canada.	" 30.—S.S. <i>Grenada</i> ...	2,274 530 New York.
" 20.—S.S. <i>Mayaval</i> ...	2,303	1,314	New York.	" 31.—S.S. <i>Orinoco</i> ...	— 100 "
" 20.—S.S. <i>Trent</i> ...	127	—	Europe.	Total to date ...	170,666 36,225
" 26.—S.S. <i>Guadeloupe</i> ...	511	2	"		

OUR LIBRARY.

READERS ARE INFORMED THAT WITH THE OBJECT OF BRINGING THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE LIBRARY UP TO A STATE OF PERFECTION, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO OPEN A LIBRARY FUND. DONATIONS OF BOOKS, OR SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS THE FUND, WILL BE WELCOMED AND ACKNOWLEDGED IN DUE COURSE IN THE CATALOGUE, WHICH WILL CONTAIN A LIST OF BENEFACTORS AND BE CIRCULATED AMONG MEMBERS OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. IT IS FELT THAT MANY READERS MUST HAVE ON THEIR SHELVES COPIES OF WEST INDIAN WORKS WHICH THEY COULD SPARE, AND IT IS EARNESTLY HOPED THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SUPPORT THE EXECUTIVE IN THIS NEW STEP WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN.

More Picture Postcards.—The Queen has honoured Mr. Alfred J. West by accepting a complete series of his pictorial postcards of British Guiana, which have just been published by the Argosy Company of Demerara. The

cards indicate what good use Mr. West made of his time in the "Magnificent Province," the subjects being varied and interesting. Experience has shown that it is by no means easy to reproduce the exquisite tints of the tropics by any known form of colour printing, and we should have preferred to see these cards in the collotype style.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

AGAIN!—The Trinidad-Demerara Cable was interrupted on November 25th.

SIR L. McCLINTOCK.—This distinguished Arctic explorer, whose death took place on November 17th, was Commodore at Jamaica from 1865 to 1868.

WHO WILL HELP?—A duly qualified nurse, St. Thomas's Hospital, is anxious to visit her relations in the West Indies before entering the Colonial nursing service. We shall be glad to put any of our readers requiring a nurse for an invalid during the voyage into communication with this lady.

GOOD FOR RECRUITING.—Advices from India point to the probability of a serious famine in the United Provinces. Everywhere the cry goes up for rain, and when the last homeward mail left Calcutta the prospects of rain were considered to be extremely remote. Cattle disease is reported to prevail in nine districts, and prices of all staple food grains show a tendency to rise. This should facilitate recruiting emigrants for the West Indies, where the climatic conditions are altogether more favourable.

METHYLATED SPIRIT.—The quantities of methylated spirit made during the years ending March 31st, 1905, 1906, and 1907 were:—

	1907. Gallons.	1906. Gallons.	1905. Gallons.
Ordinary and industrial methylated spirit for manufacturing purposes	2,445,600	2,139,000	2,162,000
Mineralised methylated spirit, mainly for domestic use	1,590,000	1,688,000	1,511,000

OUR VISITORS.—During the past fortnight there have been, as usual, a large number of callers at the West India Committee Rooms. Among them were: Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, Mr. Frank Austin, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. Norman Rodger (Editor of the *International Sugar Journal*), Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. George F. Branch, Colonel Nourse, Mr. J. W. A. Maginley, Mr. D. Keith Nightingale, Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., Mr. H. d'Esterre Spooner, and Mr. E. Lomas Oliver.

SELF-HELP.—In a letter to Mrs. Parker-Smith, thanking her and the generous contributors, whose names have already appeared in the CIRCULAR, for the amount forwarded towards the Women's Self-Help Association in Jamaica, Mrs. Bourne, the Hon. Treasurer, writes that "The Self-Help has luckily had rooms rent free until the end of last month (August) on the ground floor of the old City Council office—first floor in ruins. Now we have had to move and pay rent; luckily sales have been extremely good, and we hope for a good tourist season."

CANADA-JAMAICA.—Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamer service between Jamaica and Canada has recently undergone modification. The steamer *Kathinka* now leaves Halifax on the first day of every month for Santiago, Cuba, and Jamaica; the S.S. *Beta* on the 11th for Bermuda, Turks Island, and Jamaica; and the S.S. *Boston* on the 21st for Santiago, Cuba, and Jamaica. The steamers sail at 8 p.m., except when the date falls on Sunday, in which case the sailing is at 8 p.m. on the previous day. *Kathinka* and *Boston* return from Jamaica to Halifax direct, and the *Beta* calls at Turks Island and Bermuda.

"LIMALADE."—Anything which tends to increase the sale of limes must be of interest to our lime-producing islands, and in this connection it may be mentioned that we have received a sample of a new breakfast delicacy called "Limalade"—the title has been duly registered—which is being placed on the market by the West Indian Produce Association. The title sufficiently explains the nature of the article, which is made from an old West Indian recipe, and consists of fresh limes and pure cane sugar. In appearance it differs little from the more familiar marmalade, being of a transparent golden hue, and the flavour, as we can testify, is in no way at variance with its beautiful colour. Mr. Philip, the Director and Manager of the West Indian Produce Association, informs us that it is to be obtained of the principal stores.

SOME "WANTS."—Enquiries are constantly being received regarding land available for cotton growing in the West Indies, and it may be well, therefore, to call special attention to an announcement on this subject which appears on page xiv. St. Claire's estate in Antigua, about three miles from St. John's, is for sale. While on the subject of advertisements, we may add that those requiring a second-hand triple effect and engine would do well to write to Messrs. Henry K. Davson and Co., who, on page xvi., offer one for sale; and those interested in cocoa may be referred to the notice on our front cover from a gentleman who is anxious to find an experienced partner. It is satisfactory to note that the columns of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR are being more freely used for the purpose of giving publicity to such wants and requirements. The CIRCULAR forms an admirable means of bringing buyer and seller together.

VOLAPUK?—We have the greatest admiration for Herr F. O. Licht's valuable monthly sugar reports, but it must be admitted that the English version leaves something to be desired. Here, for example, is a gem from the issue of November 15th: "From the coloniese *Cuba* cables:—For the growth of

the cane rain is necessary in the western provinces. A full harvest is, according to this especially as the scarcity of rain recurs often, and to be expected." Bohemia becomes Pohemia, and elsewhere in the same publication are found such mysterious and ominous words as regaras for regards, an estimation for estimate, somitimes for sometimes, suffereda for suffered, liwelier for livelier, and so on; while this sentence for transparent obscurity wants some beating: "Offers only moved within narrow limits sufficed however to cover the needs, the latter being only singly to hand, as the refineries owing to earlier transactions are for the greater part," &c.

A GRAND CONCERT.—Captain Feilden, who will be remembered in British Guiana as A.D.C. to the late Sir Walter Sendall, is organising a grand concert in aid of the Church Army Winter Distress Fund, of which he is Association Secretary, for Tuesday, December 3rd. A selection will be given from "The Golden Threshold" (An Indian Love Garland), accompanied by the composer, Liza Lehmann, and the soloists are Miss Jessie Stewart, Miss Palgrave Turner, Mr. Walter Hyde, and Mr. Hubert Bromilow, the accompanists being Miss Nora Pitcairn and Mr. O'Connor Morris. The following artistes have also generously given their services: Mesdames D'Auvergne Upcher and Margaret Turton-Browne, and Messrs. Lloyd Chandos and Reginald Somerville. We hope that some of our readers will patronise this concert. Apart from the fact that it is to be given in such a good cause, it will be worth attending for its extensive programme. It is to be given under the immediate patronage of H.R.H. Princess Christian and H.H. Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein, who has signified her intention of being present. Lady Sendall is disposing of tickets.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Nov. 12.—The Jamaica Earthquake: G. W. Young & Co. v. Scottish Union and National Insurance Co. Same v. North British and Mercantile Insurance Co. Plaintiffs appeal against a decision of Mr. Justice Channell ordering them to deliver particulars as to the time and place of origin of fire, its cause, the condition of the premises insured, &c., allowed by the Court of Appeal.—Letter on "The New Sugar Convention," by Thomas Gibson Bowles, (*Times*, page 10).—Sir Lewis Morris died.—The Kaiser and Kaiserin at Windsor.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., steady.
- Wed., Nov. 13.—Visit of the Kaiser to the City.—Meetings of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations opened at Birmingham.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., quiet.
- Thur., Nov. 14.—Speech by Mr. Balfour at Birmingham on Fiscal Reform.—Sudden illness of the Premier.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., steady.
- Fri., Nov. 15.—Title of D.C.L. conferred upon the Kaiser by Oxford University.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., quiet.
- Sat., Nov. 16.—Letter from R. T. H. in the *Outlook* on the Sugar Convention.—"Jamaica as a Health Resort," concluding article in the *Lancet*.—Marriage of Princess Louise of France to Prince Charles de Bourbon-Sicile.—The Kaiser received deputation at the German Embassy.—Maiden trip of the *Mauretania*, departure from Liverpool.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 4½d., steady.
- Sun., Nov. 17.—Sir Leopold McClintock died.
- Mon., Nov. 18.—Lady Brampton died.—Departure of the Kaiser for the New Forest and of the Kaiserin for Holland.—Mr. Cortelyou announced the issue of Panama Canal bonds to the amount of £10,000,000 and stated that the Treasury will also issue interest-bearing certificates of indebtedness to the amount of £20,000,000 with a view to relieving the American financial position.—Beet, 9s. 4d., quiet.
- Tues., Nov. 19.—Report of the Rhodes Scholarship Fund issued.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., quiet.
- Wed., Nov. 20.—Lord Milner's speech on Tariff Reform (*Times*, page 8).—West Indian Club banquet to Sir Charles Lucas, C.B., K.C.M.G.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., steady.
- Thur., Nov. 21.—Presentation to Lord Strathcona in England.—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., easier.
- Fri., Nov. 22.—Lord Cromer on Free Trade (*Times*, p. 8).—Beet, 9s. 3½d., easier.
- Sat., Nov. 23.—German Naval Estimates, showing an increase of £5,000,000 expenditure, published.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 3½d., steady.
- Sun., Nov. 24.—General Sir Henry Colville killed in a motor accident.
- Mon., Nov. 25.—REASSURING REPORTS REGARDING THE HEALTH OF BARBADOS RECEIVED—all cases of fever except one being men from the *Indefatigable*. No fresh cases for several days.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., quiet.

COMING EVENTS.

- Nov. 28 and 29.—Show of Colonial Fruit and Preserves at the Royal Horticultural Hall. (Trinidad, Grenada, the West Indian Produce Association, the Norbrook Canning Company and others will participate.)
- Dec. 9.—Royal Geographical Society Lecture: "The Jamaica Earthquake, and After," by Dr. Vaughan Cornish.
- Jan. 13, 1908.—Royal Geographical Society Lecture: "Among the Volcanoes of Guatemala and St. Vincent," by Dr. Tempest Anderson.

[The Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society has kindly placed a few tickets for the above lectures at the disposal of the members of the West India Committee. They will be allotted in order of application.—ED.]

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate 7% (changed from 6% on Thursday, November 7th, 1907). Consols (2½%) 82½.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Court of Directors announced on November 14th that they had allotted the balance of the total issue of £700,000 4½% First Debenture Stock, and the final letters of allotment have been posted.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co.

The 61st ordinary general meeting of this company was held on November 13th at Winchester House, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford presiding. The Chairman said that the receipts for the past half-year were £43,832, against £36,999 for the corresponding period of 1906. Having regard to the field in which they carried on their business, he thought this result was not unsatisfactory. The increase was principally due to rather more commercial activity at some of the company's foreign stations. The expenses amounted to £4,348 more than in the corresponding six months of 1906, attributable to the company's having re-established telegraphic communication between Dominica and St. Lucia, which was interrupted by the terrible eruption at Mont Pelé, Martinique, in 1902. The directors felt that the time had come when the operation of connecting up Dominica with St. Lucia direct might safely be undertaken, thus restoring the former duplication to that part of the system. The result of the half-year's working was a profit of £13,804, to which had to be added the balance brought forward and interest on investments, making a disposable total of £16,052. In the previous half-year the board were able to clear off the balance of the arrears of dividend on the first preference shares, and now they were enabled to recommend the payment, not only of the full six months' dividend on the first preference shares, but also £1 a share on account of accrued dividends on the second preference shares. The traffic receipts were being fully maintained, those to the end of last month being slightly in excess of those for the corresponding period of last year. All their cables were in good working order, and he trusted they would remain so, more especially as the hurricane season in the West Indies was now over. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Henry Holmes and agreed to.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 22nd. "Weather all that can be desired." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), November 11th. "No rain worth speaking of since last message." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), November 16th, "There has been no change in the weather." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), November 22nd, "Good rains have fallen generally in Berbice." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), November 22nd, "Some rain has fallen generally since last message." (Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co.), November 22nd, "Moderate rains west coast, none river." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) November 23rd, "We have had some showers since last message, but more rain is wanted." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), November 19th, "Weather showery and unsettled." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended November 13th. KINGSTON: "9th, 10th, rain; others fine." PORT ANTONIO: "7th to 11th, rain; others fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), November 17th:—Mr. R. C. Guy, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Newhouse, Mr. W. Robertson, Mr. D. Lyell, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Warren, Mr. C. Willems, Mr. M. C. Evans, Mr. J. R. Gubbins, Mr. J. F. C. Madueno, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. de Tovar, Mrs. R. Rust, Mrs. A. Holler, Mrs. and Miss Hope, Mr. J. Elmslie, Mr. E. Ligiron, Miss A. Frustruck, Mr. R. J. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Moulder, Mr. and Mrs. Weber, Mr. R. Ward, Mr. Moir, Dr. A. Harrison, Mr. J. Haas, Mr. Wilcoxon, Mr. Penrice, Rev. A. K. Brown, Mr. Geo. Carew, Mr. Thomas B. Campbell, Mr. Peter McCall, Mr. Stephen Nugent and Mr. W. Atwell.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *La Plata* (Capt. W. H. B. Trigge), November 27th:—Mrs. and Miss Robb, Mr. and Mrs. Bankhart, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mignon, Mrs. E. Heimenkahl, Rev. and Mrs. A. Jones, Mrs. de Casa Ramos, Mr. and Mrs. Q. B. de Freitas, Mr. Edward E. Pritchard, Mrs. E. Bryson, Mr. Wm. Brownhill, Mr. Harold F. Blanford, Mrs. and Miss Carrington, Mr. S. Hammond, Mr. Ralph Abercrombie, Mr. R. Hyde Clarke, Mr. H. C. F. Dawes, Dr. and Mrs. O'Neale, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Johnson, Miss Pemberton, Miss M. Stedman, Mr. J. E. Penberthy, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Nourse, Mr. R. B. Nisbet, Mr. F. E. Hunter, Mr. Frederick P. Robjant, Mr. D. S. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. G. Peter, Mr. J. S. Lister, Mr. J. Bremner, Mr. John Martin, Mrs. J. Chapman, Miss M. H. Kilburn, Mrs. Barnard, Miss M. Law, Miss E. L. Lister, Mr. Walter Lister, Mrs. Bacher, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McLaren, Miss J. Livingstone Rodger, Mr. James B. Rodger, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Foote, Miss A. Foote, Mr. Thos. Streater, Miss E. M. Perkins, Mr. D. H. A. Tozer, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Miller, Mr. Lloyd Dornford, Mr. Basil Bulstrode, Mr. and Mrs. D. Correia, Miss Heywood, Mr. A. Gaillard, Mr. A. Sanchez, Mr. W. Keating, Mr. F. J. Smith, Mr. W. H. Richardson, Mr. Walter Stabbs, Mr. John M. Rishworth, Mr. A. Rishworth, Miss I. M. Rishworth, Mr. Wm. Brunt, Mr. Arthur Field, Miss B. Evans, Mrs. A. Wigglesworth, Mr. Delos J. Martin, Mr. J. Brink, Mr. S. D. Bentley, Mr. Frank W. Harris, Mr. Annibal Silvestre, Dr. and Mrs. R. F. Jardim, Mrs. Alcazar, Mr. Eldred Curwen, Mrs. Evered, Miss L. Stedman, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Francia, Mr. F. E. W. G. Austin, Mr. Robert Morrison, Mr. S. L. Horsford, and Mr. E. Leidler.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. G. Mason), December 11th:—Mrs. T. Clive Sheppard, Mr. A. Estrado, two Misses Arriens, Miss A. Veumann, Miss R. Estrada, Mr. Ernesto Estrada, Rev. A. Luco, Rev. G. Celis, Rev. G. M. Valenzuela, Capt. and Mrs. A. Roger, Mrs. J. Norris, Dr. and Mrs. Darwent, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. John W. A. Maginley, Mr. G. M. Perch, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jason Jones, Mr. C. F. Battye, Mrs. F. N. Martinez, Mr. M. Rosenberg, Rev. A. Percy, Mr. G. H. Bruce, Miss Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gordon, Mr. A. H. Anstey, and Miss E. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Vaughan, two Misses Vaughan, Mr. A. Vaughan, Mr. Claude Pain, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Desmazeire, Mr. J. C. Randall, two Misses Prosser, Mr. Robert Wynne, Miss Janet B. S. McAlester, Mr. John H. Haigh, Mr. Andrew R. Oliver, the Venerable Archdeacon S. P. Hendrick and Mrs. Hendrick, Mr. F. B. Gall, Miss F. Langlands, Miss E. P. Miller, and Miss Newlands.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena* (Captain Custance), December 25th:—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hall, Mrs. A. B. Kitchener, Mr. A. E. Wolfe Barry, Mr. A. E. Hussy Freke, Mrs. S. Bolton, Miss Monck, Mrs. Bunge Cruyo, and Mr. F. Evans.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), November 20th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. Britiani, Capt. Bovell, Mr. F. J. Constable Curtis, Rev. H. G. Constable Curtis, Mr. G. Challoner, Mr. and Mrs. Grange, Mr. F. A. Grange, Mr. W. H. Hayward, Mrs. Halsall, Mr. A. C. Houchen, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, Mr. A. C. Hamilton, Mr. Reading, two Misses Pratt, Mr. H. D. Radcliffe, Dr. and Mrs. Strong, Mr. J. Thornton, Mr. G. Wishart, Mr. A. Radford-Whysall, Dr. and Mrs. Ormsby, Rev. H. F. Sharpe, and Mrs. and Miss Duun.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Selfe), November 16th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. F. Angulo, Mr. W. Bevan, Major Barlow, Mrs. W. P. Barr, Major and Mrs. A. T. Butler, Mr. C. Reid Campbell, Doctor Castle, Mrs. and Miss Cox, Miss M. H. Campbell, Mr. J. H. Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Guppy, Rev. H. E. Grindley, M.A., Mrs. Grindley, Miss Gartshore, Miss Anna Hollar, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Hay, Miss K. Hay, Mrs. Harvey, Rev. J. Macnee, Miss R. Manley, Mrs. and Miss MacPherson, Mr. A. C. Nicholson, Miss Nicholson, Mrs. and Miss Preston, Mrs. and Mrs. Lloyd-Roberts, Rev. and Mrs. D. A. Rothnie, Lieut. H. E. Smyth, Colonel and Mrs. Talbot, Miss Tuckett, Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Williams, Mr. Pierre Croizet, Mr. Gandencio Garces, Mrs. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hawxwell, and Mrs. Williams.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), November 30th: **Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. W. Abbott, Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Mrs. and Miss Boettcher, Mr. H. J. Bennett, Mrs. Bennett, Hon. E. Cameron, C. M. G., Miss Cocking, Mrs. Dodd, Rev. Canon Gell, Hon. E. Giffard, Lady Giffard, Rev. W. Graham, Mrs. Graham and children, Mr. W. Garrett, Mrs. Garrett, Miss B. C. Gordon, Mrs. Hardyman, Mr. R. T. Harrison, Mrs. Isaacs, Miss W. Loveband, Miss E. J. Morales, Mrs. Morales, Miss E. Morales, Miss Verna Morales, Miss Morrison, Mr. W. H. Orrett, Rev., Mrs. and three Misses Pratt, Mr. E. A. Poole, two Misses Ross, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Sturridge, Miss E. A. Titmas, Mr. Wilson, Miss H. Williams, Major W. D. Graham, Mrs. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Wilmot-Sitwell, Major W. D. Sanderson, Miss Taunton, and Mrs. Young.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Nov. 27—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>La Plata</i>	Nov. 26, mdn't.
" 29—	The West Indies (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Salybia</i>	" 29, noon.
" 30—	Jamaica and Bermuda	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>	" 29, 6 ^p .m.
Dec. 5—	The West Indies (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Glasgow	Direct Line	<i>Yanariva</i>	Dec. 4, 6 p.m.
" 5—	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Texan</i>	" 4, 6 p.m.
" 11—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>	" 12, mdn't.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Dec. 2—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>
" 4—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Henderson</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Oct. 30	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Oct. 31	1907 1906	April 1 to Oct. 27.	1907 1906	Jan. 1 to Nov. 1	1907 1906	Oct. 1 to Nov. 4	1907 1906
Sugar ...	33,329	49,947 Tns.	66,253	66,380 Tons.	8,001	8,709 Tons.	470,555	506,115 Bgs. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses ...	62,015	61,099 Pns.	502	2,910 Puns.	...	...	{ 4,281 293 295	{ 2,881 206 Trcs. 102 Brls.	...	...
Rum	11,767	11,825 Puns.	973,274	1,002,840 Galls.	1,539	1,378 Puns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	6,543	7,288 Tons	...	...	...	...	2,312	1,663 Bags.
Cacao	68,895	28,017 lbs.	29,210	36,503 Cwts.	29,116,070	22,039,310 lbs.	...	...
Coffee	23,795	17,919 "	9,380	16,060 "	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	330,405	52,188	8,486,428	4,188,472	9,745,108	10,534,825	...	...
Copra	16,839	16,544 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	5,200	16,882 lbs.	...	...	...	...
Asphalt	120,980	114,343 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	30,091,199	32,568,920	...	...	...	...
Bananas	10,549,240	11,011,270 Stms.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	37,535	49,166 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice	911	571 Brls.
Gold	55,282	77,506 ozs.	...	...	...	...	88	64 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	2,040	2,077 carats	...	...	...	...	80	72 Cases
Rice	4,017,254	1,007,339 lbs.	...	...	...	...	6	3 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The speculative beet Market has, on the whole, been fairly steady, notwithstanding the continued stringency of the Money Market, and after varying fluctuations values yesterday were on about the same level as current last mail, quotations being: November, 9s. 3½d.; December, 9s. 3½d.; January/March, 9s. 5½d.; May, 9s. 8d.; August, 9s. 9½d. Apprehensions of another advance taking place in the Bank rate last week restricted business, particularly on the part of the trade. The Permanent Commission under the Sugar Convention has been sitting since November 18th, but no authoritative statement as to the adhesion of Russia—which is the subject of negotiation—is as yet possible. Quotations last week in New York: \$3.80 for 96 per cent. centrifugals, and \$3.30 for 89 per cent. muscovado.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	1,563,000	1,660,000	1,680,000	1,530,000	3,050,000	Tons
United States	176,000	130,000	210,000	130,000	100,000	"
Cuba	31,000	—	110,000	—	120,000	"
Cargoes afloat	82,200	60,000	60,000	110,000	110,000	"
Total	1,862,200	1,850,000	2,060,000	1,770,000	2,380,000	"

Quotations of 88% Beet, Nov. 25th:— 9s. 3½d. 8s. 9½d. 8s. 4d. 13s. 10½d. 8s. 6d.

Grocery West Indian.—CRYSTALLISED in rather quieter demand of late, and lower descriptions have been easier but prices of good qualities have been well maintained, quotations: fine yellow, 18s. 3d. to 20s.; good yellow, 17s. 9d. to 18s.; low to good medium yellow, 17s. to 17s. 6d. **Muscovado.**—Stock exhausted and consequently no business passing. **Molasses Sugar.**—Syrups in demand at previous prices.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	30,300	47,000	34,000	37,000	21,000	Tons.
Deliveries	32,900	43,000	36,000	42,000	36,000	"
Stocks (Nov. 16th)	6,940	13,000	8,000	7,000	13,000	"

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d. 16s. 0d. 15s. 0d. 22s. 9d. 15s. 9d.

RUM.—Stocks in London, Nov. 16: 1907.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	8,497	8,400	8,500	10,200	10,500
Demerara	4,530	2,700	4,800	5,500	6,200
Total of all kinds	21,630	17,900	21,000	24,100	27,800

The Market keeps steady and a very good demand is anticipated at current rates for the shipment now landing ex *Dev.* Some 240 puns, by this steamer were sold, *tel quel*, at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 1½d. Quotations: Demerara, fully steady at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.; Jamaica is without alteration at 2s. 7d. for common, to 2s. 10d. for good marks, and for good to fine export qualities, 3s. to 8s. The lack of imports in this description has curtailed business.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Nov. 16th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	3,722	9,200	17,600	25,700	14,200	Bags.
Grenada	1,300	3,900	9,100	11,500	8,000	"
Total of all kinds	28,316	49,800	68,800	84,100	56,500	"

Early in the fortnight a supply of 3,200 bags was offered at auction, but in the absence of demand to effect sales, those importers who wished to sell had to accept prices shewing a decline of 12s. to 15s., and even then only 770 bags found buyers, consisting mainly of West India kinds, other descriptions being neglected. Fine Trinidad sold at 107s., fair to fine Grenada, 99s. to 105s. 6d., ordinary to fine Dominica, 94s. 6d., to 97s., good to fine Jamaica, 94s. to 96s., fiery red St. Vincent, and fine Demerara, 106s. 6d. No auctions were held last week and privately the tone was quiet and the feeling is undecided.

COFFEE.—Santos for November delivery, 28s. 1½d., flat. On the spot there is a fairly good demand for home trade qualities, and prices are steady, but the terminal market is flat, and prices have declined about 2s. during the fortnight.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended November 21st., 107 bales of West Indian cotton were imported. Since their last report, Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland, state that 100 bales of West Indian cotton have been sold, consisting of undesirable lots remaining over from last crop, mostly more or less stained. Prices ranged between 6d. and 18d. West India cotton, good medium is quoted in Liverpool, 7.20d.; West India Sea Island, good medium 18d., medium fine 19d., and fine 20d.

ARROWROOT.—At auction last week out of 20 cases Natal only 5 sold at 4d. Privately the Market is steady, and about 155 barrels St. Vincent were sold at 2½d. to 2¾d. The following are the figures to October 31st last:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Imports	10,222	12,646	12,224	Deliveries	7,937	14,485
Stocks, Oct. 31	5,503	3,883	6,274	barrels.		

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. per gallon, quiet. Distilled oil, 1s. 9d. per lb., quiet. Hand pressed, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per lb., steady. Concentrated, £21, unchanged. The excessive supply of green limes is being gradually worked off. **ORANGES.**—The Market is unfortunately overcrowded and prices have never been so low at the opening of the season.

PIMENTO.—Quiet. Only 23 bags out of 236 bags offered sold at prices not reported, the remainder bought in at 3½d. **NUTMEGS.**—Quiet. **MACE.**—Dearer. **GINGER.**—Dull of sale: 10 barrels Jamaica offered at auction sold last week at 67s. to 72s. for ordinary to good ordinary. **COPRA.**—Quiet. Fair West India merchantable, value £21 10s.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—The market remains in a sound position, arrivals have been light, sales good and deliveries satisfactory. Two auctions have been held, both of which were well attended by buyers, and the competition was generally good, and it is only small or inferior logs which show any weakness. **HONDURAS:** The bulk of the wood brought to auction found ready buyers, prices being quite firm for good logs of medium and large sizes, whilst minimum wood there is not much demand. **Cedar.**—CUBA, HONDURAS, and MEXICAN: There is a good demand for straight, sound logs, from medium to large sizes, but small and inferior wood and round logs of all sizes are not readily taken. **COSTA RICA, TRINIDAD, VENEZUELA, &c.:** the stock consists chiefly of small and inferior wood, for which buyers are difficult to find.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The . . .
West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES—CVII.



Mr. R. L. Antrobus, C.B.

ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

colonies under the intermediate customs tariff does not include, save in comparatively unimportant respects, articles of export from the West Indies. It was feared that sugar would have been included,

A Word of Greeting.

TO those in this country it may seem premature to wish our readers the compliments of the season. We are, however, faced with the difficulty that if we delay doing so our greetings will reach British Guiana and the West Indies, as well as India, Canada, Queensland, Victoria, Natal, the Straits Settlements, and East and West Africa, to each of which places the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR now goes, hopelessly late. In the circumstances we must avail ourselves of the present issue for conveying to our readers, one and all, individually and collectively, as well as to our contemporaries, our heartiest good wishes for Christmas and for the New Year, which, we hope, will bring them happiness and an increasing measure of prosperity. A. E. A.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Dec. 9th, 1907.

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6083 CENTRAL.

THE text of the Franco-Canadian Convention, which was signed in Paris on September 19th, is now published. It is gratifying to West Indian producers to see that the list of products which are allowed under the Treaty to go into Canada from France and her colonies does not include, save in comparatively unimportant respects, articles of export from the West Indies. It was feared that sugar would have been included,

in which case not only would unlimited French beet and cane have found their way on preferential terms into Canada, but also, through the automatic operation of existing treaties with Great Britain, sugar from Austro-Hungary and other treaty States. The only products, however, in which sugar plays an important part, which are included in the schedule of the Convention, are various descriptions of confectionery. But the trade of British confectioners with the Dominion, which in 1906 only amounted to \$162,184, is not likely to be affected to any extent by the inclusion of these items, as the preference given by the intermediate tariff is only 2½ cents. per lb., as compared with the British preference of 12½ cents. per lb. Special preparations of lime juice are included in the schedule, but shippers of crude lime juice from the British West Indian colonies will not suffer by the Convention, as this product enters Canada free of duty. Makers of pickles and sauces will only be prejudiced to the same extent as British confectioners. Rum, the imports of which into Canada from all sources, however, only amounted to 3,000 puns. in 1906, is mentioned as being admitted from French ports under the intermediate tariff; but as at present there is no preferential tariff for this article, the position of British West Indian shippers will be as before. On the whole, therefore, it may be taken that the interests of the West Indies are not affected to any serious extent by the operation of the Convention, and that the door of reciprocity is still left open between the British West Indies and the Dominion of Canada. On another page we give the text of a letter which has been addressed by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to the HON. W. S. FIELDING, Minister of Finance in Canada, with reference to the improvement of the trade relations between the Dominion and the West Indies. In this letter it is pointed out that at present the lack of adequate cable and steamship communication seriously militates against the development of such trade, and it is suggested that Canada might assist in the establishment of cable communication with the Mother-country. With regard to steamer communication, the remodelling of the present Canada-West Indian service, so that the times of the steamers might fit in with those of the Royal Mail steamers from Southampton, is recommended. In this connection, let us say at once that the West India Committee in no way ventures to suggest a commercial fusion of the two companies, this being a matter which must concern the companies themselves, but rather a closer working arrangement by which the services might be rendered more effective. Attention is also called to various other points which tend to retard the growth of trade between these two parts of the Empire, and inasmuch as the recommendations in this letter are to all intents and purposes on all fours with the views of the Commissioners from the Canadian Boards of Trade who visited the West Indies in March last, we may rest assured that they will receive due consideration at Ottawa. The growth of the trade between Canada and the West Indies has been of late years steadily progressive. The imports into the Dominion from British Guiana and the West Indies which in 1902 were only \$1,473,333 rose in 1906 to \$7,517,839, owing largely to the preferential treatment accorded by Canada to West Indian produce since 1898. It is true that the West Indian sugar producer has not always had his share of the benefit from the operation of the preferential tariff, but it has in the main been more profitable for him to ship sugar to Canada than to the United States, where British sugar has to enter into competition, at full tariff rates, with preferential sugar from Cuba and the Philippines. The question of reciprocity, however, requires careful consideration on account of the diversity of interests in the West Indies. It is not likely that it would be worth while for Canada to treat with individual colonies, as a reciprocity convention might mean a re-modelling of her tariff in many respects. At present bananas, oranges and limes from all sources are free from duty in Canada, and any colony in which a fruit industry predominates might naturally be unwilling to give up any portion of its revenue, and perhaps be prejudiced in other markets, without receiving a *quid pro quo* in the form of a substantial duty imposed in Canada on foreign fruit. The above applies with still greater force to the cacao industry. The world's demand for this commodity is, at the present moment, unprecedented. Raw cacao pays

no customs' duty in Canada, while the West Indian supply is still in great excess of the Canadian consumption. Again, reciprocity between Canada and the West Indies would mean an addition to, and re-adjustment of, steamer and cable communications, which would not be likely to be effected unless the West Indies as a whole were parties to the arrangement. These are illustrations of the difficulties with which the subject bristles. SIR DANIEL MORRIS, in his recent address to the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, brought prominently forward the advantage to the West Indies of closer trade relations with Canada, and spoke of the good feeling which exists in the latter country in the matter. We consider that the time has now come when the official views of Canada on the subject of a Trade Convention with the West Indies should be ascertained. In the event of the reply being favourable, a Commission consisting of official and commercial representatives of the colonies concerned should then go carefully into the many points involved and formulate definite proposals to be submitted to the Canadian Government. The geographical position of the West Indies defines North America as the natural market for its produce. The United States is rapidly filling up her eastern wants from that portion of the Caribbean Archipelago and Central America over which she exerts a dominating influence, and it is essential, in view of the future, that the Canadian market should be especially favourable to us. To this end the British West Indies and the Dominion should be bound together by definite commercial bonds. The great drawback to reciprocity between Canada and the West Indies has been that the Canadian wants have not been equal to the West Indian supply, but this difficulty is rapidly being overcome by the increase in Canadian consumption. The Franco-Canadian Convention shows the fixed intention of the Canadian Government to improve conditions of her trade and to widen its scope. Fortunately, as we have said above, West Indian interests have not been materially influenced by it. It is, however, quite within the range of probability that, unless some action is taken to secure the position, the West Indies will be left in the cold by some future Convention. The moment seems, therefore, in every way a desirable one for definite action in the direction of ultimate reciprocity.

IT may be remembered that a few years ago we incurred the displeasure of some of our friends of the planting community in the West Indies by suggesting that their methods of cultivation were capable of improvement in many respects. While in the case of the factory, machinery and processes of manufacture have undergone a steady improvement (where the fortunate owner has been able to command the necessary capital) no such progress can be reported in field operations. The experiments with seedling canes originated by PROF. J. B. HARRISON and MR. J. R. BOVELL at Dodd's Reformatory in the eighties, and since carried on actively in British Guiana, and also by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, as well as the manurial experiments, have been a step in the right direction, but cane-producers in the West Indies are still far behind beet growers on the Continent of Europe in the matter of scientific cultivation with the view to increasing the saccharine content of the cane and securing the largest possible yield from the minimum acreage. Then again, there has been little done in the way of adopting labour-saving appliances in the field, which, it must be admitted, has suffered at the expense of the factory. It is true that recent experience with steam-ploughing in Trinidad had not been altogether satisfactory, but this may have been due to preventable causes, such as a want of appreciation of the conditions and requirements. We have, however, reason to believe that in Antigua and the other islands the results are promising. But perhaps still more can be done in the way of labour saving by the use of light mule-drawn implements for surface tillage. MR. G. MOODY STUART, of MESSRS. HENCKELL, DuBUISSON & Co., and a member of the Executive of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, hearing of the implements in use in Louisiana, paid a visit to that State to see for himself whether they might not be suitable for use in the West Indies. He was conducted round the estates, with the courtesy which is characteristic of the planter in whatever part

of the world he may reside, and became satisfied that the Louisiana system might, with certain modifications, be applied with advantage to the West Indies. He, therefore, at once made arrangements for the necessary plant to be shipped to Antigua, and he engaged the services of a local expert to instruct the planters how to use it. The implements, which include Orleans Disc Cultivators, Magnolia Cultivators, Oriole Ploughs, Disc Ploughs, Stubble Diggers, Corn or Cotton Planters, Fertilizer Distributor, Manure Spreader, &c., have now been in use for eighteen months, and the results of their working appear so far to be eminently satisfactory. The report regarding them which is given in the *Agricultural News* of November 2nd—a journal which deserves to be studied by every planter, from the manager down to the junior overseer—should induce planters in other islands and in British Guiana seriously to consider the desirability of taking steps in a similar direction towards the improvement and cheapening of their cultivation. That the cultivation is improved by mechanical tillage, especially in dry land, is shown by the report above referred to. Then again, there is no getting away from the fact that in those islands which do not import coolie immigrants the labour question is, for the reasons pointed out by the HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER on another page, a constant matter for anxiety. Where the financial circumstances of an island are such as to preclude the introduction of immigrants, it appears to us that the only way out of the difficulty must lie in modifying the methods of cultivation in such a manner that a minimum of work is done by manual labour, mechanical processes being substituted for the main tillage operations. This would give employment to the more intelligent and hard-working class, who would deservedly receive better wages, while the competition for their positions would guarantee steady work. It would, as MR. SPOONER points out, have a decidedly elevating tendency on the standard of intelligence and life of the negro. It is not, however, in the estates field economy alone that the advantage of the introduction of mechanical appliances comes in. By their use labour is freed for other purposes, and can be devoted to cane-farming and other peasant industries. It is well-known that a West Indian negro who would not work on a sugar estate unless the necessity of life compelled him to do so, would grow canes on his own account with alacrity. Thus mechanical tillage would mean a steady supply of canes for the factory from its own cultivation, an essential condition to enable it to deal satisfactorily with farmers' canes. We commend this matter to the attention of our readers.

OUR contemporary, the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*, in a recent issue stated that they were not aware that in recent times the Mother-country had ever interfered to prevent the Caribbean colonies from entering into closer commercial relationship with other countries, and that when reciprocity treaties with the United States were provisionally arranged under the Dingley Tariff Act, the failure to ratify them was due not to the interference of the Government of Great Britain, but to the antagonism of the American Senate. Our recollection of the part played by the British Government on two occasions when opportunities were proffered by the United States for commercial intercourse between them and the West Indies in 1884, and between Barbados and America in 1885, does not agree with this statement of our contemporary. The events since those years have not presented the favourable opportunity then so needlessly and irrationally rejected by the British Government. The whole question was at that time originated on behalf of the West Indies in consequence of the Treaty of Commerce between Spain and the United States of January 2nd, 1884 which, although of limited operation, yet in its concluding article bound the contracting powers to open negotiations for a complete treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and the provinces of Cuba and Porto Rico. Seeing that by the Treaty of Commerce of 1815 between Great Britain and the United States, extended indefinitely by a further treaty of 1827, subject to one year's denunciation on either side after October 1828, the West Indies were excluded from claiming the most-favoured-nation treatment, it became necessary on their part to call upon the British Government



IN A TROPICAL GARDEN.

From a Photograph by José Anjo.

to open negotiations which should at least secure for them the right to claim from both the United States and Spain the benefit of most-favoured-nation treatment. These negotiations, in the conduct of which our Chairman, SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, personally took part at Washington, so as to give information to the British Ambassador as to the requirements of the West Indies, resulted in the United States submitting a draft Convention for commercial reciprocity between the United States and the British West Indies and Guiana. Under this Convention, sugar not above No. 16 D.S., and, with the exception of rum, all the leading articles of production in the West Indies, were to be admitted into America free of duty. This most favourable arrangement was rejected by LORD GRANVILLE, then Foreign Minister, on account of his interpretation of the most-favoured-nation Article being opposed to that of the United States' Government—an interpretation which has since been modified on our part—otherwise it would have prevented the settlement of the bounty question by the Brussels Convention. When the projected treaty failed, Barbados endeavoured by legislation to secure some of the advantages thus lost, and passed an act in 1885 for promoting the trade relations of Barbados with the United States by a reciprocal tariff between the two countries. This act was disallowed by LORD GRANVILLE, then Colonial Minister. It seems, therefore, an historical fact that the interests of the West Indies and Guiana were sacrificed needlessly and irrationally on the occasion we have referred to, and the advantageous opportunity then presented has not occurred again. Thus at the present time the products of the West Indies are subject to the full general tariff of the United States, which is not recoverable on the market because their chief competitors are either free of duty or on preferential terms.

WE refrained from dealing with the question of the Brussels Convention in our last issue, as negotiations, which we were following closely, were then in a very critical condition. Now we are glad to say that, owing largely to the admirable diplomacy of SIR HENRY BERGNE, the adhesion of Russia has been secured, and there seems little reason to doubt that the countries concerned will ratify the Additional Act and Protocol, which provides for the continuance of the Convention on the terms already set out in our pages for another five years from September 1st, 1908. Russia keeps to her fiscal and customs system, but undertakes not to increase the advantage to the producers in the maximum price fixed for sale on the home market. She engages, moreover, not to export more than one million tons of sugar during the six years beginning with September 1st, 1907, and the apportionments for the six years will not exceed 300,000 tons during the first two years, and 200,000 in any one of the succeeding years. This stipulation does not apply to Finland, Persia, and the neighbouring countries in Asia. Russia will join the Convention from September 1st, 1908. The Additional Protocol is to be ratified before February 1st, 1908. It is, of course, understood that as regards the British market the penal clause will continue in force until September 1st, 1908. None, therefore, of the 300,000 tons will be admissible to the British market before that date, and it is to be assumed that by that time a considerable amount of the 300,000 tons will already have been disposed of elsewhere.

MR. R. L. ANTROBUS, C.B.

Mr. Reginald L. Antrobus, C.B., who is the subject of "Our Celebrity" portrait, has succeeded Sir Charles Lucas as head of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office. Born in 1853, he was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, of which he was a scholar, obtaining a First Class in Moderations, and Second Class Final Classical School. He entered the Colonial Office after a competitive examination in 1877. He afterwards acted as Private Secretary to the Earl of Kimberley, 1880-2, to the late Earl of Derby, 1882-5, to Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. Stanley, M.P. (now Earl of Derby), 1885-6, and to Earl Granville, 1886. He acted as Governor of St. Helena, 1889-1890; and two years later became Private Secretary to Mr. Meade and to Mr. S. Buxton, M.P., and

was decorated for services in connection with the negotiations with France relating to West Africa, 1897-1898. In the latter year he was appointed an Assistant Under-Secretary of the Colonies.

IN A TROPICAL GARDEN.

Our full-page illustration is from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo, the talented photographer in Antigua. It represents one of the many picturesque spots in the Botanic Garden near St. John's in that island. Such of our readers who are addicted to photography will envy Mr. Anjo's skill in the selection of his subjects, and the manner in which he has mastered the art of exposure, which is no easy matter in the tropics. How greatly the magnificent cabbage palms (*oreodoxa oleracea*) contribute to West Indian scenery may be judged by the reader himself by covering those in the picture with a piece of paper. It was of these trees that Charles Kingsley wrote when he first saw them in St. Kitts: "Grey pillars, which seemed taller than the tallest poplars, smooth and cylindrical as those of a Doric temple. . . . It was not easy . . . to believe that these strange and noble things were trees."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Northside Sugar Planters' Association has been appointed a corresponding body to the West India Committee for Jamaica, and Mr. Wilfrid Wigley, Hon. Correspondent for Anguilla and the Virgin Islands.

The next election of members to the West India Committee will take place on Thursday next, 12th inst. The minimum subscription from members is one guinea per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The subscriptions of candidates elected during the remaining weeks of this year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1909. Candidates' application forms and further particulars regarding membership can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The West India Committee Rooms are situated opposite Mark Lane Station on the Metropolitan Railway.

DR. CARL BOVALLIUS.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Dr. Carl Bovallius, the eminent Swedish scientist, which took place in British Guiana on November 8th, at the age of fifty-eight. Dr. Bovallius graduated at Upsala University, where he was Professor of Zoology until 1897. He was commissioned by the Swedish Government in 1889-1895 to report upon the forests of Northern Sweden, and it was upon those reports that the new forestry laws are based. An intrepid explorer, he has contributed much by his explorations in Nicaragua, Southern Venezuela and the Amazonas Valley. He brought back from his extensive travels in Central America valuable zoological, archaeological, and ethnographical collections, for which the British Museum and the Cambridge Natural History Museum are indebted to him. At the time of his death, Dr. Bovallius was engaged by the New Essequibo Exploration Co. in a rubber farming enterprise in British Guiana, an industry to which he has devoted considerable attention. He was also a writer of no mean attainments, and many scientific works and translations stand to his name. His recent trip to the falls on the Ireng River, British Guiana, has excited considerable attention, although it appears that they had already been visited by Mr. Barrington Brown, as stated on another page. Dr. Bovallius' death will be regretted by a large circle of friends. He was a member of the West India Committee, and frequently attended meetings at the West India Committee Rooms.

CACAO REPORTS VI.—CUBA, 1906.

At the request of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vice-Consul Griffith has furnished the following special report on the cacao industry in Cuba for the West India Committee. This forms the sixth of the series of reports submitted at the request of the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society, through the Committee. The cacao producing countries already dealt with in the CIRCULAR have been: Bahia (in CIRCULAR No. 213); Cuba (No. 214); Ecuador (No. 216); Fernando Po (No. 233); St. Thomé and Principe (No. 234). No official data are available respecting the production of cacao in Cuba and the figures given in the following report are approximate only and based upon information gathered from the most reliable sources, except those referring to the amount and value of the exports which have been furnished by the Statistical Department of the Treasury. The total production of cacao during 1906, which was unusually heavy owing to a copious rainfall which occurred at the right time, amounted to 8,614,691 lbs., of which about 6,700,000 lbs. were grown in the Province of Santiago de Cuba or, as it is now more commonly called, Oriente. The

crop of 1906 shows an increase over that of 1905 of 3,814,691 lbs., but this increase is not likely to be sustained on account of a prolonged drought and the consequent destruction of many of the plants. The total amount of cacao exported in 1906 was 7,214,691 lbs., being an increase over the previous year of 3,316,987 lbs., and the principal markets were the United States of America, which took 3,363,173 lbs., and Spain and France, which took respectively, 1,195,147 lbs. and 1,130,701 lbs., the United Kingdom taking only 81,097 lbs., valued at £1,586.

The following table gives in detail the amount and value of the exports of cacao from Cuba or the last three years, specifying the countries to which the shipments were made:—

Exportation of Cacao during the years 1904, 1905 and 1906.

Countries to which Exported.	1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Weight lbs.	Value £	Weight lbs.	Value £	Weight lbs.	Value £
United States and Porto Rico... ..	3,796,308	80,228	2,216,213	44,200	3,365,620	72,813
United Kingdom and Possessions	207,427	3,803	119,735	2,463	81,097	1,586
France	364,782	7,984	332,862	7,060	1,130,701	22,827
Germany	815,040	16,271	72,027	1,540	729,094	13,981
Spain	648,640	17,722	832,164	22,220	1,195,147	30,070
Austria	—	—	22,382	515	76,923	1,504
Mexico	56,766	1,195	115,038	2,965	66,627	1,369
Holland	—	—	121,030	2,704	456,444	9,345
Italy	43,972	880	66,253	1,426	52,938	1,053
Morocco	14,005	326	—	—	—	—
Other countries	—	—	—	—	60,100	1,282
Total	5,694,940	£128,409	3,897,704	£85,093	7,214,691	£155,830

(Dollars have been reduced to sterling at the rate of \$5 to £1.)

THE LABOUR PROBLEM IN ANTIGUA.

BY THE HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER.

One of the chief difficulties which has to be faced by the agriculturist in those of the West Indies which entirely depend upon the negro population is the uncertainty and unreliability of the labour supply. The low standard of life with which the negro labourer is content is at the root of the matter, and of course a hot climate renders a low standard of life free from most of the discomforts that drive people in colder climates to do the best they can to improve their condition; the problem is incapable of solution except by the pressure of population which solves it in India and to some extent in Barbados. Antigua's population is regulated by its droughts. It diminishes by emigration whenever these are badly felt. The only way out of our difficulties is by altering all our methods of cultivation, so that the minimum of work shall be done by manual labour; we shall employ a good deal less labour, thus making employment more in demand, and shall tend only to employ the more intelligent and hard working people, whom in their turn we shall be able to pay considerably better wages. The demand for their billets will then make it prudent for them to turn out to work for the same working week as our rival sugar-producing countries. I have no doubt that the general use of labour-saving implements will do as much for the raising of the standard of intelligence, and so of life, with the negro, as the use of machinery has done with the people of Britain; and, after all, any country's real wealth lies not so much in its natural resources, as in the energy, enterprise, and intelligence of its population. Panama seems to have lost a good deal of its charm for our people; most of those who go there get away as soon as they can and return thinner and wiser men, and they do not bring with them any of the wealth which was to have enabled them to live in Antigua with ease and dignity for the rest of their days. Another factor in the situation is the increase of peasant proprietors, and it may be well to explain the system of payment for peasant canes. The value of 96% crystals in the highest market is agreed every fortnight (the f.o.b. value, Antigua) by a Board appointed by the Governor, and consisting of officials and merchants who have no interests whatever in the factories and are there especially to see that the peasant is treated with perfect fairness. The factories are given a fortnight in which to sell their sugar, and it is assumed that it will fetch the same f.o.b. price as the Board have agreed. The price of the canes delivered in one fortnight is fixed by the average value of sugar in the succeeding fortnight, and is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of this. The peasants, however, do not have to wait a month for payment for their canes, for it has been agreed that whatever the price of sugar may be, they are not to receive less than 7s. 6d. per ton for canes. The peasant is therefore paid 7s. 6d. per ton weekly, on account, for every ton he has sold in the week, and when the final price is declared by the Board he is paid the rest. Cane inferior to the average of its kind may be refused by the factories, or may be purchased at any price arranged between seller and buyer, but

the peasant has the right of appeal to the Board as to whether his cane is "inferior cane" or not. Cane bought at below schedule rates like this, only counts as at its equivalent weight if bought at schedule rates with respect to working off the liability of the factories in their contracts with the Crown Agents. As a matter of practice, although peasants' cane are as a class distinctly inferior to estate grown cane, but little cane is rejected on account of inferiority. It is not easy to "spot" half a load of ratoons to the *n*th or higher powers of ratooning in a cartload of peasant's canes when skilfully packed by him with all the nice looking canes on the outside of the cart; the cart can even be "shot," so that the contents make a brave appearance of quality, and it is only when they are being picked up to be loaded on to the cane waggons or to the carrier, that the horrid truth is revealed. This, however, is usually too late, for the particular load to be identified with a particular peasant amongst the scores whose carts stream over the scale all day.

Beyond the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. payment for his canes the peasant gets nothing, that is to say, he does not participate in the profits of the factory as in the case of certain estates supplying Gunthorpe's factory with cane, and which have contracted to keep up a certain cane supply over a certain number of years under penalty. As a matter of fact, the peasant is very well off under the present arrangement; last crop he averaged 8s. 9d. a ton of canes, against which he had the expense of rent (if he did not own his land), planting (usually after a crop of potatoes grown on land broken up from rough pasture), weeding—a small item on land of this kind—cutting and carting the cane. No manures are used and no stock has to be kept. The average cost of hiring a cart to haul the cane is 1s. a ton per mile. These operations would only amount to about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total expenses of an estate, so that the price the peasant gets for his cane is equal to 14s. to 17s. 6d. a ton for estate grown cane, a much higher price, of course, than an estate gets for its cane. The peasant is, therefore, relatively in a much better position to employ labour and pay higher rates for it than is the estate saddled with $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of its total expenses in the form of dead expenses such as salaries, taxes, manure raising, estate upkeep, houses, &c., &c. This condition of things will last until all the land within easy haulage distance of the factories is exhausted by peasant agriculture, which will take a great number of years. After taking off a crop of canes and ratoons the peasant leaves the land and takes up another plot, so that Nature has time to restore by means of natural vegetation much of the fertility taken out by the crops of potatoes and cane. No better evidence of the improved position of the peasant over the estate labourer need be required than the rapidly increasing amount of peasant cane grown in preference to working on estates; of course there are other factors at work as well, such as the independent condition of the peasant grower, who can work when he likes and how he likes instead of being tied down to the discipline of estate work. The only thing likely to disturb this happy condition of affairs will be that the estates may find it impossible to get enough labour to till their own lands at rates that they can afford to pay and that the peasants are not able to furnish a sufficiently continuous supply of cane to keep the factories running continuously. The estates must supply the deficiency of cane, and as soon as all the cane they can grow has been used up in doing this the factory will have to stop work, whether all the peasant cane has been bought or not. It will now be seen where the full importance of labour-saving implements comes in, the more cane the estate can raise the more peasant cane can the factory attached to the estate buy. My remarks apply much more to Bendal's factory than to Gunthorpe's; in the case of this latter factory a much larger proportion of the cane is, and probably always will be, estate grown cane, than at Bendal's factory, where no less than $42\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total cane ground last crop was grown on the thousands of acres of waste land in the neighbourhood by peasants.

THE "KULUTUIK WENA."

Mr. C. Wilgress Anderson has been kind enough to give us some information with regard to the waterfall on the Ireng River, British Guiana, which was visited recently by the late Dr. Carl Bovallius, when he thought that he had made a new discovery. Mr. Wilgress Anderson tells us that the fall was first discovered by Mr. C. B. Brown, while engaged on a geological survey of British Guiana, and described by him in the Geological Reports of British Guiana, dated 1875, under the name of "Orinaduie," and also marked as "Orinedouie" on the geological map of 1873. While engaged last year on the demarcation of the boundary between British Guiana and Brazil, as fixed by the award of the King of Italy at Rome on the 6th of June, 1904, Mr. Anderson had to ascend the Ireng River, which now forms the frontier, and portage was necessary for his party at this fall now under discussion, which is the last large one as the source of that river is approached. He found it was known to the Indians who live in the vicinity (who are mostly Patamonas) as the "Kulu-tuik Wena" (Wena meaning a great fall), and it has been so-called in the official report on the boundary demarcation. Dr. Bovallius in his letter to the Demerara papers spells it "Kajutuik,"

which may, if pronounced in Swedish, be somewhat similar to the name told him. Mr. C. B. Brown calls this fall, on the geological map referred to, "Orinedouie," and the next large fall lower down the Ireng River (now known as "Orindouk") is called on the same map "Orindouie," so that some confusion may have occurred owing to the similarity of these two names, although in his reports Mr. C. B. Brown has correctly described these falls as being separate and distinct from each other; or, perhaps, he may have been misled as to the name of the former by Indians of another tribe accompanying him on his explorations. Certainly none of the Indians residing at present on the upper Ireng know it by that name. They all agree in calling it "Kulutuik." The Kulutuik Fall is not quite perpendicular, having three distinct drops, in all about 290 feet in height. Although a very pretty one, the fall is insignificant as compared to the Kaieteur Fall, which has a perpendicular height of 741 feet, with a much greater width and volume of water, nor with the many waterfalls which descend nearly 2,000 feet over the perpendicular cliffs of Mount Roraima and Mount Kukuenaam. Mr. Anderson added that he deeply deplored the death of Dr. Bovallius, for whom all had the greatest respect and regard. It was by his, Mr. Anderson's, advice that the deceased adopted the Potaro River route for obtaining access to his rubber concessions.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Chairman of the West Division Liberal Unionist Association at Birmingham, has received the following letter from Mr. Chamberlain in reply to congratulations sent to him on behalf of the executive committee on his improved health, and an expression of good wishes for his complete restoration:—

Highbury, November 29th, 1907.

MY DEAR PAYTON,—I hope you will take the first opportunity of thanking your committee for their kind resolution, and for their good wishes. I hope it may not be long before I take my place again in the front rank of the fight for Unionism and the policy for which it now stands. I am more than ever convinced that the future of this country depends upon the adoption of tariff reform, and none will profit more from this change than the working classes of the kingdom, who are called upon at the present time to fight competition with their hands tied behind their backs. Thanking you and your committee for all the support that they have given me,

I am, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

By none more than his many friends in the West Indies would Mr. Chamberlain's return to political life be welcomed.

THE WEST INDIES AND CANADA.

Much prominence has of late been given to the desirability of improving the trade relations between the West Indies and the Dominion of Canada, and in this connection the following letter, which was addressed by the West India Committee to the Hon. W. S. Fielding, Finance Minister of Canada, will be of interest:—

October 15th, 1907.

SIR,—In accordance with the suggestion made in your kind favour of September 24th, we beg to submit for your consideration certain remarks regarding the trade relations between Canada and the British West Indies, which it is our earnest desire to see strengthened as far as possible.

That there is much room for an increase in the volume of trade between these parts of the British Empire admits of no doubt. At present, lack of adequate cable and steamship communication seriously militates against its development. To meet present and future requirements and to provide telegraphic facilities between Canada and the West Indies, the existing telegraphic system—affected as it is not only by interruptions which give rise to large maintenance charges and consequent excessive telegraphic rates, but also by the fact that it is bound in perpetuity by contracts with the Cuban and American companies—should be replaced by a reliable, and what is important, an all-British service at reduced charges. This we venture to think can best be brought about by the extension of the existing cables between Halifax and Bermuda, to Barbados on an Atlantic bed, free from volcanic or other disturbances, and thence to Trinidad and British Guiana.

The delegates of the Canadian Board of Trade, who visited the West Indies in February last, in their report, which was printed by the Halifax, N.S., Board of Trade, stated that communication between Demerara and Canada is very inefficient. Cable messages from that place pass through foreign islands and thence to Jamaica and Canada, and the delegates recommended that the proposed Bermuda-Barbados cable might overcome these difficulties. Mr. Allen, addressing a special meeting at Toronto on April 10th last, stated that "Cable communication was almost neglected."

It is suggested that the Canadian Government might, in view of the increasing trade between Canada and the West Indies, join with the British Government in providing the necessary

subsidy. It may be added that such a system of telegraphic communication, besides serving to strengthen commercial ties, would be of immense strategic value.

With regard to steamship communication between Canada and the West Indies, it must be admitted that this is at present unsatisfactory and capable of great improvement. The present contract with Messrs. Pickford & Black has only three years more to run, and it is suggested that when it terminates it would be desirable to remodel the service. The new boats should, we venture to think, be built of a suitable class, and fitted with refrigerating chambers of the latest design and cold storage suitable for fruit, butter and meat. It would also be a great convenience if the speed of the steamers were such as to permit of the boat from and to Canada meeting the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's transatlantic steamers from Southampton at Barbados. A call should be made at all the important islands in the West Indies, and also Demerara, weekly or at least every fortnight. We are aware that such a service could not be obtained for the subsidy at present paid to Messrs. Pickford & Black, but inasmuch as it should be able to perform the duties of the present intercolonial mail service, it might perhaps be possible for the Canadian Government so to arrange matters with the Colonial Office that the Pickford & Black and Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.'s services might be worked into one effective system between the West Indies and Canada.

The West India Committee venture to think that one of the reasons why Canada does not do more business with the West Indies than she does at present, is that Canadian men are not seeking it so actively as they might do. They do not send commercial travellers down the islands, nor make sufficient effort to cultivate the trade. American travellers constantly visit the West Indies, enquiring what class of goods are required and in what way such goods should be packed, and they do all in their power to stimulate trade. Again, the American system of financing their exports meets with more approval in the West Indies than the Canadian system does. The West Indies, being so scattered, can hardly be expected to push their trade in Canada to any extent, but they are doing what they can in this direction. At the exhibition opened in Toronto on August 26th and Halifax on September 25th, the West Indies made for the fourth year a very complete exhibit of their various products.

With regard to the question of reciprocity, the West India Committee, while appreciating the action of Canada in granting preferential treatment to West Indian products, feel that when Canada is able to take the whole of the sugar crop of the West Indies, a reciprocal arrangement would be very desirable, and they wish to point out that the West Indies could, by granting a preference on such articles as timber, fish, and flour, which are very largely used in the islands, confer a material benefit upon Canada, to whom a large proportion of the trade at present done with the United States would be transferred. It is within the power of both the West Indies and Canada by their respective legislatures, to formulate suitable trade arrangements. If these were based on preferential terms, we should regard such a basis as being the most equitable and efficacious method of dealing with hostile preferential tariffs, to which imports of British goods, both home and colonial, are subjected by foreign Governments. At present, the consumption of sugar in Canada may be taken as 210,000 to 220,000 tons, whilst the production of sugar in the West Indies is from 250,000 to 260,000 tons. It might, therefore, be reasonably hoped that within a year or two Canada would be able to take pretty well the whole production of the West Indies. Unfortunately, however, the recent decision to permit the admission of 20,000 tons of beet sugar per annum into the Dominion on preferential terms must delay matters.

Trusting that you will be pleased to give these representations your careful consideration, and thanking you for so courteously giving the West India Committee an opportunity of making them,

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

In reply, Mr. Fielding has promised to give all due consideration to the views contained in this letter.

THE CABLE QUESTION.

At a meeting of the Combined Court of British Guiana on November 14th, the Governor moved a resolution approving the acceptance of the offer of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company to instal a system of wireless telegraphy between Georgetown, British Guiana, and Port of Spain, Trinidad, and the guarantee for a period of five years of the annual subsidy of £3,000 at present paid to the company. Mr. Mackie pointed out that the guarantee of the present subsidy for five years would mean the continuation of the present high rate of 7s. a word for messages to the

United Kingdom. Sir Frederic Hodgson said that at the meeting of the Cable Communication Committee on which he served in London, the chairman pointed out that the Imperial Government was not prepared to give any annual subsidy, so that the Direct Cable Company, the representative of which gave evidence before the Committee, although quite willing to extend their operations, found themselves unable to do so because of the expense which would not be recovered by a subsidy or by such guarantees as were asked for by the West India and Panama Company in connection with the establishment of communication with Trinidad by means of wireless telegraphy. In his judgment they had better take what was offered. Mr. Wood Davis said that they should limit the payment of the subsidy to three years. They would be shelving the question of an all-British cable, of the achievement of which he did not abandon all hope. The Company's charges were not in reason with the economy of the day. Mr. Cameron urged that provision should be inserted for the infliction of penalties in the event of cessation of communication, and the Government should have the right to terminate the contract on giving notice of six months or a year. The Governor then said that he did not abandon the idea of an all-British cable, but he thought that what would first happen would be that they would have an all-British system of wireless telegraphy. Reference had been made to the rates charged, but he might say that the matter had not been overlooked, and as soon as a convenient time came there would be an effort to get the rates reduced. The resolution was then carried *nem. con.*

The question of the high message rate was dealt with in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of November 12th. Since then a remarkable article regarding "Wireless" has appeared in the *Electrical Review* of November 26th, which deserves careful consideration. The writer, Prof. R. A. Fessenden, whose name is well known in connection with radio-telegraphy, states that this system is not as yet adapted owing to (1) slow speed; (2) lack of secrecy; (3) liability to interference; (4) atmospheric disturbances.

THE COLONIAL FRUIT SHOW.

At the earlier shows of colonial fruits at the Horticultural Hall the West Indies were predominant. Now it would seem that the larger self-governing colonies appreciate these exhibitions to a greater extent than do our friends in the West Indies, for whereas at the eighth show, which was held on November 28th and 29th, there was a magnificent display of fruits from British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario, &c., the West Indies were, comparatively speaking, poorly represented as regards quantity. We say "quantity" advisedly, for the exhibits were excellent in their way. This was particularly the case as regards the West Indian Produce Association, who were deservedly awarded a gold medal for the immense variety of produce which they showed—to give a list would be to enumerate nearly all the products of the West Indies—and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who won the highest award for botanical specimens, which were set out to advantage by Mr. Ward. The Norbrook Preserving Company, of Jamaica, gained the encomiums of the judges for the manner in which their preserves were bottled, and the greatest credit is due to Mrs. W. H. Sharpe, of Grenada, for a very complete collection of preserved fruits and jellies, in which much interest was shown. The cacao cheese, made from the pulp which surrounds the cacao bean, in particular attracted much attention. The Committee were awarded a gold medal for the manner in which the West Indian exhibits were set out, but the judges did not see their way to make an award to the individual exhibitors on this occasion, as they did in the case of the magnificent displays from Dominica at former exhibitions. It is safe to assume, however, that the West Indies will not grudge this compliment being paid for once in a way, though the Committee themselves would have preferred the award going to one of the colonies. We are glad to see that Mr. Hamel Smith, the editor of our contemporary *Tropical Life*, gained a Bronze Banksian medal for a large selection of varieties of cocoa. On this occasion the West Indies were quite out-numbered and out-classed by the several self-governing colonies represented, whose fruits seem to bring into the hall the sunshine from the colonies whence they came, so excellent was their condition and arrangement. Mention must be made of the special boxes in which the fruit from Trinidad was shipped. These were 13 in. by 16 in. in size, perforated on two sides, the holes being covered with perforated zinc. Each box contained four trays, in which the fruit was carefully laid. The judges, while feeling that for exhibition purposes such packing arrangement was admirable, expressed some doubts as to whether it could be adopted for commercial purposes, on the score of expense. A specimen of the box is now at the West India Committee Rooms, where it can be inspected by those interested. The cacao from Grenada was submitted at the close of the exhibition to experts in Mincing Lane, who placed it in the following order of merit: First, that grown by Mr. A. H. B. Gall (Waltham Estate), then, in order, those of Mr. G. Paterson (Herman Estate), Mr. F. Harford (Springs Estate), Rev. G. W. Branch (Good Hope Estate), Mrs. McEwen (Cardrona Estate), Mr. W. M. Smith (Diamond Estate), Mr. F. Harford (L'Esterre Estate), and Mrs. McEwen (Sans Souci Estate). It was satisfactory that on this occasion, at the suggestion of the West India

Committee, a greater attempt was made to arouse public interest in the exhibition. Complimentary tickets were distributed free and handbills widely circulated. Next year this endeavour to popularise the shows will be carried further, and it is to be hoped that a joint effort will be made by the Permanent Exhibition Committees to show their appreciation, and at the same time to benefit the colonies which they represent from these new arrangements. To this brief account of the exhibition some particulars regarding next year's shows may be added. We commend them to the notice of the Department of Agriculture, and to the various Permanent Exhibition Committees. The President and Council of the Royal Horticultural Society have again arranged to hold exhibitions of colonial grown fruits and vegetables on Thursday and Friday, March 5th and 6th, June 11th and 12th, and November 26th and 27th, 1908. In fixing such dates the object aimed at is to suit the season which is most likely to find the produce of the Cape and India; of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand; and of Canada, British Columbia, and the West Indies, in the greatest perfection in London. Opportunity is afforded for each colony to make collective exhibits in addition to the exhibits of individual growers or firms.

These exhibitions were originally organised in 1904, and have been the means of bringing before the British fruit merchants and fruit-consuming public the wonderful resources of the fruit markets of Great Britain quite independently of the foreigner. The society's sole object is the advancement of the interest of the colonies (a) by stimulating the production of better fruits, (b) by giving advice and assistance in the difficulties ever confronting fruit growers, and (c) by helping to inform the home market. The results have been encouraging, for even in so short a time as the last three years a distinctly better quality of fruit has been sent, those recently shown being of an improved appearance, less blotched by fungus, scale, and other defects, and better packed. At the same time, the Council are disappointed at the lack of exhibitors and the smallness of their exhibits. Fruit growers in the colonies are therefore asked to assist their own future competition in the market by sending to the present exhibitions, invitations to which will be given to the Colonial and Government Offices, the Embassies, the leading London fruit merchants, colonials on furlough, and many others.

The Agents-General and other authorities are most kindly rendering every assistance, and it is hoped that both growers and shippers will do their best to send in exhibits worthy of our colonies, and to show what can be produced for the home markets. No entrance fee or charge for space is made and tabling is also provided free of expense. If desired, any produce may be consigned direct to the Society and it will be stored in the cellars at Vincent Square, and staged by the Society's officials, but the Society cannot undertake to repack and return any exhibits. In order to allow intending exhibitors and others time to make their arrangements, the West India Committee will be pleased to furnish them with any further information and to forward entry forms and schedule. If the above shows are well supported by the colonies concerned, three further exhibitions will be held in 1909, on or about March 11th and 12th, June 10th and 11th, and November 25th and 26th. It would indeed be regrettable if such admirable opportunities of bringing colonial produce before the notice of the British public were allowed to lapse through lack of support.

MECHANICAL TILLAGE.

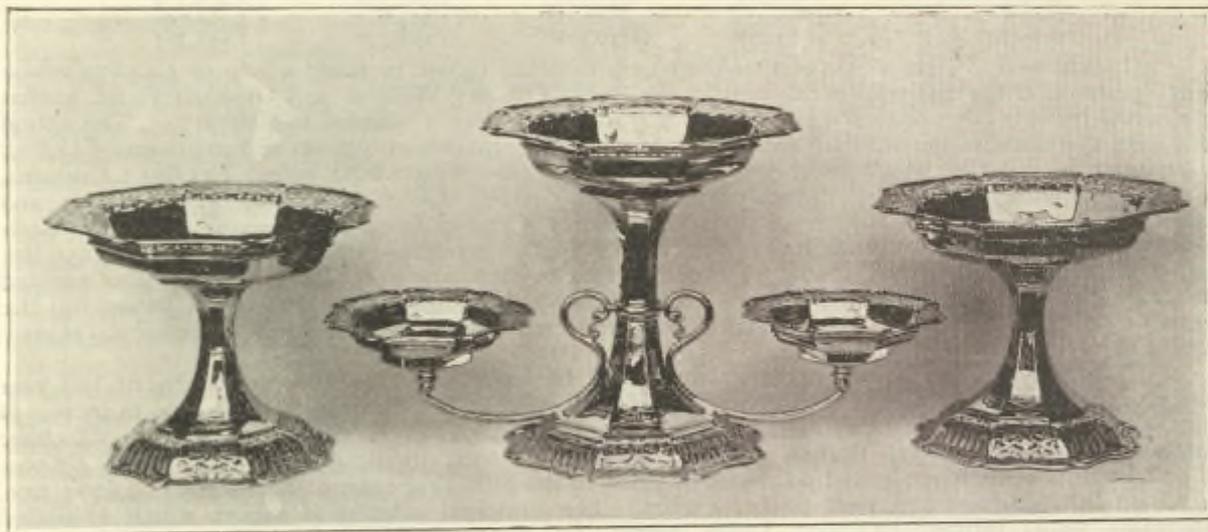
The possibility of the adoption of mechanical tillage in the West Indies is a matter which deserves more than passing notice. In 1906, Messrs. Henckell, Du Buisson & Co. introduced a number of American implements into Antigua, and, under the direction of one of their managers who had visited Louisiana, assisted by an expert from that State, commenced the cultivation of a considerable area of land for canes on lines involving the minimum of hand labour. The work has now been in progress a sufficiently long time to admit of attention being drawn to the results already achieved.

Local opinion, says an editorial in the *Agricultural News*, feared the system would break down owing to difficulties in connection with drainage. It is satisfactory, however, to note that the drainage system, which involves deep open drains from 30 ft. to 100 ft. apart, with shallow drains crossing the ridges or furrows at right angles, and delivering their surplus water into the main drains, appears to answer its purpose admirably, and doubts on this point are rapidly disappearing. Any small quantity of mould thrown by the implements into the "quarter-drains" is removed by small pony plough or by hand. Beyond the effect of weeding, which is satisfactorily performed by the implements, a most important result follows from the ability to stir the whole surface of the soil to a depth of 2 or 3 inches. This forms what is known as a dust mulch, and constitutes a most important means of conserving soil moisture. That this effect does result was demonstrated a short time ago when, at the end of a long, dry spell, samples of soil were taken from two adjacent spots, both under young canes, one of which had been worked under the old system, and the other under the new: the samples were taken from (a) the surface, (b) 5 inches deep, and (c) 15 inches deep. The surface soil under the new system contained 2 per cent. less moisture than that under the old, but at 5 inches deep there was 5 per cent. more moisture, and at 15 inches over 5½ per

cent. more. The significance of this will be seen when it is remembered that 5 per cent. of moisture is approximately equal to 1 inch of rain in a foot of soil. In other words, at the end of the dry period the soil cultivated under the new system had an advantage over that treated under the old, equal to an inch of rain, and moreover, had had the continual benefit of the additional moisture throughout the whole period. While this development has been in progress important changes have taken place in connexion with the labour supply. Where formerly labour was abundant, and it was sometimes difficult to find work for labourers, now, with the expansion of agricultural effort in the direction of cotton growing, and of the cultivation of canes by the peasantry for sale to the factories, together with the depletion of the labour supply by emigration, there is considerable difficulty in finding sufficient hands. A method which permits of the cultivation of the fields, and the raising of a crop by the use of implements proves most acceptable, and, apart from its other advantages, will commend itself to planters, and already there is evidence that the system will soon be quite widely adopted. The system lends itself admirably to cotton cultivation; indeed, it is hardly too much to say that cotton growing in Antigua will soon be dependent on the introduction of implemental tillage.

TWO PRESENTATIONS.

The Editor has received the following for publication: "A few days after the last mail left, an



The silver épergne and fruit dishes.

This plate was presented to the Secretary of the West India Committee by the Members of the Barbados Committee of Commerce on the occasion of his marriage. It will be seen that the design is particularly handsome and effective.

informal little gathering took place at the West India Committee Rooms, the occasion being the presentation of a wedding present to the Secretary from the Barbados Committee of Commerce. Mr. Rutherford, who had been deputed to make the presentation, and was accompanied by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, asked Mr. Aspinall to accept a silver épergne and fruit dishes as a visible token of the goodwill and gratitude felt by the Barbados Committee of Commerce for his services as Secretary of the West India Committee. Mr. Rutherford expressed regret that Mr. Hänschell, the Chairman, was too far away to make the presentation on behalf of his colleagues, as he had the facility for giving expression to the happiest and kindest sentiments on such an occasion. Mr. Collymore, as a member of the Barbados Chamber, said that he had gladly availed himself of Mr. Rutherford's suggestion that he should accompany him, and expressed the great pleasure it had afforded him to be present, and to testify how much the Secretary's services were appreciated by the commercial body in Barbados. There was an old saying, "Beware of presents from the Greeks," but Mr. Aspinall need have no fear that the present from the Barbados Committee of Commerce was conceived in any such spirit. The épergne, on which was engraved the familiar badge of Barbados, bore the following inscription: "Presented to Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary of the West India Committee, on the occasion of his marriage, in appreciation of his services, by the Committee of Commerce, Barbados, September 4th, 1907."

" Mr. H. d'Esterre Spooner and the Hon. J. Freeland Foote also met and presented to Mr. Aspinall, on behalf of the members of the West India Committee in Antigua, a handsome Sheraton china cupboard, bearing on one of the shelves a silver plate with the following inscription: ' Presented to Algernon E. Aspinall by the Antigua members of the West India Committee as a mark of their appreciation of his services, September, 1907.'

" Mr. Aspinall, in thanking the gentlemen for making the presentation, said how grateful he was to his friends in Barbados and Antigua for recognising in so substantial a manner any small services which he might have been able to render. He begged them to convey to the subscribers the expression of his heartfelt appreciation and thanks."

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Trinidad and Tobago.

The following table, based on the annual report on the Blue Book, shows the revenue and expenditure, and imports and exports of Trinidad and Tobago for the past six 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
1906-7	763,272	810,474	3,120,717	2,872,325

It is as well to state, however, that the receipts during 1905-6 included a sum of £40,874 which was transferred to the credit of the colony from the Public Officers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, so that the actual receipts from ordinary revenue sources in that year amounted to £807,079. The actual decrease, therefore, in the ordinary receipts of 1906-7 as compared with those of 1905-6 was £43,807. The items of revenue which exhibited the largest decrease were: land sales, £15,601; Customs, £11,543; licences, &c., £2,449; fees of court, &c., £4,168; Government railways, £2,793; and immigration tax, £1,887. The very serious decrease of £43,807 from the revenue of the previous year was principally due to the failure of the cacao crop, the export of which fell from 48,416,256 lbs. in 1905-6 to 27,570,928 lbs. in 1906-7. Better prices towards the end of the financial year assisted to counterbalance in some small degree the extraordinary shortage in the output of cacao, but the lessening of the amount of money in circulation is reflected in the diminished receipts under the several heads of revenue already referred to.

The principal articles of import which showed increases in value over the figures of last year were: cacao, £34,000 (the quantity being less than last year but the value more, due to increased prices); machinery, £28,400; rubber, £13,800; Tonca beans, £12,700; coal and patent fuel, £10,800; butter substitutes, £9,000; timber, £9,300; manure, £8,600; dholl, £7,100; and flour, £5,500. These imports of articles showed decreases in value to the following extent: hardware, £9,600; rice, £7,800; fish, £7,700; and malt liquor, £5,303. The principal articles of export which exhibited increases were: timber, £44,100; Tonca beans, £24,700; coco-nuts (including the products), £22,000; asphalt, £17,900; Venezuelan cacao, £14,700; and rum, £11,900. Decreases were shown in a large number of minor exports, while heavy deficits occurred in the values of Trinidad cacao (£239,000), and sugar (£21,000), due in the former case to a short crop and in the latter to low prices.

407 wireless messages and press bulletins for £943.

In his general observations Mr. W. M. Gordon, the Acting Colonial Secretary, states that the wireless telegraph system between Trinidad and Tobago, opened to the public in the beginning of the year 1906, continued to afford satisfaction. The total cost of the installation, which is duplicated, was £1,865, and the total estimated cost of the working during the year 1907-8 was £943, of which salaries of operators, messengers, and clerks, absorbed £681, and maintenance, repairs, oil, spares, &c., £262. The substance of the public news telegrams is transmitted daily to Tobago, and increasing use is being made of the system for private and official telegrams. The total number of wireless telegrams transmitted to and fro between Trinidad and Tobago during this, its first year's working, was 407, besides daily news telegrams. Communications with ships of war lying in harbour a radius of 250 miles from Trinidad. Committees sat and reported during the year on the questions of Railway Extension and Tariff Reform. The former Committee, after considering the merits of six different schemes of extension, recommended the simultaneous construction of lines of railway from Tabaquite to Poole, a distance of 16 miles, and from San Fernando to Siparia, which are 13½ miles apart. The vital question of ways and means for the construction of these extensions or of

either of them has, however, yet to be considered. The report of the Tariff Committee had not yet been published. Both questions would be considered at the next Session of the Legislative Council.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S.P. *Tagus*, which left Barbados on November 19th, at 6. p.m., reached Southampton at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, November 30th; and the R.M.S. *Port Henderson* from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, December 4th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Barbados—The condition of H.M.S. *Indefatigable*.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne writing on November 17th said that a nice general rain of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ins. fell on the 10th, and some places had also had good showers since. It would take, however, much more than that to bring the rainfall of the year up to the normal quantity, and another heavy fall was needed to soak the ground thoroughly during the planting season. Many estates had taken advantage of recent showers to begin, and there were a good many acres of canes already in the ground. The old crop was very prolific of arrows this year, and many fields were so thick with them that the canes could not be seen at all. Those planted with B. 208 and 376 were an exception. Cotton was coming forward nicely and there was much less disease this year. The price seemed to continue fair. It was disappointing that beet seemed to hang about 9s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—Sir Daniel Morris returned from the islands on November 12th, but left on the same day for Demerara. He would, however, be back on the 19th, and on the 22nd they had arranged a joint meeting of the Agricultural Society and Commercial Hall, at which he would give an account of his visit to Canada and the prospects of trade between that country and the West Indies.—The Education Commission had begun its sitting under the presidency of the Bishop. It was likely to be a long affair.—The *Atrato* had arrived on the 11th, after a very rough passage. She brought back many inhabitants who had been spending the summer in England, and were not sorry to feel warm again. Moreover, people who had stayed at Barbados for their health last winter, were so pleased with the climate that they had come to try it again. This was always a good sign.—Lord Basil Blackwood received a hearty welcome, and had now assumed his duties.—The King's birthday ball was given by the Governor and Lady Carter on November 12th, about 300 guests being present. The rooms were prettily decorated, and dancing was kept up with great spirit till a late hour. The *Indefatigable* returned just in time for it, and a German training ship was also in the bay. The races were held next day and the day following, and were a great success. There were numerous entries from Trinidad, Demerara, Grenada and Barbados, and the honours were pretty fairly divided. Owing to the excellence of the handicapping, every race was well contested, and there was one dead heat.—It had been alleged against Barbados that there were no opportunities for amusement, or at all events no facilities offered to visitors to join in any. This reproach had now been taken away by the formation during the present year of "The Savannah Club," which already included about 100 members, and no doubt that number would soon be largely increased. As its name implied, the Club had rented the old Savannah, and had already laid out much money in improving the polo ground, the lawn tennis courts, and the golf links. Here polo was played twice a week, and every day players might be seen on the tennis courts and golf links. The old clock tower formed the habitation of the Club, and comprised reading room, drawing room, bridge room, &c. Tea and coffee drinks and light refreshments could be served. The subscription varied for town and country members, and visitors were admitted on very easy terms on the introduction of a member. Without doubt this Club would materially enhance the attractions of the island during the ensuing winter.—It was with much regret that the news of the death of Mr. T. C. Garth had been received.—The recognition of the services of Mr. C. P. Lucas and Mr. Ralph Williams in the birthday honours list, had been noted with pleasure.—The writer learnt that the stay of the *Indefatigable* in Bermuda, during the repairs of the ship, was not as pleasant as had been expected. Instead of being quartered on shore in barracks, as was formerly the case, the crew found that the barracks were practically dismantled, and the officers and men were transferred to an old troopship, the *Malabar*, now nothing more than a hulk, and the health of all suffered accordingly. When would the Admiralty cease to play fast and loose with the health of the men they employed? To keep men caged up on board ship for years in the tropics was ridiculous, when they could have frequent depôts among the islands at little cost, from which the men could be available at any time.

British Guiana—The value of the rice industry.

Mr. G. R. Garnett, writing to us on November 16th, said that the subject uppermost in the minds of those engaged in the sugar industry, when writing, was the very poor condition of the crop this season. There was a very excessive rainfall up to July, which did much harm to the land and growing

crop; canes due for reaping at this time of the year were often completely waterlogged and could not obtain the necessary nourishment from the soil. Experienced planters were of opinion that they had never before seen so much injury done to growing crops in the colony by drought or rain. They were now experiencing very dry weather which, however, was always expected at the time of the year.—They were in the middle of the reaping of the big rice crop, which in some places was turning out satisfactorily, but on the whole seemed to have suffered also from the deluge of the earlier months. This industry had become a valuable one to the colony. At present it was estimated that there were about 30,000 acres in cultivation yielding a crop of about 750,000 bags paddy, worth roughly \$1,000,000. As all of this went to the growers, who were of the peasantry class, it must mean a large increase in the circulation of money; on the other hand the imports of rice from India were falling rapidly, and the Customs' revenue from this source was gradually reaching the vanishing point. The Government, however, were getting their estimated revenue for the year, so that the decrease from rice would seem to be coming back in other ways, and if so, the local rice industry would appear to be bringing profit to the colony. Rice mills continued to spring up all over the country, and there was an active demand for paddy, the price of which had been raised through competition to a high figure. The growth of the industry was undoubtedly affecting the labour supply on the sugar estates, but most of those that had land available had rented it out to growers in order to keep them on the property. The position, however, called for every effort being made to instal mechanical appliances that would save labour in sugar growing.—At the request of a majority of the elective members of the Combined Court the Governor had appointed a commission to inquire into the treatment of patients and the discipline at the public hospital in Georgetown. The Commissioners had commenced their sittings which, judging by present indications, were likely to be prolonged.—Dr. Carl Bovallius, who was managing a rubber concession in the interior for English capitalists, died suddenly from acute malaria on November 8th. Dr. Bovallius was perhaps the only man in the colony who had any practical knowledge of the growing of rubber, and his death was a distinct loss to all. He made many sincere friends during his stay in British Guiana, and they felt his death very keenly.—The Demerara Development Company, who were now represented in the colony by Mr. F. W. Bolton, were proceeding with the work of clearing the land purchased from the Government for the planting of limes. Other people in the colony were turning their attention to the cultivation of this fruit, which in Dominica and elsewhere gave such excellent results. British Guiana was selected by the Demerara Development Company on the advice of their expert, as being the most suitable for the establishment of a plantation, the fruit growing in luxuriance under almost all conditions. It was hoped that some day it would become an important industry. At the present price of concentrated lime juice there were big profits to be made.—Sir Daniel Morris arrived by the mail for the purpose of delivering an address on the subject of his recent visit to Canada, and it was hoped that the information he would supply would tend to bring the West Indies and Canada into closer commercial contact.—Mr. Archibald G. Bell, the Colonial Civil Engineer, had been appointed to a similar position in Trinidad, to the great regret of a large number of people in British Guiana, as he was generally regarded as an excellent administrator and one of the most valuable Government officers.—Writing on November 16th, Mr. J. C. McCowan said that the Commissioner of Agriculture addressed a public meeting at the Agricultural Society's room on the afternoon of the 15th, but owing to its being mail day there was not that full attendance that there would otherwise have been. Full details of the meeting may be found in the *Argosy*.—The showers reported in Mr. McCowan's last letter did not continue. It had been very dry during the fortnight, and rain was much needed both in town and country.—The death of Mr. Nathaniel Alleyne Matthews, late clerk in charge of the Georgetown office of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., which took place after a painful illness on November 12th, caused widespread regret.—Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co. in their report dated November 15th, said that the high drying winds were causing the canes to deteriorate rapidly. Returns were very poor and decreasing in consequence. Crop would be very short and a considerable proportion of estates would finish grinding operations by the end of that month and early next.—We have received from Mr. T. Sidney Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, a return of the colony's exports for the months of July, August, September, and October, as follows:—

	July.	August.	September.	October.		July.	August.	September.	October.
Gold ...	6,335	5,018	5,434	6,267 ozs.	Timber ...	111	11,473	29,168	14,597 cub.ft.
Diamonds	—	514	194	282 carats.	Lumber, green-heart,				
Balata ...	69,325	156,601	210,520	177,159 lbs.	mora, &c. ...	384	6,099	195	46,817 ..
Locust gum	792	108	409	1,704 ..	Wallaba and hard-				
Rubber ...	351	299	367	845½ ..	wood posts ...	105	359	239	951
Fish-glue...	1,595	1,679	2,793	1,675 ..	Firewoods, wallaba, &c.	399	436	573	582 tons.
Charcoal ...	5,882	8,396	6,519	7,829 bags.	Railway sleepers ...	—	—	1,000	—
Shingles ...	232,000	62,000	187,050	31,500					

Dominica—Cassava starch and "Dominax."

Mr. E. A. Agar stated in his letter of November 16th that Messrs. Everington & Co., of Melville Hall estate, had made their first shipment of cassava starch on a commercial scale. This was an industry that might become of great importance to the island. This energetic firm were also making a new mixed stock feed, which they were calling "Dominax." It seemed to be suitable for all kinds of live stock, including fowls, and the price charged was very moderate. Samples of this article were being sent to England.—From the matter published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR with regard to the San Thomé cacao industry, it appeared that steps might shortly be taken to better the conditions of production as far as the labour was concerned. The civilised world had long accepted the principle of insisting on good labour conditions, and one hoped to see that principle applied to this case.—The past fortnight opened with very fine, dry weather, but the last three or four days had been heavily wet, with a good deal of thunder.

The new Government Buildings for Jamaica.

On November 20th the Governor, accompanied by Mr. Watkins, Commissioner of Turks Island, visited the cotton cultivations of Mr. L. G. Desporte at Kingston Penn and Cockburn Penn, on the Spanish Town Road, and at Industry, in St. Andrew, Mr. Watkins expressed himself as well pleased with the growth and prospects of the cotton cultivations. Mr. Desporte is to be congratulated on his success so far.—The hearing of the second insurance case began on November 25th. The greatest confidence as to its favourable issue was felt by the inhabitants of Kingston.—The *Daily Gleaner*, of the 21st inst., published an interesting interview with the Governor, Sir Sydney Olivier, who stated that plans were in course of preparation for the building of the new Government buildings. The cost would be about £80,000, which would be drawn from last year's surplus, which amounted to about £100,000. The Legislative Council would be convened at the earliest possible date—probably in January—to decide upon the plans and to vote the money necessary for the undertaking.—The health of the island was very satisfactory.

Loyalty and sport in St. Kitts.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reported on November 14th that since last advices the weather had continued favourable, and the growth of the sugar-cane had been most marked, and the soil had been in nice condition for agricultural operations for the 1909 crop. Cotton picking was now pretty general, and shipments were becoming tangible, the last mail steamer taking away fifty-five bales. The crop generally had been very free from caterpillar attacks, but there had been a good deal of blister mite about. Reports as to probable yield varied very considerably, and at the date of writing the probable crop would hardly be estimated, but it was not expected that it would be less than 750 bales (of 400 lbs. each).—The King's birthday was celebrated in due course. His Honour, the Administrator, started by giving a large dance on Friday night, the 8th, His Majesty's health being drunk very, very early on the 9th. "A" Company of the Defence Force turned out with the police at 8 a.m., firing a *feu de joie*, the band played the national anthem, after which there was a royal salute and three cheers for His Majesty. Gun teams from the Defence Force fired a salute of twenty-one guns from the long silent guns. Later in the day there was a large gathering at "Sadler's" race course to attend the opening day of the "Northern Race Meeting," which turned out to be eminently successful. (We are indebted to Mr. D. Hope Ross for a copy of the programme. The stewards were Mr. E. S. Delisle, Mr. E. J. Shelford, Mr. W. B. O'M. Berridge, Mr. R. A. Hardtman, and Hon. J. T. Manchester. The starter was Mr. D. C. Todd. Judge, A. O. Thurston, and Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, our esteemed Hon. Correspondent, A. D. C. Adamson).—On Sunday there was a church parade at St. George's Church, Basseterre, which was well attended by "A," "B," and the Cadet Company.

Sea-island cotton exports from St. Kitts-Nevis.

We have received the following statement showing quantity and weight of cotton shipped from St. Kitts-Nevis for the period from January, to September, 1907:—

Shipped to	Bales.			Weight (lbs.)			Total number of bales.	Total weight lbs.
	St. Kitts	Nevis.	Anguilla.	St. Kitts.	Nevis.	Anguilla.		
United Kingdom ...	484	409	297	167,143	93,526	59,666	1,190	320,335
United States ...	8	—	—	2,210	—	—	8	2,210
Total ...	492	409	297	169,353	93,526	59,666	1,198	322,545

No change as yet in the political crisis in St. Lucia.

The political situation remained unaltered when Mr. S. D. Melville wrote on November 18th. Mr. Cork arrived on the 14th, but up to the time of writing the Unofficial Members of the Council

had received no intimation of his views.—Mr. DuBoulay was expected to arrive by the French mail on November 23rd.—There had been some showers during the past day or two, but they were short, all round, of the normal rainfall.

Revival of St. Vincent's sugar industry.

Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. writing on November 18th, said that recent heavy rains had retarded somewhat the picking of cotton, although it could not be said that much damage had been done as yet. November with St. Vincent, since the advent of Sea Island cotton, was always looked upon with suspicion, however, so they hoped to be fortunate enough to get through all right. Cane planting in the Carib country proceeded apace, and they had already got in over 100 acres, planted for the most part with imported plants of the best varieties from Barbados, and all growing well.—In his letter of the same date, Mr. W. N. Sands stated that cotton was coming well and work was in full swing at the gineries. It was hoped to make a first and large shipment of this season's crop by the mail of December 2nd.—The weather during the past few days had been unsettled, and a severe thunderstorm with heavy rain was experienced on the 15th. However, provided that there was no long spell, which was hardly likely at this season, the writer did not anticipate damage to the crops. Mr. Sands had recently visited the Leeward district, and was pleased to see some promising cotton growing at Richmond Estate, an estate which was devastated by the Soufrière. The ash was being rapidly decomposed to form soil by the roots of the pioneer plants. These plants had covered the lands much better than on the Windward side.

Trinidad—Emerging from a period of depression.

Writing on November 18th, Mr. Edgar Tripp said that the French cruiser *Duguay Trouin*, 2,527 tons, 505 men, 18 guns, a training ship for cadets, arrived at the island on the 5th and remained a week.—The attractions of Trinidad as a fishing resort were not sufficiently known. Tarpon were fairly plentiful at the Bocas, whilst grouper and other fish afforded excellent sport in the Gulf. A great haul was made (and verified—which is a consideration in a fish story) at La Brea the other day when a Customs' boatman, fishing off the Brighton pier, with an ordinary hand line, fitted with a fathom of No. 18 brass wire, and a number 5 Kirby hook, secured a grouper weighing 314 lbs. It took three hours to land the fish, with the assistance of boats, harpoons, &c. It measured 6 ft. 6 ins. with a girth of 5 ft. 1 in.—The School Shows, held under the auspices of the Education Department, which received a special grant in aid from the Agricultural Society, were proving very successful. They were held at the four principal centres of the island, and at Tobago, and very creditable exhibits of fruit, vegetables, live stock, &c., came forward. Special sections were open to peasant proprietors as well, and were largely availed of. The Port of Spain Show took place on the 7th, and it was a great improvement on any that had gone before. The Acting Governor, with Mrs. Knaggs, was present, and in a happy speech, paid a well-deserved compliment to Colonel J. H. Collens, the Inspector of Schools, for the success resulting from the great personal interest he had taken in the scheme for the Shows.—The telegraph brought the welcome news of the departure of Sir Henry and Lady Jackson from England on the 13th. At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held on the 14th inst., the question of arranging for a suitable reception was considered, and it was decided to call a public meeting for the purpose, under the auspices of the Chamber, at the News Room, on the 19th, as many representations from outside, expressing the wish to participate, had been received. At the same meeting a resolution was passed of regret that the Government, without consulting the Chamber, had demonetised the doubloon, the gold coin principally circulating between Trinidad and the Spanish Main, as likely to lead to considerable inconvenience and loss of trade, especially with Venezuela, and suggesting the desirability of rescinding the Order in Council. The legal tender of doubloons was previously \$15.36, but the trade value \$15.50. Since the notification that they had ceased to be legal tender, the banks only allowed \$15.10 for them.—Inspector Brierly, who was retiring from the Constabulary after an honourable and valuable service of thirty-three years, (having previously served in the Royal Irish Constabulary for sixteen years) was the recipient at the barracks of a handsome silver tea set from the hands of Colonel Swain, presented by the members of the force as a token of their respect and regard. Mr. Brierly, in the course of a very touching and modest reply, referred to the high qualities required of a good policeman, and urged upon the force the necessity of living up to so honourable a profession.—The King's birthday was celebrated officially by a parade of the local forces under Col. Swain at 8 a.m. The troops were inspected by the Acting-Governor, Mr. S. W. Knaggs, after which a royal salute of 21 guns was fired, and three cheers were given for the King. His Excellency then presented long service medals to Captain G. W. Norman, V.D., Sergt. Jones, and Quartermaster-Sergt. Robinson, and conveyed his appreciation of the work done to the force generally. A smaller parade of the Light Infantry and the Constabulary was held at San Fernando, under the command of Major Johnstone. In the afternoon a very successful polo pony race meeting, given by the Polo Club, took place on the Savannah. Race meetings were also held at Diego Martin,

California, and Mayaro. The evening in town wound up with a Palm dinner and dance at the Queen's Park Hotel, which was well attended, and in other festivities throughout the colony. Trinidad liked to show its loyalty in a merry spirit, and generally succeeded in doing so.—Mr. O. W. Barrett read an interesting paper on "General Culture," before the Agricultural Society on the 12th. Mr. Barrett's mission appeared to be exciting much interest in many directions. So far there had been no serious or responsible adverse criticism of his opinions and recommendations, although in one or two details he had not seen eye to eye with the local Botanical Department. There could be no question that he had inspired confidence in his methods amongst the great majority of the leading planters, and every one agreed that he had filled his somewhat delicate position—as an officer of the United States Department of Agriculture engaged as an expert in a British colony—not only with signal ability but with great courtesy and tact. At the last meeting of the Agricultural Society he attended, the Hon. A. Warner proposed a vote of thanks to him and referred in eulogistic terms to the excellent service he had rendered the colony, and the tactful manner in which he had done it. This was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Morton, Deputy-Chairman, who spoke in a similar strain, and cordially adopted by the members present. Mr. Barrett left for New York by the S.S. *Savan* on November 16th.—Mr. Tripp forwarded by the mail the annual report of the Director of Public Works for 1906-7, by Mr. Wrightson. Perhaps for the first time, there appeared in an official report a hearty recognition of the fact that all except one of the great beneficial schemes of recent years, which had added so greatly to the position and importance of the colony, owed their inception to that great and good Governor, the late Sir Napier Broome.—The statement of receipts and payments for four months ending July 31st, had been published, and the writer was pleased to find that it bore out the belief he ventured to express two mails ago, that the colony was emerging from its recent depression. For these first four months of the financial year there was an increase in every item of revenue, commencing with Customs £4,904 (£102,000 against £97,000), and Excise £4,000 (£108,000 against £104,000), down to £80 in rents of Government properties, making in all an increase over last year of £24,116. The surplus on April 1st was £23,405, and on July 31st £103,416. Sir Henry Jackson would have a fairly solid basis on which to work, with the satisfaction that he laid it himself.—The German frigate *Moltke*, 3,880 tons, 12 guns, 282 men, arrived from Pernambuco on the 16th, and was to remain some time.—Some partial showers fell during the fortnight ended November 16th, but the weather was unusually hot and dry for the time of the year, and good rains were wanted to assist the growth of the sugar and cacao crops. Supplies of cacao had been disappointing, but pods were ripening fast. There had been daily declines in market values, owing to the cessation of buying from all quarters and the lower prices at the London auctions. The financial situation has no doubt much to do with this decline, forcing speculators in Europe to realise their holdings. The position in Venezuelan cacao remained unchanged, arrivals having been excessively small. Crop reports from the mainland were not encouraging.

SHIPMENTS.

	Trinidad.	Venezuela		Trinidad.	Venezuela.
Totals at last report	170,666	36,225	Nov. 13.—S.S. <i>Atrato</i>	65	— New York.
Nov. 3.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem V.</i>	1,100	101 Europe.	.. 13.—S.S. <i>Oruro</i>	—	16 Canada.
.. 5.—S.S. <i>La Plata</i>	858	—	.. 13.—S.S. <i>Caribee</i>	1,838	310 New York.
.. 12.—S.S. <i>Crown of Granada</i>	348	—			
.. 12.—S.S. <i>Croatia</i>	350	—	Total to date ...	175,225	36,652

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The West Indies and Canada.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the Committee's letter to Mr. Fielding of Oct. 15th, 1907, we hand you an extract from Messrs. Pickford & Black's letter of Oct. 30th to our Liverpool firm, which, we think, you might, with advantage, print in the forthcoming CIRCULAR with the other correspondence. It will be interesting to see what views the West India islands take of this matter.

Our view is that any arrangement between the R.M.S.P. Co., and P. and B. Lines, whereby the convenience of the West India islands and British Guiana for passengers and freight can be improved is highly desirable. If it should be found that there is any general desire in the colonies chiefly concerned for an amalgamation on the lines suggested, your Committee might take the matter up with the companies and the governments concerned, but in the absence of such express desire it seems to us to be a matter for negotiation between the two companies rather than for Government interference during the currency of a contract.

124, Fenchurch Street, E.C.,
Nov. 20th, 1907.

Yours faithfully,

SANDBACH, TINNE & CO.

(ENCLOSURE).

Extract of a letter from Messrs. Pickford & Black to Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co., Liverpool, dated Halifax, N.S., October 29th, 1907.

Yours of 17th inst. to hand. The article in the "West India Circular" we have read, and are quite in line with the writer as regards what he says about the cable with and between the West India islands. In connection with the mail service, we think lack of information leads him to write as he does. The Canadian service has grown in a very short time from a monthly one to a service with sailings from Canada and Georgetown, Demerara, on fixed dates, every twelve

days, and to meet the requirements of the West India people themselves and the British Government, between St. Kitts and Demerara it is but a coasting service, that is the steamers call at every port for mails, passengers and freight. To couple up with the present Royal Mail service to our minds would not facilitate or improve the mail service to and from Canada, at least, we fail to see how such would be the case. The trade at the present time is not sufficiently developed to warrant any additional steamers on this route, and this fact is borne out by the half loaded ships which are now travelling both north and south on this route. The development of the trade is not checked by the causes mentioned by the writer, nor is it for want of steam communication, but largely because manufacturers of Canada are so pressed with work for the nearer markets that they hesitate to touch those so far away as the West Indies. The exports to the West Indies of products of farm and forest are increasing year by year. Imports of sugar are increasing, and development goes on in imports of fruit, cocoa, pimento, ginger, honey, &c. A hindrance to increase of trade in oranges, bananas and other fruits with the Windward Islands is the close proximity to Canada of places of production, such as Jamaica and Cuba."

[We are pleased that Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co. see eye to eye with us in this matter. With regard to Messrs. Pickford & Black's letter, the attitude of the West India Committee is explained in a leading article in the present issue. What it was intended to suggest was a closer working arrangement between the two companies with the object of rendering the two intercolonial services more effective.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

Readers are informed THAT WITH THE OBJECT OF BRINGING THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE LIBRARY UP TO A STATE OF PERFECTION, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO OPEN A LIBRARY FUND. DONATIONS OF BOOKS, OR SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS THE FUND, WILL BE WELCOMED AND ACKNOWLEDGED IN DUE COURSE IN THE CATALOGUE, WHICH WILL CONTAIN A LIST OF BENEFACTORS AND BE CIRCULATED AMONG MEMBERS OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. IT IS FELT THAT MANY READERS MUST HAVE ON THEIR SHELVES COPIES OF WEST INDIAN WORKS WHICH THEY COULD SPARE, AND IT IS EARNESTLY HOPED THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SUPPORT THE EXECUTIVE IN THIS NEW STEP WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN. THE UNDERMENTIONED GENTLEMEN HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO PRESENT BOOKS: SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, HON. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE, MR. J. R. BOOSE, MR. HARDING BROWNE, MR. W. A. CADBURY, MR. CARVALHO, MR. EDWARD CHAMBERS, MR. W. P. EVERSLEY, MR. WILLIAM GILLESPIE, MESSRS. GILLESPIE, BROS. & CO., MR. MURRAY T. GOW, MR. LLEWELLYN JONES, MESSRS. A. M. LEE & CO., LIEUT.-COLONEL TROLLOPE, MR. T. J. WILKINSON, MR. C. M. WOSTENHOLME, AND MR. E. T. WHITAKER.

An R.M.S.P. Booklet.—In preparation for the coming tourist season, the R.M.S.P. Co. have issued a well-got-up booklet entitled "Tours in the West Indies." The letterpress is brief and of the most seductive description, whilst the photographs which are scattered throughout the booklet are such as to cause the editorial heart to yearn to escape from London's foggy winter. The company have placed two additional steamers—the S.S. *Magdalena* and the *Oroya*—on the West Indian service for the handling of the ever-increasing tourist traffic.

Daily Thoughts from Horace. By F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands. (George Bell and Sons, 1907).—A dainty little volume, prettily printed, neatly bound, and light in hand, as befits a book which is intended for daily companionship. Horace, with his wealth of graceful commonplace, lends himself easily to quotation, and Mr. Watkins has had no difficulty in finding plenty of apt thoughts, as applicable to the life of the modern Englishman as to that of the ancient Roman. He has also shown much industry and taste in culling from the wide fields of English literature, from poets well known and little known, many lines that contain a thought or expression akin to that of the Roman lyricist. The book is evidently that of a tasteful scholar.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

BANK RATE.—Bank Rate 7 per cent. (changed from 6 per cent. on Thursday, November 7th, 1907). Consols (2½ per cent.) 82½.

STILL ACTIVE.—Mr. W. A. Wolseley, a former member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been appointed a member of the Municipal Council of St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

EVERY LITTLE "ADS."—"Scenes from the West Indies" was the title of the costume which gained the first prize at a ball at the Covent Garden Opera House.

THE LONG BOW.—Mr. R. W. Dobson, of Antigua, is credited by a Canadian magazine with the statement that the sugar crop in Antigua was 10,000,000 tons last year!

CANADIAN AGENT.—Mr. E. A. Haggart, of Kingston, Jamaica, has been appointed Canadian trade agent for that island, to succeed the late Mr. Eustace Burke, who died recently while on a visit to New York.

JAMAICA.—The West India Committee have received from the Deputy-Commissioner of Hanthawaddy, Rangoon, a draft for £119 10s. being donations towards the Jamaica Relief Fund. This amount has been forwarded to Jamaica.

CHEMICAL MANURES.—The imports of chemical manures into Egypt have gone ahead remarkably in recent years. From 2,000 metric tons, valued at £13,000, in 1902, they rose to 13,000 metric tons, valued at over £122,000 in 1906. For the first nine months of 1907 the deliveries amounted to 7,579 metric tons, valued at £76,907.

"PAR NOBILE. . ."—The date on which the Hon. F. J. Clarke succeeded the Hon. A. J. Pile as Speaker of the Barbados House of Assembly was wrongly given in our issue of October 29th. The correct date is 1898. Such errors never come singly! It is Mr. Clarke's brother, Mr. C. P. Clarke, who has lately been appointed Solicitor-General, who is the future historian of Barbados, and not the Speaker himself.

COCOA PRICES.—The quantity of imported manufactured cocoa or chocolate other than chocolate confectionery entered as for home consumption during the first nine months of the present year showed

an increase of no less than 27½ per cent. But the price of the latter has not, says the *British and Foreign Confectioner*, appreciated to anything like the same extent as that of raw cocoa; on the contrary, it actually shows a decrease, having fallen from 1s. 10d. to 1s. 8½d. per pound.

OLD FRIENDS.—Two prominent Trinidadians—or we should say former Trinidadians—have been among our visitors during the past fortnight, Mr. Peter Abel, who has since sailed (Friday, November 29th), in the P. & O. S.S. *Persia* for India, where he hopes to spend several months touring the country, and Mr. W. E. Smith, now General Manager of the Gold Coast railways, who has returned on furlough and expects to be in this country for three or four months. Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Hon. W. C. L. Dyett, Mr. P. R. K. Esdaile, Mr. G. W. Penrice, have also been among our visitors.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Nov. 26.—Mr. Bonar Law spoke on Fiscal Reform at the Hotel Cecil.—Beet, 9s. 3d., quiet.
 Wed., Nov. 27.—Letter in the *Times* from the Royal Horticultural Society regarding the Colonial Fruit Show.—Princess Christian visited the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., steady.
 Thur., Nov. 28.—Eighth show of colonial fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster.—Deputation waited on Mr. Lloyd George with regard to the manning of British ships.—Beet, 9s. 3½d., steady.
 Fri., Nov. 29.—Letter in the *Economist* on the Sugar Convention by Mr. George Martineau, C.B.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., firm.
 Sat., Nov. 30.—Anniversary meeting of the Royal Society.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 3½d., steady.
 Sun., Dec. 1.—The Queen's Birthday.
 Mon., Dec. 2.—Jubilee Year of the Emperor of Austria.—Beet, 9s. 5d., firm.
 Tues., Dec. 3.—Discussion on the "All-Red" Route, at a dinner of the Liberal Colonial Club.—Unrest in Zululand, militia in Natal being recruited.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., quiet.
 Wed., Dec. 4.—Meetings of the Permanent Sugar Commission came to a satisfactory conclusion at Brussels.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., quiet.
 Thur., Dec. 5.—Settlement of the dispute in the cotton trade.—*Mauretania* completed a record voyage from New York.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., quiet.
 Fri., Dec. 6.—Beet, 9s. 7d., steady.
 Sat., Dec. 7.—Letter in the *Times* on "Canada's external trade in connection with the West Indies."—"Jamaica as a health resort"; special article in the *Lancet*.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 6½d., easier.
 Sun., Dec. 8.—King Oscar of Sweden died.
 Mon., Dec. 9.—Dinizulu surrenders.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., steady.

REVIEWS AND PERIODICALS.

An interesting account of the cultivation of cacao in Ceylon, containing comparisons with other growths, forms the chief feature of the *BULLETIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE* for August and September, 1907. There is also a very readable article on "Bastard Logwood from Jamaica," discussing the properties and anatomy of the various species.

In the *CONTEMPORARY REVIEW* Mr. Norman Lamont contributes a spirited reply to "Imperialist," who suggested the exchange of the West Indies for the Philippines in the "Fortnightly Review." Mr. Lamont characterises the suggestion as an "amazing proposition of Vaudoux-worship up-to-date."

The views of the 1,500,000 black and coloured subjects of King Edward who, within recent years, have provided the West Indies with a Chief Justice and an Attorney-General of marked ability might be translated into something more than mere passive resistance were they to learn that it was seriously proposed to deliver them over to the delights of lynch-law, and to the practical exclusion from all positions of any importance, administrative, social or professional, which prevails throughout the Southern States. The 150,000 East Indians in Trinidad, Jamaica and St. Lucia would unhesitatingly select instant repatriation at the public expense rather than surrender the high hopes which they have formed, and, indeed, are rapidly realising, of advancement in every field of colonial life.

Mr. Lamont then deals with the question of federation:—

No responsible man, acquainted with the West Indies, would seriously propose to set up a central elective Parliament. The Federal authority should consist of a Governor-General and executive officers appointed by the Secretary of State; and of a legislative council, nominated to represent the several colonies. It should control defence, customs and excise, inter-insular communications, higher education, the Imperial Department of Agriculture (after the expiry of the Imperial grant), quarantine regulations, and any other "collective interests." There should also be a Federal Court of Appeal.

The provincial affairs of the six federated colonies would continue to be transacted locally, under the guidance of an Administrator or Lieutenant-Governor. The legislative powers of the local councils being limited to matters devolved upon them, it would be safe to increase gradually their elective element, though their constitutions should still vary, as at present, in accordance with local conditions and political maturity. In some instances a glorified County Council would meet all real requirements.

The Federal Government would not lack work ready to its hand. Its Financial Officer would find in the six colonies a chaos of different tariffs. So many colonies, so many different scales of duties. In the Windward colony, indeed, each island has a distinct and separate system of import duties, imposed impartially upon goods coming not only from foreign countries, from the United Kingdom, or from the other British West Indian colonies, but even from the other islands in the same group! The gradual assimilation of these conflicting tariffs could only be effected by a Central Government, and would do much to facilitate the movement and interchange of commodities among the various islands.

Coming from one of Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's lieutenants, Mr. Lamont's criticisms of the defences of the West Indies are important:—

Safeguarding the islands as against the United States is, at the present time, happily superfluous; as against any other country, their best defence will be found in a strong Atlantic fleet, not in a weak West Indian squadron. The late Government was amply justified in the withdrawal of the naval and military forces from the islands. But at a time when earthquakes, eruptions, hurricanes and riots have followed each other in rapid succession, it is, to say the least, imprudent to leave the islands to the protection of a single cruiser. Surely the time has come when our rulers should recognise the expediency of having, in addition to our ships-of-war, patrol vessels for the policing of outlying portions of the Empire. Some of the moribund cruisers at present gracing the lochs and kyles of the West of Scotland might employ an honoured old age in patrolling the Caribbean. They are, of course, unfit to meet an enemy in time of war, and their names would not figure on the Active List of the Navy, but they would carry men and armament sufficient to quell a native riot such as occurred in Trinidad in 1903, in British Guiana in 1905, or in St. Lucia in 1907. We should then be enabled to bring succour to our fellow-subjects in time of trouble instead of being compelled to rely on chance and the charitable intervention of a foreign Power. The cost of this small squadron should be defrayed partly from Imperial, partly from Colonial, funds. The defence of the colonies would certainly not be weakened even if their contribution to the maintenance of the patrol squadron involved the disbandment of the somewhat variegated corps of Yeomanry and Volunteers upon which their security at present depends. Sentiment, in the opinion of "Imperialist," is the sole obstacle to our cession of the West Indies to the United States. Others, not less imperialist, believe that honour also forbids. If British statesmanship has failed up till now, to restore prosperity to our most ancient colonies, that is no reason for the abandonment of the task. Past failure is the greatest incentive to present endeavour and future success. The real solution of the West Indian problem is not to be sought in a policy of "scuttle"; it is to be found in the application of new men, new minds, new methods.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Chauffeur.—The "Direct" Line convey petrol to the West Indies provided that it is packed in Board of Trade packages. It is carried on deck.

H. H. A. A.—You will find an interesting article on rice (*Oryza Sativa*) in Nicholls' admirable text-book of "Tropical Agriculture" (Macmillan & Co.).

Cacoyer.—Information on the cacao pests about which you enquire is given in the pamphlet on that subject published by the Trinidad and Tobago Agricultural Society. You might also refer with advantage to that admirable work on tropical products, "The World's Commercial Products," by W. G. Freeman and S. E. Chandler, which is published by Messrs. Isaac Pitman & Sons at 10s. 6d.

Curious.—The following figures give the Russian sugar exports during the last four years:—

Year.	W. Europe. lbs.	Finland. lbs.	Persia. lbs.	Turkey. lbs.	Afghanistan. lbs.	China. lbs.	Other Countries. lbs.	Total. lbs.
1903-4	58,560,400	124,010,738	137,485,272	85,514,654	916,073	7,427,286	1,192,455	415,106,878
1904-5	41,484,098	107,290,788	128,384,523	107,840,363	622,283	17,276,124	81,766	392,979,945
1905-6	5,880,401	11,982,269	113,206,134	449,734	447,640	8,651,148	45,702	140,663,028
1906-7	5,451,786	116,597,224	138,289,244	19,452,268	844,523	4,129,298	823,657	285,588,000

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 5th, "Dry." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 3rd (dated November 30th), "Nice rains since last message." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), December 5th, "The weather is suitable for crop." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) December 5th, "No rain worth speaking of since last message." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 7th, "Showery and unsettled." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), December 7th, "Weather showery and favourable for the cultivation." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 2nd, "Heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended November 30th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Rainy." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. G. Mason), November 30th:—Mr. J. W. Bent, Mr. S. Bromberger, Mr. F. J. Brown, Mrs. C. Branch, Dr. C. Branch, Miss R. Bullen, Mr. A. D. Cameron, Miss B. Empson, Mrs. M. A. Finney, Mr. W. F. Hamilton, Mr. J. O. James, Mr. M. Lyons, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Miss I. Nicholls, Mr. M. Orabona, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Pilkington, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Sconce, Mr. T. F. Renton, Mr. P. W. Reid, and Mrs. Nelson Ward.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Tagus* (Capt. W. G. Mason), December 11th:—Mrs. T. Clive Sheppard, Mr. A. Astrada, Mrs. G. Astrada, two Misses Arriens, Miss A. Veumann, Rev. A. Luco, Rev. G. M. Valenzuela, Capt. and Mrs. A. Roger, Mrs. J. Norris, Dr. and Mrs. Darwent, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Macdonald, Mr. John W. A. Maginley, Mrs. E. Maginley, Mr. G. M. Perch, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jason Jones, Mr. C. F. Batty, Mrs. F. N. Martinez, Rev. A. Percy, Mr. G. H. Bruce, Miss Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gordon, Mr. A. H. Anstey, Miss E. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Vaughan, Mr. A. Vaughan, Mr. Claude Pain, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Desmaziere, Mr. J. C. Randall, two Misses Prosser, Mr. Robert Wynne, Miss Janet B. S. McAlester, Mr. John H. Haigh, Mr. Andrew A. Oliver, the Venerable Archdeacon S. P. Hendrick and Mrs. Hendrick, Mr. F. B. Gall, Miss F. Langlands, Miss E. P. Miller, Miss Newlands, Miss Mary Robertson, Mr. Arthur Stilwell, Mr. D. H. Crake, Mr. Alfred Wroe, Mr. Thos. K. Ward, Mr. R. M. Stevenson, Mr. A. G. B. Gall, Mrs. Owen Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. H. Nourse, Mr. August Beaz, Mrs. and Miss Carrington, Mr. Cecil Mocatta, Mr. M. H. Kilburn, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. S. Koppel, Mr. and Mrs. H. Koppel, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gall, Mr. Geo. Tilly, Mr. H. Wight-Boycott, Mr. and Mrs. M. O. W. Powys, Capt. the Hon. G. Crichton, Lady E. Cochrane, Mrs. Clara Hohler, Mr. Carlton Jackson, Mrs. Laurie, Mr. Chas. D. Jones, Miss M. Mason, Sir Vincent Corbett, K.C.V.O., Mr. W. D. Spanton, Mrs. L. Selbini, Miss M. Allan, Mr. G. W.

Linsey, Mr. M. Hassin, Mr. H. W. Killick, Mr. J. F. Risley, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Dasent, Mr. Saminario, Mr. E. Saminario, Mr. J. M. de Freitas, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Deakin, Mrs. A. Barnard, the Hon. Thos. Cochrane, Mr. A. Lachenal, Mr. and Mrs. P. Berckholtz, Mr. T. H. P. Henriot, and Capt. and Mrs. A. Pam.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena* (Captain Custance), December 25th:—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hall, Mrs. A. B. Kitchener, Mr. A. E. W. Barry, Mr. A. E. H. Freke, Mrs. S. Bolton, Miss Monck, Mrs. Bunge Cruijs, Mr. F. Evans, Mrs. J. D. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hancock, Miss Dyett, and Mr. F. Dorn.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. Watson), January 8th:—Dr. A. J. Messing, Mr. Horton G. Lord, Rev. A. H. Barrow, Mr. Thos. E. Peters, Mr. B. Camm, Viscount de Simony, Miss Abbey, Mr. W. Moores, Mrs. Newham, Mr. W. O. Little, Mr. Carvalho, and Mr. P. G. Russell.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), December 4th:—**Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Davies, Mr. Hyde, Mr. C. S. Kelly, Mr. J. A. Matthews, Miss Kate Matthews, Rev. Leonard Tucker, Mr. T. L. Chadwick, Mr. C. C. Massey, Mr. F. Fletcher, Mr. Fazli Haq, and Mahomed Huffain.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Kingston* (Capt. Owen Jones), November 30th: **Jamaica:** Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Bennett, Mr. T. Blatherwick, Mr. J. T. Barnes, Miss Brandt, Mrs. and Miss Boettcher, Hon. E. Cameron, C.M.G., Sir Fielding Clarke, Mr. C. Reid Campbell, Miss Cocking, Mr. E. F. Cox, Mr. E. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Daunt, Mrs. Dodd, Miss Douet, Mr. G. Elliot, Mrs. Eden, Major W. H. Edwards, Mr. H. N. Fink, Miss W. Fink, Rev. Canon Gell, Mr. E. Giffard, Lady Giffard, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mr. A. C. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. M. Garrett, Rev. and Mrs. W. Graham, Miss B. C. Gordon, Mrs. Hardyman, Mr. C. G. Hampson, Mr. R. T. Harrison, Mrs. Isaacs, Mrs. Love-ridge, Miss W. Loveband, Mrs. Lumb, Mr. G. T. Mirehouse, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Morales, Miss Morrison, Mr. S. Matthews, Mr. W. H. Orrett, Dr. and Mrs. Ormsby, Rev. and Mrs. W. Pratt, two Misses Pratt, Mrs. Peet, Mr. E. E. Pottberg, Mr. E. A. Poole, Miss Pearson, Mr. W. W. Rutherford, two Misses Ross, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Sturridge, Mr. W. Schans, Rev. H. F. Sharpe, Miss E. A. Titmas, Miss Trill, Miss H. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Wing, Mr. E. Wilson, Mr. S. Barrett, Mr. Stanley Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Gabrie, Mr. and Mrs. Sulman Gabrie, Mr. and Mrs. M. Gabrie, Mrs. Hamilton, two Misses Hamilton, Mrs. Kempell, Mr. Maggi, Mrs. March, Mr. H. E. Noble. **Bermuda:** Major M. D. Graham, Mrs. Hunter, Miss L. M. Hebditch, Fleet-Surgeon N. L. Richards, R.N., Mrs. Richards, Engr.-Lieut. H. E. Reynolds, Miss A. Sheddon Robson, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Wilmott-Sitwell, Major W. D. Sanderson, Miss E. Smith, Miss Taunton, Mrs. and Miss Young.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Dec. 11—	The West Indies and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Tagus</i>	Dec. 12, mdn't.
" 13—	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	<i>Frednes</i>	" 12, 10 p.m.
" 14—	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	<i>Almerian</i>	" 13, 6 p.m.
" 14—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Henderson</i>	" 13, 6 ¹⁵ p.m.
" 20—	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Jamaica	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Catalina</i>	" 20, noon.
" 20—	West Indies (Jamaica ex.) & Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	<i>Saba</i>	" 20, noon.
" 20—	West Indies (Jamaica ex.) & Demerara	Portland	East Asiatic Co.	<i>St. Jan</i>	" 20, 10 a.m.

* In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Dec. 16—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Orinoco</i>
" 18—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Royal</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	St. Kitts-Nevis	British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Barbados.		Grenada.
	Jan. to Sept. 1907.	Jan. 1 to Nov. 14		April 1 to Nov. 10.		Jan. 1 to Nov. 16		Jan. 1 to Nov. 20		
		1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	
Sugar	77,705	78,505 Tons.	9,077	8,848 Tons.	410,650	507,152 Bgs. & Brls.	33,319	49,047 Tns.	
Molasses	552	3,267 Puns.	...	...	4,524 394 298	2,016 Puns. 266 Trcs. 102 Brls.	62,015	61,000 Pns.	
Rum	14,269	13,864 Puns.	985,327	1,026,612 Galls.	1,619	3,887 Puns.			
Cattle Food and Molascuit	8,073	9,089 Tons	...	...	...	...			Oct. 1 to Nov. 16.
Coffee	25,676	19,169 Cwts.	9,280	16,960 lbs.			1907 1906
Cocoa-nuts	390,705	52,188	9,069,078	4,668,612	11,109,808	10,863,615			...
Copra	3,200	16,882 lbs.	17,144	17,502 Bags.			...
Cotton ...	1198 bales.	...	...	...	...	113,569	118,662 Tons.			...
Asphalt	45,423,221	37,447,854	...	...			...
Oranges	10,959,484	11,653,503 Strms	...	...			...
Bananas	40,373	32,020 Cwts.	...	...			...
Pimento	68,895	28,017 lbs.	29,343	37,104 "	29,891,100	22,330,070 lbs.	3,185	2,355 Bags.	...
Cacao
Spice	58,131	81,415 ocs.	...	...	...	...			...
Gold	2,040	2,842 carats	...	...	...	...			...
Diamonds
Rice	5,061,804	1,236,559 lbs.	...	...	...	...			...

SPICE

1,061 607 Brls.
99 72 1/2 Brls.
93 74 Cases
6 11 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The speculative beet market during the first part of the fortnight was steady, with fractional fluctuations and a tendency to a rather higher level of prices. Last week the one absorbing topic was the terms of the agreement settled with Russia, and notwithstanding continued unfavourable reports of the way the French and German crops were turning out, the effect at the first blush was to produce flatness and a rapid decline in values of 3d.; later on, assurances having been obtained from the Board of Trade that no exports could be made by Russia before September 1st, 1908, a good portion of the fall was recovered, and the market has since resumed its normal condition, and quotations yesterday show a rise of 2½d. to 3½d., as compared with those advised last week. Quotations yesterday at the opening were as follows: December, 9s. 6½d.; January-March, 9s. 8½d.; May, 9s. 11½d.; August, 10s. 7d.; and last week in New York, \$3.62½ for 96 per cent. centrifugals and \$3.12½ for 89 per cent. muscovado.

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

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Europe	1,624,500	2,920,000	2,970,000	2,630,000	3,190,000	Tons.
United States	167,000	130,000	180,000	110,000	100,000	"
Cuba	26,000	—	60,000	—	120,000	"
Cargoes afloat	42,100	30,000	10,000	40,000	70,000	"
Total	1,859,600	3,080,000	3,220,000	2,780,000	3,480,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet, Dec. 9 (at 2nd call)	9s. 6½d.	9s. 0½d.	8s. 3½d.	14s. 0d.	8s. 4½d.	"

Grocery West Indian.—CRYSTALLISED continues in small supply and offerings at auction met a good competition at full rates: 990 bags Surinam sold at 17s. 7½d. to 17s. 9d.; 480 bags Mauritius, orange yellow, sold at 19s. 3d. **Muscovado.**—Some bags low red Jamaicas were sold in auction at 12s. to 13s.; 1,700 pockets Queensland offered at auction and bought in, afterwards part sold at 14s. 6d. to 15s. **Molasses Sugar.**—Syrups steady; Trinidad low yellow sold at 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d., low middling to middling, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.; good, 15s.; 114 mats Mauritius sold at 11s. 6d. The business in the fortnight of crystallised totals up about 650 tons at full values. Last Friday the limited quantity of crystallised at auction met with competition at full prices and sold at 17s. 6d. to 18s.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	30,722	49,000	38,000	40,000	23,000	Tons.
Deliveries	43,051	47,000	39,000	46,000	40,000	"
Stocks (Nov. 30th)	6,092	10,500	9,000	7,000	12,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised:	17s. 9d.	16s. 9d.	15s. 0d.	22s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	"

RUM.—Stocks in London, Nov. 30: 1907.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.		
Jamaica	7,903	7,500	7,500	9,100	9,600	Puns.
Demerara	4,717	3,100	4,200	4,800	6,700	"
Total of all kinds	21,178	17,600	19,000	2,0600	26,000	"

The market for proof kinds is firm and the recent landings have been cleared off at rather higher prices (1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2½d.). The *Crown of Granada* has arrived with 800 puns. and the *Cheniston* is due with 650 puns. Quotations: Demerara, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d., according to quality; Jamaica, 2s. 8d. for common, to 3s. for good marks, and for good export marks, 3s. to 8s. Business in the latter has been restricted on the spot through the paucity of supplies. For new crop Jamaica there has been a good enquiry.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Nov. 30th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	3,954	7,350	13,300	23,600	12,000	Bags.
Grenada	1,985	3,700	10,300	11,100	6,900	"
Total of all kinds	29,239	47,570	61,600	83,600	50,300	"

During the past week violent fluctuations have characterised this market. At one time there was a great pressure chiefly on the part of "bears," to sell Bahia and Accra to arrive, which rapidly gave way some 12s. to 14s. per cwt., but subsequently an equally sharp reaction took place, and at the close prices fully recovered. This has imparted more confidence to buyers, and public sales went off with more tone, prices being 1s. to 5s. higher. Trinidad and Grenada are about 1s. to 3s. better, while other West India descriptions show an advance of 2s. to 5s. Trinidad sold 105s. to 106s.; Grenada mostly sold 91s. to 100s.; Dominica mostly sold 89s. to 96s. 6d.; St. Lucia sold 91s. to 99s. 6d.; and St. Vincent sold 93s.. Quotations: Trinidad, low middling grey and red, 97s. to 99s., middling red, 100s. to 101s., good red, 102s. to 105s., fine and superior, 106s. to 112s.; Grenada, ordinary to good fair, 93s. to 97s., middling to fine, 98s. to 100s.

COFFEE.—Santos for December delivery, 29s., steady. At auction early last week the small supply met a slow demand at generally easier rates, but at later public sales satisfactory prices were obtained and the market closed steady. A firmer tone has prevailed for "futures" on smaller receipts and better Continental advices, and prices show about 4½d. advance for the week.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended December 5th., 108 bales of West Indian cotton were imported. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland state that since their last report, 100 bales of new crop West Indian have arrived during the fortnight, chiefly from Barbados and St. Kitts; prices range from 18½d. to 22d., but only a few bales of superfine have been sold at the latter price. The market for Sea Island cotton remains steady but there is a plentiful supply of the lower qualities of Georgia and Florida offering to arrive at 12d. to 16d. Quotations in Liverpool: West India, good medium, 7.45d.; West India Sea Island, good medium 18d., medium fine 19d., and fine 20d.

ARROWROOT.—Privately sales have been made at steady prices for small lots, fair to good fair selling at 2½d. to 2¾d., good at 2¾d., and fine at 4d.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per gallon, quiet. Distilled oil, 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per lb., quiet. Hand pressed, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per lb., steady. Concentrated, £20 15s., easier. **ORANGES.**—The quality has been so good that oranges have commanded a ready sale and prices have been very firm and higher prices are looked for at Xmas.

PIMENTO.—Quiet. Small offerings at auction were bought in at 3½d. **NUTMEGS.**—Quiet. West Indian were in heavy supply last week and out of 706 packages offered 580 were sold at irregular but generally easier prices.

MACE.—Quiet. West Indian has been in good supply and demand, and 121 packages were put up last week and all sold at about steady prices. **GINGER.**—Quiet and little doing. **COPRA.**—Fair merchantable West India, value, £21 10s., quiet.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

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OUR CELEBRITIES—CVIII.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Dec. 23rd, 1907

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8643 CENTRAL.

1907—A RETROSPECT.

THE year which is rapidly drawing to a close, opened full of promise to the West Indies, but it will, unfortunately, be especially remembered by reason of the appalling catastrophe which occurred in Jamaica in its opening month. On January 14th an earthquake, the like of which had not been experienced in the West Indies since 1692, practically destroyed Kingston, with great loss of life and property. The catastrophe was made the occasion of a great manifestation of sympathy on the part of America, Canada and the mother country, and a Mansion House Fund was duly opened for the immediate relief of the sufferers, contributions in foodstuff and money also pouring in from neighbouring islands British and foreign. Later on in the year a grant of £150,000, together with a loan of £800,000, was made by Parliament for the rebuilding of Kingston and for the carrying out of necessary schemes of relief. The first West Indian



The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Dudley, G.C.V.O.

Agricultural Conference held in Jamaica was opened on the day of the earthquake, but was brought by it to an unforeseen and unfortunate end before the proceedings had fairly begun.

The absence of British cruisers in Caribbean waters, the only representative of the British Navy on station at the time not arriving for some days after the occurrence, indirectly led to unfortunate friction between the Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham, and the United States' Admiral, who, with his ships, had promptly appeared on the scene to render the assistance which was not forthcoming from the British Navy. Since then, as the outcome of constant representations on the subject, two more cruisers have been told off for the policing of the West Indies, but up to now these have been more remarkable for their absence than their presence in Caribbean waters. As regards Agriculture, the climatic conditions of 1907 in the West Indies were anything but satisfactory. In Jamaica a severe drought materially affected the crops, while in British Guiana much damage was done by an unprecedented rainfall. Sugar crops were up to the average in Trinidad, but suffered from the drought in Barbados and Antigua, and from the heavy rains in British Guiana. Prices, however, improved during the year, and in September a figure as high as 10s. 3d. was arrived at for 88% beet. No great strides, however, were made during the year in the direction of improvements in factory or field, the uncertainty as to the future of the Brussels Convention preventing the extension of work involving any large outlay of capital. The erection of the Vere Central in Jamaica, was however, proceeded with, and this factory will take off the coming crop of the estates connected with it. Experimental work in connection with mechanical tillage was also carried on in Antigua with every prospect of success. In the early part of the year the £80,000 which represented the Barbados share of the Imperial Grant-in-aid of 1902, and had since been used for the relief of sugar estates under legislation renewed yearly, was devoted by the Barbados Government to the establishment of an Agricultural Sugar Bank for the purpose of making advances on growing crops to sugar estates in that island. In March the British Preference under the Canadian Tariff on refining sugar was increased by 7½ cent. per lb., while provision was made for the introduction for three years of raw beet under the Preferential Tariff for the benefit of Canadian beet refiners to the extent of 2 lbs. for every lb. of native beet. An important event in connection with the sugar industry was the signing by the representatives of the Powers included in the Brussels Convention of an additional Act with the view to the continuance of the Convention with the omission, so far as Great Britain was concerned, of the penal clause. Under the conditions of the Convention, which expires on September 1st, 1908, any of the signatories wishing to withdraw from it had to give notice of their intention by September 1st last, and in the face of the known purpose of the British Government to do so unless the penal clause was abolished, great apprehension had been felt as to what would be the outcome of the additional Act. It was recognised also, from the attitude of Germany, that great danger existed of non-ratification by that country on account of the competition of Russian non-Convention with German Convention sugars. However, an arrangement was ultimately entered into whereby it was agreed to admit Russia to the Convention on the main condition that her exports of sugar were limited to 1,000,000 tons for the five years of the new Convention, with restrictions as to the amount to be exported yearly, and on her undertaking not to give her sugar producers any further advantage fiscally than they have at present. The cacao crops were abnormally short, but the price of cacao, owing to the great increase in the world's consumption, advanced during the year to an exceptionally high figure. The quotation for Trinidad cacao, which at the commencement of the year was already at 87s. to 94s., rose to over 120s. The report of the Commissioner appointed by some of the principal cocoa and chocolate manufacturers of this country to enquire into the labour system of San Thomé and Principe was placed in the hands of the British Government during the year, and it is fully expected that pressure will be brought to bear on the Portuguese Government with the view to this form of slavery being abolished in accordance with treaty obligations; and the unfair competition of slave-grown cacao with our West Indian free-grown cacao thus put a stop to. The cotton industry continued to progress satisfactorily, and the acreage under Sea Island

cotton sensibly increased. While high prices were throughout obtained, St. Vincent carried off the palm for quality. The rice industry of British Guiana continued to develop, and considerable enterprise in the direction of rubber planting was witnessed in that colony and the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. The development of the oil-fields of Trinidad was also continued, and a step in the direction of opening up the agricultural possibilities of British Honduras taken by the decision of the Colonial Office to start the construction of the Stann Creek Railway. The commercial progress of Trinidad was also instanced by the installation of a floating dock in the harbour of Port of Spain. The question of the intercolonial mail service was put on a satisfactory footing in July by an agreement between the Crown Agents and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, whereby a fortnightly service was instituted for a period of ten years, thus bringing to a satisfactory conclusion a state of affairs which had been most prejudicial to the welfare of the West Indies, and the subject of constant protest to the Home Government on the part of the West India Committee. The internal peace of the West Indies was generally well maintained during the year though there was serious disorder in St. Lucia in April. This unfortunate occurrence, which was promptly suppressed with the aid of police from Barbados, originated in small grievances among the coal porters at Castries, and ultimately took the form of rioting, which spread to the country districts. In the absence of the controlling influence of the military, to which the island had been accustomed, the trouble assumed at one time serious proportions, and unfortunately resulted in the loss of several lives. The booming of the West Indies by means of exhibitions assumed a more definite form during the year. Permanent Exhibition Committees are now, at the suggestion of the West India Committee, appointed in each colony. Excellent representations were made at Halifax and Toronto, and in this country at Liverpool and the Horticultural Hall at Westminster, the fruit capabilities of the West Indies being specially illustrated by the latter. In the spring of the year delegates from various Chambers of Commerce of Canada visited the West Indies and discussed questions of trade with the several local commercial bodies with a view to better commercial relations between Canada and the West Indies. In January Mr. A. J. WEST, the well-known cinematographer, toured the West Indies and British Guiana, and succeeded in obtaining a number of representative views of scenery, industries, and customs, which have since been exhibited at the Polytechnic, and which cannot fail to be a valuable means of spreading a knowledge of the capabilities of the West Indies among the British public. Several changes occurred in Government circles during the year. SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER succeeded SIR ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM in Jamaica, and SIR RALPH WILLIAMS, SIR ROBERT LLEWELYN in the Windward Islands; while we have to record the lamented death of SIR AUGUSTUS HEMMING, formerly Governor of British Guiana and Jamaica, which occurred at Cairo in March. The long-looked-for sitting of the Colonial Conference, hereafter to be called the Imperial Conference, took place in April, and although the West Indies were not directly represented, and the question of Colonial Preference was not allowed to be discussed, the recognition of a colonial right to a voice in imperial questions, the institution of the conferences at regular dates, and the creation of a permanent office and staff in connection with them, cannot but be of advantage, if indirect, to those colonies. The year under review was also signalised by a reorganisation of the Colonial Office, and by the appointment of MR. C. B. LUCAS, now SIR CHARLES LUCAS, a *persona grata* to all West Indians, who had been for so many years associated with the West India Department, to the control of the newly-formed Dominion Department. Although no great agricultural or commercial development occurred in the West Indies during the year 1907, and although the climatic conditions were on the whole unfavourable to agriculture, yet it is satisfactory to have to record a continued trend in the direction of prosperity, a certain index of which being the far better financial position of the several colonies. With the assured renewal of the Brussels Convention on lines which, although not quite so favourable as before, still preserve a fair field of competition for cane sugar, with the demand for cacao increasing out of

all proportion to the supply, with the still further development of a Sea Island cotton industry, with rubber, rice, and other agricultural products likely to form an important part in future exports, it is not too much to say that, on the whole, the year 1907 has been one of progress for the West Indies.

THE *Times* of the 12th inst. gives a digest of the lecture delivered by MR. T. GIBSON BOWLES at the New Reform Club on "The Sugar Convention of 1902 and the Additional Act of 1907." The statements which MR. BOWLES is reported to have made are, as we propose briefly to demonstrate, erroneous, misleading, and often absolutely unfounded. The facts are in many cases exactly the reverse of those stated by the lecturer. For instance, he described the Convention as "an arrangement avowedly protective, undisguisedly intended to limit British supplies and raise British prices." The facts are that the Convention was entered into by our Government "avowedly" to restore free trade in sugar by removing the protection given by the bounties to foreign producers in British markets; that it was "undisguisedly intended" to stop the "limitation of British supplies" by restoring freedom of competition in British markets, and by so doing to restore the natural price of sugar based on the cost of production—a price lower than the average price of the bounty period, which consisted of alternations of low prices during the periods of over-production created by the bounties, and high prices during periods of short supplies, when natural production was discouraged or when the beetroot crop, on which the bounties had compelled the world to rely for its sugar supply, suffered from an unfavourable season. Here we have three assertions, so easily accepted by those who are ignorant of the real facts, proved to be exactly the reverse of what they should be. But MR. BOWLES, not content with these preliminary misrepresentations, goes on to describe the Convention as "placing the monopoly of the British market in the hands of five sugar-producing countries." Of course, everyone conversant with the subject knows that it was the bounties that placed the monopoly in the hands of those countries to the extent of two-thirds of the visible consumption of the world, and that the removal of the bounties, by restoring freedom of competition, would eventually overcome that monopoly. If the bounties had continued there is no doubt that they would speedily have made that monopoly absolute, and even that three out of the five countries would soon succumb to the other two. Does MR. BOWLES consider that a favourable prospect for the sugar consumer? He is not content even with this false alarm, but goes on to add that the Convention is "guarding that monopoly in its exercise by the establishment in Brussels of a *foreign* Permanent Commission, with sole power to construe the Convention and to impose its construction on Great Britain." In reply, we do not hesitate to declare, and we defy MR. BOWLES to contradict us, that this "foreign" Commission included a British delegate, who, thanks to his ability and to the reasonable attitude of his "foreign" colleagues, succeeded in carrying out his views as to the proper construction of the terms of the Convention in practically every case which arose. So much for MR. BOWLES'S erroneous and misleading statements as to preliminary matters of fact. Our explanation shows how near we were to a real monopoly and the final extinction of sugar production in the tropics. But MR. BOWLES tries to show, by quoting statistics, that the Convention has done no good to the West Indies. His knowledge of productive industry is insufficient to appreciate the fact that a sudden increase in production on the removal of a handicap is physically impossible. It takes time to recover confidence, to secure capital, to build factories, and to bring new lands into cultivation. The figures merely show that crops have been deficient. Other figures would prove that new sugar machinery is being erected. But events since 1903 have been against a rapid revival in the cane sugar industries. A bad beetroot crop in 1904 caused a sudden reduction of 1,200,000 tons in the world's supplies, and there was a great though temporary rise in prices, which lasted just long enough to stimulate the European producers to sow the largest beetroot crop on record in 1905. This restored the former glut of sugar, and prices fell below the cost of production. It was the bounties that caused the world to



THE RECEPTION OF A POPULAR GOVERNOR.

His Excellency Sir Henry M. Jackson's return to Trinidad.

be dependent on the beetroot crop for the greater part of its supplies, and to suffer when that crop was deficient. Therefore, the unfortunate events of 1904-5 were purely the results of the pernicious effect of bounties. We shall not see this state of things thoroughly remedied until the world ceases to be so dependent on Europe for its supply of sugar. Mr. BOWLES tells his audience, or leads them to infer, that this temporary rise in price was caused by the Convention, whereas, as just explained, the cause was the bounties. The rest of the lecture appears to have been devoted to an attack on the Government for the "Additional Act of 1907." There are plenty of weak points in that international compromise, but he seems to have missed them.

As we go to press the mightiest fleet of warships which the world has ever seen will be anchored in the Gulf of Paria. This is the first stage of a journey in full war trim, the length and conditions of which are unparalleled in the world's history. The great armada of the United States has for the last two or three days been voyaging through waters which are intimately associated with the war deeds of the greatest of Great Britain's sea captains. It has passed the scenes of the memorable engagements with which the names of Benbow, Rodney and Hood are associated. It has passed the scene of Nelson's pursuit of Villeneuve before the battle of Trafalgar which set the seal on the naval supremacy of this country. What evidence will Admiral Evans and his battleships find of this supremacy in the historic Caribbean waters? If he be fortunate he may come across the white ensign flying from a solitary second-class cruiser, the sole representative of the greatest naval power in the world, in her oldest and at one time most valued possessions. When the last mail left the West Indies, however, the *Indefatigable* was on her way to Halifax, the *Scylla* was undergoing repairs at Bermuda, and the *Brilliant* was on fishing duty off Newfoundland.

THE EARL OF DUDLEY, G.C.V.O.

The noble family of which the subject of our "Celebrity" portrait in the present issue is the head, became the owners of Whitney estate in the parish of Clarendon, Jamaica, through the marriage of an ancestor with an heiress of the Carvers, a descendant of the original settler. In the old days the estate, which contained 3,243 acres, produced 250 hogsheads of sugar from 160 acres of cane, "with so little labour to the Negroes employed upon it that they multiplied sufficiently to keep up their stock without having recourse to African Negroes"; while 2,902 acres were devoted to the production of provisions and wood, 151 to pasturage, and 22 were under corn. Long, the historian of Jamaica, referred to the estate in 1774 as most celebrated for its fertility. Subsequently coffee was planted and also cocoa and bananas on a small scale, while 2,667 acres fell under the classification of grass, wood and ruinate. As the outcome, however, of the visit of Lord and Lady Dudley to the island in January last, cotton is now being experimented with upon the estate under the direction of Mr. Conrad Watson, our late correspondent in Montserrat. Lord Dudley, who derives his title from Dudley Castle, Staffordshire, is the second Earl. The first grant of the Earldom of Dudley and Viscounty of Ednam in 1827 was made to John William, fourth Viscount Dudley and Ward, on whose death in 1831, the title conferred on himself with the Viscounty of Dudley and Ward became extinct, the Barony of Ward devolving on William Humble, tenth Baron Ward, whose son William, the eleventh Baron, was created Earl of Dudley and Viscount Ednam. Born on May 25th, 1866, Lord Dudley succeeded his father in 1885, and in 1891 he married Rachel, daughter of Charles Gurney. He was educated at Eton, and on leaving school he travelled round the world, visiting our colonies. At the beginning of the war in South Africa, he was Assistant Adjutant-General to the Imperial Yeomanry. In 1895 he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, and from 1902 to 1906 he occupied the distinguished position of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He is the owner of about 30,000 acres, and patron of thirteen livings, and it is particularly pleasing to those connected with the West Indies to find that in spite of his large interests in this country he can still find time to do what more absentee proprietors should do, that is to say, visit his estates in Jamaica. Lord Dudley is a valued member of the West India Committee, as well as of the Carlton and Turf Clubs, and the Royal Yacht Squadron.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive held on December 19th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following candidates were elected to Membership of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconded.
FRANCIS C. ADAMS.	G. Carrington.	R. Rutherford.
S. WREFORD & Co. (British Guiana).	Adam Pearson & Co.	Ivan B. Davson.
EAST ASIATIC Co., LTD.	Escombe, McGrath & Co.	E. L. Marshall.
DUDLEY JOHNSON (Montserrat).	Wm. Gillespie.	H. K. F. Smith.
DR. J. S. M. NURSE (St. Kitts).	Dr. W. H. Fretz, F.R.C.P.	A. D. C. Adamson.
R. M. G. KNIGHT (Nevis).	Hon. C. A. Shand.	E. L. Marshall.
FRANK J. EVANS (Trinidad).	E. A. de Pass.	E. L. Marshall.
JAMES LYON.	E. A. de Pass.	H. Crum Ewing.
W. WALLACE SMITH (Grenada).	Hon. W. H. Lascelles.	Cyril Gurney.
CAPT. THE HON. G. CRICHTON.	Sir Henry K. Davson.	E. L. Marshall.
ALLAN T. LANG (Grenada).	H. Astley Berkeley.	Robert J. Graves.
W. GRAHAM LANG (Grenada).	H. Astley Berkeley.	Robert J. Graves.
ALEXANDER FRASER (Trinidad).	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.	A. N. Lubbock.
H. BRUGMAN EZN (Trinidad).	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.	F. I. Scard.
HENRY PANTIN (Trinidad).	Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick.	F. I. Scard.
DR. J. SEYMOUR MAYNARD.	Hon. C. A. Shand.	E. L. Marshall.

Full particulars regarding Membership and candidates' application forms can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary to the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR FROM THE CANE.

We have pleasure in announcing that early in the New Year a series of special articles dealing with the methods of the manufacture of sugar from the sugar-cane, will be begun in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. These articles, which will be fully illustrated, will be from the joint pen of two experts, whose practical knowledge of the subject will be crystallised in such a manner as to render it of popular interest to the lay reader.

THE LABOUR CONDITIONS IN SAN THOMÉ.

Mr. William A. Cadbury has just returned from Lisbon, where he has been interviewing the proprietors of the cocoa estates on the Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Príncipe on behalf of the English cocoa makers. He was accompanied by Mr. Joseph Burt, who was sent out in 1905 by the three English cocoa firms of Cadbury, Fry, Rowntree, and by Messrs. Stollwerck of Cologne, to investigate the conditions of labour in the Portuguese islands, and the methods of recruiting employed in the Portuguese Colony of Angola on the African mainland. Mr. Burt's enquiry extended over nearly two years, and he was accompanied in his visit to Angola by Dr. W. Claude Horton, of Brighton. Mr. Burt was received in the islands with great courtesy, and visited a large number of estates, where he had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the true state of affairs. The report of Mr. Burt and Dr. W. Claude Horton to the English manufacturers was presented to the cocoa planters in Lisbon. The report establishes the following facts:—

(a) The large majority of Angola natives who are taken to San Thomé are brought to the coast and shipped to the islands against their will, and therefore when they allow themselves to be contracted it is under the force of circumstances and not as a voluntary act.

(b) The good repatriation laws are a dead letter.

(c) There now take place innumerable "offences against the person of the native" which are the inevitable result of the present system, and which must continue until labour is made free in reality and not in name only.

(d) The treatment of the native in the islands, at any rate on the large and best managed estates is excellent, but in spite of good food, healthy labour, and free medical treatment and hospitals, the death rate among the natives is appallingly high, especially as it is the death rate of a population consisting mainly of adults.

(e) It appears from medical reports that most of the mortality is due to two diseases—*anæmia* and *dysentery*; complaints that are easily developed by people in a depressed mental condition. It is also admitted that the highest death rate is among the newly arrived labourers, and this is exactly what might be expected, when it is remembered that these people are forcibly taken from their homes for work across the sea, without any hope of return.

On November 28th a lengthy conference took place between Mr. Cadbury and Mr. Burt, and a committee of the planters. Mr. Cadbury submitted a statement, in which, after referring to the conclusions drawn from Mr. Burt's report, he pointed to the Portuguese colony of Mozambique, on the east coast of Africa, as an example of the practicability of obtaining labour under conditions of free contract and equally free repatriation. He also referred to the British West Indies, which contract with the Indian Government for the supply of coolie labour, and thousands of these men and women are shipped across two oceans, and after five years' service return with their families to their native land with large sums of money in their possession. Mr. Cadbury also pointed out that the returned native who had been well treated and well paid on the plantations would form the best possible recruiting agent in the villages of the interior of Angola, and that a proper system of free contract and repatriation when once established, would naturally check existing abuses. He denied the suggestion that the complaints were the outcome of commercial jealousy, which was as far from the truth as the allegation that the English cocoa makers wished to buy San Thomé estates. Mr. Cadbury concluded his statement by saying: "Plentiful supplies of good cocoa are of the greatest benefit to the manufacturer, and we have always welcomed the good progress of the San Thomé estates. Much as we should regret to lose the opportunity of buying your excellent cocoa, and even knowing it would entail to us financial loss, speaking at least for my own firm, our conscience would not allow us to go on purchasing raw material for our business unless we are assured that in future it is to be produced by free labour," and he pointed out that the proportion of San Thomé cocoa which comes to England is less than 1-20th of the world's supply.

As a result of the conference the planters published a lengthy defence and statement addressed to the English cocoa manufacturers, at the end of which appeared the following series of conclusions:—

- (1) The planters are possessed of the same liberal and humane sentiment as Mr. Cadbury, and it is entirely contrary to their intention to place any difficulties in the way of the repatriation of those labourers who wish to return to their homes, and they would be glad if some would return and carry back to their country the accounts of the treatment they have received in the islands.
 - (2) Mr. Cadbury freely acknowledges the ample evidence of kind treatment on the plantations, and recognises that a large number of labourers may wish to stay in San Thomé to enjoy regular work and pay, rather than return to a precarious life in Angola.
 - (3) The repatriation fund, which now amounts to about £100,000, will, by the wish of the planters, be transferred to the Colonial Bank in San Thomé, as agents of the State, on December 31st, 1907, to be administered by the local Committee of Emigration under the superintendence of the Government.
- Each repatriated labourer will receive about £18 upon landing in Angola. Those who wish to renew their contract will receive 10% increase in wages, and their capital (£18) will be returned to them in quarterly instalments of 6%. A new repatriation fund will then be started for each labourer. The first contracts of service made under the law of January, 1903, will expire in the first half of the year 1908.
- (4) The planters of San Thomé and Principe have no intention of asking the Government, in future emigrations of labourers from other Portuguese colonies, to exclude under any circumstances the right of repatriation. This right is already granted by the existing laws.
 - (5) It is stated that the Colonial Minister is sending to Angola, on January 7th, 1908, his "chief of staff" to personally investigate any irregularities that are found to exist in the present system of recruiting.
 - (6) The Portuguese Government has recently taken action, and is still proceeding in an energetic and efficacious manner to establish obedience to the law in those regions in Angola formerly outside its control.
 - (7) The particulars of information collected by Mr. Burt in San Thomé and Principe, and accepted in good faith by him, were not always an exact expression of truth.

It is satisfactory, say Messrs. Cadbury in a statement just issued, that the final paragraph of the conclusions impliedly admits the substantial truth of Mr. Burt's report, and that the planters are prepared to support the Government in necessary reform. It was more than once pointed out that freedom of labour is a question apart from good or bad treatment. If in the past the native has not wished to return to Africa, this is at least as much evidence of his dread of a repetition of the many abuses he has already suffered from the old recruiting system in Angola, as an indication of good treatment in the islands. For several months the British Foreign Office has been following up this subject, and has made a definite representation to the Portuguese Government through Sir Francis Villiers, the Minister at Lisbon. They have received promises of substantial reforms, though at present full particulars are not available. Through the kind offices of Sir Francis Villiers in Lisbon, a personal interview with the Colonial Minister, Sr. Ornellas, was granted to the representatives of the English cocoa manufacturers, in which he personally assured them of his intention to carry out immediate reform, and authorised the publication of the following statement:—

"The Government intends at once to make a thorough investigation of the whole subject in Angola, with the intention of replacing the present irresponsible recruiting agents by a proper Government system, as far as possible on the lines employed with success in Mozambique; and the system of recruiting will be such that it will also serve as a means of repatriation, and make it practicable for the native to return to his home in the interior."

It is cause for congratulation, say Messrs. Cadbury, that the representations of the British Government have thus been promptly responded to by the Portuguese Ministry, and that the planters themselves have so readily promised their co-operation. The matter is now left in the hands of the Foreign Office, with confidence in the definite pledge of the Portuguese Government, that before long reforms of lasting benefit will be instituted for the native of Angola.

SIR HENRY JACKSON'S RETURN TO TRINIDAD.

BY OUR HON. CORRESPONDENT MR. EDGAR TRIPP.

There is an ancient libel concerning the people of Trinidad that any officer of the Government who does his duty fearlessly and well is invariably reviled; it has been handed down from generation to generation, and closely hugged by some whose merits have not commanded the recognition they may or may not deserve. These gentlemen will gravely assure you that at the Colonial Office a black mark is placed against that man's name whom the people and the Press of the West Indies praise, and when they become themselves the objects of local criticism, deserved or otherwise, but certainly milder than His Majesty's Ministers are in daily receipt of, they will pat one another on the back and say, "Congratulate you, old man! Promotion for you soon." That libel was buried on Wednesday last, when Sir Henry Moore Jackson returned to the colony he has ruled so wisely and well for three years. He would be a brave man who would venture to say Sir Henry has not faithfully done his duty to all, with fear or favour to none. And, strangely enough, there is no sign of dissatisfaction from Downing Street. The Secretary of State, in announcing the Governor's return, says: "I have no doubt the announcement of Sir Henry's recovery from his recent illness, and the approaching resumption of his duties as Governor, will be warmly welcomed by every section of the

people of the colony." Lord Elgin accurately gauged the situation. After passing through a harbour in which every craft, from ocean steamer to humble lighter, was dressed—a flag-surrounded harbour from base to the bedecked signal station at the summit of the Fort George Hill—His Excellency and Lady Jackson landed on a glorious tropical morning amidst a salute from the Battery, joyous peals from the Cathedral and church bells, and the cheers of the crowd lining the wharf. They were received by the Reception Committee appointed at the public meeting held on November 19th, an entirely unofficial body, with the Honourable George Goodwille, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman, and conducted to an enclosed space on the wharf specially decorated and prepared for the occasion, where they were awaited by all the leading officials and heads of departments who had not gone



The Badge of Trinidad.

off in the steamer to meet them, and a thoroughly representative gathering of everyone who is anyone in the colony. Here, on a raised daïs, having facing him at the other end of the enclosure in prominent white letters on a red ground the good old toast, which was in the hearts of so many that day, "The Governor, God bless him," the loyal address of the colony was read, and others from San Fernando, Sangre Grande, the Model ex-Teachers' Association, &c., were handed in, all breathing the same spirit of respect and gratitude. The following is the text of the address, signed by the Hon. George Goodwille, Chairman; the members of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, the heads of the Church, the unofficial members of the Council, the Honourable Chamber of Leotaud, the Town Board of Port of Spain, the Mayor of San Fernando, the Mayor of Arima, and the Chairmen of all the Local Road Boards, and Mr. Edgar Tripp, Hon. Secretary:—

"To His Excellency Sir Henry Moore Jackson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., Governor in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, Commander-in-Chief and Vice-Admiral thereof:—May it please Your Excellency,—When, three years ago, Your Excellency arrived to assume the government of this colony you were received with the respectful welcome always accorded to the representative of our revered Sovereign, His Majesty the King. That welcome was the more cordial in that the benefits following Your Excellency's administration, and the appreciation earned by Your Excellency in other parts of the Empire, were not unknown, and inspired hopes that the same happy and successful results would mark the period of your administration in Trinidad. Your Excellency returns to-day after leave in the United Kingdom taken unwillingly by Your Excellency, and to the regret of the colony, the more so by reason of the fact that illness rendered that absence necessary. Your Excellency is already aware of the deep anxiety and sorrow with which the inhabitants of the colony heard the first news from England of Your Excellency's serious illness, and of the universal gladness and relief when better tidings came. All the more heartily, therefore, is Your Excellency now offered the greetings of a people who, whilst rejoicing that you returned in renewed health and strength to fill your exalted position, gratefully acknowledge that their hopes from Your Excellency's administration have been fulfilled, and their confidence abundantly justified. The excellent relations obtaining between the Government and the people are due in great measure to the wisdom, the tact, and the justice of Your Excellency's rule—a rule not in the interest of one class or another, but of all classes of the community. That there is strenuous and important work to be done in the colony—work that awaits the Governor for its progress or commencement—Your Excellency is aware. The people have confidence that Your

Excellency's guiding hand will direct that work for the colony's advantage and lasting good. To Lady Jackson, whose gracious presence and whose sympathy with good works have won the hearts of all, a respectful and cordial greeting is also offered. The colony shared in her recent grief and anxiety, and now rejoices with her in Your Excellency's recovery. Your Excellency lands once more amongst a people proud and happy to bid welcome to a Governor whose devotion to the high duties of his office has been so consistently maintained, and of whose continued efforts towards all that makes for the true welfare of the colony they are confidently assured. Signed for and on behalf of the inhabitants of Trinidad and Tobago by virtue of authority given by the people in public meeting assembled."

The Governor, in his reply, struck the right note when he referred to his first appeal to the people to work with the Government, "without which real progress was impossible," and acknowledged how "readily and generously" that appeal had been met. A large and beautiful bouquet of flowers was then presented on behalf of the Committee by four little girls, whose names you will please immortalise in the CIRCULAR, so that they may happily point to the occasion in days to come. They were the Misses Lena Goodwille, Dolorita Prada, Thelma Dumoret, and Kathlene Smith. Then a charmingly arranged basket of flowers was presented on behalf of the ladies of Port of Spain by three more dainty little maids, to whom you will accord similar immortality, I am sure. They were the Misses Eva Swain, Ruth Fraser, and May Slyne. At Lady Jackson's request, the bouquet and basket of flowers with the children grouped around were each photographed. After this picturesque part of the programme had been carried out, the Governor and Lady Jackson left the enclosure to receive the ovation from the people which awaited him in a never-ceasing roar from the wharf to Government House. The route taken was through Broadway, gay with streamer-flying Venetian poles, connected one to another with festoons of hanging flags, and up Frederick Street, a blaze of bunting and printed emblems of welcome, but none so warm as the cheers from thousands echoing from pavement to roofs of houses on the way. At the entrance of the Savannah was a beautiful arch, the last decoration of the Public Committee, with the words, "The Colony Greets the Governor and Lady Jackson." Here a short halt was made to speak with the Inspector of Schools, who had arranged for the whole length of road thence to Government House on the east side of the Savannah to be lined with some 3,000 school children. They had been supplied with flags, which they waved very vigorously, whilst they cheered for all they were worth. It was a pretty and fitting finish to the ceremony. One more handsome arch, erected by the Shamrock Club, was passed under, and then, pursued to their very gate by the cheering crowd, Sir Henry and Lady Jackson passed into the quiet of their beautiful home at St. Anne's, after a welcome the memory of which will surely last their lives—the welcome of Iere to the Governor whom she trusts.

[In the above account Mr. Edgar Tripp modestly omits any reference to the part which he himself played in organising the reception of Sir Henry and Lady Jackson. The admirable manner in which the arrangements were carried out was due in no small measure to Mr. Tripp's tact and ability. In the art of organisation Mr. Tripp showed himself to be a past master on the occasion of the centenary celebrations in 1897, and it is satisfactory to find that in the ten years which have elapsed since that memorable year he has lost none of his energy.—ED.]

TRADE WITH CANADA.

Subsequently to the meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, December 19th, at which a further discussion took place on this subject, the following letter was addressed to the Hon. W. S. Fielding, Finance Minister of Canada, the Committee being desirous of the other industries of the West Indies, besides sugar, receiving due consideration in the event of the much desired reciprocity with Canada being made the subject of negotiations.

SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 25th, from which we note with satisfaction that you will give due consideration to the views expressed in our letter to you of October 15th last, with reference to the question of the trade relations between the Dominion of Canada and the British West Indies.

Copies of our correspondence have now been forwarded to the various Boards of Trade of the Maritime Provinces, and also to the agricultural and commercial societies throughout the West Indies, with a request that they may favour the West India Committee with their views regarding it.

In our letter of October 15th we dealt with the question more particularly from the point of view of those connected with the sugar industry, and we are now taking steps to ascertain the views of those connected with the cocoa and fruit industries, which form, as you are doubtless aware, the most important industries of Trinidad and Jamaica respectively. At present, bananas and oranges from all sources are free from duty in Canada, and any colony in which a fruit industry predominates might naturally be unwilling to give up any portion of its revenue and run the risk of being prejudiced in other markets, without receiving some *quid pro quo* in the form of

a substantial duty imposed in Canada on foreign fruits; and this applies with still greater force to the cocoa industry. The world's demand for this commodity is at present unprecedented. Raw cocoa pays no customs duty in Canada, while the West Indian supply is still greatly in excess of the Canadian consumption.

On the receipt of replies from the above-mentioned organisations, my Committee hope to have the honour of communicating with you further regarding this important subject.

Again thanking you, we have the honour to remain,

(Signed) NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Sisal in Caicos Islands.

Mr. F. H. Watkins, in a special report upon the sisal industry in Caicos Islands (Colonial Reports, No. 43), gives a general description and a brief sketch of the history of the islands, and, in view of its importance, makes special reference to the further development of the local sisal industry. He opens the second part of his report with a description and account of the uses of the Agave. Having discussed their history and the several varieties found, Mr. Watkins gives some useful information as to suitable soils, cost, and propagation, together with some useful advice on planting and cultivation. Capital, a large area of land, and an abundant and cheap supply of labour are necessary before embarking on this industry; the last two conditions are fulfilled in Caicos Islands. Cheapness of land, the continuous demand for sisal and remunerative prices, are urged as the chief advantages of sisal cultivation in Caicos; whilst the slow return for outlay, the isolated life, and the fact that the soil suitable for sisal is such as to preclude catch or rotation crops are among its disadvantages. When the survey of the Caicos Islands is complete and the extent of the Crown lands determined, it will be worthy of consideration to take measures for extending this important industry, which offers great possibility to the labouring population of the Dependency, and seems to assure large and certain profits to capitalists content to await their returns patiently and to allow the cultivation to be conducted on sound and economical principles.

A chance for sugar growers in Grenada.

It is curious to find that insufficient sugar is now grown in Grenada to meet the wants of the labouring population, and that large quantities are imported yearly. Surely this is a matter that could easily be adjusted? Fourteen distilleries of rum were at work in 1906, and there was altogether 160 premises licensed for the sale of spirits.

The following table, which we have extracted from Mr. Edward Drayton's report for the year 1906-7, gives the revenue, expenditure, and volume of trade of the colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total volume.
1902-3...	£72,802	£68,669	£22,199	1902	£239,108	£310,602	£549,710
1903-4...	70,260	70,101	22,649	1903	235,440	283,565	519,005
1904-5...	68,993	69,510	22,408	1904	256,269	321,766	578,035
1905-6...	69,954	71,968	20,968	1905	237,256	283,955	521,211
1906-7...	71,786	70,379	22,322	1906	223,448	210,149	433,597

The public debt still stood at £123,670, the sinking fund for its redemption amounting to £19,807.

The falling off in the volume of trade is attributable to the succession of short cacao crops, the last being nearly 10,000 bags shorter than its already diminished predecessor, and had it not been for a rise in prices the result would have been more serious. Throughout the British West Indies the year seems to have been a bad one for cocoa crops, a misfortune in which Grenada fully shared. The crop for the year ending September 30th amounted to 54,381 bags, as against 64,319 bags for 1905 and 67,225 bags for 1904. Fortunately the prices, which opened in August with 46s. to 52s. per cwt., rose to 75s. to 82s., thus compensating the growers in some degree for their shortage of crop. It is, however, a matter of gratification that the statistics for the world's consumption of cacao show such a steady increase, some authorities even alleging an increase by 40%. The scheme for the Carriacou land settlement has been making steady progress; a fourth estate, Bellevue North, was acquired in 1906. The Commissioner remarks that the experience of 1906 had convinced the doubting ones that good results are to be obtained with the Sea Island even under local conditions of culture, and further, that in the peculiarly adapted soil of Carriacou, Sea Island cotton is quite as hardy as its Marie Galante *confrère*.

Jamaica—The effects of the earthquake.

In his report for 1906-7, Mr. H. C. Bourne naturally devotes several pages to the earthquake and its effects. A reasonable estimate of the loss of life which arose from it was 800. The destruction of property is valued at £2,010,000, whilst the total contributions from the Mansion House and other

funds amounted to £103,670. The immediate effect of the earthquake on the revenue of the colony was a few weeks' industrial paralysis, followed by a great increase in receipts from import duty and rum duty resulting from the demand for the re-placement of stocks. This increase commenced soon enough to neutralise the short period of stagnation which preceded it, and the surplus anticipated before the catastrophe has consequently been realised. Based on the reports, we have compiled the following table showing the revenue and expenditure, imports and exports during the last five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
1902-3	£856,514	£788,847	£1,990,884	£2,224,116
1903-4	926,164	822,876	2,000,094	1,474,194
1904-5	751,562	824,816	1,672,168	1,436,725
1905-6	856,696	821,611	1,941,937	1,568,224
1906-7	886,911	827,386	2,261,469	1,992,007

The article which showed most increase in the exports was cocoa, to the extent of 16,500 cwts., valued at £57,000. Bananas also exhibited an increase of over 1,000,000 stems, or £37,800. Rum and cocoa-nuts, and, to a lesser degree, cigars, tobacco leaf, and turtle, were also factors in this year's large additions to the export trade. Coffee, oranges, pimento and cattle showed a decrease of £79,600 of which the first-named formed more than half. Other important increases were wood (logwood) nearly £3,700, wood (bitter) £1,600, tortoise-shell, £1,700, and logwood extract £16,600. Fruit, which now forms 53% of the total exports, is mainly represented by bananas, of which the following were the number of stems exported in each of the past four years:—

1903-4	7,800,000	1905-6	14,980,000
1904-5	8,900,000	1906-7	16,000,000

The vast bulk of the crop went to the United States, but the quantity sent to the United Kingdom, which was under 695,000 in 1904-5, rose to 1,217,000 in 1905-6, and 1,254,000 in 1906-7. In the same period the quantity exported to Canada has risen from 10,500 to nearly 118,000.

The following table shows the proportion in which the exports were distributed among the markets of the world:—

	1904-5	1905-6	1906-7		1904-5	1905-6	1906-7
United Kingdom	18.8	19.3	21.6	Canada	8.8	6.1	7.5
United States	53.4	57.4	57.2	Other countries	19.0	17.2	13.7

It is satisfactory to note that there has been a slight movement in favour of the United Kingdom and Canada of late.

British Guiana—Increased acreage under canes.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure, imports and exports of the colony for the last five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
1902-3	£557,351	£501,704	£1,444,084	£1,829,749
1903-4	555,853	530,225	1,656,024	1,810,038
1904-5	512,972	511,182	1,537,591	1,991,048
1905-6	522,493	506,173	1,662,205	1,994,394
1906-7	535,745	514,053	1,690,804	1,843,107

The floating debt of the colony, which stood at £170,702 in 1898-9, has been extinguished. The public debt on March 31st was £988,720. The decrease of £151,287 in the exports compared with those of 1905-6 is largely accounted for by sugar £148,652, rum £13,269, bullion (raw gold) £32,809, while such articles as balata, old metal, diamonds, &c., show a slight increase, which is, however, disproportionate with the decrease on the above-mentioned staple exports. In the case of sugar, the decrease is largely accounted for by the fact that the price per ton averaged only £9 16s. 10d. compared with £10 7s. 5d. in the previous year. The decrease in the rum exports amounted to 193,888 proof gallons. The value of the imports from the United Kingdom as compared with those from the United States during the past five years was as follows:—

	1902-3	1903-4	1904-5	1905-6	1906-7
United Kingdom	£728,526	£868,763	£786,504	£859,954	£921,684
United States	452,678	476,444	443,480	470,516	479,277

The sugar crop for export amounted to 114,951 tons, as against 116,550 tons for the previous year. The total area in canes at the end of March, exclusive of land cultivated by cane farmers, was 74,426 acres as compared with 72,390 at the close of the previous year. The destination of the sugar produced in the past five years was as follows:—

	U.S.A.	Canada.	United Kingdom.		U.S.A.	Canada.	United Kingdom.
1902-3	89,895	13,777	16,326 tons.	1905-6	29,987	65,436	21,040 tons.
1903-4	45,887	68,329	11,542 "	1906-7	38,522	51,217	25,110 "
1904-5	44,633	44,329	17,682 "				

The area under rice cultivation increased from 23,853 acres to 26,568 acres, and the estimated rice crop from 442,860 bags (of 120 lbs. each) of paddy to 756,400 bags. The effect of the local

production of rice on the imports of this food into British Guiana may be judged from the fact that whereas in 1904-5, 20,512,335 lbs. were imported, in 1905-6, 13,289,573 lbs. and for the year under review, only 6,162,476 lbs. were imported. Special interest was shown by outside capitalists in the possibilities of rubber cultivation, and the conditions under which Crown lands should be leased for this purpose are under the consideration of the Government. The position of sugar, the staple agricultural industry of the colony, had not been free from anxiety. At the close of the financial year the owners of sugar estates were anxiously awaiting the decision of the Imperial Government in regard to the renewal of the Brussels Convention, and pending the hoped-for renewal of the Convention, expenditure on improvements was being curtailed.

CONSULAR REPORT.

Cocoa and sugar from Ecuador.

The record crop of cocoa so far has been that of the year 1904, the quantity available for export being 562,810 quintals, or say 25,000 tons. The following year, 1905, gave 459,293 quintals, or say a little less than 21,000 tons. The past year, 1906, gave nearly the same, or say 463,135 quintals, also a little less than 21,000 tons. This short produce has, however, been much more than compensated for by the regular and rapid increase in value. The average price of cocoa in 1905 was 30 sucres, or say £3 per 50 kilos. f.o.b. Guayaquil. In 1906 this had been increased to an average of 34 sucres, or £3 8s., and now, in 1907, a still further increase of nearly 40 per cent. has taken place, the average price for the year being 47 sucres, or £4 14s. per 50 kilos. This has been of great benefit to the agricultural and commercial interests and has largely increased the value of Ecuadorean exports; but at the same time it must be remarked that the Government duties are not *ad valorem*, but per weight exported, and therefore the financial position of the Executive has not improved in the same proportion as prices have appreciated. Exports have been as follows:—1904, 562,810 quintals; 1905, 459,294 quintals; and 1906, 463,138 quintals. The production of sugar has been larger than in any previous year, viz., a total of about 154,000 quintals (7,000 tons of 2,240 lbs.) as against that of 148,000 quintals in 1902, the largest previous result. Consumption has, however, increased still more considerably, and before the crop of 1907 was gathered, 26,000 quintals (1,200 tons) had been imported, all the sugar being consumed in the country and none exported. By a law passed at the end of 1906, the import duty on sugar was removed, the consequence being that foreign sugar from Peru and Central America can now be imported with only freight and handling expenses added to compete with native-grown sugar. The result has been to depreciate prices to a level with the cost of the imported sugar, which varies between 7 sucres and 7 sucres 50 c. As the sale price had been previously 10 sucres per quintal, this means a depreciation of 30 per cent., or thereabouts, and it is doubtful whether the estates can support their heavy expenses and the large amounts they have to provide for interest and redemption of their mortgage debts out of such diminished receipts.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

When the R.M.S.P. *Orinoco*, which reached Southampton at 7 a.m. on Monday, December 16th, left Barbados (at 11 p.m., on December 3rd), the question of trade with Canada appeared to be the principal matter of discussion. Following on a meeting in British Guiana on November 15th, the Commissioner of Agriculture had addressed a similar gathering in Barbados on the subject. A private meeting had also been held in the Government Buildings at the former colony, when the question of organising a conference of delegates from all parts of the West Indies to consider the matter was discussed and approved. If, as was hoped, a representative from Canada could be present at such a conference, it was thought that sufficient information could be got together to form the basis of negotiations. With regard to the crops, the prospects of sugar were nowhere very bright, but the prospects of the coming cotton crop were distinctly promising. As a large proportion of the South Carolina Sea Islands' crop was reported to be of rather poor quality the market for fine qualities should practically rest with the West Indies. The R.M.S. *Port Royal* from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on December 18th. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Barbados—The unhealthy *Indefatigable*.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne writing on December 1st said that a public meeting was held at Planters' Hall, with the Governor in the chair, when Sir Daniel Morris gave an account of his visit to Canada, and urged the importance of the reciprocity of trade between Canada and the West Indies. It was decided that this question should be discussed when the delegates from British Guiana and the West Indies were assembled in Barbados in January next for the Agricultural Conference, and it

was hoped that perhaps some representative from Canada might attend. (An account of the meeting will be found in the *Agricultural Reporter* of November 30th.)—During the first part of the fortnight the weather was very favourable, good showers falling frequently. These, however, were by no means equally distributed, some places getting as much as $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins., but others only one. The rainfall for November, in general, had been from 4.30 ins. to 5.30 ins., but as much as 8 ins. had been heard of, while on "Porter's" estate the total was only 2.75. The canes had very much improved, but of course more rain was still wanted and there had been none for over a week. The suns were hot but the nights were very cool, which indicated dry weather at that time of the year.—The occurrence of some cases of fever was most unfortunate, coming as it did just at the beginning of the tourist season, and must temporarily affect the trade of the port. The general state of unhealthiness of the seamen on board the *Indefatigable* had been a great cause of complaint.—The peasant proprietors' show, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, was to be held on December 4th, at Applewaites, when the Governor would distribute the prizes.—Lord Basil Blackwood had now settled in his office and was making himself acquainted with the island. Wherever he went he was very popular.—There was a vacancy in the House of Assembly for the parish of St. Thomas, Mr. F. G. Inness having resigned.—The general health of the island was very good.

British Guiana—The need of labour.

Writing on November 30th, Mr. J. C. McCowan said that several sittings of the Hospital Enquiry had taken place during the fortnight, and the enquiry now stood adjourned. A meeting of the Planters' Association was to be held on December 3rd, to consider the question of other industries in the colony besides sugar contributing towards the cost of immigration. The cost of the up-keep of public roads running through sugar estates would also be considered.—Cable communication with Trinidad was interrupted on November 23rd, and at the time of writing repairs had not been effected.—Mr. M. R. Gonsalves, Mayor of Georgetown, died on November 25th from black water fever. Mr. E. A. V. Abraham had been elected Mayor for the balance of the term.—The Governor had appointed a committee to enquire into the industrial training of youths in the colony. The sittings were now taking place, and Mr. A. G. Bell, Civil Engineer, was the chairman.—It was satisfactory to be able to report a change in the weather. There had been good rains during the fortnight, fairly well distributed throughout the colony. On the Corentyne Coast they had a fall of $6\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 ins. in one night. It was now showery and favourable generally.—There had been no sales of crystals during the fortnight, and the price of \$1.90 was nominal.—Messrs. Wieting & Richter, in their market report, say that the labour conditions on sugar estates in districts where rice is largely grown are deplorable. Reaping and manufacturing operations have been delayed, and tillage is hopelessly neglected. No rate of wages offered can procure the steady supply of labour required, and the only solution appears to be abandonment. The rice industry carried on as it is in this colony absorbs an enormous quantity of labour. At least 10,000 immigrants per annum are needed, and these under existing conditions the sugar planter cannot afford to import.

Dominica—Methods of cocoa cultivation.

In his letter of November 29th, Mr. E. A. Agar said that in many districts limes were now being cultivated in a satisfactory manner, but cocoa was in a very backward condition. As pointed out by the Hon. A. D. Lockhart, Chairman of the Dominica Planters' Association, recently in an address to that body, although steady and even rapid progress had been made in this industry, it had been rather by the extension of the area under cultivation, than by improvement of method, as the quantity produced per acre was very small and stationary. They had therefore an enormous source in their existing but undeveloped cocoa cultivation. There were signs that improved methods of cultivation would soon come in.—Mr. Fletcher had arrived, and the writer was anxiously awaiting from



The late Dr. Carl Bovallius.

Whose death on December 8th was announced in last issue.

him an account of his exceedingly successful negotiations with regard to the railway. Of course it was impossible to say when they would be in a position to make their next move, and it would be difficult to find a time when money was more "ungetatable" than it was at the present moment.—The weather during the fortnight started well, but had latterly been finer, giving shippers a chance of getting their cocoa dry for the mail. The second lime crop was now beginning to ripen, and in most districts was unusually good.

Grenada—The hospitable club.

When Mr. C. Falconer Anton wrote on November 30th, they were without any reply from the Government as to the grant of £100 asked for in connection with the eradication of black blight.—Although some rain fell now and again, the weather was much too dry, and the cacao pods were being scorched for the want of rain.—The whole Lockhart family left by the previous mail for Dominica. Mr. Lockhart was getting on to complete recovery, but was by no means quite well yet. Mr. Mackie, the Chief Clerk, was also progressing favourably. The engagement of Dr. J. C. Orford to Miss Lockhart was announced the day before they left.—The members of the St. George's Club entertained Sir Ralph Williams to dinner on November 22nd. Covers were laid for forty, including the guest of the evening and his private secretary. The assistant private secretary, Mr. C. R. Taylor, was unable to attend in consequence of the sad news of the death of his mother, and he left for England, *via* New York, on November 24th.—A public meeting was held at Concord, in the parish of St. John, on November 19th, under the auspices of the Agricultural and Commercial Society. It was arranged by the Government schoolmaster, and the Inspector of Schools presided. Mr. Anstead, Mr. Malins Smith, the Rev. Mr. Godson, Mr. Lonison and the writer, were the speakers. It was quite a success and lasted three hours.



Lord Lundy and his Grandpapa,
the Duke (see page 620).

Jamaica—The drought.

Matters were very quiet when Mr. J. L. Ashenheim wrote on December 5th. It was said that the Legislature would meet some time in January.—Mr. C. C. Farquharson said in his letter of the 3rd that the estates in Westmoreland were about to begin taking off their crops. The fields were said to look fairly well, and the planters hoped for an average crop.—In his report for November, as Agricultural Instructor for Manchester and St. Elizabeth, Mr. J. Thompson Palache regretted that the drought still continued in the extreme southern coast of both St. Elizabeth and Manchester, and there had been an utter failure of seasons for the whole year, with disastrous results. Fortunately, in a large portion of St. Elizabeth that was afflicted with the drought up to August, planting of corn, beans, cassava, and sweet potatoes, had been most extensively conducted, and the country was looking most luxuriant; if no unforeseen drought set in, these parts would be able, later on, to help their more unfortunate neighbours with food supply.—The Bank of Nova Scotia have purchased a site at the corner of King Street and Tower Street, Kingston, Jamaica, on which it is proposed to erect a bank building. Building operations will be begun as early in the New Year as possible.

Montserrat—To check predial larceny.

There was little of importance to report when the Hon. Fred Driver wrote on November 30th. Weather was favourable for cotton, and picking had begun. The crop promised to be a large one, and it was hoped that prices would be good. A new Cotton Traffic Ordinance had come into operation on November 20th, which it was hoped would check cotton stealing.

St. Kitts-Nevis—Canes make a good growth.

Cotton picking was going on rapidly when Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote on November 29th, and the yield promised to be very good. Several places fully expected to go over the 300 lbs. per acre. The last R.M. steamer took away 59 bales from St. Kitts. The growth of cane during the past fortnight had been splendid, but they would like some good heavy downpours again.—Regular communication with the island of St. Thomas would be a great convenience, and it was hoped that

the Danish mail service could be induced to touch at St. Kitts.—Mr. S. D. Malone, who has been appointed Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee in Nevis, wrote on November 29th that during the past fortnight heavy rains had fallen in some parts of the island, more especially in the northern districts, where some damage had been caused by wash to the public roads. As that part of the island had very little rain for the year, the moisture was very acceptable to the planters. Cotton picking was in full swing, but it was as yet too early to conjecture what would be the output. There had been a marked diminution this season in the ravages wrought by insect pests, and on the whole the weather had been favourable.—At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society a resolution was unanimously adopted urging the Government to approach the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company with a view to rectify the present time table, which as far as Nevis was concerned, was most inconvenient.* Were the steamers to call at Nevis, say at 3 p.m. on Friday, and remain at St. Kitts until 12 o'clock on Saturday, or better still call at Nevis on the return voyage to Barbados, they would have at least an opportunity of replying to any urgent letters.



The death of Hildebrand's Great-Grandfather at Trafalgar (see page 620).

St. Lucia—The political crisis.

Writing on December 2nd, the Hon. E. DuBoulay stated that the non-official members of the Council had met Mr. Cork, the Administrator, privately to talk over the situation. Nothing definite had as yet transpired, but doubtless the Government would see the justice and policy of making some concession to the moderate demands of the members.

St. Vincent—A record cotton shipment.

Quite a record shipment of Sea Island cotton was being shipped by the mail which brought Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co.'s letter of December 2nd, amounting to 160 bales of 360 lbs. each, and as it had been picked and ginned in ideal weather, exceptionally good reports on the quality were expected. Some 200 barrels of the "new crop" arrowroot were also going by the mail.—Writing on the same date, Mr. W. N. Sands said that they had rather a wet period about the middle of the month, which did some damage to the cotton, but not very much. Fortunately, the last ten days had been very fine, and good pickings had been made. Arrowroot picking was general, and shipments were being made by each opportunity. All in the island were anxious to hear what the cotton market would be like this season. Although on the score of quality St. Vincent cotton would come up to expectations, yet, in view of the bad summer experienced in England, it appeared likely that prices lower than last season would be obtained.

Trinidad—The development of cane-farming.

The Hon. G. T. Fenwick, who has now returned to Trinidad and resumed his correspondence with the West India Committee, wrote on December 2nd that the Governor and Lady Jackson met with a most enthusiastic and heartfelt welcome from all classes on their return to the colony. An almost general holiday was made of the day. A Reception Committee was appointed at a public meeting called for the purpose, and this had the town gaily decorated in the vicinity of the landing

* This matter was discussed at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, December 16th, and a letter is to be sent to Lord Elgin on the subject.—Ed.

jetty and all along the route from the wharf to the Governor's residence at St. Anne's. Addresses were offered by the Committee and by various other public bodies.—Heavy showers had been frequent during the fortnight, rather too heavy in some districts, but both canes and cocoa had benefited greatly. Lately the showers had fallen in the afternoon, the mornings being bright and sunny. Advantage had been taken of this by the cocoa planters, and crop operations were now in full swing. Supplies for the fortnight ending November 16th were disappointing, but with the rains the pods were ripening fast, and now the supplies were more plentiful. There had been daily declines



The Lion which devoured Jim (see page 620).

large line was sold at the equivalent of 87s., c. & f.

		SHIPMENTS.			
Totals at last report		Trinidad.	Venezuela		
Nov. 16.—S.S. <i>Savan</i>	...	175,225	36,652	Nov. 26.—S.S. <i>Dahome</i>	...
.. 16.—S.S. <i>Prins Willem I.</i>	...	125	808 New York.	.. 27.—S.S. <i>Martinique</i>	...
.. 18.—S.S. <i>Tagus</i>	...	888	25 Europe.	.. 28.—S.S. <i>Trent</i>	...
.. 22.—S.S. <i>Sarstoon</i>	...	452	— "		
.. 23.—S.S. <i>Maraval</i>	...	282	— "	Total to date ...	178,883
		1,046	195 New York.		38,408

Writing also on December 2nd, Mr. Edgar Tripp said that, referring to the Governor's arrival, mentioned elsewhere, it was noticed that within a few hours of his arrival and reception, he was down at the Red House hard at work on the arrears awaiting him—truly characteristic of the man!—The Autumn Session of the Legislative Council opened on that day, the 2nd, but it was understood that only formal business would be done, and an adjournment then taken until the following Monday.—The very excellent Association for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, formed two years ago, principally at the initiative of Dr. George H. Masson, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, had issued its second annual report, which was most satisfactory. The patrons were the Governor and Lady Jackson, and the Honorary Medical Staff included all the leading medical men in the colony. Too much praise could not be given to the staff, and especially to Dr. Masson, for their truly philanthropic work, which day by day brought comfort and hope to many a poor home and many a hopeless sufferer.—A letter had been received from Mr. George C. Wyatt, dated November 28th, in which he said that advantage was being taken by the planters and farmers alike of the very excellent weather which had been experienced for the past fortnight to plant for the 1908 crop. Farmers (those under his immediate supervision) were beginning to look on cane farming as the real business of their lives, and were devising ways and means of conducting their cultivation so as to make the business a paying one. The following was a system finding favour principally among the East Indians: One farmer hired the land and another prepared it for sweet potatoes, which were planted on the bank prepared. The former planted his canes at the same time between the beds. In three months the potatoes were taken out and sold, and the land left for the canes. The man who planted and reaped potatoes paid no rent, the tillage done by him being considered by the other as sufficient compensation. The authorities of the New Colonial Company and Messrs. Tennant, Sons & Co. had further shown their appreciation of the industry by offering prizes for the best cultivated farmer's canes from one acre up, within a radius of two miles from Princetown proper. The judges, who were practical cane cultivators, had been examining that week, and had expressed surprise at the excellence of a good many of the farmer's cultivation. One remarked that

in the market values, owing to the cessation of buying from all quarters and the lower prices at London auctions. The financial situation had no doubt much to do with this decline, forcing speculators in Europe to realise their holdings. Owing to the financial condition in America, little or no business had been possible in that quarter. European buyers seemed to have been tempted by the low quotations, and had made purchases on a moderate scale. Fine Estates were quoted at 85s., Mixed Estates at 84s., and Ordinary at 82s., c. & f. Havre. The arrivals of Venezuelan cocoa from the mainland had also been heavy, and whilst in the early part of the fortnight the shippers were not willing to meet the market, towards the close a

a prominent planter had once stated the yield of the farmer's cultivation to be about five tons per acre, but the speaker would like that gentleman to see the cultivation that he (the judge) was then examining, and he would change his five to thirty-five. If the present kindly consideration of the estates authorities, which was so much appreciated by the farmers, continued, Mr. Wyatt felt sure that cane farming would become in Trinidad what they all so much desired—a real, live thing.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

A Question of Orthography.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—With reference to your answer to "Koky" in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, I venture to think you are wrong in preferring cocoa-nut to coco-nut; and I submit that on a question of orthography Dr. Murray's "New English Dictionary" is a better authority than any which you name. *Coco* is there given as the true form with *cocoa* as an alternative; and *cocus*, *cocos*, *coquo*, *caco*, *coeco*, *coquer*, *cocar*, *cocker*, *cokar* and *coker* as other forms. We there learn that "the early writers, from Cosmas 545 to the 15th century knew it only as the *Indian nut* or 'nut of India'; *coquos* (plural) is quoted first from the *Roteiro de Vasco da Gama* (Portuguese, 1498-9); Barbosa, 1516 has (Portuguese) *quoquos*; Pigafetta, 1519, has (Italian) *cocche* plural of *coca*; Oviedo, 1526; Barros, 1553; Garcia, 1563; and Acosta, 1578, have *coco*; Correa, 1561, *coquo*."

The Portuguese and Spanish authors of the 16th century agree in identifying the word with the Portuguese and Spanish *coco*, "grinning face, grin, grimace," also "bugbear, scarecrow," cognate with *cocar*, "to grin, make a grimace;" the name being said to refer to the face-like appearance of the base of the shell, with its three holes. Historical evidence favours the European origin of the name, for there is nothing similar in any of the languages of India, where the Portuguese first found the fruit; and, indeed, Barbosa, Barros, and Garcia in mentioning the Malayalam name *teaga*, and Canarese *narle*, expressly say, "we call these fruits *quoquos*," "our people have given it the name of *coco*," "that which we call *coco*, and the Malabars *teaga*."

In English the latinized form *cocus*, afterwards (as in Botanical Latin) *cocos*, was at first used both for singular and plural. Towards the close of the 16th century, *coquo*, *coco* as "the Portingalls call this fruit" (Linschoten), began to be used, with plural *cocos*, *cocoets*. *Coco* remained the established spelling in the 18th century till the publication of Dr. Johnson's dictionary, in which the article *coco* was (apparently by some accident, for Johnson in his own writings used *coco*, plural *cocoets*) run together with the article *cocoa* (= *cacao*); this gave currency to a confusion between the two words which still prevails, although careful writers have never ceased to use the correct form *coco*. In 1881 the *Athenaeum* stated that *coco-palm* was the only correct way of spelling the name. Funk and Wagnall's "Standard Dictionary" also gives the preference to *coco-nut*.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

FRANK CUNDALL.

Kingston, Jamaica, 1907.

[Mr. Frank Cundall certainly makes out a very strong case for "coco-nut." As we have already pointed out the form of spelling adopted by the Imperial Department of Agriculture appears to be "cocoa-nut," and it would be interesting if the officials of the Department would favour us with their views on the subject. "The World's Commercial Products" (Messrs. W. G. Freeman and Dr. Chandler) gives coco-nut as preferable, as "it tends to obviate the confusion which so often exists due to the wrong usage of the word cocoa. A hazy notion often exists that the cocoa-nut and the beverage cocoa have something in common in their origin . . . The cocoa-nut, or as it is preferable to write it coco-nut, is the fruit of a palm (*Cocos nucifera*), whilst cocoa is prepared from the seeds of a quite distinct tree (*Theobroma cocoa*). Koker-nut is a commercial term derived from the Dutch "Koker-noot."—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

The appeal for the Library Fund.

Among those who have presented books to the West India Committee Library and donations towards the Library Fund—which are equally acceptable—have been:—Sir Neville Lubbock, Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, Mr. J. R. Boosé, Mr. Harding Browne, Mr. W. A. Cadbury, Mr. Carvalho, Mr. Edward Chambers, the Committee of the West Indian Club, Mr. W. P. Eversley, Mr. William Gillespie, Messrs. Gillespie, Bros. & Co., Mr. Murray T. Gow, the Institute of Jamaica, Mr. Llewellyn Jones, Messrs. A. M. Lee & Co., Lieut.-Colonel Trollope, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mr. C. M. Wostenholme, and Mr. E. T. Whitaker. Donations of books, photographs, pictures and curios, or subscriptions towards the fund, will be welcomed and acknowledged in due course in the catalogue, which will contain a list of benefactors and be circulated amongst members of the West India Committee. It is felt that many readers must have on their shelves copies of West Indian works which they could spare, and it is earnestly hoped that every effort will be made to support the Executive in this new step which they have taken towards improving the Library.

We are glad to receive copies of publications relating to our colonies, and photographs of West Indian scenery or of local events of topical interest, which will be duly acknowledged under this heading. We have received the following publications:—

Les Plantes Tropicales de Grande Culture (Tome I.), par E. de Wildeman, Bruxelles. Maison d'Édition. Alfred Castaigne, 28, Rue de Berlaumont.

A History of Jamaica from its discovery by Christopher Columbus to the present time; including an account of its trade and agriculture; sketches of the manners, habits, and customs of all classes of its inhabitants; and a narrative of the progress of religion and education in the island. By W. J. Gardner. London: Elliot Stock, 1873. We are indebted to Mr. E. F. H. Cox, of Jamaica, for the gift of this volume to the library of the West India Committee.

Mr. L. P. Wrench has been kind enough to present to the West India Committee a collection of insects caught on his estate Lancashire, in Dominica. They include a fine specimen of the Saw (Sawyer) beetle (*Dynastes Hercules*) Centipedes (*Chilopoda*), Oxyhoptera (commonly called Crack-Crack), Coleoptera beetles, flies and moths (*Hymenoptera* and *Lepidoptera*), Spiders, small Dragon Flies, Fire Flies, and Flying Beetles. Mr. Wrench recently presented a similar collection to the Museum of Oldham, his native town.



And gracious! how Lord Lundy cried!

"Sir! you have disappointed us!
We had intended you to be
The next Prime Minister but three:
The stocks were sold; the Press was squared;
The Middle Class was quite prepared.

This is a fair example of Mr. Belloc's mirth-producing lines. Each set of verses points a moral, and the author is helped to emphasise it by the admirable sketches of Lord Basil Blackwood, of which we are, through the courtesy of Mr. Nash, enabled to reproduce a few choice specimens in our pages. Perhaps H. B. and B. T. B. felt that they were putting wrong ideas into the heads of the younger generation with the Book of Beasts. If this be so, they have fully made up for it in the present volume. Such tales as that of Charles Augustus Fortescue, "Who always Did what was Right, and so accumulated an Immense Fortune," cannot fail to have a Salutory effect upon the youth of many generations to come, while the example of Rebecca, "Who slammed Doors for Fun and Perished Miserably," will serve to keep many a young and wayward girl in the right path. We congratulate Lord Basil Blackwood, no less than his gifted colleague, Mr. Hilaire Belloc. The publisher, too, has done his work well.—A. E. A.

Liste Générale des Fabriques de Sucre, Raffineries et distilleries de France, d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Russie, de Belgique, de Hollande, d'Angleterre et de diverses colonies suivie de Notes sur le Contrôle Chimique dans les fabriques de Sucre, de Statistiques sur la Production du sucre et de la Législation des sucres et des usages commerciaux en France et dans les principaux pays—Campagne, 1907-1908. Paris: Bureaux du Journal des Fabricants de Sucre, 1908. On glancing over this comprehensive little work one cannot help reflecting upon the superiority of the organisation of the beet sugar industry over that of the cane industry. We wish that some enterprising individual would compile a similar directory and handbook of our sugar factories and refineries in the colonies and Great Britain.

Cautionary Tales for Children.

Verses by H. Belloc. Pictures by B. T. B. London: Eveleigh Nash, 32, Bedford Street, W.C. 2s. 6d. net.—The author and artist who collaborated so successfully in the production of "A Bad Child's Book of Beasts," "More Beasts for Worse Children," and "The Modern Traveller," now delight us with this droll volume. Though ostensibly designed for the admonition of children between the ages of eight and fourteen years, it will, if we are not mistaken, find the greatest favour among those of riper years. Not all of those in the West Indies who are lucky enough to possess copies of the first editions of the earlier books will have recognised the poet and artist from their initials. H. B. now discloses his identity, but to the uninitiated it will be news that B. T. B., whose pencil produces such droll pictures, is Lord Basil Blackwood, the Colonial Secretary of Barbados. In reviewing a book from the standpoint of such a journal as the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR one's first cursory glance at it is made with the object of ascertaining if it contains any reference to the West Indies. Failing the discovery of any allusion to that part of the world, the colonies is the next subject sought after, and in this case successfully, for Lord Lundy, the unfortunate Peer "Who was too Freely Moved to Tears, and thereby ruined his Political Career," was shoved, towards the age of twenty-six, "into politics; In which profession he commanded The income that his rank demanded In turn as Secretary for India, the Colonies, and War." The adventures of this unhappy nobleman are quite delightfully described by the ready pen of Mr. Belloc from the time when "from his earliest years" he "was far too freely moved to tears" to the *début* when he was summoned by the Duke, his aged grandsire, to Brackley Towers, and addressed thus:—

But, as it is! . . . My language fails!
Go out and govern New South Wales!

The Aged Patriot groaned and died:
And gracious! how Lord Lundy cried!"

NOTES OF INTEREST.

VOLUME XXII.—With the present issue, Vol. XXII. of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is completed, and with the next number, which will form the first of Vol. XXIII., the index will be published. Special binding cases with gilt lettering on the back, for binding the volume, can be obtained post free 2s. 6d., or readers can have their own copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3s. 6d., at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. A limited number of bound copies of Vol. XXII. can be obtained price 25s. each, post free.

SUSPENDED.—Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co. have withdrawn their list of sailings between Halifax and Jamaica owing, it is said, to lack of support.

WHITE TROOPS.—One hundred men of the Royal Garrison Artillery are to leave Southampton in the *Atrato* on January 8th for Jamaica, to complete the establishment there.

OBITUARY.—Major-General Francis Rawdon Chesney, whose death took place at the Hotel des Alpes, Vevey, December 15th, received the thanks of the Governor for suppressing a riot in Bridgetown in the year 1872.

OUR VISITORS.—Among the callers at the West India Committee Rooms during the fortnight have been: Mr. F. N. Martinez, who returned from Barbados in the *Tagus*, Mr. José Anjo, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. G. Frank Burns, and Mr. W. J. S. Tucker.

ARROWROOT.—Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. leave no stone unturned to popularise their Three Rivers arrowroot, and a neatly arranged trophy of it was a feature of the West Indian stall at the recent show of colonial fruits at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

GIVEN AWAY.—Grape fruit were being sold on a barrow in Fenchurch Street on December 13th at the ridiculously low price of two a penny. The fruit was wrapped in papers bearing the mark "⁶/₁₀ Grove Fruit Farm." A specimen of the fruit selected at random weighed 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs., and its diameter was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Later in the week the street market showed a firmer tendency, the fruit being quoted 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for two.

"ANGELO."—A pleasing variety of Diabolo has been patented by Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, a well-known resident of Barbados. The novelty consists in the fact that the spool or bobbin in spinning emits musical sounds, which vary according to the speed at which it is spun. Mr. Gibbons has registered the word "Angelo" to describe his contrivance, which is being placed on the market by Messrs. Jaques, of Hatton Garden, London.

MORE "WANTS."—Our "Wants" notices in the present issue include one for a partner with £4,000, half down, to acquire a third interest in an estate in Jamaica, and we hope that "Xaymaca" will receive many replies. "E. K." asks for a managing partner with practical knowledge and small capital, for a coffee and cocoa estate in the West Indies, while Mr. Delos J. Martin continues to call attention to cotton lands for sale in Antigua. The New Colonial Company offer for sale a second-hand steam ploughing plant, regarding which they are sure to get many enquiries.

THE W. I. CLUB.—Mr. J. Rippon presided at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, December 11th, and amongst those present were: Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Dr. L. C. Burrell, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. H. de Pass, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Dr. Moore, Mr. F. G. Rayment, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. Thomas L. Scott, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. R. S. Wilcoxon, and Mr. Charles Wilson. After dinner several heats of the first round of the annual billiard handicap were played off.

AUSTRIAN SUGAR TAX.—A Bill is to be introduced into the Chamber of Deputies in Austria-Hungary for the reduction of the sugar tax from 38 kronen (27s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per 100 kilos, at which it now stands, to 26 kronen (18s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.). This is to be effected gradually, the tax being reduced to 32 kronen (23s. 4d.) on September 1st, 1908, to 29 kronen (21s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) on September 1st, 1914, and to 26 kronen (18s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) on September 1st, 1917. Provision will also be made to prevent any artificial raising of the price of sugar. The refiners, who had reconstituted a cartel and had raised the price of refined sugar, are much disturbed in consequence, and are vehemently protesting.

THE B.C.G.A.—The British Cotton Growing Association, which has done so much to develop the cotton industry in the West Indies, has decided to defray the initial cost of an oil engine for working the gin at the cotton factory in Tortola, Virgin Islands, on the understanding that the total expenditure will be refunded by the Government in three annual instalments. Mr. Sands, of St. Vincent, recently visited St. Lucia with a view to report upon the suitability of the island for Sea Island cotton cultivation. While it appears that cotton of good quality can undoubtedly be grown in the island, it is felt by the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association that it would not be advisable to spend much money in the development of the industry before cultivation has been carried on tentatively for some little time by the local authorities. If then the outlook appears hopeful, it is possible that further efforts will be made to build up the industry.

PROPHETIC.—The *Cobden Club Circular* has been merged into the *Free Trader*, a periodical which is to be issued every two months in the joint interests of the Cobden Club and other Free Trade Bodies. The first number contains a criticism of the compromise arrived at at Brussels regarding the Sugar Convention, which it considers unsatisfactory. Hope is expressed that pressure will be brought to bear upon the Government to take advantage of the power they still retain to release this country entirely from a policy which hampers our freedom of commerce and leaves it open to a future Protectionist Government to restore the full burden of the original Convention. We venture to think, however, that the next Tory Government, whether it be Free Trade or Protectionist, will do something better than that, and will declare its intention to countervail the bounties, a far simpler method of securing fair play and equality of opportunity than by any Convention.

CABLE RATES.—At a recent meeting of the Committee of the West India Trade Section of the Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool, Mr. J. E. Tinne presiding, a discussion took place regarding cable communication with the West Indies. A communication was read from Sir Alfred Jones suggesting that the cable companies concerned should be asked to fix more reasonable rates and stable communication between the United Kingdom, the West Indies and British Guiana. After consideration of the matter it was resolved: "That the West India section of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool urges the companies administering the telegraph cables to the West Indies and British Guiana to provide more stable communication at reduced rates for the transmission of messages to and from the United Kingdom, as the frequent breakages in the cables, and the present high charges retard the development of trade with the places named, and impose inconvenience and cost to the senders." Communication between Trinidad and Demerara was restored on Monday, December 2nd.

CUBAN ORANGES.—At a meeting of the Cuban Land and Development Company on December 5th, the Chairman said that Cuba was eminently suitable for orange-growing, even more so than California and Florida, where very handsome results had been secured from orange-groves, notwithstanding the liability to frosts, which were unknown in Cuba. The United States was a great consumer of oranges, and though there was a duty of 55 cents per box on imported fruit, that was more than balanced by the difference between sea and land freight. As to the value of orange plantations, the Chairman said that with five-year-old trees a plantation was worth £100 per acre, which in five years further increased to £200 per acre. The lowest known net yield in the third year of the planting was £10 per acre, which increased in the fifth year to £30, and gradually by the tenth year to £100. As many as 8,000 oranges was only a fair yield for a single bearing tree, and there were in existence numberless orange trees over 100 years old; once in bearing an orange tree was a perpetual source of income.

LORD HAWKE.—We should like to call the attention of the cricket clubs in the West Indies, and also of our cricketing readers to the testimonial which is being organised by the Tyke, through the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, for presentation to Lord Hawke, as a recognition of the twenty-fifth season of his captaincy of the Yorkshire Cricket Team. Lord Hawke has done an immense amount for cricket in the West Indies, where the tour of his team in 1897 will be remembered, and he also took a prominent part in organising the first West West Indian cricket team to this country. The fund will have closed for ordinary subscribers before these lines are in print, but the Editor has made an exception in favour of the West Indies, and will gladly accept any subscriptions which may be sent later. It may be mentioned that the fund has received the commendation of such well-known cricketers as Mr. W. G. Grace, Prince Ranjitsinji, Mr. A. C. McLaren, Lord Harris, and the Hon. Alfred Lyttelton. The West Indian Club has already contributed £5 5s. to the Hawke Testimonial Fund, and we hope that the secretaries of the West Indian cricket clubs will bring this matter before their committees.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

- Tues., Dec. 10.—Letter in the *Times* from the Archbishop of the West Indies on the "Jamaica Church Relief Fund."—*Lu Plata* arrived at Barbados at 9 a.m.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., quiet.
- Wed., Dec. 11.—Annual meetings of the Liberal Unionists held at Edinburgh.—Lord Curzon delivered an address on the "True Imperialism."—Unionist Van Campaign inaugurated.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., quiet.
- Thur., Dec. 12.—Austrian Budget Committee of the Reichsrath adopted a Bill reducing the duty on sugar by 8 kronen.—German Emperor left England.—Bishop of St. Andrews' died.—R.M.S. *Trent* arrived at New York at 4 p.m.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Fri., Dec. 13.—President Roosevelt's decision not to stand again for the Presidency of the United States announced.—Beet, 9s. 8½d., quiet.
- Sat., Dec. 14.—Article on "Sugar Politics" in the *Economist*—Terms of Agreement between the Great Central and Great Northern Railways published.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 8½d., steady.
- Sun., Dec. 15.—The *Observer* published a favourable report regarding Mr. J. Chamberlain's health and his probable return to Parliament—*Port Royal* left Avonmouth.
- Mon., Dec. 16.—United States fleet sailed for the Pacific—Article on the Brussels Convention in the *Yorkshire Post*—*Orinoco* arrived at Southampton at 7 a.m.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., dull.
- Tues., Dec. 17.—Death of Lord Kelvin—Article on Bananas in the *Standard*.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., quiet.
- Wed., Dec. 18.—Lord Milner's speech on the Empire at the United Empire Club—*Atrata* left Barbados at 11 a.m.—Beet, 9s. 7½d., steady.
- Thur., Dec. 19.—*Port Kingston* left Kingston—Article on "The Supply of Liquid Fuel" in the *Pall Mall Gazette*—Beet, 9s. 7½d., quiet.
- Fri., Dec. 20.—The Babbicombe murderer released.—Beet, 9s. 9d., steady.
- Sat., Dec. 21.—Druce Case: All parties agreed to the opening of the Druce tomb at Highgate.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 9½d., steady.
- Mon., Dec. 23.—Lord Kelvin's funeral in Westminster Abbey.—Beet, 9s. 10d., steady.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Enquirer.—You would be well advised to have nothing to do with the firms mentioned by *Truth*. They have been frequently pilloried by *Truth*.

Botanist.—You are quite correct. The cabbage palm or palmiste is *Oreodoxa oleracea*. The incorrect spelling in

the last CIRCULAR, under the heading "In a Tropical Garden," was due to a printer's error. An excellent Guide to Castleton Gardens, Jamaica, was published by Mr. William Fawcett, B.Sc., F.L.S., in 1904.

Theobroma.—The total of the world's consumption of cacao last year was 369,809,000 lb., made up as follows:—

	lbs.		lbs.		lbs.
United States ...	83,677,000	France ...	51,489,000	Holland ...	46,801,000
Germany ...	77,453,000	England ...	44,387,000	Rest of the World...	66,202,000

Mongoose.—Yes, rat extermination did once form the subject of legislation in Barbados. An act was passed in 1748 entitled "An Act to encourage the destroying of Rats in this Island," which provided that "the Churchwarden of every Parish in this Island, shall immediately pay any person, white or black, for the head of every Rat caught or killed in the Parish, and produced and left with him, who is to mark them in such a manner as to prevent the same being doubly paid for, two pence; and if any Church-warden shall neglect or refuse to pay the same immediately, he shall forfeit and pay to any white person complaining, or to the Owner of such flave as shall produce the heads of any Rats, the sum of three pounds current money; to be recovered before any Justice of the Peace, and raised as in case of Servant's Wages."

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

In Trinidad, MR. EDGELL JOHNSTONE and MR. W. E. BECKLES have been re-elected Mayors of San Fernando and Arima respectively.—LIEUT.-COLONEL R. S. MARSHALL has been appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Constabulary, Trinidad.—MR. L. G. DE LAURENQUE has returned to St. Lucia and resumed his duties as Consular Agent for France.—MR. M. MCTURE, C.M.G., has resigned his appointment as a Government Officer under the Crown Lands Regulations, British Guiana.—MR. H. ALLAN OTWAY, Chief Inland Revenue Officer, Grenada, has returned to the colony and resumed his duties.—MR. ROBERT WARD, Agricultural Superintendent, Department of Science and Agriculture, has been granted six months' leave of absence.—The leave of absence granted to MR. W. C. P. WINTER, District Commissioner and Assistant Colonial Surgeon, British Honduras, has been extended for six months.—MR. WALTER S. SHAW, Magistrate of the First Police District, St. Vincent, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Colony.—During the absence from Barbados of MR. F. N. MARTINEZ, MR. S. H. MCCORMICK is acting as Consul for the Republic of Panama.—MR. H. W. SCONCE, M.A., Inspector of Schools, British Guiana, has been granted six months leave of absence from November 16th, during which time MR. J. F. ROSE will act in his place.—THE HON. VALENTINE G. BELL, C.M.G., Director of Public Works, Jamaica, is about to retire from the service on pension. His whole official career has been connected with that Colony, to which he proceeded in the year 1880 as Chief Resident Engineer of Jamaica Government Railway. He became Director of Public Works seven years later, and was a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils.—MR. ARTHUR MARSDEN, Chief of the Customs Department, East Africa Protectorate, has been appointed Emigration Agent for Trinidad, Mauritius, Fiji, and Jamaica in Calcutta, in succession to MR. R. P. GIBBES, who has been promoted Emigration Agent in India for British Guiana and Natal, in place of MR. R. W. S. MITCHELL, C.M.G., who has retired. Mr. Marsden, whilst holding the office of Chief of Customs in the East Africa Protectorate, acted as Protector of Immigrants, and also visited South Africa in order to report on the prospects of trade between East and South Africa, as well as to make known the suitability of the East African highlands for white immigration, and to encourage their colonisation by desirable settlers.—LIEUTENANT W. H. CALTHORP-CALTHORP, R.N., has assumed the duties of Harbour Master of St. Lucia, in place of MR. J. B. THELWALL, who has been transferred to British Guiana.—MR. JUSTICE F. H. PARKER has arrived in England from Cyprus, and will take short leave of absence before proceeding to the West Indies as Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands.—DR. C. W. BRANCH, Medical Officer of St. Vincent, has arrived in England on leave of absence, his duties in the meantime having been taken over by DR. C. H. DURRANT.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Bank Rate 7% (changed from 6% on Thursday, November 7th, 1907). Consols (2½%) 82½.

The New Colonial Company, Ltd.

Presiding at the eleventh ordinary general meeting of this company on Thursday, December 12th, Sir Neville Lubbock said that Mr. Morris, the company's attorney in Demerara, had told the directors that he had every reason to expect that he would be able to lease out a considerable portion of the Windsor Forest land for rice-growing. The acreage was upwards of 5,000 acres, and if they could lease a fair proportion at £2 per acre, the price usually paid for rice-growing, they would make a fine profit. They quite anticipated that they would sell a certain amount of land, and perhaps realise £3,000 to £4,000 in the course of the next year or two, which would go towards the reduction of the debenture debt. The company's cacao estate in Trinidad for the first time for many years made a small loss of £40, the crop over the whole island being very deficient on account of the drought. The prospect was, he was glad to say, very different for the coming year, and they had taken advantage of the very high price to sell the whole of their crop, and there seemed almost a certainty that they would make a profit of something like £5,000 in the coming year. With regard to improvements, he was perfectly satisfied some years ago that by expenditure on them a very large reduction in cost of production could be brought about, and that had been the case. Now, he did not believe that any amount of expenditure on machinery would appreciably reduce their cost of production, which he believed would in future come from improvements in the field rather than in the factory. He believed that all their factories were now in a position to produce sugar as cheaply as any other country in the world. Referring to the company's interests in Porto Rico, he explained that during the last six years they had been engaged in a lawsuit, and the directors had thought it prudent to say nothing on the subject which might have been taken hold of to their detriment in Porto Rico. They had not yet been able to get the decision of the judge, and, as far as he could see, it might be another six years before they got any decision. He proceeded to explain at some length the nature of the lawsuit and the character of the interests held by the company in Porto Rico, and stated that the board had had an offer from some of the farmers (from whom they purchased the whole of their canes) and their friends, who had some capitalists at their back, to buy the whole of the company's interests in Porto Rico and to take their own chance of the lawsuit. The sum which they had offered for the factory was \$550,000, which was equal to about £112,000. Of that sum they were to pay \$200,000 in cash, \$300,000 in Six per Cent. bonds, and \$50,000 in shares. They might have had bonds instead of shares, but they were strongly advised by Mr. Marr, their representative in Porto Rico, to take the shares, because he was thoroughly convinced that they would pay a good deal more than 6 per cent., and that within the next two or three years they would probably be able to sell them at a very handsome premium. Incidentally, he wished to take this opportunity of saying what a very high opinion the board had of Mr. Marr, and how very much they were indebted to him for his able management in

Porto Rico. The directors had agreed to sell the factory on the terms mentioned. It stood in the books at £58,000, so that there would be a very large profit on that transaction. But he wished to give one word of caution in connection with it. The shareholders knew that there had been great financial trouble in the United States, and he fully expected that those who had made this offer would find it exceedingly difficult to carry it out at the present moment. He would not, therefore, be surprised if the sale hung fire for some few months, but he had not the least doubt that it would be eventually carried out. Referring to the general management of the company, he remarked that practically all the directors could do was to see that they got the best men in the colony to manage their properties. Whether the estates had been well managed or badly managed must always be a matter of opinion; but they knew that for the past few years they had not been profitable. They therefore came to the conclusion two years ago that a change was desirable in the management. They had placed Mr. Cecil Morris in charge in Demerara. With regard to British Guiana, he could only say that as far as the directors could judge Mr. Morris was handling the estates very well. The seasons this year in Demerara had been exceedingly bad. The general estimate was that the crop of the whole colony had been affected to the extent of about 20 per cent., so that they could not possibly expect anything like an average crop for the coming season. But, in spite of that, there seemed fair reason to suppose that Mr. Morris would succeed in taking off his crop without any loss, and if he did so it would be very creditable to him. In Trinidad the board also thought it was desirable to make a change, and, as he informed the shareholders at the last meeting, they appointed Mr. Murray to take charge of the Usine Ste. Madeleine. There again he thought the prospects were exceedingly promising. The season had been more favourable, and he thought a good crop was assured for the coming year. The cost of production was going to be very moderate, and they had every reason to expect a very handsome profit from the factory next year. With regard to the Brussels Convention, he stated that the Convention had been renewed for six years, although it still required ratification. There was a huge stock of sugar in Russia, and had nothing been done they might have found themselves flooded with Russian sugar after September next. That would have upset the whole sugar world for probably several months to come. All that was now put on one side, because an arrangement had been come to whereby the exports from Russia were limited to very moderate quantities. Partly owing to the fact of the partial ruin which had taken place in Cuba, and partly owing to the fact that last season was an exceedingly unpropitious one, the coming crop was likely to be considerably less than last year, so that the prospect for sugar for the next six or eight months seemed to him to be decidedly favourable. Prices at the moment were quite satisfactory, and they had no reason to believe that they could not make sugar in normal seasons to show a very good profit. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. Edward Packard, in seconding the motion, gave an account of his recent visit to Trinidad. Speaking generally of the company's estates there, he said he firmly believed that if Mr. Murray had a fairly free hand to deal with the management of both the estates and the factory, and was provided with sufficient capital to enable him to cultivate the estates in the way they should be cultivated and to provide the stimulants which were necessary to get the biggest crops, they would see more favourable results in the future than they had ever seen in the past from the Trinidad estates. In the course of some discussion, Mr. H. H. F. Hyndman moved an amendment to the effect that the report be received and not adopted, and that a committee be appointed to confer with the directors and to report at a special meeting. The amendment was not seconded, and the report and accounts were adopted. Sir John H. Morris, the retiring director, was re-elected, and Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. were reappointed auditors. A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff closed the proceedings. The accounts showed that after payment of interest on Debenture Stock there remained a profit of £6,364 17s. 0d. During the year there has been expended upon the estates on improvements, the sum of £15,975 3s. 8d.; of this amount £2,979 4s. 10d. represents the value of machinery which was transferred from Peter's Hall Estate and distributed amongst the other estates of the company as explained in the directors' report of last year; £900 had already been reserved on account of the cost of a new boiler for Friends Estate, Berbice; £4,253 4s. 11d. being the cost of installing an additional mill and a new locomotive at the Usine Ste Madeleine, Trinidad, has been charged to capital account, and the balance, viz., £7,849 13s. 11d. has been written off as shown by the accounts. During the year, £5,000 of the company's Debenture Stock has been redeemed and cancelled out of the sinking fund set aside last year. A further sum of £4,500 has now been charged against the revenue of the year, in accordance with the Trust Deed, which will be applied during the current year in the redemption of Debenture Stock. The balance of £10,762 12s. 8d., standing to the credit of General Reserve Account, has been transferred to Profit and Loss Account, leaving a balance of £709 8s. 4d. on the latter which is carried forward to next year. Owing to ill-health, Mr. Henry Hales has retired from the Board, but the Directors are glad to be able to state that they keep in continual touch with him, and are still able to obtain the benefit of his advice and long experience in all matters connected with the sugar industry.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Since we last went to Press the following telegrams regarding the weather in the West Indies have been received:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 19th. "Very dry, rain wanted."
British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), December 16th. "Rain is wanted on East Coast, otherwise weather is favourable." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 16th. "Showers generally."
Trinidad (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), December 16th. "Showery and favourable for cultivation."
Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended December 4th—
PORT ANTONIO: "Fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine." Week ended December 11th—**PORT ANTONIO**: 5th to 9th, "Fine"; 10th, "Rain"; 11th, "Fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. *Ovinsco* (Capt. C. P. Langmaid), December 16th):—Mr. F. Austen, Mr. H. J. Benyon, Mr. R. Britton, Mr. G. Brown, Mr. N. Carrie, Mr. D. E. Casey, Mr. J. Clark, Miss D. M. Codd, Mr. J. Costley, Mr. W. T. Coupar, Mr. D. C. DaCosta, Jun., Mr. T. G. Davson, Mr. B. Dealtry, Mr. J. B. Dopwell, Mr. J. Farquharson, Major P. H. Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. H. Garth-Dodgson, Mr. A. Goerke, Mrs. Grannum, Mr. W. Hart, Mr. C. A. Hicks, Mr. H. H. Holder, Mr. C. Horton, Mr. W. M. Howell, Mrs. O. Hutson, Mr. D. J. Inglis, Mr. H. Karlsen, Mr. G. Jacobsen, Mr. N. Larson, Mr. D. Morrison, Mr. W. McCall, Mr. W. Morris, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. L. G. Muss, Mrs. F. Pyall, Mr. H. Quenza, Mr. R. Rait Rattray, Mr. and Mrs.

Scott, Mr. and Mrs. S. Shipp, Mr. A. G. Siegert, Mr. J. Spratt, Mr. C. Stuart, Mr. W. C. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Todd, and Mr. R. W. Wright.

SAILINGS per R.M.S.P. *Magdalena* (Captain Custance), December 25th:—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hall, Mrs. A. B. Kitchener, Mr. A. E. Wolfe Barry, Mr. A. E. H. Freke, Mrs. S. Bolton, Miss Monck, Mr. F. Evans, Mrs. J. D. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, Miss Dyett, Mr. F. Dorn, Mr. J. N. Denman, Mr. and Mrs. Felix James, Mr. and Mrs. S. Koppel, Mrs. Briggs, Mr. G. G. Short, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon, Dr. B. Gonzalez, Mr. O. C. Cramer, Mr. M. G. Portbury, Mr. F. A. Conyers, Mr. Inglis, Mr. and Mrs. Echeverri, Mr. Heskia, Mrs. Bunge Craijs, Mr. John Burley Smith, and Mr. G. P. Cooley.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Atrato* (Capt. Watson), January 8th, 1908:—Dr. A. J. Messing, Mr. Horton G. Lord, Rev. A. H. Barrow, Mr. Thos. E. Peters, Mr. B. Camm, Viscount de Simony, Miss Abbey, Mr. W. Moores, Mrs. Newnham, Mr. W. O. Little, Mr. Carvalho, Mr. P. G. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Willey, Mrs. M. Rathjens, Miss Hedwig, Miss Isle, Mr. John Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Seimetz, Mr. and Mrs. Holbek, Miss E. B. Gordon, Mr. W. L. Anderson, Mr. Wm. Luther, the Hon. and Mrs. Percy Ongley, Mr. H. A. Bohn, Mr. Paul Thom, Mr. Leyba, Mr. C. T. Spencer, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Frank Tottrell, Mrs. Fred Mooney, Mr. J. Ludowig, Mr. G. Ludowig, Mr. and Mrs. Lennard, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Willson, Mr. Max Bohnstedt, Miss Wieting, Mr. Hugh W. Barnard, Mr. and Mrs. Morales, and the Misses Morales.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. *Trent* (Capt. Corbould), January 22nd:—Sir Henry and Lady Bovell, Mr. E. C. Lucas, Miss Lucas, Archdeacon and Mrs. Trotter, Mr. A. B. Hunter, Miss Hunter, Mr. J. B. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Tansig, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Sincler, Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Reid, Miss Ida de Vahl, Miss Olive Campbell, the Rev. and Mrs. C. B. Ragbere, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Clarke, Miss L. King, Mr. and Mrs. T. Walker, Miss Walker, Mr. Wm. McOran Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. C. Collymore, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Whitaker, Miss M. Gilliom, Mrs. Philip Flower, Miss E. Boughton Leigh, Mr. and Mrs. T. Lloyd Davies, Mr. A. Reid, Mr. R. H. E. Greverus, Mr. Richard Vauce, Mr. T. Hampden King, Mr. and Mrs. W. Humphreys, Mr. N. S. Barnell, Capt. and Mrs. T. F. C. Cochrane, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Collison.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. *Port Royal* (Capt. A. C. Selve), December 18th:—**Jamaica:** Colonel Barlow, Mr. Cavalier, Major Gillespie, Miss N. Jenner, Mr. H. F. Sier, and Mr. G. R. Solly.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. *Port Henderson* (Capt. W. R. Rowe), December 14th: **Jamaica:** Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mr. Duncan K. Boyd, Dr. A. Comacho, Mr. H. St. John G. Clarke, Mr. L. O. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. De Grandval, Mr. Geo. Hadley, Mr. Geo. Hadley, Junr., Rev. Canon Harty, Mr. C. S. Kelly, Mr. Arthur Moore, Mr. J. M. Morris, Miss Moore, Mr. J. Petty, Mrs. Reid, Mr. R. Rigby, Mr. E. Clay Ker Seymour, Mr. A. Sinclair, Mr. H. Simpson, Miss Marie Solomon, Mr. Hans Tschudi, Mr. S. De Yrarrazaval, Mr. R. Lloyd, Mr. R. Lloyd, Mr. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Zoller.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Dec. 25—	The West Indies & Demerara...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Magdalena</i>	Dec. 24, mdn't.
.. 28—	Barbados, Trinidad & Demerara	Glasgow	Direct Line	<i>Saba</i>	.. 27, 6 p.m.
.. 28—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Antonio</i>	.. 27, 6 p.m.
1908.					1908.
Jan. 8—	The West Indies & Demerara...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>	Jan. 7, mdn't.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Dec. 30—	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Atrato</i>
1908.				
Jan. 1—	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	<i>Port Kingston</i>

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Sept. 20		Jan. 1 to Nov. 25		April 1 to Nov. 10.		Jan. 1 to Nov. 30		Oct. 1 to Dec. 2.	
	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906	1907	1906
Sugar	33,319	49,947 Tns.	83,457	60,359 Tons.	9,112	8,979 Tons.	470,650	507,152 Bys. & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	62,015	61,099 Pns.	995	3,367 Pns.	...	...	{ 4,577 204 1,621	{ 3,216 Pns. 266 Trcs. 102 Brls.	...	...
Rum	15,650	13,991 Pns.	989,265	1,030,045 Galls.	1,621	1,488 Pns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molascuit	8,640	10,375 Tons	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cacao	68,895	31,857 lbs.	29,791	38,138 Cwts.	30,629,070	22,698,570 lbs.	3,185	2,315 Bags.
Coffee	28,012	20,737 "	9,280	15,960 lbs.	...	...
Cocoa-nuts	453,995	52,212	9,951,298	5,303,797	11,085,408	11,467,395	...	...
Copra	5,200	16,882 lbs.	17,505	18,119 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	120,011	120,805 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt	55,850,627	42,360,104	...	...	...	...
Oranges	11,087,466	12,160,155 Stms	...	...	...	...
Bananas	43,036	56,196 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice
Gold	61,030	85,132 068.	...	...	...	...	7,002	4,670 Brls
Diamonds	2,049	3,126 carats	...	...	...	...	120	99 1/2 Brls.
Rice	5,204,579	1,351,134 lbs.	...	...	...	...	114	91 Cases
									7	13 Bags.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—The speculative beet market during the early part of the fortnight was subjected to sharp fluctuations consequent upon a sudden advance in American quotations, which was construed as indicative of continued adverse reports of the Cuban crop, which had the effect at one time of raising prices on speculative buying to the extent of about 2d. A quieter feeling, however, succeeded later on, partly due to the increased factories estimate as underrooted, and to a disposition exhibited on the part of some operators to close accounts before the Christmas holidays; nevertheless, quotations on balance show an advance all round of 3d. to 3½d., as compared with those advised last mail. Quotations: December, 9s. 10d.; January-March, 9s. 11½d.; May, 10s. 2½d.; August, 10s. 4½d.; and in New York, \$3.85 for 96 per cent. centrifugals and \$3.35 for 89 per cent. muscovado.

The factories estimate of the beet crop, issued last Sunday, shows a slight increase on the original figures, being 6,438,000 tons, as compared with 6,359,000 tons. Mr. F. O. Licht has also raised his estimate from 6,589,000 tons to 6,633,000 tons, and Mr. Otto Licht from 6,520,000 tons to 6,690,000 tons.

Quotations of 88% Beet, Dec. 23rd: 1907, 9s. 10d.; 1906, 8s. 9½d.; 1905, 8s. 1½d.; 1904, 14s. 4½d.; 1903, 8s. 4½d.

The Visible Supplies of Sugar in Europe, North America and Cuba, to the latest available and uneven dates, are as follows:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Europe (Dec. 1st and 14th)	3,011,050	3,047,240	3,083,400	2,710,830	3,296,910	Tons.
United States (Dec. 18th)	137,000	134,710	176,230	97,260	89,330	"
Cuba, 6 principal ports (Dec. 18th)	19,000	9,000	37,000	12,500	124,000	"
Cargoes afloat (Dec. 19th)	8,360	23,500	13,030	36,860	62,780	"
Total	3,175,410	3,214,450	3,309,660	2,857,450	3,573,020	"

The Visible Supply given in our last Summary for this year was necessarily incomplete, as the returns from all the European countries for the month of November, with two small exceptions, were not to hand at the time of going to press, consequently no fair comparison was then possible with the figures for the preceding years which included them.

Grocery West Indian.—**CRYSTALLISED.** Early in the fortnight a good demand existed and large supplies at auction met a good demand at full rates for the better qualities, and slightly easier prices for the medium and lower kinds. Last Tuesday an unusually large quantity was offered at auction which again met a good demand, and a considerable portion was sold at prices ranging from 16s. 6d. to 19s. 6d., and subsequently, to effect a clearance, a decline of 3d. per cwt. had to be accepted. **Muscovado.**—No business has been reported in this description. **Molasses Sugar.**—Syrups have been in fair demand. Sales have taken place in Demerara, 14s. 9d.; St. Lucia, 12s.; and Trinidad, 11s. 9d.

West India Statistics since 1st Jan.:

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports... ..	32,700	45,000	40,000	43,000	24,000	Tons.
Deliveries	35,400	43,400	40,000	47,000	41,000	"
Stocks (Dec. 14th)	6,760	9,600	9,000	8,000	12,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised: 17s. 6d. 16s. 9d. 15s. 0d. 22s. 0d. 15s. 9d.						

RUM.—Stocks in London, Dec. 14: 1907.

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	7,285	7,105	7,241	8,793	9,364	Puns.
Demerara	4,636	3,485	4,566	4,899	7,074	"
Total of all kinds	20,471	17,944	19,003	20,827	26,477	"

The proof market has been fairly active, with a good business passing in Demerara at fully steady prices. Since the last report about 500 puns. have changed hands at 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 3d. proof; other West India proof kinds are very firm; 200 puns. fair Trinidad sold at 1s. 1d. proof. Jamaicas have been in very limited supply, and the tendency has been to higher prices; a few common kinds have sold at 2s. 9d. Sales have been made in new crop rums to arrive chiefly consisting of good ordinary to fine home trade marks at an advance of 2d. per gallon on the prices ruling this season.

COCOA.—Stocks in London, Dec. 14th:—

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	3,979	7,998	12,477	23,129	11,721	Bags.
Grenada	2,278	3,773	11,164	11,472	8,454	"
Total of all kinds	31,355	43,428	61,878	86,151	50,428	"

The market is dominated at the present time by cheap sales of Accra and Bahia for forward delivery. At the close a rather steadier tone was apparent, but rather an undecided feeling prevailed in view of the large arrivals coming forward. Quotations: Trinidad, low middling grey and red, 99s. to 100s.; middling red, 101s. to 103s.; good middling red, 104s. to 107s.; fine and superior, 108s. to 114s.; and Grenada, ordinary to good fair, 92s. to 95s.; middling to fine, 96s. to 99s.

COFFEE.—Santos for December delivery, 29s. 4½d., lifeless. On the spot the market has been quiet but steady for good home trade kinds, for which, being scarce, prices have been well maintained. The terminal market has been subject to some fluctuations in the fortnight, and closed dull and rather easier.

COTTON.—During the fortnight ended December 19th, 164 bales of West Indian cotton were imported. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland state that since their last report about 100 bales of West Indian Sea Islands have been sold, chiefly Barbados and St. Kitts. Prices are rather firmer. Quotations in Liverpool: West India, good medium, 7.15d.; West India Sea Island, good medium 18d., good medium to medium 19d., and fine 20d.

ARROWROOT.—Quiet. Out of 196 barrels put up to auction early in the fortnight only 5 barrels were sold, good manufacturing at 2½d. No auctions were held last week.

LIME PRODUCTS.—Lime Juice, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d. per gallon, quiet. Distilled oil, 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per lb., steady. Hand pressed, 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per lb., steady. Concentrated, £18 15s., weak. **ORANGES.**—Over supplied, and all oranges very low in quality except the finest Denias. We must plead guilty to having been rather too optimistic in our last report, which was based on enquiries made of the retail trade.

PIMENTO.—In slow demand. Out of 197 bags offered at auction only a few bags sold at 3d., the remainder being bought in at 3½d. to 3½d. **NUTMEGS.**—Quiet. **MACE.**—Quiet. **GINGER.**—Neglected. **COPRA.**—Fair merchantable West India, value, £21, dull.

TIMBER.—Mahogany.—Three auctions have been held, and the bulk of the wood offered thereat found buyers at steady prices, so far as good wood is concerned, but small and inferior logs showed some further weakness both in prices and demand; the arrivals have been light, consisting solely of African wood. **HONDURAS:** Prices for wood from medium to large sizes, of good quality and in fair condition, remain fairly steady, but for inferior logs the demand has been less active; importers' stocks are reduced to the lots bought in at the recent auctions. **ST. DOMINGO, JAMAICA and GRENADA:** There is no stock of any of these descriptions, but it is only logs of good sizes, or figury, for which satisfactory results can be expected.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.