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AND

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R E P O R T S
FROM
C O M M I T T E E S:
E I G H T E E N V O L U M E S.

—(17. PART II.)—

SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING:
PART II.

Session
18 November 1847—5 September 1848.

VOL. XXIII.—PART II.

1847-8.

REP



REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES

This Book

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Home Department*

Session

18 November 1848 - 18 December 1848

VOL. XXIII—PART II.

1847-8

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1847-8.

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F O U R T H
R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
17 March 1848.

Veneris, 4^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Present Condition and Prospects of the Interests connected with, and dependent on, SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief.

Luna, 7^o die Februarii, 1848.

Committee nominated :

Lord George Bentinck.
Mr. Labouchere.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Cardwell.
Sir Thomas Birch.
Mr. Henry Hope.
Mr. Charles Villiers.

Mr. Philip Miles.
Mr. James Wilson.
Lord George Manners.
Mr. Ewart.
Sir John Pakington.
Mr. James Matheson.
Sir Edward Buxton.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.

Martis, 15^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Ewart be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Moffatt be added thereto.

Jovis, 24^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to Report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, from time to time, to The House.

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FOURTH REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the present Condition and Prospects of the Interests connected with, and dependent on, SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief, and who were empowered to Report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, from time to time, to The House ;

HAVE made a farther Progress in the Matter referred to them.

17 *March* 1848.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Luncæ, 13^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Hope.

Lord George Manners.
Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Alexander Geddes, Esq., called in; and Examined.

8910. *Chairman.*] YOU are connected with Jamaica, are not you?—I am.

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8911. How many years have you been connected with Jamaica?—I may state at the outset of my evidence that I went there in the year 1819 as a planter, and in 1826 came into charge of a very large property there. From 1826 to 1841 I was actively engaged as an agent in the management of every description of property in almost every district of Jamaica. In 1841 I left the island, and travelled through Cuba and the United States, and returning home in 1841 I gave evidence before a Committee which sat in 1842. In 1843 I returned to Jamaica, to reside upon my own properties, which are grazing properties, and properties for the production of pimento. I became a member of the legislature, and took the duties of chief magistrate and custos rotulorum of the largest district in Jamaica, and gave my time entirely to my duties in the legislature and to the discharge of my functions as chief magistrate, and to the promotion of agriculture by every means in my power; also to the improvement of the institutions of the district. I have since kept myself conversant with the precise condition of property in that country, and the circumstances under which it has been held for the last four or five years, since I last gave evidence.

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8912. Have you any statement of the accounts of your property or those of other persons under slavery, during apprenticeship, and since?—I lost my papers in the wreck of the "Solway" steamer, but my evidence is here. I have it perfectly in my recollection what I then saw, and I have kept up my acquaintance with the working of the estates, being, though indirectly, deeply interested in the welfare of them; and having been president of the agricultural society of the district, I am conversant with the details of conducting estates, and the cost of production, to the period of my quitting the island in September.

8913. Can you state what your own property produced during slavery?—My own properties are grazing properties; but I can state it with respect to the properties under my management. Though Jamaica is but a comparatively small country, there is no country in the world of the same extent which varies so much in its capabilities or the qualities of its soil. The cost of production, in slavery as well as at present, would therefore vary considerably; but it was not under 4s. a cwt. nor did it exceed from 12s. to 14s., deducting the rum and making no allowance for interest upon capital.

8914. That was during slavery?—Yes; the lowest point was 4s. and the highest was from 12s. to 14s.

8915. Which gives an average of 10s.?—Yes, I think that would be a very fair average. Our slaves were very well provided for, and lived in comparative comfort as slaves.

8916. You are now speaking of a period when they had their Saturdays?—Twenty-five Saturdays in a year were guaranteed to them by law; there was a penalty attached to not giving them.

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8917. What should you say was the cost during apprenticeship?—Up to 1841 from 1838 the cost of production in the country, deducting the rum and making no allowance for interest on capital, was 26*s.* per cwt.; but in the last four years a great many properties were abandoned. The number of estates in the island of Jamaica, at the period of emancipation, was 653; 140 have been abandoned.

8918. In what period?—Between 1834 and 1847.

8919. Are those sugar estates or sugar and coffee estates?—Only sugar estates. During the same period there have been 465 coffee estates abandoned. Owing to the abandonment of so many properties, the introduction of immigrants into the same districts, and the increasing poverty and the diminished circulation of money in the colony, the cost has been reduced to about 23*s.* per cwt. From the number of properties which I am aware are about to be abandoned on the present crops being taken off, the chances are that the cost of production in that country, if the remaining estates can sustain the taxation, will be reduced to 20*s.* a cwt., making no allowance for interest on capital and deducting the price of the rum. The cost of production in Jamaica rose to 26*s.*, from a state of disorganization arising at the emancipation of the people. In describing that state, I wish particularly to state that emancipation, in the estimation of every right-thinking man, was a proper measure, and that it is not to the mere act of emancipation that the ruin of those colonies is to be attributed, but to emancipation mismanaged, and brought about without any laws whatever restraining the labourer from going at one bound from a state of domestic discipline to unrestricted liberty.

8920. There were four years of apprenticeship?—It was a great misfortune that it was ever introduced at all, managed as it was; persons were sent from this country, strangers to the character of the labourers, strongly imbued with prejudices against the planters; and although there were highly respectable men among the special magistrates, generally speaking they were most unfit persons for the duties they were appointed to discharge; in many instances they were men who had to leave the army, not of their own will, but because they had no other resource. In the majority of cases they took part with the labourer against the planter. They were not regulated by the laws governing apprenticeship, but by instructions from the governor of the colony. Damages were recovered against several of them, and it is quite well understood that Government paid those damages.

8921. Have you any proofs of those statements?—It was matter of notoriety. I will mention one case of a Captain Oldrey, in which it was as much a matter of notoriety as any part of the history of this country. A feeling of distrust was created between the planters and the apprentices which did not previously exist, and which was in the end, particularly at the outset of freedom, the cause of much bickering and heart-burning. That happily has passed entirely away, but it rendered the labourers for the time unmanageable; perfect harmony and goodwill now prevail between the planters and the labourers.

8922. Can you state what the wages of the labourers have been at various periods?—Yes.

8923. What did you reckon was the whole cost of the subsistence of a slave previous to emancipation?—£.3 sterling a year; they being allowed 25 days in the year and Sundays entirely to themselves.

8924. Are you now speaking of the period after Mr. Canning's Resolutions of 1823?—Clearly.

8925. What was the case previous to that time, before the slaves got 25 Saturdays?—The slaves had 25 Saturdays guaranteed to them from 1816 downwards. I regret to say that the consequence of Mr. Canning's Resolutions was not an improved condition of the slaves to any great extent. The local legislature unfortunately, in my opinion, resisted all suggestions coming from the mother country for the amelioration of the condition of the slave.

8926. In 1830 they passed a very long Act for their amelioration, did not they?—They did; but the only important feature was admitting slave evidence.

8927. They guaranteed those holidays, did not they?—They had always been guaranteed, from the year 1816.

8928. Did not they reduce the hours of labour?—The hours were not reduced till the period of apprenticeship.

8929. The power to work a slave an indefinite period was taken from the master by the law of 1830; he could not employ him for more than 11½ hours?

—The

—The island law said from sunrise to sunset, with two hours and a half intermission, which would give about 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

8930. There is 12 hours, is there not, between sunrise and sunset in Jamaica?—About 12 hours in the longest day, and 11 hours in the shortest day.

8931. That reduced their labour to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours?—I can only state that no change whatever took place in the condition of the slave till apprenticeship commenced.

8932. What you mean to say is, that practically no difference took place, but by law a difference took place. It may have been the custom of the country that no slave was worked more than 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours previous to 1830, but it only became the law in 1830 that no slave could be worked more than 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours?—The old Act of 1816, to which I refer, stated from sunrise to sunset, but they were generally in the field before sunrise.

8933. By the law of 1830 the rights of property were for the first time guaranteed, were not they?—The tenure by which lands were held was that the person holding them should possess a certain number of slaves, and upon his being possessed of a certain number of slaves the government was bound to give him a patent for so many acres of land.

8934. By the law of 1830 the rights of property were guaranteed to the slave equally with those guaranteed to the white?—There may have been some slight concession in that respect, but the rights of property were always sacred to the slave.

8935. Not by law?—No enactment which passed at that time has left any lasting impression upon my mind as being a matter of consequence.

8936. By the island law of 1830, the slave was guaranteed that he should not be separated either from his family by marriage or his reputed family?—That was the case ever since the law of 1816.

8937. By the law of 1830 was not the severity of punishment considerably mitigated?—In 1816 the punishment was restricted to the Mosaic law of 40 lashes, save one, and it was never altered by law or otherwise till the period of apprenticeship.

8938. Do you say that from 1816 till emancipation the cost of a slave was 3*l.*?—Yes.

8939. That included all his supplies?—It included his clothing, such articles of maintenance as were purchased for him, medical attendance and medicines, with his utensils.

8940. His cost continued the same during apprenticeship, with this difference, that you lost one-fourth of his labour?—Yes, but that was more than compensated by the enhanced value of produce. Previous to that the production of the British colonies exceeded the consumption at home; the overplus consequently went abroad, and those colonies up to that time had literally no monopoly of the market here.

8941. Will you now state to the Committee what the cost of labour came to be after the apprenticeship ceased?—The cost for six hours' labour became almost universally 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

8942. For how many days in the week were you able to obtain those six hours' labour?—On an average, and I can speak very precisely to that point, since the emancipation of the labourers of Jamaica no one man or woman has exceeded an average of three days a week throughout the year in their application to labour.

8943. Mr. Matheson.] That is 18 hours a week?—Yes; in the season of the crop they have been induced to work for several weeks together for five days, of eight or nine hours, and even ten hours, but even then in a desultory manner; but the labour, generally speaking, extends over five days, no labourer, however, averaging more than three days throughout the year in the employment of the planter.

8944. Chairman.] Have you not to pay more wages in that case?—Yes; the wages came to 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.*, unless in the great sugar district of St. Thomas-in-the-East, where there are located about 2,000 liberated Africans. There comparatively large crops have been realized; and I have seen, for I went there on purpose, the people working six days per week during the season of crop, which is a matter of the very highest importance, inasmuch as the crops are taken off in due season, and the cultivation kept in its natural state. If the Committee will permit me, I should wish to read an address of Sir Charles Grey to the planters in that part of the country, stating from personal observa-

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tion the benefit which those very immigrants had derived from being removed to Jamaica. It was an address in May 1847: "It adds greatly to the pleasure with which, under any circumstances, I must have received your kind congratulations, that I receive them in the midst of your residences, and of the plenty and prosperity of this smiling land. That which I have seen within the last few days in St. Thomas-in-the-East, has removed from my mind all apprehensions for the future fortunes of the colony. It may be perhaps of more importance that it has also removed all doubt as to its being my duty to recommend to Her Majesty's Government at home, that by all the means at their command they should prosecute the free immigration of labourers from the coast of Africa. The efficiency, Mr. Custos, of the African labourers employed by your Honour; their unmistakable air of contentment and cheerfulness; their orderly demeanour and intelligence; their willing observance of religious rites and attendance at church worship, and the quickness with which their children attain education in the schools provided for them, have fully satisfied me, not only that by the influx of immigrants from Africa all that is wanted here in the way of labour may be supplied, but that it may be supplied without the slightest disturbance of social relations or order, and with so vast an improvement, physical, moral, intellectual, and religious, of the condition of the immigrants themselves, that it may be regarded almost as a transition to another life and another world. Of these facts I am confident nothing can be required but personal examination and inspection to convince the most decided and most ardent adversary of slavery. It is the opportunity I have myself had of observing these facts; it is the knowledge I possess of its being the desire and intention of Her Majesty's Ministers to do everything for the benefit of these colonies which is consistent with the general welfare of the empire; it is, above all, my perception and conviction of the resident proprietors and planters having acquired a full sense of their obligation and duties toward the people, and of their having come to the conclusion that strict justice is due to the labourer as well as to the employer, and that their interests are mutual and dependent on each other, that make me confident of the rapid growth of your prosperity."

8945. To revert to the cost of labour during slavery and under freedom; I understand from your statement that for 3*l.* during slavery you obtained 2,653 hours of labour, of five and a half days in each week, of nine hours and a half each, less two days at Christmas and two at Easter. While now for 19*l.* 10*s.* you only get 1,560 hours of labour by change of negroes, of five days a week, at an average of six hours each day, and that the average labour of each negro is only 18 hours a week out of season of crop?—This appears to me correct.

8946. Supposing your statement to be correct, that during slavery you got 9½ hours of labour 5½ days in the week, it would give 51¾ hours a week and 2,653 hours in the year; and in the other case, assuming your statement to be correct, that you only now get six hours a day for five days in the week, that would be 30 hours a week instead of 51¾, which multiplied by 52 weeks would give 1,560 hours?—That approaches as closely as need be to the state of the case.

8947. *Sir E. Buxton.*] At how much a day?—In most districts 1*s.* 6*d.* per day; in some, from drought and other causes, it has been reduced to 1*s.*; but the above calculations are certainly made at 1*s.* 6*d.*

8948. *Chairman.*] The result is, that for 19*l.* 10*s.*, which ought to give you 17,244½ hours of labour, according to the rate of payment during slavery, only gives you 1,560 hours?—About that.

8949. Is this free labour more efficacious than slave labour was?—Most certainly not.

8950. That is because it is not so continuous, nor so much to be relied on?—Let me state to the Committee that a labourer at the present day does not perform so much as the slave was made to do under a strict system of discipline, and there is another misfortune which is even as great as that, that when his labour is most required you cannot have it; so that the outlay of one part of the season is in many instances rendered futile by the want of labour to bring his cultivation to maturity at another.

8951. Will you explain to the Committee how absolutely necessary it is that labour should be applied immediately when it is wanted, as regards weeding, cutting the canes, planting the canes, and the manufacture of sugar?—The first operation in the preparation of the land for the cane cultivation is to hoe the surface weeds completely off; the next is ploughing and carrying out of the manure. If labour cannot be had, and it is frequently not to be had when the

land is opened, in six weeks it has to be re-cleared painfully by the hoe. The manure being all this time exposed to the ardent influence of the sun, loses its entire strength; the season has passed away, and the plants which were provided by the planter for planting have also been lost.

8952. Does not it happen that the exact moment when you most wish for an access of labour to plant your canes, that is to say, when the rain comes, is just the moment when the free labourer is tempted to abandon his work by the desire to plant his own provision grounds?—As in the period of slavery the labourer was compelled to find a subsistence by the cultivation of the roots of the country, he very naturally continues that means of subsistence; it is a sort of second nature to him, and no inducement, however strong, will make him leave it off; and therefore the consequence is, that he betakes himself to the cultivation of his ground when the periodical rains arrive.

8953. Which is just when you want him most?—Precisely; the African labourer appears to know no such object, or at all events he does not appear to be conversant with the cultivation of those roots which are grown in the British West Indies; he has not therefore betaken himself to that object, and the consequence is that he is entirely dependent upon wages for his maintenance, and readily gives his labour throughout the week, securing to the planter that continuous labour which is so indispensable to the welfare of a sugar plantation.

8954. With respect to weeding the canes, in those tropical climates weeds grow so rankly, and rise with such celerity, that after a shower of rain, if you have not got the negroes to weed the canes, the weeds smother the canes; not only diminishing the produce very largely, but injuring the quality very much: that again is just the period when the negro wishes to go to his provision grounds, instead of attending to the weeding of the cane field?—The cultivation of the cane is continued of course throughout the year. A well-cultivated field of canes should have the labourers through it once in six weeks; and unless they are regularly sent through the field once in six weeks, in the more seasonable districts of the island, where the seasons are regular, most certainly the produce will not be half what it otherwise would be. In the early stages of the cane, there is no plant that suffers so much from the presence of weeds and the want of air: if you can cultivate your fields very highly, and keep the canes perfectly clean, they germinate, that is to say, one plant throws out a dozen shoots in the place of three or four, or five, and every succeeding shoot is larger and more juicy than the previous one, till in a well-cleared and well-manured field the row is perfectly full of those succulent shoots; and where they are so cultivated and brought to maturity with skill and care, the returns per acre are very abundant. Those returns are not now to be had in general.

8955. With respect to the cutting of the crop, you are not subject to so much inconvenience, are you. They are more willing to come and cut the canes?—They are naturally more willing, because they partake of the sugar, the cane-juice, and rum, and so on; but I would state very particularly that the planter has to neglect every operation to secure his crop, and that, in fact, his sufferings in the period of crop-time are quite as great from the want of labour as at any other time. It has been repeatedly said by men who have chosen to see the condition of the planter through a wrong medium, that no canes have as yet been left upon the ground. The reason is manifest; the planter proceeds to realize his crops, at whatever loss or whatever neglect to the cultivation generally.

8956. When the crop is ripe for cutting is the period when the planter becomes comparatively the slave of the labourer; the labourer has him entirely at his command?—The labourer has him entirely at his command. In some instances under my own observation, the people have left the canes to spoil in the cane yard; but I am bound to state that in that respect a better feeling has arisen, and I do not think a judicious planter would be likely to lose any quantity of canes in that way; but he most certainly neglects the cultivation in the season of the crop.

8957. If the planter were to attempt to reduce the wages to a price corresponding with the price of his sugar, do you think the negroes would refuse to gather in the crops?—I have great confidence in the native population of Jamaica; they are a docile and a kind-hearted people, and left to the impulses of their own hearts, I believe their conduct would be comparatively good and unexceptionable: but I believe also, and indeed I know, that if there were any general attempt made by the planters of that country, even after the most mature

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deliberation and explanation, to reduce the wages of the labourer to a rate commensurate with the present prices of the produce, or to a rate which would enable him to compete with the manstealer, one scene of conflagration might ensue from one end of the island to the other.

8958. Mr. Hope.] Do you mean actual burnings?—Yes. I mean to describe the Jamaica labourer as naturally a kind-hearted, docile person, and not given to violence; but no man, with the experience which a person of my standing has in the country, knowing the sudden impulses to which persons in their condition are liable, knowing they are under no great restraints of a moral or a religious character, can doubt but that a wrong or an angry expression, one throwing the blame of that reduction of wages upon the planter, might put the island in a state of insurrection from one end to the other; many works have been burnt down since emancipation entirely through the ungovernable anger of those people, who are in an uneducated condition.

8959. It would not be necessary to burn down a plantation if the negroes, for a fortnight during crop-time, were to say that they would not cut the crop?—I speak of conflagration not heedlessly; but I have seen in that country 30 miles of the island laid waste without a single house but a blacksmith's shop standing.

8960. That was in 1831?—Yes.

8961. When Sir Willoughby Cotton was commander?—Yes; there was not a single building standing for 30 miles but a blacksmith's shop.

8962. And you think a similar scene would ensue if it were attempted bodily by the planters to reduce the wages 25, or 30, or 40 per cent.?—There have been men in that country, as in all countries, greatly wanting in discretion, and professing to be the friends of the labouring population, when they were not so. To indiscreet and angry expressions, and misrepresentations, do I attribute that rebellion, and in the same way I consider the country would be imperilled whenever any such pressure as would be necessary to reduce wages should be attempted to be applied to the population.

8963. Without ascribing other feelings to the negro population than we have seen influence the population of Kent, Sussex, or Hampshire, there is every reason to fear that if a general reduction of wages were to take place in any agricultural country, general incendiarism might be the consequence?—I am not disposed to think that the people of that country are at all more disposed to evil than the generality of people in this country.

8964. On this point it is very material to know what reduction of wages would be necessary to meet a fall of 10 *l.* a ton in the price of the produce; have you any statement of the number of labourers engaged, and the amount of wages paid upon any estate, with the number of hogsheads produced, by which you could show to this Committee what per-centage it would be necessary to take off the wages of the labourers to meet a reduction of 10 *l.* a ton upon the produce?—All my papers and details were lost by the wreck of the "Solway," but I have no hesitation in answering the question. The production for some years has been carried on at a loss, generally; that is to say, the outlay of the planter has not been met by the gross amount of the produce, and therefore a reduction of one half of the present rates would not enable the planter to hold his own.

8965. Have you an estate in your own hands?—My own properties are strictly of a grazing character.

8966. Are not you the agent for some properties?—Since 1841 I have declined, directly and indirectly, any responsibility, or any connexion with sugar property.

8967. The Committee have had evidence laid before them, that, under certain arrangements, it is thought that 30,000 Africans might be induced to emigrate every year from certain districts of Africa, as free labourers, to the West Indies. If that could be accomplished, do you think the planters of the West Indies generally, and pretty unanimously, would be willing to pledge themselves to import as many women as men, if they could import them at 10 *l.* a head, and if they were at liberty to import them under contracts binding the imported negroes to work five years for them?—In the present state of the sugar market, and if the British planter is to be condemned to compete in the home markets with him who steals the labourer, any measure of immigration, in my opinion, would only add to the difficulties of the colonist.

8968. Do you think if 10 years' protection were guaranteed to you at the rate

of 10 *l.* a ton, the Jamaica planters would be willing at their own risk, at the cost of 10 *l.* a head, to import as many women as men from Africa, supposing those Africans so imported were imported under contracts to serve for five years with the importer?—I am quite sure that if immigration became, from the improved aspect of their affairs, desirable, the planters would most readily import an equal number of men with women, and that they would be quite satisfied to take a shorter period than five years of contract; and I say so because, in the case of St. Thomas-in-the-East, where immigration has had so good an effect, there are scarcely any contracts existing at this moment; and yet the presence of those immigrants has been most salutary.

8969. That is because you seem to think the nature of the African is so distinct from that of the native population, that he would not be tempted away by the desire to cultivate provision grounds?—Precisely so.

8970. Has not it been found that coolies, when imported without contracts, have worked in that way?—Coolies have all been imported under contracts, but coolies are not at all adapted for West Indian cultivation, nor do I think the proper description of people have been sent to those colonies.

8971. If you were guaranteed 10 years' protection at 10 *s.* a cwt. against slave-grown sugar, do you think that would impart such confidence to the planters and capitalists engaged that they would be willing to set to work again, and advance money for the importation of Africans at such a rate as 10 *l.* a head?—I have no doubt they would make a most painful effort to do so. Whether they could by their own means accomplish immigration to that extent, I cannot say; I am not of opinion, in the case of Jamaica, that it would require any very great number of Africans to put it into a healthy state. Whether their means would admit of their doing it is a question; that they would make a painful effort to effect it, I have no doubt; but knowing that the revenue of Jamaica has fallen off in the past year 36,000 *l.* sterling; that the treasury, at the last accounts, was all but empty; that money could not be raised in the present state of the money market of the world for such purposes, I cannot see how the colonists, unless aided by Government, could undertake any such operation.

8972. Do not you think, if 10 years' protection at 10 *s.* a cwt. were guaranteed to you, it would give confidence to capitalists in this country to advance money for such a purpose as African immigration?—I do. Sugar is an article which has ever attracted capital; and I have no doubt the planters would give to Government every security over their estates readily, and would stake their last shilling to give effect to such a proposition.

8973. The immigration of 30,000 Africans, equally divided according to the population of the West Indies, would give to Jamaica about one-half, which would be in 10 years about 150,000 Africans?—If such a measure were carried out, Jamaica would attain to a state of high prosperity, and this country derive its supply of sugar from a more certain and steady source than it has ever yet done, but a greatly less number of liberated Africans would answer our purpose.

8974. Do you think if 150,000 Africans, in the course of 10 years, at the expense of 10 *l.* a head, men and women, were imported into Jamaica, that at the end of those 10 years Jamaica would be able to compete with slave-growing countries?—If this country vindicated its treaties by putting down the slave trade, most certainly much fewer would enable us to do so.

8975. Some people imagine that if the West Indian planters were given permission to go to Africa to import free labourers, it would turn to slave dealing and slave trading; do you think, under the existing laws of this country, which make it felony for any British subject to deal in slaves, any British West India planter or West India merchant would dare to risk being tried for felony by purchasing slaves, and trading in slaves, on the coast of Africa?—Such an objection could be most easily obviated by the presence of a Government officer; but I am not prepared to say, knowing that a large amount of British capital is at this moment employed in the slave trade, that without proper supervision, which might be easily secured, the British merchant would not make such a process a cover for the transmission of slaves to other countries.

8976. That British capital is employed in the slave trade at Cuba and Brazil, and no trial could take place at Cuba or Brazil of any British merchant for slave dealing or slave trading, nor in Cuba nor Brazil would the evidence of the black be good evidence against the white; but in Jamaica the evidence of the

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African is good evidence against the white, and if the West India planter were guilty of slave dealing or man stealing in Africa, he would be liable to conviction upon the evidence of the Africans so taken as slaves; do you think that the West Indian planter would dare to incur the risk of prosecution, and of being found guilty and transported as a felon?—I do not believe that there is a man so foolhardy this day in the dominions of England, as to attempt to bring a person under coercion to British soil.

8977. Do you think anything is to be done in the way of the importation of Europeans. Several of the witnesses before the Committee have given evidence that the best possible results have followed from the importation of Portuguese?—I have travelled in the south of Europe, and along the Mediterranean, and have felt the heat in Lombardy more oppressive than I ever found it in the West Indies, from the absence of the steady sea-breeze which prevails there; but I am not disposed to think that the importation of Europeans for the cultivation of sugar will ever answer.

8978. Mr. Shand told the Committee that the crop of 1846, which was a great crop in Antigua, was virtually saved by the imminent danger hanging over the negroes that there would be 1,000 Portuguese arrive as labourers?—I have seen the natives of every country in the West Indies, and I am bound to declare that no white man, the native of a more temperate country, can long withstand the West Indian climate when exposed to it; but that their descendants might become useful labourers I have no doubt. The fact of the descendants of Spaniards working as labourers in Porto Rico at this day is quite familiar to me.

8979. You do not think that Maltese, or Genoese, or Piedmontese could be brought with success?—I have reflected very maturely upon the subject, and I have always declined to undertake the responsibility of recommending the importation of Europeans to the West Indies.

8980. Do you mean to say that there are not many situations in the island, especially upon the high grounds, where the breeze comes, where the Portuguese might succeed very well?—The want of labour is felt in the great sugar districts, which are chiefly, if not entirely in the plains. The presence of Europeans would be very desirable; I should, as a man having a great stake there, be quite delighted to see Europeans arrive in the colony; but I cannot say that they could be usefully employed in sugar cultivation.

8981. Do not you think they might be so in the coffee plantations?—Coffee cultivation is becoming exceedingly restricted in that colony, and I begin to question, seeing the number of properties abandoned, if full employment will by-and-by be given in those high lands to the native population. But such persons might extend, no doubt, the coffee cultivation.

8982. Do you think those Europeans might be employed about the sugar manufactories?—That would be only during one part of the year. I think they would be an acquisition, but I do not attach very great importance to that at present in the colony, and I have witnessed such mortality among various white persons who have been employed, that I have long declined to incur the responsibility of recommending any such measure.

8983. You do not even think that they might be imported to carry on the trades, or to cultivate provision grounds up the country, and so displace the native population and drive them to sugar cultivation?—As tradesmen they would be eminently useful, and that they could cultivate provisions to some extent I do not doubt; but I mean to say, that the influence they would exercise upon the labour market would not supply our wants nor place us in a healthy position, nor would it repay the expense incurred in their transmission to Jamaica.

8984. With respect to the coffee plantations, you said that there were 465 plantations which had been abandoned in Jamaica since the year of the emancipation; how do you account for that abandonment of those coffee plantations?—Many of the coffee plantations are worn out. Coffee is planted in what is called virgin soil, and can only be once planted. The great cause of the abandonment of the coffee plantations is the low price now obtained here, owing to the introduction of slave and Ceylon coffee.

8985. Did the abandonment of the coffee plantations arise, not so much from the high price of labour as from the competition of foreign coffee and Ceylon coffee?—Yes, foreign coffee and Ceylon coffee.

8986. In what year was it that the abandonment of the coffee plantations took place?—It has been slightly going on for the last eight or nine years.

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8987. When was it completed?—It is going on at this moment.

8988. Every year?—Yes. I may state that the production of Jamaica had reached, at one period, 35,000,000 lbs., while the crop of 1846 was only 7,000,000.

8989. What was the price of coffee when Jamaica produced 35,000,000 lbs.?—It was previous to the decrees of Napoleon from Berlin and Milan; previous to those decrees the price rose to 5*l.* or 6*l.* a cwt.; during the existence of the decrees it became a drug, because the consumption at that time was almost entirely confined to the Continent. At the conclusion of the war, and for several years after the war, it ranged from 60*s.* to 160*s.*, the quality differing very much.

8990. To come to later periods, how much coffee did Jamaica produce in the year of emancipation; the year 1834?—The average of the five years ending 1833, the last five years of slavery, was 17,645,602 lbs.

8991. What was it in the year 1841?—On the average of the next five years it came down to 7,412,498 lbs.

8992. What was it at the end of the apprenticeship, which would be 1838?—I cannot distinguish that.

8993. What is it now?—The next five years has not been made up, but there is a further diminution, I should say, to 5,000,000 lbs.

8994. Is there as much as 5,000,000 lbs., do you think?—I should think so.

8995. What rise in the price of coffee would restore the coffee plantations; what do you get a pound in Jamaica now?—There is nothing in which quality has a greater influence than in coffee; one description of coffee is worth 100 per cent. more than another.

8996. The coffee of Jamaica is fine coffee, is not it?—That which is chiefly now grown; the inferior qualities have disappeared. This time last year fine Jamaica coffee produced 30*l.* sterling for a cask of 7½ cwt.; the same coffee is now only worth from 16*l.* to 18*l.* I speak that from facts which have come under my observation within a few days.

8997. At 30*l.* you could not carry on the cultivation to advantage?—Not of the coarser sorts, but of the finer sorts we might do so. It is the best coffee produced in the world, I believe, except Mocha coffee.

8998. What is the price at which the cultivation of coffee would be continued; it is not likely, you say, that at the present price the cultivation of coffee will proceed in Jamaica?—A price of 3*l.* sterling a cwt. net to the coffee planter would enable him to carry on the coffee cultivation.

8999. When you say that 3*l.* per cwt. would pay the planter in Jamaica, that is equal to 22*l.* 10*s.* a cask; do you mean 22*l.* 10*s.* on the beach in Jamaica, or in the West India Docks?—Whether the planter got 3*l.* sterling in Jamaica or here it would be no consequence.

9000. When you spoke of 30*l.* did you mean 30*l.* net?—Yes; that was a very fine description of coffee; but so much has that first description of coffee fallen, that the same produce would only bring from 16*l.* to 18*l.*

9001. You do not suffer so much from the want of continuous labour in the coffee plantations as in the sugar plantations, do you?—At one moment, when the coffee becomes ripe, and unfortunately the bulk of it is ripe at about Christmas, it then drops from the trees, and if it is not instantly picked the decay is so rapid, that the loss is very severe; but it is not so precarious a cultivation as the sugar cultivation.

9002. Mr. Goulburn.] And cocoa is still less?—Cocoa is not cultivated in Jamaica.

9003. Chairman.] Was not it once?—Not as an article of export.

9004. Cotton was cultivated in Jamaica, was not it?—I remember a cotton plantation in Jamaica; but it is a most unfailing law, that wherever the sugar cultivation interferes with the cotton cultivation, the cotton cultivation invariably gives way; sugar cultivation and cotton cultivation cannot co-exist; it has been found by experience that the cotton cultivation always gives way before the sugar cultivation.

9005. That is, because the cultivation of sugar is more profitable?—There is something exceedingly seductive about the sugar cultivation, which draws every



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man into it who has any money to spare. Those results have occurred in Jamaica and in Berbice, and they are now occurring in Louisiana.

9006. You do not mean to say that the cultivation of sugar is seductive now?—Certainly not; it is very repulsive. I have declined for years having anything to do with it directly or indirectly.

9007. As sugar cultivation has become repulsive instead of seductive in Jamaica, might not cotton take its place?—Cotton requires new land and good land; and besides that, we could not compete with Louisiana or Florida.

9008. You are acquainted, of course, with the cultivation of cotton?—Yes.

9009. What is the character of the cultivation; is it very laborious?—No; but it is an annual plant; the finer sorts require planting, and cultivation, and care.

9010. Does not the cotton tree take three years to come to maturity?—But you must keep up an annual field.

9011. Does the cotton tree only return one growth?—It returns several growths, according to the quality of the soil; but to maintain one field you have to plant a certain extent annually.

9012. It is a small tree, is not it?—A shrub.

9013. It takes three years to come into fruit?—I am not prepared to say how long it requires to come to maturity. The plant grows commonly in Jamaica, and we take no interest in the matter. It requires new soil, and we have not new soil at all adapted for it. It is only in the plains that it grows to any considerable extent, and they have always there been subject to the sugar cultivation.

9014. Would not cotton follow sugar?—No; it would require a strong new soil.

9015. You are not of opinion that much is to be done in the way of industrial laws in Jamaica?—I was particularly examined on that point in 1842, and I was pressed to say that restrictive laws would be of use. In the first place I should question their justice, and certainly their policy.

9016. You do not think any restrictive laws could be enacted against the free population; the only question of that kind is with respect to new immigrants?—Allowing that immigration was to be carried out, I do not think that there is any necessity for restrictive laws, further than would be indispensable for the due care of them.

9017. You could not calculate upon the West India planter being at the expense of importing an African unless he were sure to be repaid for the cost of bringing him, and to have a good handsome remuneration besides?—I have always thought that if he got the services of the immigrants secured to him for a certain number of years, it was a matter that he ought to undertake upon his own account. But the planters are not in a condition to import immigrants from Africa; they have been induced, from various circumstances, to pour out their means like water, but in vain, struggling to carry on the cultivation in past years, and they are now utterly prostrated.

9018. Do you think that if a good example were to be set in high quarters in Jamaica, beginning with the governor, and the salaries of all persons employed were to be cut down 25 or 30 per cent., it might have some moral effect, in the way of example, upon the present population of Jamaica, in inducing them to submit to a reduction of wages?—I can speak very particularly to that point, because I was chairman of a committee from which emanated a measure for that very purpose in the legislature; but the upper branch of the legislature entirely, not only defeated our purpose, but they denounced us as being positively dishonest in attempting to interfere with their salaries, and said that we were no better than American repudiators. The taxes of Jamaica had been for some years paid out of the capital of the planters; and it had arrived at that point that it was not whether it was just or not to curtail the salaries, but whether or not the island could continue to pay them; whether it was not better for those officials to take a compromise than utterly to lose all.

9019. *Mr. Hope.*] By the upper branch of the legislature you mean the legislative council?—Yes; with one exception they are men receiving salaries.

9020. *Chairman.*] Do you conceive if things go on as they are now going on in Jamaica, that the island is likely to find a revenue to meet its expenditure?—Certainly not. I have had the opportunity of explaining very fully to the

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Colonial Minister, that if the diminution of the revenue goes on for two or three years as it is now doing, more than three-fourths of the existing income of the island will have disappeared; and I am prepared to state what are the consequences that will ensue from the process which is now going on. I have stated most emphatically that the island revenue is in the course of disappearing, and will in the absence of some remedial measure disappear in two or three years; for as the cultivation decays, the consumption of all articles on which the revenue is raised will become limited. In that case the clergy will remain unpaid, and the church doors will of course become shut; the judges and other high functionaries will remain unpaid, and of course the courts of justice will be shut; there will be no means of supporting prisoners in the gaols or penitentiaries, and the doors of those institutions must be thrown open; the patients in the public hospitals will be left to their fate entirely; the police must be disbanded, and society will become disorganized. If your Lordship will allow me, I will just glance at the geographical position of Jamaica in reference to other countries. It has, 90 miles to the westward of it, the great island of St. Domingo, now in a state verging on barbarism; 80 miles to the north it has the still larger island of Cuba; four days' sail from Jamaica is the island of Porto Rico. Twice within the last 50 years have the more civilized portions of the inhabitants of St. Domingo had to flee to Jamaica for refuge. Looking to the extent to which savage Africans are introduced into Cuba, and that they are kept in a state against which nature must ever rebel, it is to my mind but a question of time when civilization must disappear by an insurrection in that country; the same may not take place in Porto Rico, because there there is a greater proportion of free inhabitants. Eighteen months ago Jamaica presented as fair a chance as the most ardent friend of freedom could desire, of every hope which was ever cherished of the results of emancipation being accomplished. On the repeated assurances of the various organs of the Government here, from the time of Lord Normanby downwards, that a preference would be ever given to us in the home market, our institutions, clerical, civil, judicial, correctional and sanitary were placed upon a footing of the greatest efficiency. A penitentiary and a lunatic asylum upon the most approved plans are now in the course of erection. If the revenue disappears, as it will in the absence of some remedial measures, those institutions will disappear also. Government may maintain a garrison there, and it may maintain those institutions, but civilization cannot advance, because the avenues to advancement will be shut in the total decay of commerce and agriculture. If the light of civilization is extinguished in Jamaica, and it appears likely to be so, the chances are that in the next 30 or 40 years the greatest islands in that archipelago will present precisely the same picture that St. Domingo does, of men reverting rapidly into barbarism. Those islands will become the resort, as they have been within my recollection, of buccaneers and pirates, and they will be totally lost to the civilized world. The cause of African freedom, at present seriously injured by what has taken place in our colonies, will be thrown back to an indefinite period. Upon the other hand, if some remedial measure is applied, and if the repeated assurances which have been given are faithfully adhered to, civilization will not only advance rapidly in Jamaica, but the best missionaries of African civilization will proceed from that colony. During the most severe and prolonged droughts to which that island and the other British islands are subjected, they are dependent in a great degree upon America for the supply of the means of sustaining life. If they have no commodity to exchange, they can receive no such supplies, and the consequence is that they must perish in great numbers.

9021. Do not you now pay the United States of America in dollars for the supplies which you get from there?—They are paid in specie, and proceed to the slave colonies to take in their cargoes of sugar.

9022. The United States does not take your sugar or your rum, or your coffee, in payment for their provisions?—No.

9023. The Canadas did, did not they?—No. They have had access to the slave colonies for nearly 20 years for slave sugar and rum. At this moment our planters are leaving us to take up the lash again under the Spaniard; everything indicates the most rapid decay. Let a remedial measure be immediately applied, and there is no effort which the colonists will not make to retrieve their fortunes in that once valuable possession; let us but improve the people (and we were about but for the crisis in which we are involved to introduce general

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measures of elementary education), and there will be no occasion for the presence of European troops in those colonies, which has been so fatal to them, inasmuch as the germ of discontent does not exist. Let those people understand, through instruction, the benefits which they enjoy as British subjects, and they will repel foreign aggression. In the earlier history of Jamaica, and as late as 70 years ago, the Spaniards made frequent landings upon the coast, and carried away slaves. Should the power of this country unhappily become weakened, or our forces be required in other portions of the globe, the same will occur again.

9024. Can you inform the Committee what additional expenses for churches, schools, police, establishments of justice, and so forth, have been imposed upon the colony of Jamaica since emancipation, and to assist in carrying out emancipation?—The public revenue of the colony in the period of slavery averaged about 120,000 *l.* sterling.

9025. In what year was that?—In 1834. The expenses may be put down at 150,000 *l.* sterling; they now average 300,000 *l.* sterling.

9026. What was your income in 1834, and what is it now?—At the beginning of each financial year an estimate was based upon the returns of the previous year of the probable amount to be received as duties on imports, under the Stamp Act and rum law, and whatever the difference was, it had to be raised by direct taxation upon the planters. Owing to the great increase of the consumption of commodities liable to imposts, and owing to the fact that for several years together the direct taxation was paid out of the capital and not out of the income of the planters, 250,000 *l.* was raised upon imports by a Stamp Act, and by a duty on rum.

9027. Can you state the amount of those duties?—They varied very greatly. Up to 1846 they went on increasing, and at last exceeded 180,000 *l.*: the difference had to be made up by direct taxation; but owing to the planter having to pay the direct taxes, in three cases out of four, from his capital in place of his income, the duties were increased, and the revenue, from the various sources that I have enumerated, rose to 180,000 *l.* or 190,000 *l.* I may state that the direct taxation for purposes connected with the measure of emancipation, was upon an average of years, equal to 50,000 *l.* sterling. The parishes had to raise, for local purposes, a sum by direct taxation varying from 120,000 *l.* to 140,000 *l.* sterling; one-half or two-thirds of that were to sustain improved institutions, the consequences of the Emancipation Act.

9028. In consequence of the Emancipation Act, was such a sum as 83,000 *l.* added to the expenditure for churches and schools?—Including churches, schools, police, and sanitary establishments, the sum has been on an average of years equal to 150,000 *l.*

9029. What do you imagine the net proceeds of the sugar plantations were in 1834?—£. 3,192,637, upon the average of the five years ending 1833.

9030. Is that the net value of the produce?—It was the gross produce, but the expenses were very trifling.

9031. What do you estimate the expenses to have been?—They were certainly not 1,000,000 *l.*

9032. What were the gross proceeds in 1847?—I have only got them to 1843. In the five years ending 1843, they were 1,213,284 *l.*, and they have remained about that.

9033. What were the expenses?—The expenses exceeded that. It is a known fact that, taking the whole of the plantations of Jamaica together, the monies disbursed on account of the cultivation of the country would exceed the income from the whole colony. I will just advert to one fact here, which cannot appear in statistical returns, and that is, that in the time of slavery, the resident colonists had the means of subsistence entirely within themselves—a heavy item, which has never, as far as my observation has gone, been taken into account. Simultaneously with canes and coffee, they produced corn; they had every means of subsistence, and lived, I may say, in plenty. Owing to the absence of those means, the imports have necessarily increased, and have been a continual drain upon the colony: all the corn and all the bread stuffs required are now imported. At the time when the exports of the colony reached nearly 4,000,000 *l.*, here was this internal source of wealth or means of saving, which has now disappeared.

9034. In some of the petitions which have been presented to the House of Commons

Commons from Jamaica, they ask for a repeal of the Navigation Laws; are you of opinion that a repeal of the Navigation Laws would benefit Jamaica in any way?—If you mean a special enactment in favour of the colonies, the colonies would be benefited to some extent; but the measure being general, it would not be of the slightest importance to the colonists.

9035. If the Navigation Laws were repealed, *quoad* the British West Indies, and not as regards Brazil and Cuba, and the East Indies and Java, there would be a benefit to you?—The chances are, that either the colonists or the consumers would be benefited; but admitting that the colonists would be benefited to the full extent, I do not consider that they would be benefited more than 20s. a ton, because freights at this moment are 4s. 6d. a cwt., or 4l. 10s. a ton; and we can easily arrive at what they would be were the Navigation Laws abolished, by knowing what they are now at this moment at Havannah: at this moment they ask at Havannah 3l. to 3l. 10s., by the last returns.

9036. Is not there 15s. a ton droggerage in Jamaica?—They can afford to carry sugars much cheaper from Cuba and Porto Rico than from Jamaica, inasmuch as they are produced in great abundance, and brought to one general port, from which the vessel loads, without the heavy charge of droggerage. In Jamaica, vessels have always had to collect their produce along the shores of the country, from the various bays and creeks at which the sugars are put down from the various plantations. Cuba is on a much larger scale than Jamaica. Jamaica consists generally of narrow valleys, with narrow outlets to the sea, therefore spreading the produce in small quantities round the coast. In Cuba there are vast plains and vast harbours, upon a scale of greater magnitude than is to be found in other colonies.

9037. In Cuba, the ship takes the freight from the wharf?—Yes.

9038. Are not there very heavy tonnage duties in Jamaica?—There are tonnage duties; but I suspect that the tonnage duties are heavier in Cuba. The tonnage in Jamaica, in 1845, produced 14,000*l.* sterling. There is also a charge for lighthouses.

9039. £. 14,000 is the tax upon tonnage in Jamaica alone?—Yes; in one year it rose to 15,000*l.* sterling.

9040. If a ship should get but one half of her cargo in Jamaica, and calls at any other island to make it up, she has to pay the full tonnage duty there also?—Yes.

9041. So if she has to call at three different islands, she has to pay tonnage duties upon her entire tonnage at each island?—It is not usual for any vessel to leave Jamaica to proceed to any other island.

9042. Probably for that very reason?—I should fancy so. The description of vessels sent to Jamaica have been of the first class; they have been regular traders; and in the past year, owing to a want of vessels, great inconvenience was sustained, and much produce left over.

9043. If a ship goes out to Cuba for a freight, she finds it ready to her hand?—The chances are, that from their increasing cultivation they will always find a cargo ready. I am acquainted with the fact that they meet greater dispatch there; but in the past year there certainly was an over supply of shipping there, and the freights fell very low for an instant, but they very quickly recovered again.

9044. In freighting a ship with sugar from Jamaica, you make it a condition in the charter party that you shall be entitled to 70 days layage, do not you?—Decidedly, there is an arrangement made here; but vessels are generally sent out by the owners; if a party charters a vessel here, and engages to find a cargo in Jamaica, I apprehend that he makes better terms than the colonial rate of freight.

9045. The charge for freights is higher to Jamaica than to any other British colony, and higher than to Cuba and to Porto Rico; is not this the reason that ships upon the average freighted out to Jamaica and back for sugar are detained for 70 or 90 days, during which period a ship would make a voyage out and back, and perhaps back again, but for that delay?—No question about it; the ready dispatch at Cuba makes the difference of freight.

9046. The whole history of the low freights to Cuba and Porto Rico, and St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, is, that the ships generally meet with a freight ready to their hands, and that there is not the time lost at the change of the ship which is lost in Jamaica?—That consideration has had its influence; whether it has entirely regulated the rates of freight, I am not prepared to say.

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2047. It has been proved before this Committee that some ships have made three voyages to Santa Cruz and back again in a year; that a British ship made two voyages to Barbadoes, and one to the Mauritius and back, in the course of a year; while in the voyage to Jamaica they are generally detained 70 days, and sometimes 90 days; and that that is the reason why freights are so much higher to Jamaica than to other colonies; is the reason why ships are so long detained at Jamaica, that the planters are so short-handed that they cannot carry down their crops with the same speed with which they are delivered in Cuba, Porto Rico, and Santa Cruz?—Freights have been very much higher at Jamaica than at Havannah; but the only proper ground for their being higher was the detention, because the districts in Jamaica are upon a smaller scale, and they do not receive such immediate dispatch.

9048. The ship is detained there at the same expense as though she was sailing across the Atlantic?—Certainly.

9049. You say you have been in Cuba, and in the slave colonies of the United States; have you any information to give to the Committee upon that subject?—The price which sugar bore there in 1841 was 10s. per cwt., in one new district on the south side of Cuba, called Cien Fuegos, in which four years previous to my visit 25 estates only existed, 75 were then laid down. I ascertained that as many as 500 men, without a woman, were worked on one estate, kept in strict confinement at night, and bloodhounds lying close for the purpose of keeping them together. I crossed the island on Sunday, and I saw on that day the gangs universally at work, driven by the lash, and the plough at work. They treated with great derision our measure of emancipation; they pointed to it as a failure, and gloried in the benefits which it conferred upon them. At Havannah I was carried to see some fine vessels, the swiftest sailing vessels that were ever built, as being those that were engaged in the slave trade, and which defied British cruizers to overtake them; they were called Baltimore clippers. In travelling in steamboats in voyages along the coast of Cuba there happened to be one or two commanders of vessels who had just made successful voyages to the coast of Africa; they were much caressed, and were objects of admiration.

9050. As having escaped the British cruizers?—As having made successful voyages. At that very moment there were proclamations issued in the official gazette of Havannah against the slave trade; but I heard a merchant of eminence say, who I do not doubt at all was engaged in the slave trade, that the governor of that day would receive no more representations at all from Mr. Turnbull, the consul, "that he dreamed dreams over night and sent them to him in the morning." My own conviction is, that one-half of the persons held at this moment in slavery in Cuba are held in that state in violation of the existing treaties between this country and Spain; and I say so, seeing the ages of those people, knowing how soon the slaves are worked out and killed in that country, for there is no reproduction there.

9051. Have you anything to state as to slavery in the southern states of the United States?—Only this much, that there is an active internal slave trade going on from Virginia and the other old states to the Mississippi, where there is a great demand for slaves for the cultivation of sugar.

9052. Do they separate the families there?—I will illustrate that fact by a very painful incident which took place under my observation. In the course of my tour through the States I visited the tomb of Washington, and was shown it by a very intelligent aged negro woman. I remarked to her that she appeared to be in comfortable and easy circumstances, and she said yes, her mistress (Mrs. Washington) was a very religious person, and that she should not have known she was a slave but for one circumstance. I asked her what that circumstance was; she said it was a very dreadful one; her words were, "that it was like tearing a limb from her body." I pressed her to tell me. She then told me that she had either two or three sons sold to Georgia and Florida as slaves. I asked her if she had ever heard from them. She said she once heard of one of them, but that was all; that they were dead to her, and that she never could see them again. That trade has been greatly stimulated by the diminished production of the British West India Colonies, which, from their more favoured position formerly, in a great degree supplied the United States with produce, the United States being content to protect their native produce by a duty on that which is imported.

9053. Mr. Goulburn.] After emancipation took place, the planters in Jamaica were

were prohibited from making engagements out of Jamaica with any labourers on their estates; were not they?—The only quarter from which they could get labourers was Europe; they could certainly contract with Europeans for a year; their contracts were restricted to a twelvemonth.

9054. Did that restriction materially interfere, in your opinion, with the introduction of labourers from those quarters?—No supply was offered from any other quarter at that period than from Europe; but I have not a doubt that if the Government had said, “While we must see to the care and protection of whatever labourers we import, we will also afford you every facility by prolonged contracts,” the enterprise of the planters would have very soon enabled them to discover the quarter from which they might have got suitable labourers; but their efforts were paralyzed by the difficulties that were thrown in their way, and the little desire manifested to afford them any facilities whatever.

9055. The individual planters, therefore, could not as a matter of interest to themselves bring labourers upon their own individual estates?—Certainly not; there was no security that the labour of those immigrants would be secured to them.

9056. The regulations at present in force are that the immigration is conducted under the care of Government?—The Coolie and African immigration.

9057. The persons so imported are generally distributed among estates in the island by regulations under the supervision of Government?—By a licence from the Governor.

9058. Do you imagine that if individual planters had the power immediately after emancipation of making contracts such as would have secured them for a certain time the labour of the persons imported, they would have been wanting in efforts to maintain an adequate population upon their estates?—Looking to the painful efforts which they have made to carry on their estates, and looking to the fact that in nine cases out of ten they have denuded themselves of all means of carrying on their estates, I should say there was no effort they would not have made to continue their cultivation.

9059. The effect, therefore, of preventing those contracts at an early period was to exhaust the capital of the individual planters upon ineffectual attempts to keep up cultivation?—Allowing that the enterprise and researches of the planter would have discovered some country from which to bring immigrants, most undoubtedly the capital of the planter, in amount equal to the compensation twice told, and which has been expended and lost, would have been saved. It is not the measure of emancipation which has ruined those colonies; it is the measure of emancipation coming upon us without any preparation whatever, and without any desire being manifested by the Government to enable us to carry it on in a continuous manner. I also desire to be understood as not at all reproaching the peasantry of that country; I consider their conduct on the whole has been blameless, but I also consider that arriving at unrestricted liberty by one bound they were precisely like a spring bent too much one way, and the recoil was too great.

9060. Were you in Jamaica at the time emancipation took place?—I was actively engaged in the management of many properties.

9061. And also at the period when the apprenticeship was abruptly terminated?—Yes, I was a great sufferer by that; I had leased property a few months before it was so abruptly terminated, with no preparation for it.

9062. Mr. Goulburn.] Were you cognizant of many cases in which parties had purchased the apprenticeship of the negroes with a view to the settlement of them upon their estates?—I think I can mention your own case. In numberless instances many men in that country partook of the hopes which freedom inspired, and, animated by the repeated assurances (to which I can speak) of the Government, and the organs of the Government, that we should ever receive a preference in the home market, they have readily poured out their means, and have recalled their means from other countries for the purpose of applying them to the purchase of property of every description.

9063. Was not the effect of the sudden termination of apprenticeship to rob the parties of the whole expense which they had incurred in making those new settlements of negroes upon their particular properties?—Unquestionably; but the value of the remainder of the apprenticeship was greatly diminished by what I regret now to look back upon, a studied disposition on the part of those in authority to render it valueless.

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9064. In what way do you think those in authority rendered it valueless?—The law was not adhered to; the governor's instructions were alone obeyed. When Sir Lionel Smith came down there during apprenticeship, when Lord Slige was recalled, from having been guilty of a breach of the privileges of the Legislature, he acknowledged that the country was in a painful state of agitation, and that it was ill governed; and for the first three or four months he was there he manifested every disposition to govern rightly, and have those magistrates who had been guilty of malversation dismissed. The Legislature sent a memorial to The Queen last year; and I beg to read a portion of that memorial upon that very point: "We believe Sir Lionel Smith entered upon the government of Jamaica with the most sincere desire to sooth its distraction, and restore peace, by enforcing an impartial administration of the law between the proprietors and the emancipated slaves, and for a time he adhered to that determination; but in the Colonial Office anti-slavery influence still ruled paramount, and, unfortunately for our interests, Sir Lionel Smith soon yielded to it. The danger attending the Slave Emancipation Act arrested for a time the violent agitation by which it had been effected; but no sooner did that danger seem over than it was again renewed. The work was said to be but half done; the negro was still under restraint, and that restraint was represented as even worse than slavery itself."

9065. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] Are you able to state in reference to the mode in which the West Indian affairs are managed by the West Indian committee of merchants, whether any change could be made in that system beneficial to Jamaica and to the other colonies?—If the Honourable Member means to ask me whether the mode of conducting the business of the planter in this country was expensive, and in some measure unusual and unfair, I am free to admit that it was; but I believe most firmly that those abuses have disappeared, and that no body of commercial men that ever existed, in this or any other country, have been such severe losers as the West Indian merchants have been by their connexion with the colony. I consider that till public opinion forced the condition of those countries upon the Government, and upon the proprietors, and upon merchants, they looked upon them as mere mines of wealth from which to draw money. But that state of things has long passed away; and I have already said that I believe no body of men that ever existed as merchants have suffered more from their connexion with any trade than West Indian merchants have done.

9066. Do you think that the present mode of making advances, and the system of repayment of those advances, is capable of being improved?—If you had put that question to me two years ago, I should have said most certainly that it could be improved; but the question is this now, that no man will advance money upon West Indian property on any account or upon any terms.

9067. Might not the mode in which advances are made and repayments carried on be improved?—I consider that where a merchant made his bargain for advances to the planter, he had a right to make his own terms; but I consider that the planter was not always fairly dealt with. I considered that it was a most unwarrantable charge, the charge of commission, not upon the fair proceeds of the sugar as it went into the planter's pocket, but upon the duty also, which has been always more than 100 per cent. upon the price of the produce. I have no doubt also, that in former times many an abuse was overlooked, which has since been inquired into and relieved. I always considered it objectionable that the merchant should be connected with shipping, inasmuch as he has then an interest in maintaining the freights of vessels. I have no doubt they were maintained at high rates, but I believe very few merchants now hold vessels. I always considered that the merchants either got a prolonged credit for the supplies with which he furnished the planter, or received discount upon those supplies; I have no doubt of it, indeed I know it; but now-a-days the amount of supplies sent out to the colonies is trifling, and no man will advance money upon sugar property in those countries upon any terms whatever.

9068. Are you of opinion that those evils which you admit to have existed have had some effect in bringing about the present difficulties in the West Indies?—If I did not see merchants and capitalists of all classes involved in one common ruin, I should be disposed to think so; but when I see the men who have had whatever benefit may have arisen from those advantages in no better a position, and when I know the weight of impending ruin that exists, I cannot fancy

fancy that those things have had anything to do with the existing state of things which we have now to deplore.

9069. You are yourself an independent planter, are not you?—I never owned a slave, and I speak now under no pressure.

9070. Are there many more planters in Jamaica in your position?—There would have been a great many more, provided the facilities promised us to carry out emancipation had been given; those planters would then have been the pioneers of civilization in those countries, because I consider that the great want in those countries has been a resident body of intelligent men.

9071. As a matter of fact there are not many of what may be termed independent planters, are there?—I think, from the legislation of this country, nine out of ten men connected with the soil are insolvent.

9072. How long have you been acquainted with Jamaica?—Since 1819.

9073. You remember periods of distress in former times, do not you?—Very great.

9074. Were you a member of the House of Assembly in 1830?—No, only since 1843.

9075. In the memorial from the House of Assembly, addressed to the English Government in 1830, it was stated that at that time "the distress of the planters of Jamaica had been accumulating until it had reached a crisis which threatens to involve all classes in ruin; that the planter was unable to raise money to provide for his family, or to feed and clothe his negroes; the mortgagee got no interest on the capital he advanced; and numerous annuitants in this country looked for remittances in vain." Could you state that at the present time the distress is greater than it was then?—It is incalculably more intense. There is no man who has seen more of slavery than I have, and there could be no worse institution; but there is this about it, that in a state of slavery the planter may go on from day to day and from year to year upon credit, working the estate by the labour of the slaves; but in the present state of society he cannot move an inch unless his pocket is full of money. In a state of slavery there was no money outlay; in a state of freedom there is a constant drain upon the planter.

9076. It was stated in this memorial that they were unable to feed and clothe the negroes whom they had for slaves?—In the year 1823 I was manager of a poor estate; and in the month of May the proprietor in the country determined to break it up. The average price of slaves at that time was 60*l.* sterling. In the meantime the news of Mr. Canning's Resolutions arrived before the day of sale, and those people on whom formerly any man would have advanced any sum of money, there was not a single bid for: there was not a slave put up that day for sale. The consequence was, that the value of the slaves never recovered that depression.

9077. Notwithstanding that appeared a hopeless state of things, you say that subsequently the West Indies had so far recovered that there was a fair prospect of the cultivation of sugar being a remunerative employment?—It was not an employment to induce the embarking at that time of fresh capital; but such inducements were then held out that they were inspirited with fresh hopes. They had seen what they deemed a hostile ministry turned out upon the question of the sugar duties, and had seen a disposition manifested to assist them; the people were becoming better disposed, inferior estates were becoming abandoned, and a better supply of labour was being obtained, and a kindly feeling was being restored between the planter and the labourer. There was a great pressure upon the planter and upon the merchant, but we did hope that once more we should be able to sit down in something like peace and comfort again under our vine and fig tree; but the moment it was intimated to us that slave produce was to be introduced into this country, a feeling of profound dismay came over us.

9078. It appears that from the operation of those various causes, West Indian property has survived the tremendous distress to which it was exposed in 1830?—It survived it at about one-fifth of its previous value.

9079. May we not, since it has survived such a period of extreme distress before, have some hope that it may survive the present period, by the operation of similar causes, namely, a better understanding growing up between the employer and the employed, and improvements which may be made in the cultivation of the lands?—Standing where I do, as representing Jamaica by my evidence here, I wish to convey to this Committee my solemn and deliberate

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conviction (and I have already said I speak under no pressure) that but for some remedial measure being immediately applied, cultivation will entirely disappear from Jamaica.

9080. That appeared to be the opinion in 1830 of the House of Assembly; but you say that notwithstanding that 18 months ago things had assumed a much better aspect?—The same causes that are at work now were not at work then. I attribute our present position entirely to the irruption of slave sugar; that was an element which we never had to contend with before; no alteration in our own circumstances, nothing short of a general insurrection in the slave colonies could enable us to compete with them.

9081. To the importation of slave-grown sugar you attribute the fall of price, do not you?—I do not attribute the fall in price more to the importation of slave-grown sugar, than to the conviction that the price of British produce, with access to slave markets, can never rise to a remunerative point. The speculator and the importer here know that produce can be raised at such a price in Cuba and Brazil, and therefore at this moment they do not embark in British produce, though there was never a greater temptation to buy produce than at this moment. There is no confidence. The stocks in hand among dealers were never known to be so limited since the arrival of the produce of slave countries in this country, and inasmuch as the supply from those countries is unfailing, that must ever regulate the price of British produce.

9082. Supposing you had a stimulus applied to the production of sugar in the West India colonies, are you of opinion that you could produce enough for the consumption of the United Kingdom?—Speaking from recollection, and knowing that the Committee have had the best possible statistical information before them, I should run very great risk to attempt to enter into details; but I may state the fact, that when it was proposed by the Minister to introduce slave sugar, he assured Parliament that the production of the British possessions had reached its utmost limits. Now it so happened that the production of the British possessions was greater last year than it ever had been, and if the whole of the produce had been brought home, it would have exceeded the consumption by 20,000 tons, and that would have gone on increasing, because such is British enterprise and capital, and such are the outlets it seeks, that it only required confidence in the trade to secure its extension; 284,000 tons of produce from British possessions were introduced into this market last year. There were 12,000 or 15,000 tons left for want of shipping in the West Indies. There was nearly an equal amount in the Mauritius, and somewhat more in India; and the whole consumption was under 300,000 tons.

9083. If, therefore, you were to increase the production of sugar in the West Indies by a very small quantity, you would have to export to other markets that surplus, where the price of the sugar would be regulated by the price in those other European markets?—Then we should have nothing to complain of. If the British West India planter is outdone by greater skill, or by more favoured circumstances existing in the eastern hemisphere than the western, he has nothing to complain of against his fellow-subjects.

9084. Did not you state that the British Legislature was bound to provide a remunerative price for sugar?—No; I stated that, from your having destroyed by legislation the principle in our case, which you afterwards brought into existence against us, you are bound, upon your own principles of free trade, to place us in precisely similar circumstances to that new source of supply which you have opened, and to put us on an equal footing with slave dealers.

9085. That is, in reference to giving you free access to any part of the world, in order to procure labour?—When I speak of putting us on a footing with slave dealers, I speak figuratively; I do not believe there is a man in the West Indies who would wish to restore slavery.

9086. If I understand you clearly, you ask of the British Legislature to increase the price of sugar, in order that its cultivation may be profitable in the West Indies?—I do not ask you to increase the price of sugar.

9087. What is it you wish done?—I ask you to debar the use of slave sugar in this country, having declined to receive slave sugar from your own colonies.

9088. If the debarring of slave sugar from this country has not the effect of raising the net price which the planter receives for his sugar, what profit would it be to him?—Debarring slave sugar will of course enhance the value of British produce, but it must be remembered that the measure is your own.

9089. The

9089. The object clearly is to raise the price. Supposing there should be this increased production from the stimulus of a higher price, and that increased production more than supplied the consumption of the United Kingdom, how is the British Legislature to secure that increased price?—The planter would have no claim upon you in that case.

9090. The planter's claim is that a remunerative price should be secured to the production of sugar in the West Indies?—It is to be secured by giving us that preference in the British market which we were repeatedly assured we should have, upon which assurance we gave full effect to the measure of emancipation.

9091. If that preference so stimulates the production that you are obliged to send the surplus produce to the European markets, will not the price of your sugar be regulated by the price in the European markets, and will not the measure fail as a remedy for your distress?—No; last year was the most productive year that was ever known in the world; last year is an exception. If the eternal principles of justice, as I view them, were adhered to, and the man who steals the services of another was not allowed to send his produce to this market, the demand would regulate the supply, as in every other case.

9092. Is your proposal to prohibit altogether slave sugar?—I should be afraid, looking to the feelings which now prevail throughout the country, that it is hopeless to make such a suggestion, but I think it ought to be prohibited.

9093. You still fail to indicate any plan by which your production of sugar shall be so kept within the consumption of the United Kingdom that a remunerative price shall be secured to the grower?—The demand of this country would ultimately regulate the supply; but as society advanced, and as art and science, of which we are ready to avail themselves, advanced, we should be able ultimately to compete with other countries, and we would take our chance of good and bad years.

9094. In former times, when you had the monopoly of the British market during the periods of slavery, you were unable to keep your production within the consumption of the United Kingdom, you therefore sold the surplus to foreign countries, and the price of your sugar was the same price which sugar sold at in the European markets; inasmuch as in former times when you had a monopoly you were unable to keep your supply within the consumption of the United Kingdom, why should you be more able to do it now?—Under the circumstances stated, if the supply had regularly continued to exceed the demand, and if we could not have competed with foreign nations, the supply would have been diminished.

9095. You had formerly a monopoly in the English market?—We had, to a certain extent.

9096. But that monopoly was of no use to you, because you grew more than the United Kingdom could consume, and, therefore, you were obliged to take the price which sugar brought in the European markets?—Yes; but we could compete with foreigners in the market.

9097. If the monopoly had not the effect of securing to you a monopoly price in those times, what makes you think that protection in these days, stimulating your production, would have any better result?—For this reason. There is not the slightest parallel between our present position and our position in slavery. Where a slave-owner had already settled a sugar estate, with a fixed capital upon that property, he had no resource but to go on cultivating sugar at times with a loss; but in the existing state of society he has no such amount of capital sunk, and if he found sugar unprofitable, he would apply his attention probably to something else if he could, provided any new discovery occurred; and if he could not do that, he would abandon the cultivation. The case was very different when he had slaves, whom he was bound to maintain by law. He went on then producing, although at a loss.

9098. You think at the present time that the circumstances of the colony are such, that they could limit their supply within certain bounds, so as to secure the price here being greater than that prevailing in the European markets?—I do not think they would attempt it; they would try to make as much sugar as they could, and endeavour to let you have it as cheaply as they could, and they would take the chances of the market here. Many fortuitous circumstances arise, and some of those circumstances may in the course of a few years give them other outlets for their produce.

9099. The protection which is asked for would have an equally stimulating effect

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effect upon the production of sugar in the East Indies and in the Mauritius, would not it; supposing the East Indian production and the Mauritian production were materially also to increase, how would you give that protection to the West Indies which would be necessary to secure them the advantage they seek?—I do not say that we should keep it within those bounds; the chances are that we should cultivate as much sugar as we could, and we should endeavour, by new discoveries, by the improvement of our people, and by the introduction of improved modes of manufacture, to let you have sugar against the world.

9100. If the price should fall, is not it very probable you would again come and inform us that the price of sugar was so low that its cultivation was not remunerative to the planter, and it was necessary for the Legislature to give you some further measure of assistance?—That is most improbable; the planters would feel that this country, having conferred upon them, not a boon, but merely an act of justice, they had no further claim against this country; they would take their chances as men engaged in any other enterprise would do: they complain of broken promises and broken faith now, which have utterly destroyed their confidence.

9101. The people of this country, as you are aware, are interested in having sugar as cheaply as they can?—I fully acknowledge the justice and the policy of your allowing the people of this country to have their sugar as cheap as possible; but while I allow that, I do utterly deny that you are going to let them have it cheap; if you extinguish the sugar cultivation in the British possessions, where under ordinary circumstances it would be established upon a sure footing, and give you a steady, cheap supply, and if the slave countries are lost by an insurrection, as they will be one of these days, your supply will be entirely cut off; and upon the one hand, as has been shown before this Committee, while you stimulate the slave trade, you upon the other hand expend large sums annually in endeavouring to repress it.

9102. With respect to coffee, I wish to call your attention to the large quantity of coffee which has been imported into this country during the year 1847?—I do not think the coffee planters are on the same footing as the sugar planters, because the greater portion of the supply has come from Ceylon, which is a British colony, worked by free people; and though I deeply deplore their condition, I do not think that they stand upon the same footing as the sugar planters.

9103. Are you aware that the importations from our own colonies very nearly equalled last year the consumption of the United Kingdom?—I believe so; and I have stated that, though the situation of the coffee planter is very pitiable, I do not consider he has that well-founded claim which the sugar planter has upon this country.

9104. You do not, in fact, think that the coffee planter has any *locus standi* before this Committee in claiming relief?—He does not stand upon the same grounds as the sugar planter. If this country is sincere, which I cannot doubt after the manifestations it has given of its desire for the advancement of the negro in the scale of humanity, it will take some measure to insure that advancement, and to enable us to say that we have carried out the great measure of emancipation successfully; and that is only to be done by imparting some degree of prosperity to all classes. I have stated, I hope fairly, what I consider to be the case of the coffee planter. Looking to the fact that he is beaten down by the growing of coffee in Ceylon, he does not stand upon the same grounds as the sugar planter, who is overwhelmed by the inundation of slave-labour sugar.

9105. Sir E. Buxton.] With respect to coffee, is not it the fact that the production of coffee has decreased in the Brazils and Cuba, and has immensely increased in Ceylon?—I know that fact, particularly with reference to Cuba, from my intercourse with people who have turned their attention to that matter; the labour has been withdrawn from coffee and applied to sugar. As the produce of free countries increases, so must the produce of slave countries diminish. There is no longer any temptation to carry on the slave trade for the cultivation of coffee in Cuba.

9106. Have the wages been regularly paid throughout the island of Jamaica?—Until the present year, with some very few and trifling exceptions, they have been regularly and unfailingly paid. I may advert to a circumstance which took place before the Committee in 1842, upon that point, which will show how regularly they were paid. The late Mr. Knibb was examined upon that occasion;

sion; he was a professed friend of the labourer, and he was not looked upon as a friend to the planter. The object of his being examined was, I have no doubt, to show that there were faults upon the part of the planter as well as on the part of the labourer; and that question was particularly put to him. He said he questioned if they were. He was asked to adduce an instance where they were not. He lived in the district of Trelawny, where there were 70 or 80 estates, and he could only instance one estate where they were not paid; and it is a singular fact that that estate was under the care of the governor, as chancellor.

9107. Do you think that wages have increased during the last two or three years?—They have rather diminished.

9108. Do you know a gentleman named Curry, the agent of the Mail Steam Packet Company?—I know him slightly.

9109. He states that at Kingston the wages are from 1s. 9d. to 2s. a day, and that for that he could obtain 10½ hours' labour?—So far from that making against anything I have stated, it confirms what I have said. The rural negro is in a very different position from the town negro. If the people in the country had no resource but wages, we should be in the same position with Mr. Curry; but there is not the slightest analogy between the two cases.

9110. Do not you suppose that if the town negroes were no better off than country negroes, they would go into the country?—The town negroes have been born in the town, and they dislike the country: a great many negroes have crowded to the town since the emancipation; they are fond of that sort of life.

9111. They appear here to work hard during the whole day?—That is upon the wharves in Kingston; they work hard for people of that country, but they do not do a third of the work which a coalwhipper does here.

9112. This gentleman says they carry three tons per day a distance of about 400 feet?—I think one of the men in the river here would throw up 10 tons a day; they have to throw it down.

9113. They have to carry it on their backs?—The bags are filled to their hand, and they have only to carry them that distance.

9114. The people in the country are very fond of cultivating their own provision grounds, you say?—Yes.

9115. The duties have been very much increased upon the import of provisions?—Yes.

9116. Has not the very high price of provisions, in consequence of the duty, rather induced the people to turn their attention to growing provisions for themselves?—No; it has been so stated, but I am not disposed to think so, because the rural population of Jamaica are fonder of those roots which are used by all classes than of any other description of food whatever.

9117. They are not, you think, as some other witnesses have told us, exceedingly fond of rice and meal?—They use them occasionally, but to no great extent; they generally prefer their own provisions, whenever they can grow them, to any other. They spend their money freely, and hoard none.

9118. Does not the amount of wages vary in different parishes?—Very much.

9119. Can you state what the variation is?—In a parish which is wholly pastoral the owner of those properties is in no immediate want of the services of the negro, and the negro cannot take that advantage of his position as they do in the case of a person engaged in sugar cultivation. My wages are 1s. a day, and I work the people eight hours. I have been in a position to vindicate the rights of property, and I have done so unflinchingly, while I have dealt very fairly with the people.

9120. Do you imagine that during the last part of 1847 the price of wages decreased?—It may have done so partially, because certain districts have been visited with a most severe drought; some large estates have been annihilated, and there I can fancy for the moment the people work for anything. The same circumstances have prevailed to a certain extent in other districts; and I may state also that a great many agents have been debarred from drawing bills; and a great many estates are now languishing and waiting the result of the meeting of Parliament, to know whether they are to be carried on or not.

9121. Probably a fall of wages will be the result?—I stated at the opening of my evidence, that the cost of producing a cwt. of sugar during the last four or five years has been about 23s., deducting the price of rum, and allowing

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nothing for interest upon the capital. I also stated my opinion, that from the number of estates which are in the course of abandonment, and from the inability of any one to conduct business affairs with those properties, the wages I think will fall.

9122. Do you consider that the amount of capital employed has been sufficient to carry on the cultivation of the estates?—I stated in the course of my evidence, that the capital of the planter has been poured out positively like water, in the most profuse manner. I consider that at the outset of freedom, it was much too lavishly applied, and that a rate of wages was established in the liberality of the planters and the merchants of this country which could not be sustained. They fancied that by very liberal wages the people would be induced to work steadily; but they soon found out that they were a people with few wants, and that they only received large wages to render them idle.

9123. Do not you think that the feeling which was natural at first has been very much improved since; that the planters now give less wages, and the people are more ready to work for them?—There has been a partial reduction of wages, but there has been no material reduction. I believe the feeling of the people is exceedingly good; but in dealing with an ignorant people, subject to certain impulses, and not under the influence of any moral or religious impressions, it is difficult to say what their conduct would be in the event of any attempt to enforce a reduction of wages.

9124. You have stated that the supplies sent out to the West Indies are very much diminished; is not it a fact, that the amount of goods sent out for sale upon merchants' accounts has exceedingly increased since the abolition of slavery?—At the outset of freedom it was overdone; it is a fact that the consumption of British manufactured goods in slave countries scarcely exceeds the amount of 1*l.* per head; whereas in a free country, as is the case in Jamaica, the consumption of British manufactured goods and British colonial produce went up from something like that to 6*l.* or 8*l.* per head, thereby showing what great consumers we should have continued to be if we could have afforded the money.

9125. Are the estates in Jamaica much encumbered with debt?—I should think that the estates that were free from all encumbrances at the period of the emancipation must now inevitably be encumbered, and that the number of encumbered estates must have doubled in that period.

9126. Were they not very much encumbered with debt at that time?—Yes; but then the same person generally who had the encumbrance stood in the position of a proprietor; but I very much doubt whether the next proprietor is in a better position than the proprietor originally was.

9127. Was not there a bounty at the time when you say sugar was exported?—There was a bounty, but it was ultimately withdrawn.

9128. What was the consequence of that withdrawal?—A diminished supply, in consequence of the apprenticeship.

9129. When was that withdrawal?—The precise year I cannot say, but I think it was 1829; it was found, upon examination by Dr. Ure, that the bounty was too high; but my recollection does not serve me so far.

9130. Was not it immediately after that the price fell so much?—That memorial points to the depression consequent upon the withdrawal of that bounty.

9131. So that we could not compete with slave-trade countries during slavery, except with this bounty?—The British colonies, subject to humane and proper laws, never could compete with men where such a system is established as that which exists in Cuba.

9132. You think that during slavery they could not compete with Cuba?—I do not think so; in Jamaica the slave society, if I may call it so, was a natural state; we were come to that point that we could support our numbers; we had, out of a gang of 200 slaves, perhaps only 60 workers, whereas the Cuban planter has no aged women or children to support.

9133. Was there a great quantity of raw sugar exported during slavery?—I am not prepared to say whether there was or was not: my impression is that there was not any great quantity of raw sugar exported; for availing themselves of the great facilities in machinery, and so on, they sent the best refined sugar to the Continent.

9134. You have stated that, for purposes of education and religion, you have,

have, since the abolition of slavery, granted 150,000 *l.* a year?—Not for those purposes only. Our judicial establishments have been extended, and our correctional establishments also, and our police.

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9135. In that 150,000 *l.* you included the police and judicial establishments, did you?—Yes. We were called upon by different governments to improve our institutions, to meet the altered state of society, and we most readily did so. I have heard a reproach made that Jamaica has not availed herself of modern improvement: I can only say that we have a chemist at the expense of the colony, under Professor Johnson; we have several improved machines for manufacturing the produce, such as the vacuum pan; but I have seen it declared by brokers that that was no improvement; the plough has become universal. In short we have been open to every modern improvement of which we could avail ourselves; and I do believe that we do not merit those reproaches which have been cast upon us.

9136. *Mr. Moffatt.*] Do you mean to state to the Committee that the process of refining sugar in the vacuum pan is no improvement to the sugar?—I went to the parish of St. Thomas in the East, and saw the process performed by a very ingenious and able man, Mr. Noys. I saw the produce here in the sale room of a very experienced broker, and I expressed a hope that the article answered; he said, No, it did neither for the one thing or the other; it was neither a fit article for the grocer nor a fit article for the refiner; that it was something between the two; that under no circumstances was it of much greater value than 3 *s.*, which would not pay the increased expense of manufacture.

9137. Do you state, as a practical man, that the subjecting sugar to the vacuum-pan process is no improvement to it?—I state the results as they have occurred in my own observation. I gave my attention particularly to it.

9138. You know the estate, you say, from which that sugar came?—Yes.

9139. Did that estate make fine sugar previously?—I believe the sugars were of a strong character, but not fine. I have given only the information I received from a broker, that he did not consider that the produce was improved more than 3 *s.*; and that will not repay the increased cost of manufacture.

9140. Have you seen sugar produced by the vacuum process from any other estate?—I have not; but I may state this fact broadly, that as yet, in the face of a great many trials, no improved plan been discovered which could be brought into general use.

9141. On how many estates in Jamaica has the vacuum-pan process been brought into operation?—I believe it has been brought into operation on five or six estates, but this is the only one of which I have had the opportunity of seeing the results; and if the results had been in any case very successful, I think I should certainly have heard of them.

9142. Do you know the results accruing from a similar process in Demerara?—I have been informed by a Demerara planter that he sent for his vacuum pan, and brought it over here to be sold to Cuba.

Owen Pell, Esq., called in; and Examined.

9143. *Chairman.*] YOU are an Antigua Planter, are not you?—I am.

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9144. You have not any statement of the exact expense, for any period of years back, of cultivating sugar, have you?—I have not managed my estates myself since the year 1842.

9145. You have an estate of your own in Antigua, have not you?—Not a sugar plantation now; only a stock estate. I have sold several sugar plantations in the island since 1837, but they are not all paid for.

9146. Will you state how many estates there were, and what was the sum for which you sold them?—There were six; Mayer's, Room's, Sion Hill, Grant's, Pare's, and Cochrane's; the last two belonging to my wife; I sold the whole for 50,600 *l.* I sold Mayer's estate, in 1842, for 12,250 *l.*, an estate which I managed myself for about 20 years.

9147. You were a resident planter in Antigua?—I was for several years; I went out in 1813 to superintend the contracts for victualling the navy and transports on the station. After the peace I purchased, in 1819, Mayer's plantation.

9148. What number of slaves were there upon Mayer's estate when you purchased it?—Eighty.

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9149. What number of hogsheads or tons of sugar did it produce in 1819?—There were hired slaves upon it in addition to the 80. The former proprietor hired slaves, and he made generally from 80 to 90 hogsheads of sugar. I added 22 slaves by purchase, and raised the crops to an average of about 105 or 106 hogsheads.

9150. What was your net income from that estate up to the year of emancipation?—I think from 1,200 *l.* to 1,500 *l.* a year, taking one year with another. I had no other person interested in the estate with me, so that I was not particular in keeping very exact accounts; besides I lost many books and accounts when wrecked in the "Solway" steamer on the coast of Spain in 1843.

9151. And you superintended that estate yourself?—Very much so.

9152. Therefore you had no agency to pay?—None whatever.

9153. And no attorney to pay?—No.

9154. You had only the manager and overseers to pay?—The manager and overseers.

9155. Was the estate in debt?—No, I was not in debt to anybody.

9156. Therefore your estate was in no degree mortgaged to any merchant in London?—No, I was perfectly free to do as I pleased with the produce of the estate.

9157. And ships to bring home the produce?—Yes; I was under no obligation to shipowners or to merchants.

9158. What was the average charge for freight which you paid for any series of years?—Whenever I could sell my sugar in the island I did so, and I always found that the best plan to pursue. I did not like going through what may be called the London mills; my object was to sell my produce in the island when I could. I shipped occasionally to Belfast, to Londonderry, to Dublin, to Whitehaven, to Britol, London and Liverpool.

9159. You had an average income of from 1,200 *l.* to 1,500 *l.* up to the period of emancipation?—Yes, from Mayer's estate.

9160. In Antigua you emancipated the slaves at once, without any term of apprenticeship?—Yes; I would rather have given up my compensation money, as it was called, than have been kept in hot water for six years by the apprenticeship system.

9161. What did you get from the estate after emancipation?—The slaves upon the Mayer's estate were considered a very good set of people, and they averaged in the compensation value something more than the general run of the negroes in the island. The 101 slaves were appraised for compensation at six thousand eight hundred and odd pounds sterling, and I received for compensation 1,686 *l.* sterling, a little more than one year's income of the estate. At the end of the first year after the emancipation, I found my expenses of free labour were only about 80 *l.* more than they were during slave labour.

9162. How do you account for that?—We paid for labour the first year 435 *l.*; from that 435 *l.* I deduct the expense of the slaves, the sum which I should have had to pay in maintaining them. Mayer's estate supplied all its own negroes with food except salt provisions, upon the average, nine months in the year; I had only to go to market for food for three months, that is, for bread stuffs. Taking the expenses of those three months, and taking off the doctor's charges, the clothing, and all the rest of the items that I was put to during slavery, they amounted to 274 *l.* Deducting 80 *l.* from that sum, being interest upon my compensation money, because having received that money. I take credit for the interest, I so reduced my expenses that I only expended 81 *l.* The second year they were 182 *l.*; the third year 233 *l.* The people now began to get upon their legs. In the fourth year they were 235 *l.*; in the fifth year, 426 *l.*; the next year 415 *l.*; the following year, 461 *l.*, gradually increasing. After that I have no particular account of them.

9163. Did you produce as much sugar?—Mayer's estate made just as much.

9164. Then you must have been in a better condition than you were before, if you got a better price for your sugar?—In 1839 and 1840 we were, owing to high prices.

9165. Your net income after emancipation must have been fully as good as it was previously?—Yes, to the year 1840 I should think it was.

9166. Rather better, was not it, according to the price of sugar?—It was much about the same, I think. In 1839 the price was as high as 26 *l.*, and in 1840, 29 *l.* a hogshead.

9167. What

9167. What was it previously to emancipation?—In the year 1824 we got a good price, but taking the average of years, the price was from 17 *l.* to 20 *l.*

9168. Being an average of about 18 *l.* 10 *s.*?—Yes, a hogshead.

9169. You ought to have got a better income by 150 *l.* a year after emancipation than you did before, as long as you had this high price of sugar?—Yes, if wages did not rise.

9170. In 1842 you sold your estates?—I sold Mayer's in 1842.

9171. For 12,000 *l.*?—I sold Mayer's estate for 12,250 *l.* sterling. I sold two other estates called Pare's and Cochrane's, two very fine estates, adjoining Sir William Codrington's, for 18,000 *l.* sterling. Cochrane's estate alone cost 18,000 *l.* sterling in the year 1819. The compensation received for 144 slaves on Cochrane's estate was 2,087 *l.* sterling. Cochrane's estate cost 18,000 *l.*, and I look upon it that Pare's estate was very little inferior to Cochrane's. The compensation for 170 slaves on Pare's was 2,551 *l.* sterling.

9172. Have you been paid for those estates?—I have not.

9173. For no part of them?—I have got a portion.

9174. What portion have you received?—I have received about 15,000 *l.* out of 50,600 *l.* sterling, for which I sold six very fine well-appointed sugar plantations, with all their mills and works, live and dead stock, and about 1,400 acres of land.

9175. Do you expect to have those estates returned upon your hands now?—I should hope not; I do not expect it any more than I expected slave sugar to be let in on us, when I sold them.

9176. Do you imagine that those estates can be kept in cultivation under the present state of things?—Not with sugar at 10 *l.* a hogshead, and the high price paid to obtain labour.

9177. Do you know what the price of labour is now in the island?—All my letters represent the price of labour to have increased to the amount of 25 per cent. within the last three or four years.

9178. The Committee has been told by Mr. Tollemache, and Sir William Codrington, and by Mr. Shand, that the price has fallen?—I speak of a period since the year 1842; but within the last few months, I believe, a great effort has been made to reduce labour; whether it will succeed or not I cannot say, but I have my doubts.

9179. You know nothing about the estates for the last two years?—Nothing more than what I hear from my correspondents every packet.

9180. Have you any information to give to the Committee on the subject into which they are inquiring?—There is no want of skill or enterprise in the island. I know every effort has been made by the planters in Antigua to contend against the difficulties which are surrounding them, but though various projects have been proposed for ameliorating their condition, I have not seen any yet which have appeared to me very feasible; one plan has been suggested, that central factories should be erected in the island to separate the manufacture of sugar from the planting process. I think that is impracticable myself. A ton of sugar requires 20 tons dead weight of cane to produce it; it is impossible with our stock that we can carry and cart it about the island. Another plan has been proposed, to import the produce of our estates into this country, in the shape of syrup, not to have it entirely manufactured into sugar, but to boil it to a certain point below sugar.

9181. To bring it as cane-juice and concrete?—Yes. In the year 1834 a gentleman, who had a patent for refining sugar in some particular way, applied to me to supply him with a large quantity of cane-juice syrup. I agreed to supply him to a limited extent, and made a contract with him for 50 puncheons. As it was a new business altogether, I did not like to commit myself to the extent of my whole crop, but I entered into an arrangement with him that I would ship him 50 puncheons, or my whole crop, if I liked, on trial. I shipped 446 puncheons, for which I was paid 4,817 *l.* sterling. Great good was to be derived to the planter from this scheme. When it came home to this country, however, a question arose about the duty directly; it was a new article; it was neither molasses, nor sugar, nor raw liquor.

9182. In what year was that?—In 1834. The Chancellor of the Exchequer or the Government immediately laid their hands upon it. The importer, I think, had expected to derive some advantage from it in respect to duty, but the whole was laid hold of until it could be analyzed. Dr. Ure was set to

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work, and he analyzed it, in order to ascertain the relative proportions of duty. He took the shipment by a vessel called the "Codrington," which consisted of 25 puncheons; he took a cwt. of this composition, and separated it, and found, out of the 112 lbs., 50 lbs. of sugar, 45 lbs. of molasses, and 17 lbs. of water. The importer of course was charged the full duty of 24 s. on the sugar part of it, 9 s. upon the molasses, and the water of course was brought home, which increasing the freight, and increasing the packages, it turned out a losing affair.

9183. Did it come home sweet?—Perfectly sweet. It was supposed that a great deal would be saved by the non-drainage of the produce on shipboard; that was to be obviated by its coming home in tight puncheons. But the fact was that it fermented even more than molasses; the consequence was that there was a greater loss of weight in the body than there would have been if it had been sugar. It fermented to such a degree that the master of one ship said to me, "I am up to my ankles in syrup;" so that there was nothing to be gained by that. Much has been said about economizing labour; we have in some respects, by altering the formation of our mills, made improvements. A very laborious part of the work was the carrying up canes from the millyard to the mill; many estates, at great expense, have lowered the mills, and instead of employing perhaps six cane-carriers, they have been able to do the work with three. We have also saved a considerable amount of labour in the boiling houses and still houses, by introducing machinery; but we can find no machinery to cut the cane, nor to weed the cane, nor to plant the cane; and these are the difficulties we have to encounter.

9184. Have you found any machinery to carry your sugar down to the beach?—I had some very capital trucks made for the purpose. Fifteen years ago the sugar was carried down in awkward, clumsy carts; I had some trucks made (the iron-work in this country), and they have been very much approved in the island.

9185. What is the state of the roads?—The roads are generally good. There is one thing I may observe, that the overseers and managers in Antigua are a very improved class of people within the last 15 or 20 years. When I first went to Antigua, 30 years ago, nothing was considered more degrading than the situation of an overseer. There was an old Act of the island that made it incumbent on every proprietor to have a certain number of white people (no matter what they were, drunkards or anything else) upon the estate, in proportion to the number of slaves; the number was one white person to every 40 slaves. That was an Act of the island, perhaps made as far back as the reign of Queen Anne; it was for the encouragement of white servants; the estates were relieved from a considerable taxation according to the number of white persons resident thereon: but since the law has been repealed, respectable young men, gentlemen's sons, consider it no degradation to commence their business as overseers on sugar plantations.

9186. Are not the implements which you employ somewhat clumsy?—When I first went out to Antigua there was nothing but a sort of clumsy Scotch plough in use; ploughs that would carry perhaps nearly half a ton weight of mould from one end of the land to the other, but of late years the best ploughs and instruments in England have been sent out. I sent out some myself, made at Warwick, as good ploughs as possibly could be. The negro will not use a spade; I have tried to induce him to do so at particular work, but he cannot use the spade.

9187. Is that because they have no shoes on?—No; I do not think it is that; they use the hoe to such advantage that I think I could take some of our Antigua labourers and pit them against some of your railway labourers, giving the Antigua labourers the hoe, and the railway labourers the spade, and the black man would turn over as much soil as the other. A question has been asked about the price of sugar in Antigua; there is a memorial or petition that has just come home from the legislature of Antigua, in which they estimate the cost of a cwt. of sugar at from 18 s. to 20 s. sterling.

9188. That, you think, is the lowest price at which sugar can now be cultivated in Antigua?—Yes, the population of the island I think is increasing. I have no expectation that any good would be derived from the importation of uncivilized Africans into Antigua; I should be very sorry to see any myself. The great body of the negroes in Antigua are a very well-behaved people; they are
a remarkably

a remarkably sober, peaceable, and quiet set, though they are extremely indolent generally.

9189. Do you imagine unless any foreign labourers are imported they could be induced to submit to a reduction of wages?—Perhaps they would, occasionally.

9190. If they would submit to a reduction, then of course you could produce your sugar at a lower cost?—Yes. More than 60 years ago a committee of the Legislature estimated the maintenance of a slave at 4*l.* sterling a year; 100 negroes could be maintained for 400*l.* The hire of the slave 62 years ago, in Antigua, was 1*s.* 1½*d.* a day for field negroes, or 10 to 12 per cent. per annum on their appraised value, for a gang.

9191. What would 100 working negroes be hired for now?—Those take in the old and the young, the sick and the lazy; all the gang.

9192. Out of the 100 negroes, how many efficient labourers would you have?—Perhaps 30, or one-third, first gang.

9193. Each effective labourer, therefore, cost you nearly 12*l.*?—I should think so. Had we only first-gang negroes, a gang of 20 efficient labourers, valued at 1,200*l.* sterling, in slavery, would let on lease at 240*l.* per annum.

9194. What does each effective labourer cost you now a year?—We pay them more than 1*s.* a day.

9195. For how many hours' work is that?—They come to their work about seven in the morning, and they leave off at sunset; and then they take nearly an hour for breakfast, and an hour and a half at noon.

9196. Do they work as long now as they did during slavery?—No; they used to come at day-break in slavery.

9197. They could only work till sunset?—We kept them much later on many of the estates, if we wanted them; we kept them in the boiling house and in the millyard till nine or ten o'clock at night.

9198. You say under slavery each effective labourer cost you 12*l.*, and now he only costs you 15*l.*?—I speak of first-gang people; out of 100 people you would have about 30 first-gang labourers. There would then be the weeding gang, and the grass gang; you would have 75 to 80 people at work perhaps, including cattle-keepers and stock-keepers, out of a gang of 100 slaves.

9199. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] If the cost of a cwt. of sugar in Antigua is 18*s.*, a price of 24*s.* in bond would be sufficient for you; would not it?—No, it would not; there is no rent, and no interest for capital, included in this 18*s.*

9200. One shilling or two shillings a cwt. more would do, would not it?—I think not.

9201. How much more than 18*s.* do you want?—We ought to get 10 per cent. upon the capital employed upon the works, the land, and the plant.

9202. You would not consider yourself paid unless the whole cost of production were repaid, and you had 10 per cent. profit?—No. I think an estate that cost 12,000*l.* ought to yield an income of 1,200*l.* a year.

9203. Is not that making money very fast?—Not when you come to take into consideration the risks and liabilities that property in the West Indies is subject to, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other calamities. A few years ago, in the island of Antigua, nearly all the sugar works were thrown completely down. I have always considered that an estate ought to return from 10 to 12 per cent.; the legal rate of interest is six per cent.

9204. Is it not the fact, that Antigua has been increasing in its production of sugar for many years past?—At the time of emancipation my own opinion was that we should make as much sugar after emancipation for the first seven years as we did during the previous years, at increased expense; I believe we have done so; but we have abandoned the cultivation of provisions nearly. There were from 1,500 to 2,000 acres of yams grown in the island formerly, and I do not suppose there are 400 acres now; all the strength of the cultivation has been turned to sugar.

9205. You said that central manufactories were out of the question?—In Antigua, I should suppose they are.

9206. Why?—It was a proposition that we should abandon the manufacturing part of the process, confining ourselves to the mere production of the cane; that the cane should be carried to a factory, as a farmer would take his grain to a miller, and that there it should be converted into sugar and molasses. The practical

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tical planter knows how distressing it is for his stock even to bring canes to the mill-yard; had he to carry those canes four or five miles, I do not know what stock would be found to do it. A ton of sugar will take more than 20 tons of canes to make it.

9207. What per-centage of sugar is there in the cane?—It would take from 20 to 25 tons of canes cut from the field to make a ton of sugar. Supposing we had to carry 20 or 25 tons of dead weight three or four miles, it would kill all the stock which any estate may have to carry one-fifth part of the crop. If we had railroads or canals, and our estates were upon the margin of them, that would be different; but in Antigua we have neither railroads nor canals, nor are likely to have them, I should think, in our present condition.

9208. You do not think there would be any gain in separating the businesses of cultivation and manufacturing?—I think if the island were cut up into small patches, a labourer might raise small quantities of canes, and it might answer very well for him, perhaps, to carry his cane to a neighbouring mill.

9209. Supposing a manufacturer, or a person who had buildings, were to buy the cane of those small cultivators?—He might do so in that case.

9210. That would resemble, in some measure, the beet-root system, would not it?—I believe it would; I am not acquainted with the beet-root system, but I should think it would be very like it.

9211. With how much protection do you think cultivation in Antigua could be carried on?—Our situation may be compared to this: deprived of slave labour we are like a steam vessel with the engine taken out, and we are called on to keep pace with a vessel that has got hers in; we want the power to do so, that is the protection we require.

9212. You seem to have been getting on very well of late years?—No; we have not. I have sold sugar lately that only gave me 10*l.* a hogshead, and there have been no merchants' charges upon it; it has not been through the London mills; there has been nothing but a half per cent. commission; and with this the sugar only leaves 10*l.* per hogshead.

9213. You are like the rest of the world probably, you have suffered heavy losses lately?—I have sold my estates, but it is the purchasers who are suffering; it may ultimately fall upon me, more or less.

9214. Is it anything more than that your produce has shared the general depression which has fallen upon all produce lately?—Ours has not been an exception, certainly.

9215. In Antigua, you do not profess to have so bad a case as they have in Jamaica; you have been getting on pretty well, have not you?—We are not getting on very well. I hold in my hand an account-sales of sugar from Mayer's estate, made in the year 1768, and it gives price of 20*l.* sterling at that time.

9216. Do you complain of the high freights?—Freights in Antigua have been generally about 4*s.* 6*d.*; when I have shipped my sugar I have often got it carried at something less.

9217. Do you think the Navigation Laws do you any good?—I am not aware that they do us any good; and if it would reduce the cost of bringing sugar to this country I should be very glad to see them done away with, because anything that would reduce the cost would increase the consumption of sugar.

9218. If you could have lower freights, it would be a benefit to you?—Of course.

9219. And if the repeal of the Navigation Laws would have that effect, you would be in favour of that repeal?—I should be in favour of anything that would decrease the price of bringing the sugar to England. I should think that sugar might be brought to market, perhaps for 3*s.*, if any vessels might be allowed to bring it. Supposing an American vessel to bring a cargo of staves and flour to Antigua from Baltimore, to dispose of her cargo at Antigua, and to be at liberty, on the same terms as a British vessel, to load with sugar for England, I think she might carry sugar for 3*s.*, perhaps less.

9220. Do the Navigation Laws do you any harm, do you think?—I am not aware that they do any harm beyond increasing our rate of freight; but as the slave planter would equally benefit with the free-labour planter by their repeal, I do not see that much advantage would be derived from that measure.

Mercurii, 15^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Hope.

Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Charles Gray, called in ; and Examined.

9221. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Malt Distiller in Glasgow?—I am.

Mr. C. Gray.

9222. Can you state the number of gallons of malt spirits consumed in the United Kingdom last year, and the duty paid upon them?—Yes; in the year ending 5th January 1847 the quantity of malt spirits consumed in the three parts of the United Kingdom was 6,918,965 gallons, and the duty paid upon the spirits, including the duty on malt, was 1,679,627 *l*.

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9223. You heard the evidence given by Mr. Currie as to the restrictions on distillation; are the restrictions on the malt distillers pretty much the same as those on grain distillers?—In respect to distillation they are very much the same in Scotland and Ireland as in England.

9224. I believe you do not entirely concur in Mr. Currie's estimate of the disadvantage arising from one of the licences given to the excise officer, of going into the fermenting back room, and letting in the cold air?—My own experience does not lead me to attach so much importance to that as Mr. Currie does.

9225. You do not attach any importance at all to it, do you?—Not much importance.

9226. From your practical experience, you are convinced that no injury is done in that respect?—Little or no injury, in ordinary circumstances, at the gravity of worts at which the distillers in Scotland generally work; in England, where they work at rather a higher gravity, there may be more injury done.

9227. But as far as Scotland is concerned, there is no injury done?—No great injury, within my own experience.

9228. Have you actually fermented in the open air?—In an open house.

9229. With no roof on the top of it?—The walls were nearly down at the time; it was very much exposed.

9230. Do you consider that the malt distiller is fettered by restrictions and regulations which do not apply to the distiller of raw grain spirits?—In respect to the manufacture of his malt he is so; those restrictions are numerous and somewhat complicated; they raise the cost of making the malt, and, particularly in warm weather, very much injure the quality.

9231. Will you point out to the Committee the mischief which the restrictions of the excise do you as a malt distiller?—The only additional restriction on a distiller making malt, to be used in making malt spirits only, is that his malt is measured off the kiln; it is deposited in a lock-up store-room for security, and he must give notice of taking it from the store-room. It is conveyed under a permit from the malting to his own distillery, and deposited in a lock-up room there, to remove it from which another notice is required.

9232. In your opinion, what do you value those restrictions at, exclusive of the malt duty?—It is extremely difficult to estimate correctly the extent to which the different excise regulations raise the cost of malt spirits; many esti-

Mr. C. Gray.
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mates and calculations have been made, but I do not think it is possible, in the absence of the knowledge that experience only can give us, to state to what extent they do raise the cost; but I should say that it is underrated at 6 *d.* a gallon, exclusive of natural wastage and leakages, and the malt duty.

9233. What does the present duty on malt spirits amount to, including the duty on malt?—In Scotland the duty on malt spirits, including the duty on the malt, is 4 *s.* 4 *d.*

9234. How do you make that duty up?—The duty on spirits is 3 *s.* 8 *d.*; the duty arising from the malt used, after deducting the drawback we get, is equal to 8 *d.*; making 4 *s.* 4 *d.*

9235. That is on malt spirits that are actually consumed in Scotland?—Yes.

9236. If you send them to Ireland, what is the duty?—The duty there is 4 *s.* 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*

9237. If you send them to England, what is the duty?—Nine shillings and twopence farthing.

9238. The duty on rum in England is what?—In England, 8 *s.* 7 *d.*

9239. Which leaves a differential duty in England, against the malt distiller in Scotland, of 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*?—Yes.

9240. In Ireland what is it?—Three shillings and fivepence.

9241. That leaves a differential duty of 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* again in Ireland?—It does.

9242. In Scotland you have an advantage of one penny in the duty, to set against those restrictions?—Yes.

9243. This estimate is made upon the spirit actually produced?—On the newly made spirit.

9244. On colonial spirit it is charged upon the quantity which is brought into consumption after it has been subject to leakage, and evaporation, and wastage, during the period it may have been lying in bond?—Yes.

9245. This disadvantage which you represent the malt distillers to be under, applies not only to rum, but to all spirits manufactured in the colonies, does it not?—Not as to all spirits manufactured in India, but to all spirits manufactured in the British possessions in America, made from whatever materials.

9246. The rum distiller in the East Indies is liable to the same restrictions that you are in Scotland, is not he?—I am not at all aware of that. I saw Mr. Crook's evidence; he says that they are under some restrictions, but he does not say they are the same as the restrictions here.

9247. Mr. Crook says they are under the same restrictions, and are limited to distilling in stills of not less than 300 gallons, which is a prohibition to the native; and the distiller is also subject to an inconvenience and burden which I do not understand that you in Scotland are subjected to, which is, that he has actually to pay the exciseman who watches his proceedings?—We do not pay the exciseman.

9248. You are obliged to find a house for him at a certain price, are not you?—If the distillery is not situated in a market town we are then bound to find a residence for him within a certain distance of the distillery, and for which he pays rent.

9249. The full rent, or a fixed rent?—I think it is a rent of 10 *l.*; I am not sure of that.

9250. If there is not a house you must build a house for him?—I presume so; the house must be found.

9251. The Scotch distiller is under the disadvantage now of being subjected to a competition with the Canadian distiller, at an advantage of duty to the Canadian of 7 *d.* a gallon; is not that the case?—Yes; and in Canada their malt spirits, which would enter into direct competition with the malt spirits made in Scotland when sent to Ireland or to England, are made with an advantage of 7 *d.* per gallon duty.

9252. While you are prohibited by the laws of the excise from entering your spirits in bond for exportation, and receive no drawback upon the exportation of your malt spirits?—When malt spirits are exported from Scotland there is a drawback equal to about half the malt duty. If malt spirits are exported from England or Ireland there is no drawback whatever. They go wherever they may be shipped to, burdened with a malt duty of 1 *s.* 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* a gallon; and in those countries where there is an *ad-valorem* duty on import, that duty is charged on the value of the spirits, including this malt duty.

9253. Alike in England, Ireland, and Scotland, this burden proves almost a prohibition, does it not?—In point of fact there is at present but a very small export trade in malt spirits.

9254. And it is the conviction of all the distillers in the three kingdoms that but for this restriction there would be a very large foreign trade in British spirits?—I cannot speak to the opinion of all the distillers in the country, but I am quite convinced that, with the prices we are likely to have corn at, if we could get rid of the excise restrictions, we should have a large export trade.

9255. Malt spirits were entirely excluded from England until the year 1826, were not they?—Till 1826 malt spirits made in Scotland were prohibited being brought into England.

9256. And since 1846 they have been subject to duty of 7*d.* per gallon above colonial spirits:—From 1846 to 1847 they were subjected to a higher duty than colonial spirits, to the extent of 4*d.* a gallon; since the last Act passed in 1847, to 7*d.* a gallon.

9257. Have you entered into any calculations as to the comparative *ad-valorem* duty upon British malt spirits and colonial spirits?—I have looked to the price-current of the day for the price of rum, and I find that Jamaica rum ranges from about 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.* at proof; the finer marks for 3*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.* at proof; the Leeward Islands rum at proof about 1*s.* 10*d.* to 1*s.* 11*d.*; and the price of good Scotch malt whiskey at present, exclusive of the duty, is about 1*s.* 11½*d.* at proof, and of very fine Highland malt whiskey 2*s.* 10*d.*

9258. Have you made any calculation to show what the *ad-valorem* duty is?—Taking the value of good Scotch malt whiskey, exclusive of any duty, at 1*s.* 11*d.*, the duty in England being at the rate of 9*s.* 2½*d.*, it is 480 per cent.; taking good Jamaica rum at 3*s.* proof, the duty is 8*s.* 7*d.*, which is at the rate of 286 per cent.

9259. That is 194 per cent. higher *ad-valorem* duty upon British malt spirits consumed in England than on colonial rum?—It is.

9260. Will you also take the lowest quality of Leeward Islands rum, and the lowest quality of malt spirits, and state the comparison?—On the lowest quality of malt spirits at 1*s.* 10*d.*, the duty in England is at the rate of 1500 per cent.; on rum at 1*s.* 9*d.*, the duty is at the rate of 490 per cent.

9261. So that still there is 10 per cent. against the malt distillers?—Against the lowest quality of malt spirits as compared with the lowest quality of rum.

9262. With respect to the disadvantage of your not being able to bond your spirits; you cannot bond malt spirits in England, can you?—No.

9263. In Ireland they may be bonded?—Yes.

9264. And in Scotland?—Yes.

9265. Your grievance in Scotland is that you are charged this high duty upon the wastage?—We are charged a large sum on the wastage that occurs after the spirits are taken to the warehouse; we are charged the Scotch duty on the wastage in the warehouse.

9266. You complain that you are singularly situated as regards the disadvantages attending those excise restrictions; that while beer, and ale, and porter, and soap, all get their drawbacks, you alone are proscribed?—As far as I am aware, malt made into spirits is the only exciseable article on which the drawback is not allowed on being exported.

9267. In beer and porter the full drawback is given?—I think it is the full drawback. I do not know as to the drawback upon the hops, but the drawback upon the malt is full.

9268. You complain that you are already in a disadvantageous position; but what is your condition compared to that of the soapboiler?—We are in a worse condition than any trader under the excise, in respect of being allowed no drawback.

9269. In return for the disadvantages of the excise duty on soap, the British soapboiler is protected by a duty of 20*s.* a cwt. on colonial soap?—He is protected to the extent of five-eighths of a penny.

9270. The duty on home-made hard soap is 1½*d.* a pound?—Yes.

9271. The duty on colonial soap is 2½*d.* a pound?—Two pence and one-seventh of a penny. The duty on colonial soap is 20*s.* a cwt., or about five-eighths of a penny more than is charged on home-made soap.

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9272. The duty on home-made soft soap being 1*d.*, the duty on colonial soap is 15*s.* a cwt.?—Yes.

9273. Again giving the English soapboiler a preference of four-sevenths of a penny?—Yes.

9274. Then he always gets the full drawback on the exportation of hard soap, of 1½*d.* a pound?—Yes.

9275. And the full duty upon the exportation of soft soap?—He does; and the same drawbacks are given in the case of bricks and other articles.

9276. But he also gets a drawback upon the home consumption of 1½*d.* on hard soap, if the soap is consumed in the woollen manufacture; and the full duty of 1½*d.* a pound if the soap is employed in the cotton manufacture or the silk manufacture?—Yes.

9277. So that the cotton and silk manufactures have a protection against the woollen manufacture?—Yes.

9278. On soft soap he has a drawback of half the amount on woollens, and seven-eighths on cotton and silks?—Yes.

9279. You complain that you, a malt distiller, are in the singular position of being subjected to all those restrictions and all those burdens, and getting none of the benefits which you have referred to?—None. I may state the matter in this way: malt may be made in this country duty free, for exportation; if converted into beer and porter, the full duty is given back on their being exported; if it is made into spirits, there is no drawback whatever given if the spirits be sent from England or Ireland, and only half the duty if they are shipped from Scotland.

9280. If colonial spirit, or if French brandy or Hollands, are imported into this country, they get the full duty back again upon their re-export?—Yes.

9281. So that you are put upon a disadvantage as regards colonial spirits and foreign spirits, and as compared to all other articles affected by the excise duty?—So far as I am aware, we are in a worse position in that respect than any other trader. I may mention that we have been told several times that there were Bills in progress to give us this drawback on malt spirit being shipped, but they have never gone any further.

9282. You are firmly persuaded that you would obtain an immense export trade if you were put upon a fair footing with colonial spirits and with foreign spirits in those respects?—If our manufacture were free from excise regulations, and we got a remission of duty upon the articles used in the manufacture, I am persuaded we should in the course of a few years have a very extensive foreign trade.

9283. You think, even if you were at liberty to keep your spirits in bonded warehouses till you sold them, and were charged upon the quantity sold, and you could work under bond, you would have an immense foreign trade?—I do not think we should have any foreign trade to speak of, so long as we were subjected to the present restrictions of excise, unless some compensation were made for them on the spirits being shipped. I think great advantages would arise from the introduction of the warehousing system, allowing the duty on the natural wastage or leakage; spirits then could be kept in the warehouse at a very small cost. There would be an inducement to the manufacturers to work largely when corn was cheap, and the quantity of spirits held over would come into consumption when the price of corn might be dearer again.

9284. You allege, do you not, that the returns made to Parliament do not represent the actual decreases upon British spirits?—I think the return made to Parliament on which the statements last Session were founded, did not truly state the decreases in the warehouses; at all events, as respects Scotland.

9285. You hold that if you were at liberty to distil under bond, the effect would be that when corn was low you would distil very large quantities, and distil less when corn was dear?—It would have that effect to a certain extent.

9286. But the effect of the law as it now stands is, that you must work from hand to mouth?—There is no inducement to do otherwise. In respect to an article which improves by keeping, and upon which there is a natural wastage and loss, the duty on the wastage is so great as to do away with the advantage from keeping it.

9287. Can you inform the Committee what is the difference in value between new British spirits and old spirits?—With respect to good malt whiskey, I should think the difference would be from 3*d.* to 6*d.* a gallon.

9288. Keeping

9288. Keeping it for what period?—Keeping it a year or two.

9289. And that upon the price of 1 s. 11 d.?—One shilling and eleven pence is the price exclusive of all duty.

9290. It would improve in value to the amount of 3 d. upon a price of 1 s. 11 d. by keeping it a year or two years?—Yes. There is a limited demand for old spirits, which I think would bring that additional price.

9291. You are debarred from taking that advantage by the excise laws?—We are not debarred from taking it, but the duty on wastage not being allowed, the loss on keeping it in the warehouse is so great as to prevent our doing it to any extent.

9292. Because the duty on the wastage would greatly exceed the improvement in the price?—Generally speaking, it would.

9293. Will you state the amount of the leakage, and wastage, and evaporation of spirits?—Here is a copy of some account sales handed in to the Commission of Inquiry, of which Sir Henry Parnell was the chairman, giving the results of certain sales in London of 80 puncheons of Irish whiskey: the loss from wastage on the first 10 puncheons is 3 ¼ d. a gallon; on the second 10 puncheons 3 d. a gallon; on the 20 next, 3 d. a gallon; and on the next 20, 3 d. a gallon, and 2 ½ d. the next.

9294. Mr. *Goulburn*.] Can you state in what time that wastage took place?—The account sales do not mention that, but it must have occurred from the time that the spirits were shipped from Ireland till they were delivered to the consumer in London.

9295. You cannot say how long that was?—It would not likely be long, but I cannot state the time.

9296. *Chairman*.] Both malt spirits and rum which have been kept a long period rise to a very high price, do not they?—Whiskey does not rise in price so much from keeping as rum does, but fine old rum at present, in Glasgow, is worth a very great price. It cannot be bought under 15 s. a gallon, duty paid; the duty upon it is 4 s. 5 d.

9297. What would fine old whiskey of the same age as the rum sell at?—Including the duty, the extreme price, in small quantities in retail, would not exceed about 9 s.

9298. Was not the report of the Commissioners of Excise Inquiry in 1834 to the effect that there was nothing to prevent a large export trade in spirits from this country, except the difficulties which the distillers laboured under from the excise restrictions?—They make some general observations, and they say, “It may be stated as a position of general application, that the evils are in all respects greatly increased through the attempts which are so frequently made to obtain a large amount of revenue by fixing the rates of duty immoderately high. Amongst the inevitable consequences of these high rates of duty may be ranked the following, which cannot fail to be considered as so many additional evils beyond those to which we have already referred as incident even to moderate degrees of taxation: first, multiplicity and complexity of regulations; secondly, severity of penal enactments and prosecutions; thirdly, increased vigilance and closeness of inspection of the trader, and consequently additional interference with the trade; fourthly, the various kinds of vexation and annoyance to the trader necessarily attendant upon this severity of regulation and closeness of inspection; fifthly, the temptation and encouragement to a system of evasion of duty by those who are fraudulently disposed, and the consequent injury to the fair trader; sixthly, the temptation held out, and the numerous opportunities afforded for the corruption of officers; seventhly, the inevitable increase in the general expenses of collection; eighthly, the failure in the attempt to obtain an amount of duty in any degree commensurate with the rate of taxation imposed, or equivalent to what the article might be made to produce under a more moderate and better adapted rate.” They go on to state: “Notwithstanding, however, these recent improvements, which our examinations in the three divisions of the kingdom have shown us to be most extensively beneficial, it appears to us that there is much which may still be done in order to promote the object of bringing our system of excise taxation into a state as sound and satisfactory as the objections inherent in all such systems will permit. The extent and duration of our investigation will not permit our attempting a detailed enumeration of the various alterations of the present law or practice which might, in our

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opinion, be beneficially introduced; but there are some leading points of general application, an immediate attention to which we are satisfied would be attended with the most useful results. We would particularize, first, consolidation of the laws relating to the various duties of excise. Your Lordships need not be reminded, that although much has been done towards this object by the Acts of the two late reigns, yet that the attempt with respect to the excise has hitherto stopped far short of a similar measure introduced with respect to the department of customs. It is obvious that a consolidation, in order to be effectual and complete, should comprise a repeal of all pre-existing statutes, with a re-enactment of such parts of the law only as it may be expedient to retain. The repeal contained in the late general Act is confined to the laws relating 'to the collection and management of the revenue of excise throughout Great Britain and Ireland,' whilst the still more extensive branch of the law which contains the provisions under which the several heads of duty are charged, and the multifarious and complicated regulations affecting the manufacturers, traders, or others who are subject to them, although it has been consolidated with respect to some of the most important heads of duty, remains as to others to be collected from the almost innumerable variety of excise laws which have been passed in every reign succeeding their first enactment. The slightest reflection upon what has within our own times taken place in all that relates to the various processes of manufacture and the arts, more especially those to which the improvements in chemical science are applicable, will sufficiently show the necessity of repeated revisions and alterations of that branch of law which is professedly framed to regulate and meet the results of those processes. From the want of such revisions it is notorious that many parts of the existing excise laws are become obsolete and inapplicable to the objects for which they were framed; and many others are, in practice, found to be unnecessarily vexatious and oppressive. Without enlarging, however, upon these facts, it will be sufficient to refer to the advantages as well as the general satisfaction which have attended the revision and consolidation of the laws relating to the several duties of the customs, as the grounds of our recommendation that a similar measure should, with as little delay as possible, be directed to take place with respect to the laws which concern the various heads of duty under the excise."

9299. While you are placed under the disadvantages you have detailed to the Committee at home, you are also subjected, if you send your spirits to the colonies, to a duty of 1 s. 3 d. a gallon in Canada, and of 3 s. in Jamaica?—From the Parliamentary Paper, No. 679, in the last Session of Parliament, it appears that the duty on colonial spirits in Canada is 6 d. a gallon, and on British spirits 1 s. 3 d., and in Jamaica there is a duty levied on the import of colonial spirits of 9 s. a gallon, and on British spirits of 3 s. a gallon.

9300. Are those duties in addition to the excise tax levied here?—The spirits when shipped from this country go out free of excise duty, with the exception of the malt duty.

9301. But not if they are malt spirits from England?—They go out free of duty on spirits, but burdened with the excise duty on the malt used in making the spirits.

9302. Mr. M. Gibson.] What is the difference between the excise duty on British spirits and the duty upon foreign spirits imported into this country?—The duty in England on brandy and Geneva is 15 s. a gallon, and on home-made spirits 7 s. 11 ½ d., if made from grain, including all duties, and on malt spirits 9 s. 2 d. In Scotland the duty on brandy is the same, 15 s. a gallon, and on corn spirits 3 s. 8 d., exclusive of the malt duty, and on malt spirits about 4 s. 4 d., including the malt duty.

9303. You consider the difference between the import duty on foreign spirits and the excise duty on home-made spirits is more than adequate to the excise restrictions?—Certainly it is, particularly in the case of Scotland and Ireland.

9304. And there is considerable protection enjoyed?—There is a protection, undoubtedly, as respects foreign spirits at this moment.

9305. What do you consider the fair difference of duty as between colonial rum and British spirits, in order to countervail your excise difficulties?—I said I felt great difficulty in accurately estimating the loss to which we are subjected from those restrictions, but I consider they are underrated at 6 d. a gallon, exclu-

sive

sive of the malt duty, and exclusive of the loss of duty upon the natural wastage and leakage. It is extremely difficult accurately to estimate the thing: what I said upon that point was, that if we were freed from all excise restrictions and had a drawback of the duty on the articles used in manufacturing spirits, we should not fear competition under any circumstances. The evils we have to encounter are the excise restrictions preventing our improving our manufacture, both as respects obtaining a large quantity from the materials and improving the quality so as to adapt it to the taste of the consumer. The last consideration particularly applies to malt spirits. In England they have an additional hardship in the wastage and expense in the process of rectification, the spirits made here not being adapted to go into consumption directly.

9306. Your spirits are not consumed by the victualling departments, are they?—The home producer of spirits has never had an opportunity of offering for any contracts for the navy, so far as I am aware.

9307. What is the reason of that; is it on account of there being no return of duty?—I cannot account for it; I think there has been a good deal done to promote the interests of the colonies, and it may have arisen from that consideration; I think the West Indian interest is a much stronger body than the distilling interest, so that they have had sufficient weight with the Government to get the preference they have enjoyed.

9308. Might not there be some difficulty in the matter, inasmuch as the duty on home spirits is paid at once?—There is no difficulty in that respect; spirits may be warehoused in England for exportation, though not for home consumption. If they were delivered to the navy from those warehouses there would be no more difficulty than in delivering rum from a bonded warehouse, and the same applies to Ireland and Scotland.

9309. Do you complain of that as a disadvantage?—It has been complained of frequently; I never individually, that I remember, complained of it.

9310. You do not make a description of spirits that would be suitable for those purposes, do you?—I have no doubt ours would be much more wholesome than rum.

9311. Will you explain to the Committee how it is that rum comes into competition, to any great extent, with corn spirits; the classes of people who habitually consume rum, it would appear, would not have a liking for other descriptions of spirits?—Though there may be a general taste for one class of spirits in any particular country, yet a number of individuals have different tastes, and the moment you give one particular kind of spirit a preference in point of duty over another it has a tendency to supplant those which have not that advantage. In Scotland the taste is for malt spirits. There was at one time a considerable taste for rum in Scotland, but I think the quality of rum has very much fallen off within the last 20 years, and that has done away with the consumption in Scotland, while the quality of malt spirits has been improved. In Ireland the taste is a good deal for malt spirits, though from the lowness of price and the superior kind of corn spirits they make there, there is a great deal of raw corn spirits consumed.

9312. Do you think, in Ireland and Scotland it is probable that rum would, under any circumstances which could be contemplated to arise from this alteration of duty, be likely to displace whiskey?—It has displaced whiskey to a considerable extent in Ireland and Scotland now.

9313. Are you of opinion it would do so?—I think it certainly would.

9314. What relief do you consider, putting it into money, has been afforded to the distillers by the opportunity of purchasing their grain in the cheapest market?—It is not very easy to estimate it; the price of grain has fallen from other causes besides the alteration of the corn laws of late years. Improved agriculture in the country has had some effect, and it is very difficult to ascertain exactly what is the effect of the repeal of the corn laws in that respect.

9315. Was not it the case that in the year 1825 the distillers estimated the cost of the restrictions on corn to be equal to 1 s.?—I have heard some statements that an individual English distiller did, but I was no party to anything of the kind at the time; I never entered into those calculations at the time.

9316. The calculations which the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Robinson, gave, were founded upon this sort of estimate, that the effect of the corn laws was to be reckoned at 1 s. and the excise restrictions at about 4 d.—

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I am not at all aware of that; I think he very much underrated it if he did; and I may perhaps be allowed to state that I think the distillers did not sufficiently advert to the great disadvantage of the excise restrictions at that time. The competition as to the sale of home-made spirits in Scotland and Ireland with colonial spirits, was very much prevented by the higher rate of duty on colonial spirits; the competition was then comparatively confined to the distillers themselves, and they were all working under the same restrictions; but now that colonial spirits are admitted at low duties, the attention of the distillers has been turned more to the effect of those restrictions, and they see that they not only prevent their making the same quantity from the materials, but that they prevent their making improvements in the quality, and suiting it to the taste of the community; in fact, the excise restrictions prevent a distiller learning his own business.

9317. You do not profess to say that it can be clearly made out what is the money value of the restrictions that you labour under?—It is very difficult in the absence of any experience to state it. If one advert for a moment to calculations which have been made in times past as to the consequences likely to result from an alteration of the laws affecting imports of different commodities, this will be apparent. Mr. Gladstone, in his pamphlet on recent commercial legislation, says, that in arguing in Parliament on the apprehensions entertained of a large importation of live animals for food in consequence of the measure passed in 1842, admitted that we might have from abroad, as a maximum, 50,000 head of cattle annually. In the year following there was only imported 1,843 head of cattle, swine, and hogs.

9318. Do you know the difference between the duty on colonial rum and foreign rum?—The duty on foreign rum is the same as that on brandy and Geneva.

9319. What amount of protection do the colonial rum producers enjoy as against the foreign rum producers?—In England, 6 s. 5 d.; in Ireland, 11 s. 7 d. a gallon; and in Scotland, 10 s. 7 d. a gallon against foreign rum, or Geneva, or brandy.

9320. What per-centage is that upon the value of the article?—Low qualities of rum have been stated to-day to be worth about 1 s. 9 d. per gallon. In Ireland that would be about 660 per cent. upon the value of the article; in Scotland 600 per cent.; and in England about 366 per cent.; that is taking the very lowest qualities of rum.

9321. The colonial producers of rum enjoy those amounts of protection respectively in the three parts of the United Kingdom. What is the per-centage of protection you enjoy as against foreign spirits, in reference to the per-centage upon the value of your spirit?—In Ireland about 600 per cent. on the lowest quality of malt spirit; in Scotland nearly the same; and in England 320 per cent.

9322. It may be said therefore with truth that the British distiller and the colonial producer of spirits enjoy pretty much about the same amount of protection?—Yes, the grain distiller does; but the malt distiller does not enjoy so much protection as the distiller from grain; I should say in Ireland and in England about 75 per cent. less.

9323. You are now giving to the Committee the per-centage of protection upon the value of the article?—Yes; assuming the value of foreign rum to be the same as the value of colonial rum, 1 s. 9 d. a gallon; I do not know the price of foreign rum. In respect of brandy the per-centage is very different, for the price is very high.

9324. Supposing the duty as between colonial rum and British spirits were equalized, what would be the effect, do you think, upon the British distilling interest?—If the duties were equalized, it would place the British distiller in a very unjust and false position. He works under excise restrictions, whatever they may be estimated at; and his duties are paid upon the newly manufactured spirits.

9325. Would it be injurious to him to any great extent?—It would displace home-made spirits by colonial to a very considerable extent, I have no doubt.

9326. That would be prejudicial to the British agricultural interest, would not it?—Yes, and I think the British agricultural interest is placed in a very false position by the present rate of duties.

9327. Do you think that the British agricultural interest has not sufficient protection

protection in reference to corn spirits?—I think that the consumption of the produce of the soil of this country is very much affected by the high rate of duties levied upon articles made from the produce of the soil. There is the malt duty estimated at six millions; the spirit duty is nearly as much; and those two duties are levied almost entirely upon the produce of the soil. I do not mean to say that the duties are paid by the agricultural interest, but the extent to which they raise the price of the article on which they are levied affects the consumption, and very much tends to keep down the price of the grain from which it is made.

9328. It lessens the demand for spirit and for beer?—Yes. In the case of the cotton manufactures, there was an outcry raised against the 600,000*l.* of duty levied upon cotton, till it was repealed, in order to enable the manufacturers of cotton goods to ship their articles here free of any duty, to compete with the foreigner in foreign markets. That principle has not been carried out as respects the manufacturers of malt spirits. If we were allowed that duty, and the restrictions were removed, we should also have a considerable foreign trade in malt spirits.

9329. You would desire that the colonial rum producer and the British distiller should be placed exactly upon an equal footing, but that equal footing you think would not be attained by an equal rate of duties?—Quite so.

9330. You do not wish the one to be protected against the other?—No, provided we are allowed to work free; but no man can dance in fetters so well as he can without them.

9331. Mr. Goulburn.] You are not at all concerned in distilling from grain only?—I have never worked from grain only.

9332. You speak merely as to the effect of the law upon the malt distillers?—Except when I have been asked any questions as to the general trade of the country and as to the grain distillers.

9333. Your observations principally apply to malt distillation?—Yes.

9334. It appears by your evidence that the malt distillers labour under great inconveniences?—They do.

9335. And that they are under disadvantage, not only compared with the colonial distiller, but also with the English distiller?—I do not say that exactly. The disadvantages of the malt distiller are as to the regulations with respect to distillation and the regulations attending the collection of the malt duty.

9336. Those are additional impediments upon him which do not prevail as respects his brother distillers in England?—They are.

9337. Does the malt distiller, notwithstanding those difficulties, manage to compete tolerably well with the English distiller?—No.

9338. In what way does his failure arise?—The quantity of malt spirit consumed in England is very small compared to grain spirits.

9339. Is there a considerable export of malt spirits from Scotland to England, and a considerable export of raw grain spirit from England to Scotland?—There is a considerable export from Scotland to England; Scotland has always been the seat of the manufacture of malt spirits, and there is a considerable quantity sent to England and Ireland.

9340. Does not the small quantity of malt spirit which you say is consumed in England depend rather upon the difference of the taste of the people in England and Scotland than upon any other circumstance?—To a certain extent it does; but I think it is also affected by the high rate of duty on malt spirit; malt spirit comes into consumption in England at a much higher rate of duty than corn spirit.

9341. Because it is a superior article?—Because there is a higher rate of duty levied upon it. If you assume that the taste in England is in favour of corn spirits, it appears, of course, that some people think corn spirits better than malt spirits.

9342. You think that the corn distiller in Scotland has no reason to complain of any inequality, as compared to the corn distiller in England?—I think he has; his spirits are sent to the English market at a considerable disadvantage; he is liable to pay the high English duty on all spirits as they are shipped. If they should be lost at sea, or lost in the shipping, he is obliged to pay duty upon them, and he also pays duty on all the wastage.

9343. Are those impediments such as to interfere with his shipping considerable quantities of corn spirit to England?—To what extent they may interfere

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terfere I cannot say; there is now a trade in shipping corn spirits from Scotland to England, and but for those things it would be considerably extended.

9344. Were it not for those impediments the Scotch distiller would have such an advantage in the English market that he could afford to send his produce here to compete with the English distiller?—It is admitted that at present there is a trade; if you give the Scotch distiller any additional facilities it would assuredly increase his trade. I do not say it is giving him advantages, but facilities; it is putting him on the same footing.

9345. Is the trade in spirits between Scotland and England an increasing trade or a decreasing trade?—I think the trade in malt spirits is an increasing trade; it is slowly increasing. The trade in grain spirits, I think, was as extensive many years ago as it is now.

9346. At all events, we may assume that the corn distiller of Scotland and the corn distiller of England meet at least on equal terms in the English market?—Not exactly on equal terms. The English distiller has local advantages, and the Scotch distiller has local advantages also; as respects the law, I think they are pretty much upon the same footing.

9347. Can you tell the Committee, in any one year, the proportion of Scotch spirit that entered into the consumption of England?—

[The Witness delivered in the following Statement:]

	Malt Spirits.	Corn Spirits.	TOTAL.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
For the year ending 5 January 1847, there was sent from Scotland to England - -	759,583	1,376,631	2,136,214
Ditto - ditto - from Ireland to ditto - -	2,511	1,415,937	1,418,448
There was made in England - - - -	- - -	5,624,868	5,624,868
	762,094	8,417,436	9,179,530
There was duty paid in England in the same year on - - - - -	762,094	8,417,436	9,179,530

9348. And of English spirit?—Near six millions.

9349. So that it appears that one-fourth of the spirit consumed in England is Scotch spirit?—Something like that.

9350. You stated that there was in former times a very great consumption of rum in Scotland?—I did not intend to say so; I said I thought that there was a larger consumption of rum, in my own recollection, than there is now.

9351. What circumstances do you think restricted, during antecedent periods, the consumption of rum?—There was a somewhat higher duty levied upon rum than on Scotch spirits then, and there was an enormous extent of illicit distillation in Scotland.

9352. Since that illicit distillation has been put down, what has tended to restrict the distillation of rum?—I think the consumption of rum in Scotland has been very much affected by the quality of the rum. I think the quality has fallen off within the last 25 years.

9353. Do you think the rate of duties had anything to do with it?—Yes; but the relative rates of duty being much the same since 1826, until the recent change, any reduction in the comparative consumption of rum from 1826 until 1847, must be attributed to other causes than the rates of duty.

9354. What was the per-centage duty upon rum and upon Scotch spirits respectively in the year 1844?—The duty on rum in Scotland in 1844 was about 530 per cent. on the 1 s. 9 d., which has been assumed as the value of common rum.

9355. What was it on Scotch spirits at that time?—About 250 per cent.

9356. What

9356. What were the relative duties paid by the two spirits?—Four shillings and fourpence upon malt spirits, and 9 s. 4 d. upon rum.

9357. Does that difference of duty account to you for the falling off in the quantity of rum in Scotland during the time that the difference has existed?—It does not account to me for the falling off in the quantity, because the same relative rates of duty have continued for a considerable time.

9358. In what year was the duty upon Scotch spirit reduced to 4 s. 4 d., and what was it previously?—In 1823 the duty was reduced from 6 s. 2 d. to 2 s. 4 ½ d.; in 1826 it was raised to 2 s. 10 d.; in 1830, to 3 s. 4 d., and in 1840, to 3 s. 8 d., which with the duty on the malt of 8 d., is equal to 4 s. 4 d. on malt spirits, at which rate it still continues.

9359. And the rum duty was not altered?—The rum duty in 1817 was 13 s. 10 d. in Scotland; and in 1824 it was reduced to 12 s. 7 d. In 1826 it was reduced to 8 s. 6 d.; in 1830 raised to 9 s., and in 1840 to 9 s. 4 d. It is from 1826 that I speak, going back 22 years.

9360. You stated that old rum, at Glasgow, sold at 15 s. a gallon, and old whiskey at 9 s. a gallon?—Yes; rum of a fine quality, and whiskey of a fine quality.

9361. To what do you attribute the difference of price between the 15 s. and the 9 s.?—For some years past there has been a great scarcity of fine rum. It is very difficult to get fine rum, compared to what it was 25 years ago.

9362. Is not that the natural consequence of its exclusion from the Scotch market for so long a period?—I do not think so. In 1823, when I know there was fine rum imported, the duty was 13 s. 11 d., being 10 s. or 11 s. above the duty on Scotch spirits at the end of 1823; so that the rum paid then a higher relative duty to Scotch spirits than it does now.

9363. Do not you think that that is some indication that rum is a better spirit than whiskey?—No, I do not think it is. When you have a very limited quantity of any article, such as fine rum, in a market, there is always a certain number of buyers who are disposed to give a kind of monopoly price. The quantity of Scotch whiskey is unfortunately almost too great for the demand; the quantity of fine rum is not so. Scotch malt whiskey could be made in very large quantities; rum is not so imported.

9364. Has there ever been a scarcity of fine rum in the English market?—I do not know. The sort of rum that is thought fine in Glasgow, is rum adapted for making punch; and for many years that kind of rum has been very scarce.

9365. You think that there was such a scarcity of rum in the English and Scotch markets, that that accounts for the high price in comparison to whiskey?—There is a great scarcity of that peculiar quality of rum which suits the purpose for which it sells, so high as 15 s. a gallon.

9366. Do you infer that that whiskey being at 9 s. a gallon, there is a scarcity of that particular whiskey which is suited for whiskey punch?—It is made at more expense than the common run of malt whiskey, and it is kept a considerable time.

9367. You do not think that the relative price between those two articles is at all an indication of the superiority of one spirit over the other?—I do not. There is a limited quantity of gin sold in Scotland, at something like 30 s. a gallon; that does not prove to me that gin is a better spirit than either rum or whiskey.

9368. You also think that whiskey is a more wholesome spirit than rum?—I have heard persons of some experience say they think so.

9369. Do you think the navy sustain an injury in not being able to use the more wholesome instead of the less wholesome spirit?—What I said was, the distillers sustain a disadvantage in consequence of not being allowed to compete.

9370. Do you think there is the same taste in the navy for British spirit that there is for rum?—I do not know anything about the navy; but I know, when English soldiers come to Scotland, they seem to get into the way of drinking Scotch whiskey very soon.

9371. What has been the consumption of rum in Scotland the last three or four years compared to home-made spirits?—One per cent. I suppose; but the returns do not show the extent to which a spirit called rum was consumed in Scotland. Grain spirit was mixed with rum, and the mixture sold as rum.

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9372. The high protecting duty against rum induced them to manufacture their whiskey into a spirit something like rum, by mixing it with a peculiar kind of rum?—They made a plain spirit of whiskey, a very silent spirit, as it is called, which was mixed with high-flavoured rum, and sold as rum.

9373. So that the effect of the duty was not only to keep the genuine spirit from the Scotch market, but to give a facility for circulating an adulterated spirit, to the prejudice of rum?—Yes, that was the case.

9374. You particularly stated that the Canadian distiller had very great advantages over the Scotch distiller; that he had no malt duty, and no excise restrictions; and that he therefore could produce spirits which could be brought into immediate competition with those of the malt distiller of Scotland?—I am led to understand that there is no excise duty in Canada, and that they are under no restrictions. It is within my own knowledge that a Canadian distiller was in this country last year making preparations for sending malt spirits to this country.

9375. Have any spirits from Canada been introduced into this country?—I am not aware that there have.

9376. Mr. Miles.] Do you think you have a sufficient protection by the 9*d.* at present?—I do not consider that it is a protection at all; it is a counter-vailing duty. We had to a certain extent a monopoly in Scotland and Ireland before. We have greatly suffered from the reduction of the differential duty in Scotland and Ireland, and I think it was reduced lower than it should have been.

9377. Do you consider that a differential duty of 9*d.* is sufficient for you as against West India rum?—I do not admit that we have a differential duty of 9*d.*; I have endeavoured to explain that in England and Ireland, to which Scotch malt spirits are sent, they pay 7*d.* a gallon more duty than colonial spirits do; so that we have no protection; we not only pay 7*d.* more duty, but we pay it on the newly-made article, and work under all the excise restrictions besides. We actually pay on malt spirits in England and Ireland 7*d.* a gallon more duty than colonial spirits: the duty on colonial spirits in Ireland is 3*s.* 5*d.* and the duty on malt spirits 4*s.* 0½*d.*; making malt spirits at a disadvantage, compared with colonial spirits, in Ireland, to the extent of 7*d.* a gallon. Your question was whether we were satisfied with a protection of 9*d.*; I think I have made out that, so far from having a protection, we are actually placed at a disadvantage by 7*d.* a gallon.

9378. You consider that the colonial distiller has actually a protection of 7*d.* a gallon against you?—More than 7*d.* a gallon; there is a saving of duty on colonial spirits in England of 3½*d.* a gallon upon the whole quantity brought into consumption, from their being allowed the duty on wastage in bond.

9379. Have you, in making this calculation, ever taken into consideration the cost of making rum in the West Indies?—I have no means of knowing anything about that.

9380. You simply take the fact of the rum in bond?—Yes.

9381. And you leave out of your consideration altogether the freights and the charges?—Quite so; just as I would leave out of the account the circumstance of a distillery being situated in London, in Norfolk, or in Scotland; the Legislature can never attend to all the minute differences of local advantages.

9382. It is not a difference of local advantage between the home country and the West Indies, is it?—I do not know what is the expense of making rum; the materials there may be very cheap for aught I know.

9383. What do you imagine would be the effect supposing we were to reduce the duties now?—The effect would be to throw out of consumption a quantity of home-made spirits and to replace it by colonial.

9384. What would the effect of that be?—To injure the distilling trade in this country to a considerable degree.

9385. Do you think any distilleries would be shut up?—I have no doubt they would, and before that is done the trade must be reduced to a very bad state.

9386. How many distilleries are there in England?—About six in England, I think.

9387. How many in Scotland?—Upwards of 100, I think.

9388. Are the distilleries in Scotland very large?—Some of them are large.

9389. Not so large as the English distilleries?—Some of them are as large.

9390. Supposing

9390. Supposing you were allowed to bond all your spirits and have a drawback of $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ a gallon, should you be satisfied to reduce the duty to $6d.$ then?—No, that does not meet the case of malt spirits at all. If you reduced the differential duty to $6d.$, it would place us at a disadvantage by $10d.$ a gallon.

9391. Would not you have the same privilege as the West Indian then?—We should be paying actually $10d.$ more duty.

9392. You do not take into calculation at all that $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ which you would derive from the permission to bond?—Yes, I do; we lose upon the decreases.

9393. Now you do, but then you would have that allowed you?—But we should have $10d.$ more duty to pay. We should be placed in one respect on the same footing as the colonial distiller, but we should be paying $10d.$ more duty. We should have no advantage in that respect.

9394. Would not you benefit by being allowed to bond your spirits, by the amount of $3\frac{1}{2}d.$?—No; because though the decrease in Scotland might be as great on spirits, the money amount would not be so great.

9395. But it would amount to the same allowance, would not it?—No; if you have a very high rate of duty in one country, and a very low rate in another, and if you have the same decrease on a given number of gallons of spirits, the amount of the duty saved per gallon would not be the same in the two cases.

9396. But the difference would be very trifling, would not it?—If the duty is half, the saving will only be half.

9397. When this reduction of duty on rum took place, did not you reduce the price of your spirits?—The market was in a very unsettled state; it was in the summer of 1847; the price of corn was very high and fluctuating, and spirits may have fallen at that time; I cannot speak to that.

9398. Was not it the fact that every one of you reduced the price $3d.$ a gallon, with the very high price of corn?—The fluctuations were so great at the time that I cannot charge my memory with the details.

9399. Has not there been a general reduction of price of $3d.$ a gallon since the duty was reduced?—No, I think not.

9400. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You have stated that the actual duty paid on malt spirits in England is equivalent to $9s. 2\frac{1}{2}d.$ a gallon?—It is.

9401. Will you state to the Committee how you arrive at that duty of $9s. 2\frac{1}{2}d.$ a gallon?—The duty on spirit in England is $7s. 10d.$, and the duty on malt used in making a gallon of malt spirits under the regulation of the malt drawback system is $1s. 4\frac{1}{2}d.$ The duty of $1s. 4\frac{1}{2}d.$ is the same, whether the malt is made from bere or from barley.

9402. You have further stated that the duty paid on spirits in Scotland is $4s. 4d.$, the direct duty charged being $3s. 8d.$; that leaves a difference of $8d.$ a gallon?—Yes.

9403. How does it arise that there is that difference between the English and Scotch cost of manufacturing spirits from malt?—Because on spirits consumed in Scotland there is a drawback on the malt used, to the extent of $8d.$ a gallon.

9404. What proportion of the spirits made in Scotland are made from malt, and what from grain?—From the reduction of the malt drawback in Scotland grain spirits have displaced malt spirits to some extent. In 1830 the consumption was 458,470 gallons of grain spirits, and 5,549,161 gallons of malt spirits; that was before the reduction of the drawback. In 1846 the consumption of grain spirits was 1,409,319 gallons, and of malt spirits 5,565,772 gallons.

9405. Upon what ground have the Scotch distillers obtained the privilege of a reduction of $8d.$ in their charge of making malt spirits over the English and Irish distillers?—The Irish and Scotch both had it at one time; the Irish distillers did not wish it continued there, and in 1842 the drawback was entirely done away with in Ireland. The reason of its being allowed in Scotland in the first instance, in 1823, was that there was an immense amount of illicit distillation in Scotland; the taste of the country there is for malt spirits, and it was thought by the Commissioners of Inquiry that illicit distillation could only be put down by allowing a drawback on the malt used in the making of malt spirits.

9406. So that in the making of malt spirits, the difference of charge is 100 per cent. in favour of the Scotch over the English distiller?—No: I stated
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before that the drawback on the malt is repaid on the shipment of the spirits from Scotland to England or Ireland.

9407. You have stated that the most serious grievance you complain of is the non-permission to put your spirits into bond, and to pay duty upon the quantity actually going into consumption?—That is a grievance, not the greatest. The worst grievance is being fettered in our operations, and prevented making improvements, more particularly now, when vegetable chemistry is making so much progress.

9408. Are you prepared to state any prominent grievance in that respect?—A general statement is the only one that we can make, that we are prevented making those experiments which are necessary in order to effect improvements.

9409. Your estimate that those obstructions amount to a loss equivalent to 6 *d.* a gallon is somewhat theoretical, is not it?—It is quite impossible to estimate it with accuracy. No one can say to what extent it goes, but I think 6 *d.* is an under-estimate. I would prefer working unfettered, and paying 6 *d.* additional duty.

9410. It is purely theoretical the 6 *d.* a gallon which you assume as the cost of those restrictions, is not it?—Of course it is theoretical; no one has had an opportunity of testing what it would be.

9411. You state that the disadvantage which you experience from not having the same privilege as the colonial distiller and importer, of paying duty only upon that which goes into consumption, is equivalent to 3 ½ *d.* a gallon: is not the English distiller subject to the disadvantage that he has to bring his spirit to the market in a state very disadvantageous to himself, in consequence of being compelled to sell it while fresh?—Spirits in England are not made for going into direct consumption; they are made for the purpose of being rectified. The English distiller I consider is entitled to some allowance in respect of duty for wastage in the rectification of his spirit.

9412. Which is equivalent to the claim you make for the Scotch and the Irish distillers of being allowed wastage in bond?—Yes.

9413. Do you imagine that it would be impracticable for the excise to concede that privilege?—I have never seen any difficulty in the matter.

9414. You believe it would open no door to fraud, and that regulations could be established by which the excise could as securely obtain the duty as at the present time?—Yes, when spirits are shipped from the warehouse in Scotland to England the difference between the Scotch and the English duty only is charged on the quantity sent away; the Scotch distiller does not pay the English duty upon the wastage in the warehouse in Scotland.

9415. Therefore you would view it as a fact which has been demonstrated, that this privilege can be conceded to English distillers without risk to the revenue?—I think it may be conceded to all the three parts of the United Kingdom without the least risk.

9416. When British spirits are exported is there any drawback allowed on them?—None whatever.

9417. They allow you no drawback for those restrictions?—None.

9418. Are you aware whether when other articles are exported there is a drawback allowed in respect of the excise regulations?—I have stated already to-day that all other articles of excise when exported have a remission of the duty upon them; but I am not aware what is done with regard to making an allowance in respect of the excise regulations.

9419. For instance, the article of soap?—There is a drawback of the duty on soap, bricks, and other excise articles on exportation; and in some cases there is a remission of the excise duty upon articles when used in the manufacture of other articles in this country; for instance, in the case of soap.

9420. Is there any protective duty on soap, as respects the colonies?—Yes.

9421. Mr. Matheson.] Can the distiller in Scotland buy his grain cheaper than in England?—I think that he can, generally speaking.

9422. Do you believe that that has any very material effect in producing the fact that there are so many more distilleries in Scotland than in England?—No; I think the fact of there being so many more distillers in Scotland than in England may be accounted for thus: when the new law came into force in 1823 there was a great deal of illicit distillation in Scotland; the distiller up to

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that time was prevented making a quality of spirits which was suited to the taste of the country; that taste was supplied by the illicit distillers, who worked upon a small scale, and it was thought that fine malt spirits could only be made on a small scale, which led to the establishment of an immense number of small works in Scotland. In England, where spirits had to be rectified, it had been found that they could be equally well made for that purpose in large distilleries, and it is undoubted that on a large scale they can be made cheaper than on a small scale.

9423. Have you any idea what quantity of barley is exported from Scotland to England?—I cannot state.

9424. *Chairman.*] Have you told the Committee what the relative proportion of malt spirits and raw spirits consumed in Scotland is?—I gave the quantities in two years; in 1830, before the drawback was reduced, and in 1846, the last year for which I have any returns. The quantity of raw corn spirit in Scotland is gradually increasing, and so far supplanting malt spirits; and the revenue loses to the extent of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* a gallon on that quantity.

9425. I have before me a statement of the duties upon the consumption of wines; do you happen to know the price in bond of any of those wines?—No.

9426. You were asked what the protective duty on British spirits was, as compared to foreign spirits; you have shown that there was a very high protective duty against foreign rum and foreign gin. I will take the case of brandy: I believe the price in bond is about 5 *s.* 6 *d.* and the duty 15 *s.* Supposing the price to be only 5 *s.*, the duty would be 300 per cent. *ad valorem*?—Yes.

9427. While you stated that the duty *ad valorem* upon British malt spirits in England was 520 per cent.?—Yes; you may arrive at the *ad valorem* duty on wine in this way: if the selling price in this country is 33 *s.* a dozen, the duty being 11 *s.*, the duty is 50 per cent.

9428. The duty on foreign wine is 50 per cent., and upon British malt spirits 525 per cent.?—Yes.

Mr. George Henry Loxdale, called in; and Examined.

9429. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Demerara planter, and a Liverpool West India merchant?—A Demerara merchant. I have had the charge of absentee proprietors' estates. Mr. G. H. Loxdale.

9430. Have you an estate of your own?—I am joint proprietor of a small coffee estate, which is now being abandoned.

9431. Why is the coffee plantation to be abandoned?—Because we find that we lose money by it every year.

9432. How long have you been losing money by the coffee plantation?—Ever since we have had it; since 1842.

9433. Do you understand that it was a profitable concern previously to 1842?—No; we had advanced a large sum of money upon it, myself and partners, and it was brought to an execution sale, and in the hope that things would improve, we bought it.

9434. When did you advance those large sums of money upon it?—From 1837 to about 1840.

9435. Then up to 1837 it was a profitable concern, or you would not have advanced money upon it?—It was.

9436. What circumstances have interposed to make that which was a good concern in 1837, a losing one subsequently to that period?—I fancy there was an alteration in the duties, foreign coffee coming by the Cape, and the increased expense of labour after 1838.

9437. Do you mean foreign coffee coming by the Cape, or Ceylon coffee?—Both; the reduction in the price in this market has been so great that it cannot now be grown in British Guiana to a profit.

9438. Was it at any period grown at great profit in British Guiana?—Yes; in 1830, for this very estate I understand 32,000 *l.* was offered; in 1842 we bought it for about 1,500 *l.*

9439. Was there any reduction of the duty on coffee between 1830 and 1842?—Yes, there must have been a considerable reduction.

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9440. What was that reduction?—I do not know what it was.

9441. The duties were reduced in the spring of 1842; there was no reduction of duty between 1830 and the spring of 1842, was there?—I do not remember when the reduction took place.

9442. Do you know what quantity of Brazil coffee went round by the Cape, and paid the lower duty?—I do not.

9443. It is Brazil coffee and Ceylon coffee together that have beaten you out of the market, is it?—That and the high rate of wages.

9444. At what price could you afford to grow coffee in Demerara with the present rate of wages?—I could not say; the estates are so far gone out of cultivation, that to restore them would cost a fortune.

9445. They are past recovery?—Generally they are.

9446. Can you give the Committee any account of the sugar estate for which you are agent?—Upon one of the estates which came into the possession of the proprietor in 1835, the cost of the production of sugar in 1836, 1837, and 1844, I can state: in 1836 it was 12 s. 6 d. a cwt.; in 1837 it was 6 s., and in 1844 it was 25 s. 5 d.

9447. 1836 and 1837 were years of apprenticeship, 1844 was a period of free labour?—Yes.

9448. What was the cost of production in each of the intermediate years; that is to say, in the year 1835 and the year 1838, and in the years between 1838 and the present time?—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1838, 178 hogsheads	-	-	19 2	1841, 141 hogsheads	-	1 7	-
1839, 100 - ditto	-	-	1 14 7	1842 - - -	-	-	-
				1843, 90 hogsheads	-	-	-
1840, 110 - ditto	-	-	1 1 7	1844, 124 - ditto	-	1 5 5	

9449. Are you able to state what was the amount of wages paid to the negroes in any of those years?—The labour varied from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s.

9450. Was 2 s. the highest rate of wages?—For people employed about agricultural labour. For task-work, digging trenches, and work of that kind, 4 s. was paid.

9451. There is a great deal of digging trenches in British Guiana, is not there?—Yes.

9452. And also a great deal of digging drains and canals?—Yes.

9453. Is the task-work for all those works 4 s.?—For all new trenches, commencing from the beginning of them.

9454. From trenches to drains and canals?—Yes, if they are new ones begun. We get those that have been dug before, dug out a second time at something less.

9455. Is it on account of the great paucity of labourers in the country that the price of labour has risen so high?—Yes.

9456. When you speak of day-labour, do you mean a full day of 12 hours, or do you mean a day of between 5½ and six hours?—From 5½ to six hours.

9457. When you speak of those being the wages of field labourers, do those same labourers get any cottages?—Yes; cottages and provision grounds, and medical attendance besides.

9458. Is it your opinion that any laws could be passed obliging the labourers to enter into contracts with their masters in any way?—I believe that a law has been passed to oblige them to work for a month; if they begin to work on the first of the month, that they shall remain and work that month; but the paucity of labour in the colony is so great that the managers cannot carry that generally into effect.

9459. Have those contracts been of any avail to the colony?—I am not aware that they have yet. The law has passed since I left it.

9460. Do you think, if you were freed from all restrictions, you could provide yourselves with labour at such a cost as to enable you to go on with the cultivation of the colony?—In competition with slave-labour sugar, I think it very doubtful.

9461. I need scarcely ask you if the soil is fertile in Demerara?—Very fertile. I represented another estate for two years; my partner has represented it for several years; in his absence I represented it; it is one of the most productive estates in the colony.

9462. What

9462. What quantity of sugar per acre does it produce?—Two hogsheads on the average. Mr. G. H. Loxdale.

9463. I believe not only the soil but the climate of Demerara is as well adapted for the cultivation of the cane as that of any country in the world?—Quite so. 15 March 1848.

9464. The canals, which serve the purpose at once of drains and a mode of conveyance for produce, afford great facilities for getting away your produce, do not they?—I think the water-carriage of the canes to the mill and produce for shipment, gives a great advantage over the mode in the islands.

9465. Your freights to England are as low on the average as sugar freights from any part of the world, are not they?—I should fancy lower.

9466. Lower than to Brazil, to Cuba, or Porto Rico, or Santa Cruz?—I should think so, from all the statistical accounts, and from all the quotations I have seen.

9467. What is the average freight which you have paid from Demerara to England?—Fifty shillings a ton for sugar.

9468. What is the highest freight you have paid in the last year for sugar?—I think at one period it may have been as high as 3 s. 6 d. a cwt., but that was for a very short period; the average of the year I should say was not above 50 s. a ton.

9469. If it was 3 l. 10 s. at one time, to average 50 s. you must have got it very low at other times; how long do you think it was so high?—Taking the rates for rum and sugar together, I should think they would not generally have been 3 d. per cwt. more than that; I should think 2 s. 9 d. would cover the average; it was so short a time that the freights ruled high.

9470. For what period were the freights as high as 70 s. a ton from Demerara?—It must have been about May.

9471. During the month of May only?—It may have been May and June.

9472. How many cargoes of sugar did you send home at 3 l. 10 s.?—We had no whole cargoes of sugar; there were very few vessels loaded at that rate.

9473. Is not May the period of your crop?—No, not the principal; the principal period is from October to December.

9474. And then freights were low?—Yes; freights had got down to 2 s. 6 d., or 50 s. per ton.

9475. May we assume the present price of Demerara sugar to be 24 s. a cwt.?—The price is about 23 s. just now.

9476. Demerara sugar is not of equal quality with Jamaica, or Barbadoes, or Antigua sugar, is it?—Not generally.

9477. Is the sugar that you produce upon the estates you represented above the average of Demerara sugar?—Yes, I think it is.

9478. You have told the Committee that the freight is 2 s. 6 d.; what are the other charges?—The total charges are about 6 s., including 2 s. 6 d. freight.

9479. That leaves you 17 s. for the cost of production?—Yes.

9480. Was the cost of production any lower in 1847 than in 1843?—Last year it may have been a little less; the cultivation was in better order.

9481. What was it in 1846?—I cannot say what the cost was in 1846.

9482. Was there anything peculiar in the season of 1843?—No.

9483. Have you any statement of the produce of different years?—Yes; in 1844 the crop was 124 hogsheads; the expenses were 19,000 dollars. That was the year the cost was 25 s. 5 d.

9484. What was it in 1841?—It was 114 hogsheads; the expense of making them was 15,000 dollars. I require to deduct the price of the rum from that, to give the price of the sugar.

9485. Mr. Wilson.] Is the 25 s. 5 d. without the rum being deducted?—No, that is after the rum is deducted. In 1836 the crop was 240 hogsheads, and the expenses were 17,760 dollars; the cost of production was 12 s. 6 d.

9486. Chairman.] What was the price of sugar in 1836?—The Gazette price in 1836 was 46 s. 10 d.

9487. That is exclusive of the duty?—Yes; the crop of 1837 was about 240 hogsheads; the expense was 6 s. a cwt.

9488. What was the gross cost?—15,444 dollars.

9489. What was the price of sugar?—Thirty-four shillings in 1837, and 46 s. 10 d. in 1836.

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9490. What is the latest year that you have an account of?—1844 is the latest year I have.
9491. Have you carried out all the improvements that a sugar plantation admits of?—I believe so.
9492. In the way of machinery and vacuum pans?—Not vacuum pans.
9493. Ploughs?—We cannot use the plough; I have tried it, but did not succeed.
9494. That is because the estates, lying below the level of the sea, are intersected with large open drains, and the cattle fall into the drains if you attempt to plough?—They fall into the drains and break them up; the beds are rounded and made so narrow that you cannot use the plough with any effect.
9495. Are cattle scarce and dear in Demerara?—No; we have a large import of cattle from the Oronoko.
9496. You have tried the experiment of importing immigrants, have not you?—My partners sent their vessels round; they sent one to Sierra Leone, but they did not succeed in getting any people.
9497. How came they to fail in getting Africans?—There were none to be had.
9498. Mr. Jackson has stated that there are any number to be obtained?—I believe if a proper system were adopted, any number might be obtained; but you are confined to the one place, Sierra Leone, and there is a great demand for labour there.
9499. In what year was that?—I think it must have been either in 1840 or 1842.
9500. Those were liberated Africans you were trying to get?—Yes.
9501. Have you also tried the Kroo coast?—No; at that time we were not at liberty to go to the Kroo coast, nor do I think we are allowed to go there now.
9502. Are there not some ships gone there now?—I think there are two ports opened, but it is confined to that particular part. I believe the restrictions are still very great, and that there will be great difficulty in getting Africans unless the creeks and rivers are opened, so as to open a communication with the interior.
9503. You are restricted to the Kroo coast; you are obliged to have a Government officer on board, who is maintained at the expense of the ship, and the ship is guaranteed a certain sum of money whether she gets the Kroomen or not?—Yes.
9504. That is either to be a certain sum of money as the minimum, or else it is to be 7*l.* a head; is not that the arrangement?—Yes; so that a vessel going there is almost independent, and consequently there would not be that exertion made on the coast to open the emigration, that there would if the success of the voyage entirely depended upon it.
9505. The merchant has nothing to do with it, has he?—The vessel is freighted by Government to call at certain places on the coast of Africa, and to remain a certain time; the owners are guaranteed a minimum sum of 750*l.* whether they succeed in procuring passengers or not. The passage-money by this vessel would, if they succeeded in getting a full complement, amount to 1,630*l.*; the owner's interest is covered by the guarantee. The entire sum to be paid in either case is from the colonial treasury.
9506. Have not you succeeded in obtaining immigrants from Madeira?—Yes.
9507. Will you tell the Committee at what expense you procured them, and by what means you procured them?—I think we obtained a number equivalent to 233 adults.
9508. Reckoning two children to an adult?—Yes; the young children I do not count at all; there were 50 in the vessel that were not counted.
9509. You had to pay a considerable export duty, had you not?—Yes; we had to pay so many dollars a head to the shipping agent. The government of Madeira have done everything in their power to prevent emigration from the island. The only way in which you could obtain people is to employ an agent there, and give him so much for getting the people out without coming in contact with the government.
9510. The anxiety of the people to emigrate is such that it has been necessary to keep a steamer cruising round the island to prevent it, has not it?—The people

people are very desirous to emigrate, and the government are using every measure in their power to prevent them. Mr. G. H. Loxdale,

9511. But notwithstanding those attempts on the part of the government, the people are so anxious to emigrate that they have emigrated in great numbers?—They have. 15 March 1848.

9512. And you succeeded in getting away 275?—Two hundred and thirty-three adults; there were nearly 400 people altogether.

9513. Was your ship liable to confiscation if she had been taken?—The agent at Madeira wrote to us stating that he was in great alarm lest the vessel should be seized; that the Portuguese steamer was getting ready to go out and bring her in; that it would have been a very serious matter, but that two vessels with Portuguese soldiers came off the island, and she went to tow them in.

9514. If your vessel had been captured she was liable by the laws of the island to confiscation, was not she?—I presume so, for having taken the people off contrary to the law of the island.

9515. Was not the law afterwards altered, and eight dollars a head charged as the export duty?—Eight dollars a head may have been the pass money that those people had to pay, but we had to pay a great deal more than that.

9516. The emigrants themselves had to pay eight dollars a head for a permit to leave the island?—I do not know what the cost of the permit is; the agent who furnished the immigrants charged so much a head for them, as they were sent off; if shipped in port, so much: if shipped outside, so much more.

9517. What was the whole amount of the cost of those people to you?—£.780.

9518. Did that include the transit from Madeira to Demerara?—No; that was the money paid to the agent.

9519. What might be the cost of conveyance to be added to that amount?—I do not recollect what the cost of the provisions was; I can furnish the accounts as I had them, but to the best of my recollection the cost at Madeira and the cost of provisions was about 1,000 l.

9520. Divided between 233 adults?—I think that was the number, to the best of my recollection; after paying this sum at Madeira and paying the cost of the provisions, there was from 483 l. to 500 l. left as profit.

9521. You only took them out as a merchant, not for your own advantage?—The people when they arrived at Demerara were at liberty to go where they liked.

9522. So that yours was a mere venture as a packet ship?—Yes, to promote an immigration which I knew to be so desirable to the colony.

9523. You landed those immigrants free to enlist in what service they pleased?—Yes.

9524. When they got to Demerara how did they employ themselves?—The whole were immediately employed.

9525. At satisfactory wages?—Quite so; they were all taken from alongside the vessel.

9526. There was such a demand for them?—Yes.

9527. Did they go upon the sugar plantations?—I believe the whole of them.

9528. Do you know how they answered to those who employed them?—I do not, but I have no doubt they answered very well; there was a great desire to get them out of the vessel.

9529. In consequence of this importation, and their success in the colony, did they write to their friends in Madeira recommending others to come out to them?—I am not aware.

9530. You cannot give the Committee any instances, upon the estates of which you are the agent, of the advantageous effects which this immigration had?—Not upon those estates that the Madeira people went to, because I was not there. I had Coolies myself employed, and captured Africans.

9531. Will you tell the Committee what was the practical effect upon the estates which you managed of the importation of those captured Africans, in the increase of the crop and the profit of the estates?—Upon the estate I alluded to in the first instance, the crop fell from 240 hogsheads to 100.

9532. In what year was that?—1836. In the year 1836 it was 240 hogsheads; in 1839 it fell to 100 hogsheads; in 1841 it was 114; in 1844 it was 124. I do not know what it has made since. Upon another estate I have the charge of, the crop was increased from 140 to 300 hogsheads.

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9533. Will you state the quantity of the produce upon the two estates in each year, from your first connexion with them down to the present time?—I cannot.

9534. This importation of Africans doubled the crop, did not it?—There were not a sufficient number; the estate must have gone out of cultivation if it had not been for the immigrants we got.

9535. Of what year are you now speaking?—We could not have continued it from the year 1840 unless we had obtained immigrants; it would have continued to go back. Unless we had got immigrants in 1842, we should not have been able to have continued the cultivation; as it is, it has been at a great cost.

9536. You did get the immigrants, and that so increased your produce that you made a very good profit of the estate, did not you, till the change of the law in 1846?—We have never been able to bring this estate up to a profit since the emancipation, except in the years 1840 and 1841; that was not from the quantity of produce, but from the high prices that ruled.

9537. What was the profit in 1841?—£.300, not taking interest into account; there was a loss in 1844, with an increased crop, of 1,000*l*.

9538. What was it in 1845?—I cannot state.

9539. What was it in 1846?—I cannot state.

9540. Have you made any estimate for 1847?—Not yet.

9541. Then upon your showing it would appear that if you were endowed with a power to import Africans, you could make a profit of the estate?—If we could get the estate into full cultivation again as it was previously to 1838, we should get a profit.

9542. At what price of the produce could you get a profit, supposing you were able to bring up your produce by the importation of Africans to what it was previous to 1838?—I should think 40*s*. to 42*s*. the long price.

9543. You think if you could get 26*s*. or 28*s*., short price, for your sugar, you would be able to obtain a profit from the cultivation of your estate, supposing you were allowed to obtain free labourers in Africa?—Yes; if we could bring the estates into proper cultivation by getting immigrants, we could do so.

9544. What grounds have you for expecting that if the restrictions were taken off, you could obtain those Africans as free labourers?—I do not see that there would be any greater difficulty in getting free Africans from parts of the coast than there is in getting Madeira people, provided that a sufficient sum were allowed to agents to induce them to live out there among the people, to explain to them the advantage they would have by emigrating. The people from Madeira, after they got acquainted with the colony, were so desirous to emigrate that there was no preventing them. All the captured Africans I have had in my employ have been so well satisfied with the colony that nothing will induce them to go back to Africa. The captured Africans remain much more settled upon the estates than the Kroomen; the Kroomen travel without their wives; they are not of so settled a character as the captured African.

9545. The Kroomen will not take their wives with them?—No, I believe they will not take them to Sierra Leone.

9546. And not taking their women with them, they always want to get back again?—They are more likely to go back; the captured Africans marry among the people of the estates.

9547. They never wish to go back again?—No.

9548. Do the Kroomen ever marry when they get into the colony?—I do not think they do; I never heard of one of them marrying.

9549. Have not the expenses of the colony grown up to an immense amount?—Yes; the annual estimate for the services of the colony has been increasing very materially annually.

9550. Can you state what those expenses are?—In 1830 they were 84,000*l*.; in 1831, 71,000*l*. In those two years the cost of public buildings was in addition to the usual estimate; and although the cost appears on the estimate, the money was drawn from the funds here. In 1832 the amount was 56,000*l*.; in 1833, 58,000*l*.; and in 1847, 225,000*l*.

9551. Do you know how this expenditure is made up; part of it is for immigration, is not it?—A portion of it, 31,500*l*.

9552. The clerical expenses are represented to be 14,240 l. a year?—The expenses of the church in 1847 were 24,000 l., taken from the estimate of the year.

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9553. The population of British Guiana is 102,000, is not it?—I think it has increased now; I believe the population is considered to be 120,000.

9554. Were the declared exports to Great Britain from British Guiana 376,238 l.?—I have not got the declared value.

9555. Have you a paper showing the expenses of the colony in successive years?—Yes.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

ESTIMATES for the PUBLIC SERVICE of *British Guiana*, from 1830 to 1847.

	£.		£.
* 1830 - - - -	84,782	1839 - - - -	131,951
1831 - - - -	71,165	1840 - - - -	146,024
1832 - - - -	56,587	1841 - - - -	238,720
1833 - - - -	58,070	1842 - - - -	229,808
1834 - - - -	62,704	1843 - - - -	188,906
1835 - - - -	71,450	1844 - - - -	149,880
1836 - - - -	81,734	1845 - - - -	177,317
1837 - - - -	104,847	1846 - - - -	169,071
1838 - - - -	135,156	1847 - - - -	225,829

* In these years the cost of the new public buildings are included.

9556. I observe that in the year 1841 the charge was 238,720 l., and in the year 1842, 222,808 l.; can you account for that excess of expenditure in those two years?—I fancy the estimates were much swollen in consequence of building new churches and new establishments to meet the altered position of society there.

9557. Do you imagine it would be possible to maintain this expenditure in the colony at the present price of produce?—It is impossible the colony can support the present rate of expenditure.

9558. Is the governor paid out of the revenues of the colony?—Yes, entirely.

9559. By a vote?—Yes, on the Civil List.

9560. Do you know the salary of the governor?—£. 5,600, including the hire of a house.

9561. Has he a secretary?—Yes.

9562. Do you know what the secretary is paid?—His private secretary is paid out of the extraordinaries on the Civil List, 300 l. a year.

9563. Have you a statement of the Civil List charges?—I have, contained in an ordinance of 1841, "for granting to Her Majesty the Queen a fixed revenue for the support of the civil government of British Guiana for a period of seven years." (*The Witness delivered in the same.*)

Vide Append .

9564. It appears that the governor (the colony providing his Excellency with a residence) receives 5,000 l. a year; the chief justice, 2,500 l. a year; the two puisne judges, 3,000 l. a year; the secretary to the chief justice, 630 l.; the government secretary, 800 l. a year; the secretary to the Court of Policy, 700 l. a year; making together 1,500 l. a year?—The previous governor, Sir Carmichael Smith, had 3,000 l. a year.

9565. Why was the salary raised?—Inducements were held out by the Government of this country that they would carry out the views of the colonists, so as to enable them to meet the change from slavery to freedom.

9566. There are a great many other offices there; are they all paid out of the colony revenues?—Yes; the entire expense of the colony, except the bishop, stipendiary magistrates, and the collector of customs, are paid out of the revenue of the colony.

9567. Are they paid by this country?—I think the bishop is paid by the two societies; he is not paid out of the colonial revenue.

9568. There are 10 stipendiary magistrates, 700 l. a year each; are those stipendiary magistrates natives or residents at Demerara, or are they all sent out from the Colonial Office here?—They are mostly sent out from the Colonial Office

Mr. G. H. Loxdale. Office here. Of that sum of 700*l.*, 450*l.* is paid by the Government of this country.

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9569. And the other 250*l.* by the colony?—Yes.

9570. Is not it generally felt in the colony now that they would be better without than with those stipendiary magistrates?—I am not aware that that is the fact. I think that the colonists would prefer having stipendiary magistrates to taking the duties themselves, generally speaking.

9571. Do you think stipendiary magistrates could not be found at less than 700*l.* a year?—There are several now at 400*l.* or 450*l.* a year.

9572. What are the retiring pensions in the list?—They were patent offices, that were given up on consideration of those allowances.

9573. Is it your opinion that if matters proceed as they are going on now the colony will vote the supplies?—I do not think they will; I would not if I were now in court.

9574. Mr. *Wilson*.] You said the paucity of labourers is so great, that you believe that an ordinance has been sent out from this country giving greater power to enforce contracts; that if monthly contracts were made, the labourers were compelled to work a month, or they were not entitled to receive any portion of their wages?—I did not say that an ordinance had gone out from this country. There was an ordinance passed in the Court of Policy, in the colony, making it a law that working at the commencement of the month should be considered as a month's hiring.

9575. You said that the planters had not been able to enforce that law in consequence of the great paucity of labour?—So I understand.

9576. Then it is in consequence of competition among the planters themselves for labour that the planters are precluded from enforcing the law which they now have for that purpose?—Yes, there is great competition for labour there.

9577. Is not it the case that the greatest inconvenience the planters feel is this excessive competition between themselves for the labour of the colony, overbidding each other?—I do not think they overbid each other; there is a very uniform rate of wages throughout the colony.

9578. Is not it a fact that great inducements are held out to the workpeople by different planters to leave existing employers, and to come to new employers?—I think the best answer I can give to that is, that people will work where they are least looked after, and can get the easiest day's work. If they find they have to do a good day's work, they change about to another place to see if they can find one where they are not so well looked after.

9579. Is it found to be a practical inconvenience among the planters that different planters are constantly trying to get each others' labourers from their neighbours?—I cannot state that that is the case. I have known it sometimes to occur, but not to a great extent of late.

9580. What would be the effect of a rise of price in the demand for labour; would it cause a greatly increased effort to produce more?—I think the planters made every effort to increase their production, when the prices paid them for producing.

9581. Are not you aware there has been a considerable reduction in wages in Guiana within the last three months?—I am not aware that it has taken place. I know there has been an attempt made to reduce the rates.

9582. You are not aware that it has been successful?—I am not aware; I believe it has not. I have not heard of its perfectly succeeding, even in one case.

9583. You have not read carefully the journals which have been received lately, have you?—Yes, I have received letters from my own correspondents by the last packet, stating that the people are still holding out. I have very general information from the colony, and I do not believe that the reduced wages have been submitted to by any of the creole population.

9584. Supposing there was a rise in the price of sugar so as to increase your production to the original quantity of 240 hogsheads, you would employ a great many more labourers than you do at present, would not you?—If the price of sugar would pay for the production, we should employ as many people as we could get.

9585. In order to raise the quantity you used to do, you would require to employ a great many more, would not you?—No; I think the present number, with continuous labour, would produce pretty nearly that amount.

9586. You

9586. You expect to obtain continuous labour by increasing the number of labourers?—Yes. Mr. G. H. Lordale.

9587. Thereby increasing competition for employment?—Yes.

9588. What would be the effect on the production of the colony if the present number of labourers were induced by any system to work continuously?—It would be very considerably increased; the colony is capable of producing a very large quantity indeed.

9589. Can you give the Committee any general estimate as to the probable increase in the production of sugar, provided the present population in the colony were induced to work continuously; do you think it would be doubled?—I think it might be doubled.

9590. Your own property produced 240 hogsheads at one time; now it has been as low as 100 and 114?—Yes.

9591. With continuous labour, with the present amount of labourers, you think you could produce again 240 hogsheads?—Yes; I have no doubt 240 could be produced.

9592. Therefore it would not be an unfair estimate to say that the produce of the colony might be doubled if you had the power of enforcing continuous labour?—I should not think it would be doubled. During the time of slavery there was a very large production of course. When you had compulsory labour, the whole quantity produced in the colony was about 65,000 hogsheads, now it is 48,000: the year before last it was only 26,000 hogsheads.

9593. Have you more land now in cultivation than you had?—No; we have a less surface in cultivation now.

9594. Would the production be half more, do you think?—I should think so.

9595. The only means by which you could obtain this continuous labour, you think, would be by an increase of the population, so as to induce competition among the labourers?—That appears to me the natural source; the wages would then be regulated by the market price of the article manufactured.

9596. Do you happen to know about the present proportion of labour in Guiana?—I do not.

9597. What increase do you think would be sufficient to effect the object you have in view?—I should think if 100,000 Africans were introduced we should be able to go on comfortably.

9598. Are there 100,000 labourers in the colony now?—Not field labourers.

9599. Are there 50,000?—I doubt if there are.

9600. You think if you had 150,000 field labourers, that would be enough?—If we had 100,000 people introduced, I think the moral effect of the introduction of them would be to bring wages to a marketable rate, so that they would be regulated by the principles of supply and demand; by the price of the raw material which they made.

9601. At what rate per annum do you think it would be convenient to have the 100,000 labourers imported?—I should have them as quickly as possible.

9602. As rapidly as you could get them?—Yes.

9603. Are you now aware of the proportion existing between the black and white population of Guiana?—The white population is very small compared with the black.

9604. Would you apprehend no political or social danger from the introduction of 100,000 labourers into a colony with so small a proportion of white people?—I would not. The captured Africans that I have seen are so well satisfied with their location, and the comforts they enjoy, that they would not be likely to give any trouble.

9605. They are very docile?—Quite so.

9606. Would you apprehend any danger from the introduction of a large body of Kroomen?—No. I think that the introduction of Kroomen alone would not produce, by any means, so good an effect as the Africans, in consequence of their going alone, while the others go in families.

9607. With the captured Africans had you many families?—There was a pretty good number; we have had one or two lots where the proportions were nearly equal.

9608. Supposing you have now 50,000 field labourers and you had 100,000 added to them, the first effect of that would be to make the labour of the present

Mr. G. H. Loxdale. 50,000 one-half more effective than it is at the present moment?—I think it would.

15 March 1848. 9609. The estate, instead of yielding 100 hogsheads, would yield 150 if the present amount of labour were rendered effective?—Yes.

9610. The effect of the introduction of 100,000 labourers more would be to increase the production of the colony in the first instance one-half from the present labourers, and double that quantity from the introduction of the new labourers. Suppose an estate at present yields 100 hogsheads, the introduction of the 100,000 labourers would make the present labour upon the estate equal to 150; supposing the estate had a portion of the new importation of labourers equal to double the number of labourers it at present has, it would make the produce of that estate 480 hogsheads?—I do not know that it would be to the full extent, because I do not think that the people who were on the estates would altogether remain upon the estates; there is a variety of employment in British Guiana; perhaps out of the 100,000 people that came only 50,000 might go upon the sugar estates; others might go to cut timber; there is some very valuable timber in the colony.

9611. Unless you had this increase to the field labour upon the estates you would not effect your object?—I think out of the 100,000 we should not get anything like 100,000 to work.

9612. You would get 50,000, probably?—Yes.

9613. Therefore you would produce with those additional labourers 300 hogsheads, probably?—Yes.

9614. The power of production in Guiana is very extensive, is not it; you have no limit, if you had a sufficient amount of labour and capital, to your power of production?—No.

9615. Would you say that, with a sufficient amount of labourers, in the course of a few years British Guiana would produce 10 times the quantity it does at present?—I think the colony, if it were put fully into cultivation, would produce 400,000 tons of sugar.

9616. Supposing those 100,000 labourers were introduced, what effect would that have where you have such an extended power of cultivation; would not you be afraid that there would be a corresponding demand, and that your demand for labour would always contrast with the supply, where you had such an extended field before you?—It would take a very long time before new buildings could be planted. I think people would hesitate more than they did in the time of slavery to put an estate into sugar cultivation.

9617. That would depend entirely upon whether sugar estates paid or not?—Yes.

9618. If they did pay under a free system, they would be more likely to extend it than they did under a slavery system, inasmuch as there would be greater confidence in the continuance of that system?—Yes.

9619. There was always great fear during slavery, was not there, lest slavery should be put an end to; but if you have the colony put upon a sound footing, so that there is no apprehension of any change, then people would be much more apt to go into an extended cultivation than they were during the time of slavery?—I think the cultivation would extend as long as it left a remunerative profit.

9620. You probably think it would be no immoderate calculation, if the 100,000 labourers were introduced, which you think are necessary to give perfect efficiency to the present amount of labour, to say that the produce would be increased from the proportion of 100 hogsheads to 300 hogsheads?—I will not say so much as that; the crop at present, supposing there to be 30,000 labourers, is 48,000 hogsheads; supposing we had 100,000 more, and we had 50,000 working people out of that number, there would be 62,000 hogsheads to add to the 48,000.

9621. You are leaving out of that calculation the largest element in the whole case; viz., the increased production you expect from continuous labour?—It might bring it to 72,000 hogsheads, which, with the present proportion of 62,000, would be 134,000.

9622. Unless it did that, it would not answer all the objects you anticipate?—The objects I anticipate are to put such a number of labourers into the colony as would make wages marketable as compared with the commodity they produce.

9623. In fact, to create sufficient competition for such labour as there is in this country, so that the employers shall not be at the mercy of the employed?
—Yes.

9624. The consequence of that would be to increase the produce of sugar from the present amount of labourers one-half, and from the additional imported labourers, to double that quantity; therefore you arrive at the 130,000 hogsheads, instead of the 48,000, by a perfectly legitimate and fair calculation?

—Yes, I think that is perfectly within reach; the capabilities of the soil there are so great that I believe it is able to compete with any part of the world.

9625. Supposing that were done, are you aware of any other British possession that we have that is similarly situated, where a similar increased production might be obtained by the same means being used?—I am not aware of the capabilities of Trinidad, but I believe they are very great.

9626. You have understood that Trinidad is one of the finest sugar soils in the world?—It is a very fine sugar soil.

9627. It is a very large island?—It is.

9628. And has a very thin population at the present moment?—Yes. They have one great difficulty in Trinidad which we have not,—the carriage of the canes by cattle; they require a great deal of manual labour; ours being by water, is much easier.

9629. Have you heard much complaint of the want of labourers extending to Trinidad and to the different colonies in the West Indies?—Yes.

9630. Are you aware at present what the quantity of sugar produced by our whole colonies is?—Two hundred and eighty thousand tons.

9631. Are you aware what the largest consumption we have had in this country has been?—I believe it is pretty nearly the same thing.

9632. Supposing we had an increase in the British colonies such as you have anticipated from the increased quantity of labour in Guiana, should not we have a very large surplus of colonial sugar in this country?—I do not know; the consumption of sugar is increasing very greatly, and would increase with the increased population of this country.

9633. Have you any reason for believing that it would increase more rapidly than the population?—It is converted into so many purposes now, that I should think the consumption would increase.

9634. Are you aware that the consumption has shown a great disposition to increase or decrease in proportion to the price in particular years?—If the price rose to any extreme rate it must have an effect upon the consumption, but a moderate or slight advance or decline in the price does not affect the consumption very materially.

9635. What should you call a moderate advance or decline; 3 s. a cwt.?—I should call that a considerable advance, inasmuch as that would be to the grower two guineas a hogshead.

9636. Is 3 s. such an advance as you think would affect the consumption?—Seeing that that would not be much more than a farthing a pound, I do not think it would affect the consumption.

9637. What do you think the cause of the large consumption of this last year has been?—It is very difficult for me, as a colonist, to answer as to this country, but I have no doubt that the consumption of an article like sugar in anything like times of prosperity would increase greatly by the increase of the money that the people have to spend.

9638. Are you aware that this year has not been a year of prosperity in this country?—Till very nearly the end of it there was full employment upon the railroads.

9639. Are not you aware that there has only been half employment in the manufacturing districts through the year?—I am not clear that there has not been more than half; I believe there has.

9640. You are not aware that the labouring classes in the agricultural districts were exceedingly badly off last year in consequence of the failure of the potato crop?—I do not know that they were very badly off; I believe that they were very much reduced in point of wages.

9641. You agree with the generally received opinion in this country that, with an article like sugar, which is of such great use, and applicable to so many purposes, the consumption is very much determined by the price?

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—I think the price of sugar has now come to so low a rate that, taking the consumption to be 23 lbs. a head, it amounts to 8 s. a year. I do not think the rise of a farthing or a halfpenny or a penny upon such an amount would affect the consumption.

9642. You are aware that that is 8 s. a head, including children and all classes of society?—Yes.

9643. What would be the effect upon the consumption of sugar if it were to rise 10 s. a cwt.?—People would pay 5 d. or 6 d. a pound instead of 4 d.; that would be 1 s. a month. I cannot think that that would affect the consumption to any extent.

9644. Are you aware what the increased consumption was this last year?—I have seen it, but I do not recollect it at the moment.

9645. Are not you aware that it was 30,000 tons?—I know it has been very large.

9646. What has been the fall of the price this last year?—I cannot say.

9647. You are not aware that it has been about 10 s.?—I should think it has been quite as much as that, but it is to be seen in a moment what the fall has been.

9648. Is there any reason, taking this last year, why you should expect an increase of consumption to the extent of 30,000 tons, other than by a reduction of the price?—I think every year the consumption of sugar has been increasing, and I think it must continue.

9649. Are not you aware that the consumption of sugar has varied every year for the last 12 years, according to the price?—I am not.

9650. You admit if we were to add 10 s. to the present price, it would diminish the consumption?—I have not admitted that; I do not think it would. It appears to me it would make a difference in the full consumption of only 4 s. a year each person; and I do not think 4 s. a year, after a person has been accustomed to use sugar in his tea or coffee, or whatever he may use it in, would cause him to discontinue it.

9651. Do you think a difference of 4 s. a year upon each individual, which would make upon the average number of a family consisting of eight, 32 s. a year, would make no difference to the seven or eight millions of people in Ireland, and to the many millions of agricultural labourers in this country who only gets 6 s. or 7 s. or 8 s. a week?—I think that when you go to the number of eight in a family, you would possibly have out of that eight three or four who would be able to work, and I think a difference of 4 s. spread over that number would not be sufficient to induce them to discontinue the making use of sugar.

9652. To the same extent?—To the same extent.

9653. What do you suppose they do with that 32 s. a year at present; how are they to pay for this additional price of sugar?—The amount appears to me to be so small, that I do not think it would decrease the consumption.

9654. If you were to increase the price of sugar 2 d. a pound, you do not think that would make any difference to the consumption?—I do not think it would decrease the consumption, spread over that number of people, but I think it is very improbable that sugar will get up from 4 d. to 6 d.

9655. You do not think that the increase of price would diminish the consumption; what would be the effect upon the market here if the consumption were to remain the same, with a higher price, and the supply to rise 100,000 tons above what it is now; what would you do with the remaining 100,000 tons?—If the quantity were increased to that extent, I think it would be met, if it were allowed to be used for all purposes for which it is adapted.

9656. For what purposes would it be used which it is not used for now?—There are many purposes: molasses might be very well admitted into distilleries and into breweries. I think when it has had a fair trial in distilleries and the yield is properly ascertained, the consumption in distilleries would be very considerable. Sugar, I think, is capable of being used in a variety of ways in which it is not used now. I have seen, within a few years, that it has been converted to many purposes.

9657. Do you think those uses would be likely to increase if the price were to increase 10 s. a cwt.?—I think if at the beginning of last year, when the prices were several shillings more than they are now, it did not go out of use then, it would not go out of use now with an increased price to that extent.

9658. What

9658. What would you do with the surplus of 100,000 tons of sugar?—I have answered that question already. I think that the uses to which it is to be applied are becoming every day more manifest; and by the time that that quantity is produced, there will be purposes for which it will be consumed.

9659. What are those purposes?—Brewing and distilling principally, and large quantities are now consumed as lollipop, made up in heads, and pieces like roast beef.

9660. Are you aware that it is used in breweries now?—Yes; but it is not yet used to any great extent.

9661. Are you aware that the law in that respect was changed at the time when it was peculiarly advantageous for sugar, when malt was at an extraordinary price, giving sugar a very great advantage?—Yes.

9662. Have you any reason to give why you expect a larger consumption?—I do not think it has yet had a sufficient trial in the breweries here. I think there are a variety of purposes to which sugar may be applied, and would be applied, if free from all restrictions. It is a very fattening article. We find in the West Indies, by giving the horses and sheep a little molasses, it tends very much to fatten them.

9663. You believe, that whatever the supply of sugar might be to this country, the consumption would be equal to it?—I do not believe that,

9664. Do you know that the West India Islands, previous to 1834, produced a larger quantity of sugar than this country consumed?—I believe they did for a short time.

9665. Do you know that they produced more sugar than England consumed for many years?—Yes, they did.

9666. What was done with the remainder?—It was refined and exported.

9667. Supposing the West India colonies were again to produce a much larger quantity of sugar than we could consume, seeing they produce an equal quantity now, you do agree with all the other gentlemen who have given evidence, that the remainder must be exported?—I think labour, if we got it, would be applied to the manufacture of sugar as long as it paid a remunerative price; but there are other employments to which labour might be applied in British Guiana; and when it is found that the quantity produced was greater than there was a demand for, the labour would be applied to those purposes.

9668. Is it your opinion that the remaining quantity of sugar must be exported if more came here than we consumed?—Yes.

9669. If it went to the continent of Europe, it must be sold at the same price as the produce of Cuba and Brazil?—Yes.

9670. If a portion of the produce of the British colonies were exported to the Continent; supposing, for instance, it was sold at Antwerp, you would obtain no more here for the portion of the sugar that was sold in England than you would obtain for that portion which was sold at Antwerp, and not so much, because you would have additional freight to pay?—If you brought it to that quantity, that would be the case; but my feeling is, that the consumption of sugar, if applied to the different purposes to which it is applicable, would be much larger than the quantity which the West Indies produced.

9671. You have shown the Committee that the produce of an estate in Guiana would be increased threefold by the process you have mentioned. Supposing all the British possessions had the same advantages, that would increase the present supply of sugar to this country to nearly 900,000 tons: you do not expect, surely, that the consumption would keep pace with that?—It may not keep pace with such a production as that, but it is much easier to speculate for such a quantity as that, upon the data we have had here, than it is to produce it. What I have said with respect to production must be held to apply to British Guiana and Trinidad.

9672. To the island of Barbadoes it would not apply, because they have an abundant population; but are you aware of any other colony in the West Indies which does not ask for an additional quantity of labour?—No.

9673. Suppose the price of sugar were in the course of a year or two, from that process, to sink to the level of Cuba and Brazil, would not the effect be to curtail the quantity produced in our colonies?—It must do so, unless there was a sufficient number of labourers thrown in to bring the wages to the marketable value.

9674. What you contemplate is, not only an additional efficiency of labour, but

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but a great reduction of the cost of labour?—I should look for that, certainly. I should consider that wages should rise or fall as they do in the manufacture of any staple article in this country.

9675. Supposing you had a great reduction in the price of sugar in consequence of the increased supply from the Mauritius and the East Indies, what would be the effect upon your labour; would it not throw a great many out of employment?—No; I think the effect would be to reduce the wages to such a rate as would produce the raw material at a price that would pay the manufacturer.

9676. What proportion of the 12 s. 6 d., which you gave as the cost in one year, is wages, do you think?—It is about two-thirds.

9677. Out of 12 s. 6 d. you would have about 8 s. wages?—Yes.

9678. Do you include in that common labour only, or do you include salaries?—Not the salaries.

9679. If the price of sugar were to fall 10 s. or 15 s. a cwt., that would be more than the whole labour altogether?—It would depend upon the point which it fell from; if it fell from 50 s. to 40 s. and you had 20 s. left, you might be able to go on.

9680. If you came into competition with Cuba and Brazil, 10 s. would come off on the first cost?—The charges for the one would be the same as the other; a ton of sugar from Cuba and a ton of sugar from Guiana, both coming to London together, the charges would be the same; then that would be the original cost. Supposing, according to the prices at which sugar was grown in Guiana, it costs 4 s. there, and it costs 4 s. in Cuba, we should be on an equal footing; therefore if wages at Guiana fell to a rate that only costs us 4 s., we should be upon an equal footing.

9681. Supposing the price of sugar fell 10 s.?—You must take a point to fall from; say that sugar is landed in London from both places at 20 s.; if it fell from 20 s. to 10 s., both would lose an equal proportion.

9682. In speaking of the arrangements which were made in respect to the ships engaged in the immigration trade, did you speak of the regulations that were made three or four years ago in the colonies, or did you speak of the regulation that has been made under the present ordinance sent out from the Colonial Office here?—To the recent arrangements made by the Colonial Office here I referred; my feeling, as I explained myself to his Lordship, is, that we should be permitted free intercourse with the creeks and rivers on the coast of Africa. My great object is to get an immigration into the colony that will be permanent; I do not think engagements out of the colony are so desirable as the introduction of the labourers free to select their employers when they arrive. The impression on the mind of a man under contract is that he is not so well off as a man who is left entirely free, therefore the proper course is to land them disengaged; there are always plenty of persons who are ready to take them.

9683. You do not think the contract system would do?—The contract system is better than not having the people, but my own feeling is that the men should be perfectly free to engage with whom they please on arrival. I think it would be better suited to the feelings of the people of this country that they should be so, and that the people would feel no restraint when they went there.

9684. You are not of opinion that it would be advantageous to make contracts before shipping them?—The Government plans of emigration have been such that they have not succeeded; many persons would go to the expense of the first introduction themselves, provided they had been permitted to enter into contracts; and to get immigrants upon any terms at all is a matter of such consequence to us, that I do not disapprove of it.

9685. If you had the laying down of a system which you thought would be most beneficial, you would rather say, Bring the men unfettered by any contracts, land them in the colony, and leave them free, and they will work with a feeling of greater confidence, being upon an equality with others, than if you had previously made contracts with them?—That is my opinion. I will not say the contracts have not answered well, but there is a feeling on the subject; I do not think it is such a strong feeling as to make it very objectionable, but I would rather see the people landed perfectly free to engage with whom they pleased.

9686. When you speak of the creeks and rivers of Africa, do you refer to the slave coast?—I would go to every part of the coast.

9687. By what means do you expect to get the men?—By the same means as we got them from Madeira. Mr. G. H. Lozdale.

9688. Do you mean to purchase them?—No; I would employ an agent, in the same manner as I did to procure the people from Madeira, to go among the people and to point out the advantage of emigrating to them. 15 March 1848.

9689. Is it your opinion that you could get free men on those coasts who would have it in their power to go on board if they wished?—I believe so.

9690. Why do you believe it?—From what I have heard from traders from the coast and different people.

9691. You are not now speaking of the Kroo coast?—No, I am speaking of the rivers and creeks. The captain of an African vessel told me he was on the coast when Captain Denman was there, and that the people were there gathered as slaves, and that he had no doubt whatever that many people could have been induced to emigrate as free men from that part.

9692. If they were slaves they had owners?—They had the men who bought them and brought them to the barracoons, I have no doubt.

9693. It did not depend upon the choice of the man whether he would embark, but upon the choice of his owner?—My opinion is, that if you go into the inner creeks there, and you can get communication with the Africans, they may be induced to emigrate, as they have done from Madeira.

9694. You have reason to believe that you could upon the coast of Africa get an abundant quantity of free labour?—I have.

9695. Mr. M. Gibson.] Have any cotton and coffee estates been converted into sugar estates within your knowledge in Demerara?—There have been several both cotton and coffee; when I first went to the country there were nearly 20 miles of cotton, all of which has gone out of cultivation in consequence of the paucity of labour.

9696. Do you know Mr. Peter Rose?—Yes.

9697. Is he a gentleman of standing in Demerara?—Yes.

9698. He stated, in 1832, that two-thirds of the population, when he first knew Demerara, were employed in cotton and coffee?—I think that is possible.

9699. What proportion are employed now, do you suppose?—There are scarcely any at all. The whole of the cotton is entirely extinct, and the export of coffee has fallen off from 4,500,000 lbs. to 100,000 lbs.

9700. If sugar did not pay, would not they take to growing cotton and coffee again?—Certainly not.

9701. Why not?—It cannot be grown to a profit. Sugar has been paying till the Act of 1846.

9702. If sugar does not pay, would not they try cotton again, as they did once before?—They could not compete with the slave-grown cotton of America.

9703. In your opinion, if sugar is not grown, nothing else can be grown?—The soil is capable of growing anything.

9704. You contend that the British Legislature is bound to make sugar-growing profitable; and if it does not make it profitable, nothing else can be grown at a profit?—I do not think anything else could be grown at a profit. The reason that sugar does not pay is the increased cost of manufacture from our having free instead of slave labour.

9705. You have been in distress before in Demerara, have not you?—Yes.

9706. In the year 1832, Mr. Rose stated, speaking of his own estate, which he described as one of the best estates in Demerara, that it would not yield more than 2½ per cent. upon the capital invested; are you of opinion that the present state of things is worse than that?—It is a great deal worse. Many properties in Demerara have been kept up, which have entailed a loss to the proprietors of 1,500 *l.* or 2,000 *l.* a year.

9707. At this time there was full control over the labour, and the monopoly of the English market; do you think the restoration of 10 *s.* protection, when monopoly and slavery only gave you 2½ per cent. upon your capital, would much mend the matter?—The crop of that estate was 1,000 hogsheads; 10 *s.* a cwt. upon 1,000 hogsheads would be 7,500 *l.* per annum.

9708. But at that time they had much more than 10 *s.* protection, and they had also control over the labour, and yet there was great distress; and one of the best estates in Demerara was stated by Mr. Peter Rose only to be paying 2½ per cent. upon the capital invested; what makes you think, therefore, that

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the mere restoration of 10 s. protection could restore prosperity, if monopoly and slavery did not give a better return?—A difference of 10 s. a cwt. would yield what I have stated, in addition to the 2 ¼ per cent.

9709. You had more than 10 s. in 1830, at the time when there was this great distress; why, therefore, should 10 s. set you upon your legs now, when a larger amount of protection did not keep you out of distress then?—In the proportion of the price of sugar that now goes to the planters it is 40 per cent.; it is an addition to the net proceeds of his crop of 40 per cent.

9710. There was a still greater addition to the net proceeds of his crop then?—There must be times of adversity, of course, in every country.

9711. You will admit that this protection is not always to be depended on to secure you a remunerating price?—You cannot depend on 10 s. a cwt. to secure you a remunerating price; but, as I mentioned in my previous examination, if a sufficient number of labourers were thrown into the country so as to bring wages to a marketable rate, such a fall as has been described would take place in the amount of wages.

9712. If you introduced Africans, would you not drive away the creoles from the estates?—Certainly not; they all work together, and intermarry, and become as sociable one with another as any people can be.

9713. You find it difficult to retain the present creoles at the present rate of wages, do not you?—We do.

9714. If you reduced the wages, do not you think they would go away entirely?—No; I think if they saw that you were not dependent upon them they would be induced to work at a fair rate of wages.

9715. You spoke about Sierra Leone labourers and the condition of labourers in Guiana, and you said that the condition of the labourers when they got to Guiana would be very much improved?—There is no doubt that, from the number of schools and churches in Guiana, they would be better off.

9716. Is not the price of provisions much higher in Guiana than in Sierra Leone?—I do not know that it is; I know that at periods there they are brought to a very great state of distress in Sierra Leone.

9717. Do you in Guiana supply the markets abundantly with provisions?—Very abundantly; there is no part of the West Indies, or anywhere else, better supplied.

9718. Do you raise any duty upon the import of foreign provisions?—Yes.

9719. That adds to the price, does not it;—Yes; the duties are not at all excessive.

9720. Mr. Rose, in 1832, was asked: "What do you estimate to be the cost of producing a hundredweight of sugar in Demerara, where the soil is understood to be fertile? The expense in Demerara is about 12 s.; in that I make no allowance for the interest on capital.—When you say 12 s., you mean merely to say that the supplies necessary to be expended in raising a hundredweight of sugar costs that amount? I mean to say that the supplies and salaries for the white persons employed, medical attendants, and cost of sugar hogsheads, occasion that expense.—That includes no allowance for the capital embarked in constructing the buildings, or any other expenses of establishing the plantation? None; that is merely the expense of supporting the estate; there is no allowance for the interest on capital invested." So that, in 1832, Mr. Rose made it out that the cost was 12 s., exclusive of all those other charges; do you make it out to be more now?—Yes; we make out that on one of the estates I had charge of it was 25 s.

9721. Your 25 s. included a great many charges that were excluded from Mr. Rose's 12 s., did not it; it included salaries?—Yes.

9722. The 12 s. in 1830 did not consist of the same elements as your present 25 s.?—With the exception of the cost of labour.

9723. Your 25 s. includes interest on capital invested in buildings, does not it?—No.

9724. Mr. Rose says, "The supplies and salaries for the white persons employed, medical attendance, and cost of sugar hogsheads, occasion that expense;" namely, 12 s. a cwt. Your 25 s. does not include any more expenses than his 12 s. did?—None, excepting labour.

9725. You must add to Mr. Rose's estimate the capital invested in slaves, and also the expense of rearing and bringing up the slaves?—Yes.

9726. When

9726. When you come to add to Mr. Rose's 12*s.* the cost of the negroes, how much less would it become than your present 25*s.*?—Supposing we value the negroes at 20,000*l.*, the interest upon that, at five per cent., is 1,000*l.*; if that estate makes 1,000 hogsheads of sugar you have 1*s.* 6*d.* a cwt. to add to it.

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9727. You had many charges cast upon you during the time of slavery, which you have been relieved from since?—There have been charges from which we have been relieved.

9728. At any rate there was a considerable charge thrown upon the planter during the time of slavery in reference to negroes, from which he has been since relieved, and which must be deducted from his labour account now?—He has taken the cost of all the labour of the slave; he has taken the cost of all his salaries.

9729. For the white persons employed?—He has everything there except interest on capital; his property being his own, whatever interest he made went into his own pocket.

9730. He makes the cost of a cwt. of sugar in 1830 much more than you made it just now; you spoke of it as 6*s.*?—Yes.

9731. He gave it as 12*s.*?—Yes; there have been great improvements in the production of rum, and in various other ways.

9732. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You stated that labour cost you 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* a day; what quantity of labour do you generally get for that?—It is the usual task that is general in the country.

9733. That is a settled quantity of labour?—Yes.

9734. Is that the same quantity that was given in the time of apprenticeship, the seven hours and a half task?—Yes.

9735. Does that include the time that the labourer is employed in going to and returning from his work?—No; the seven hours and a half is at his work.

9736. And the estates are frequently of very considerable extent, are not they?—Yes.

9737. Sometimes as extensive as six miles from end to end?—I know none approaching to that.

9738. Three to four miles?—No, I do not think there are any sugar estates that are anything like it. The buildings upon the sugar estates have been placed as nearly as possible at the point of cultivation, and though the estate may be four or five miles deep, the buildings are generally placed so as to make the extent of cultivation part in front and part aback of them.

9739. Though the estates may be four miles in extent, the sugar plantations are generally condensed, and consequently the labourer has but little distance to go to his labour?—Just so; the extreme distance I should think would not be more than 500 or 600 roods.

9740. Did you pay this 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* to the labourers indiscriminately, good and bad?—We paid it for the task done.

9741. In the sugar manufacture what rate of wages do you pay?—About 2*s.*

9742. What time would they work?—They would generally work, beginning at six o'clock and leaving off about six in the evening. It was those labourers I spoke off as having 2*s.*

9743. The wages of the field labourers are not so high as that?—No.

9744. Do not you frequently employ your field labourers at a guilder a day?—They were at a guilder a day, but I believe now the general rate of wages is five bits.

9745. Do you generally retain your labourers upon the estate?—Yes.

9746. They are not living in the free villages?—In some instances.

9747. Have you employed coolies?—I have, several.

9748. Did they work well?—Yes; they are not very strong.

9749. But you found them tolerably efficient labourers?—Yes.

9750. How did you find those people that came from Madeira?—I never had more than two or three of them; those who have had them have spoken very favourably of them.

9751. Has not there been great mortality among those Madeira labourers?—Yes.

9752. To what cause do you attribute that extraordinary mortality?—The Portuguese people are very dirty in their habits; they are very greedy when

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they go to the colony first for money; they get employed and overwork themselves, and as soon as they get sick they despond and frequently do not recover.

9753. Is any care taken of their dwelling-places, and attention paid to their social habits?—Every attention that can be paid.

9754. Are you aware what the extent of mortality among the labourers imported from Madeira has occurred?—I am not, but I believe there is a published report on the subject.

9755. Can you give a rough estimate?—I know there has been a great mortality.

9756. What is the expense per head of the importation of labourers from Madeira?—£.7 a head.

9757. And they are under contracts to work for a year, are not they?—No.

9758. Who pays that cost?—It is paid from the colonial revenue.

9759. Raised from taxes in the colony?—Yes.

9760. Can you inform the Committee how many have been introduced since 1834?—I think there must have been 8,000 or 9,000 of them.

9761. Not more?—I do not think there have been more.

9762. Do you expect any large further importation of labourers in the next few months?—There will be the coolies now on their way from India.

9763. How many?—I cannot say.

9764. As many as 6,000 or 8,000?—No; I do not think that there are more than 4,000.

9765. Have you any very heavy taxes in Guiana?—The taxes generally are heavy.

9766. Have you any tax on the importation of articles of food?—Yes.

9767. Can you give the Committee any information in regard to how the spiritual interests of the colony are provided for?—I believe better than any part of the world.

9768. Have you a regular ecclesiastical establishment there?—We have, of the very first order.

9769. The Church of England?—The Church of Scotland.

9770. Any other?—The Roman-catholic Church.

9771. Any other?—I believe there is a small grant of 500 dollars to the Wesleyans.

9772. Have not you a German Lutheran establishment?—No, I think not.

9773. Not the Dutch Reformed Church?—Yes.

9774. What does all this religious instruction cost the colony?—From 24,000*l.* to 25,000*l.*

9775. Do you know that?—Yes.

9776. Does not it cost considerably more than that?—It is between 24,000*l.* and 25,000*l.*

9777. Does not a larger number of people attend the places of worship of the missionaries, who are paid nothing, than attend the places of worship of the various establishments?—I could not take upon myself to say that there does. The churches are well attended.

9778. You have no positive information upon the point?—No.

9779. Mr. Villiers.] You said that the creoles mixed with the Africans, and that they have no objection to work together, or to marry together?—None.

9780. Do you know anything of Berbice?—I have been there several times.

9781. Do you know that the creoles have been driven out completely by the Africans from Berbice?—No, I do not know that such is the case, and I am sure that it is impossible that such can be the case. The Africans are so few in number, that I do not suppose they would form a proportion of one in 20.

9782. The Africans and creoles live together as well there as elsewhere?—Yes; and they work very well indeed.

9783. Do the labourers leave the estates and squat at all in Guiana?—They have bought several estates.

9784. And live idly upon them?—They do not live altogether idly; they grow provisions and work on the neighbouring estates.

9785. What do you understand by squatting; you do not mean a man taking land, and cultivating it, and supplying the market with the provisions that he does not consume?—No; what I should call squatting would be when a number of them go up the rivers and do nothing whatever but burn charcoal.

9786. That

9786. That has been done to some extent in British Guiana, has it?—Yes. Mr. G. H. Lozdale.

9787. Do you know anything of Dutch Guiana?—No.

9788. Have they not slaves there still?—Yes.

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9789. Do you know anything of the sugar which is produced there?—I do not know much about it.

9790. Do you know anything of the cost of production there?—No.

9791. You cannot tell at all the difference between that and the production of British Guiana?—No.

9792. You are satisfied, you say, that free labour never can compete with slave labour?—Not till there is a population which will bring wages to a marketable rate.

9793. It is a question of wages, then; it is not anything connected with the character of the labourers?—It is entirely a question of wages.

9794. You believe you could get continuous labour if the wages were low enough?—Yes.

9795. You find no indisposition to work on the part of the negro?—The indisposition is caused by the great demand for their labour; they will not do either a good day's work, or a full day's work.

9796. That is owing to the relation in which they stand to the capital of the colony?—Yes; if the negro were placed in the position there that the white man is here, he would work as continuously as the white man.

9797. Have you made any calculation as to the amount of labour that would be sufficient to be introduced into Demerara?—No, I have not.

9798. There is a great deal of land not cultivated, is not there?—There is. I should not think the estates in cultivation now were more than one-third cultivated.

9799. Have you any idea as to the plan upon which you would contract for labour, so as to secure your having it if immigration should take place?—The mode I have always adopted has been to take the labourers as they have arrived, at the market wages of the day.

9800. How do you secure their services?—You cannot secure the services of any man, unless he is willing to stop with you.

9801. Have you any proposition to make with respect to vagrancy?—I understand that an Act has been passed since I quitted the colony to make the working at the beginning of a month a hiring for that month.

9802. If they leave their master, they must give so many days' notice?—They must give the same notice as a servant in this country; a month's wages, or a month's notice.

9803. There is nothing so objectionable in the character of the labourers as to make you apprehend that they will squat in the case of an importation of fresh labourers?—No.

9804. *Chairman.*] You were asked by Mr. Wilson whether you did not think the consumption of sugar depended entirely upon the price of it, and whether if the price of sugar were raised, the consumption would not fall off very much, to which you answered, "that you thought the price might be raised a penny a pound, and yet the consumption would not fall off." Do not you know that the consumption in the month of January which is just passed, as compared with the consumption of the month of January last year, has considerably diminished, while the price of sugar is 1½ d. a pound lower now than it was then?—Yes, that is so. I may also state, that in January 1848 the quantity taken into consumption was 583,769 cwt.; the average price was 24 s. 6 d.; in 1847 it was 589,357 cwt.; the average price was 34 s. 10 d.; being a difference of 10 s. 4 d. per cwt.

9805. Was not the price of wheat 64 s. 1 d. in January 1847, against 53 s. in 1848; so that we have both dear corn and dear sugar, and yet a large consumption in 1847 as compared to 1848?—That is so; I have taken off the six months to make a comparative statement.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Statement:*]

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COMPARATIVE CONSUMPTION of SUGAR, ending January 1847 and January 1848, with the Gazette Price at the Time.

1846:			1847:		
	Cwts.	Gazette Price. s. d.		Cwts.	Gazette Price. s. d.
August - - -	587,216	33 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	August - - -	490,499	25 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
September - - -	665,373	31 8	September - - -	569,259	25 10
October - - -	446,842	34 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	October - - -	378,488	21 6
November - - -	419,214	33 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	November - - -	427,073	23 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
December - - -	345,402	32 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	December - - -	404,729	23 - $\frac{1}{2}$
1847:			1848:		
January - - -	689,357	34 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	January - - -	583,769	24 6
TOTAL - - -	3,053,404	201 1	TOTAL - - -	2,853,817	144 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average Price, 1846 - - - 33 6			Average Price, 1847 - - - 24 10 $\frac{1}{2}$		
			Tons.		
			Excess in Consumption in 1846 over 1847 - - - 9,979		

9806. Will you now compare the last six months with the corresponding six months of 1846-47; do not you find that the consumption of six months of 1846-47 was larger than the consumption of the corresponding six months of 1847-48, notwithstanding that the average price of sugar in 1846-47 was very much higher than in 1847-48?—Yes.

9807. What was the difference?—The difference was very nearly 9,979 tons, taking the last six months of 1846-47, more than in the corresponding six months of 1847-48.

9808. Though the price of sugar in 1846 was, upon the average, 33 s. 6 d., and the price in 1847 was 24 s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.?—Yes.

9809. The Committee may assume therefore from that, that the large consumption of sugar and of wheat does not so much depend upon the cheapness of sugar and the cheapness of wheat as upon the general prosperity of the country?—I should say decidedly so.

[The Witness delivered in the following Papers:]

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY of *British Guiana*.

Second Anniversary Report, 18 March 1846, comprising a Summary of the Principal Objects which have engaged the Society's attention during the past Year, with Remarks on the various Subjects connected with its Proceedings.—Prepared by a Committee of the Society.

THE subjects embraced in the society's proceedings, since the date of the last anniversary report, may be classified as follows:—

I.—AGRICULTURE.

1. Communication from Mr. J. T. Osborn, of Demerara, on artificial guano—p. 35.
2. Report by Mr. Alexander MacRae, of Demerara, on the application of lime as a manure in the cultivation of the sugar cane—p. 44.
3. Correspondence relative to the introduction of the Mont Blanc transparent sugar cane from Jamaica into British Guiana—p. 41.
4. Report of Mr. Alexander MacRae, on the result of certain experiments with regard to the use of covered drains, &c.—p. 44.

5. Communication

5. Communication from Mr. J. T. Osborn, of Demerara, on the subject of tile drainage, and the introduction of the steam plough—p. 44.
6. Letter from the Hon. H. E. F. Young, government secretary, forwarding, by desire of the governor, an extract from a despatch of Lord Stanley, relative to an experiment of tile or thorough drainage, recommended to be tried in the vicinity of Georgetown—p. 57.
7. Communication from Mr. J. T. Osborn, on "The Jamaica coffee, compared with that of British Guiana"—p. 57.
8. Report by Mr. MacRae, detailing the result of the experiments made on plantation Waterloo, by the application of guano along with shells, of shell lime alone, and of shells alone—p. 58.
9. Remarks on experiments on the application of shells and guano as manures to land under cane cultivation on plantation Turkeyen, by Mr. J. H. King, of Demerara—p. 59.
10. Remarks on tile or thorough drainage, by Mr. James Gordon, junior, of Demerara—p. 64.
11. Communication by Mr. J. T. Osborn, on the subject of farming and drainage, as practised in the Carse of Stirling, in Scotland—p. 65.
12. Notes by Mr. J. T. Osborn, on various subjects connected with agriculture, &c.—p. 69.
13. Analysis of the ashes of sugar canes from the West Indies, by John Stenhouse, Ph. D.—p. 19.
14. Letter by Dr. Shier to his Excellency the Governor, containing a sketch or outline of the principal duties of the agricultural chemist—p. 80.
15. Letter from Professor Johnston to Mungo Campbell, junior, esq., Glasgow, relative to manures, &c., communicated by Mr. Alexander MacRae—p. 87.

II.—MANUFACTURE OF THE STAPLE PRODUCTIONS OF THE COLONY.

1. Communication from Mr. James Alexander, of Demerara, on the subject of Mr. Roland's steam chest for boiling sugar—p. 23.
2. Specimens of hemp manufactured from plantain stalks, exhibited by Mr. James Glen, of Demerara—p. 34.
3. Extracts from letter of Mr. J. T. Osborn, of Demerara, containing suggestions with respect to the manufacture of sugar—p. 56.
4. Letter from Mr. Edward Field, manager at plantation Friends, (the property of Messrs. Laing) Berbice, transmitting samples of sugar of an improved quality which had been cured in iron pans, instead of the coolers generally used in the colony—p. 56.
5. Notes by Mr. J. T. Osborn on the method of refining sugar from molasses as at present practised in Scotland—p. 59.
6. Report on the process of manufacturing sugar by means of the apparatus erected by Mr. S. B. Moody at plantation Goedverwagting—p. 71.
7. Specimens of plantain fibre and silk grass, and samples of starch and meal prepared from the bitter cassava (*Jatropha Manihot*), exhibited by Messrs. Glen—p. 84.

III. MACHINERY, MODELS, DIAGRAMS, &c.

1. Letter from Messrs. George Forrester & Co. of Liverpool, with diagram of a sugar mill with five rollers—p. 34.
2. Communication from Mr. J. T. Osborn, of Demerara, on an improved mode of manufacturing sugar in the United States—p. 34.
3. Letter from Mr. Joseph Hadfield, of Demerara, with a chart or diagram illustrating the mode in which a sugar estate is usually laid out and drained in British Guiana—p. 42.
4. Communication from Mr. J. T. Osborne, relative to the introduction into the colony of engines and machinery for ploughing, dredging, &c.—p. 53.
5. Letter from George Forrester & Co., relative to a high pressure steam engine on an improved principle—p. 58.
6. Communication from Mr. J. T. Osborn on M. Michiel's cane slicer, &c.—p. 83.
7. Report on the communications of Mr. J. T. Osborn, relative to the introduction of engines and machinery for ploughing, dredging, &c.—p. 86.
8. Letter from Mr. J. A. Etzler to Dr. Blair, relative to certain inventions and mechanical apparatus, proposed to be introduced into this colony for agricultural and other purposes—p. 86.

IV.—PREMIUMS.

1. Letter from Mr. M. J. Retemeyer, of Demerara, containing proposal for offering a premium of 500 dollars for an essay on the best system of managing a plantation—p. 34.

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V.—NATURAL HISTORY, &c.

1. Communication from Mr. Abraham Garnett, of Demerara, on the formation of alluvial soils, and on the accumulation and dispersion of shell beds on the coast of Guiana—p. 43.
2. Communication relative to alleged discovery of an antidote to the plantain disease, by Mr. L. Livingston—p. 64.
3. Note respecting the cause of the disease in the plantain, by Dr. G. R. Bonyun, of Demerara—p. 64.
4. On the plantain (*Musa Paradisiaca*), its growth, blight, &c., by Mr. Abraham Garnett—p. 66.
5. Report on two letters concerning the introduction into British Guiana of "male plantain trees" (so called); and on the disease of the plantain, by Dr. G. R. Bonyun—p. 67.

VI.—TABLES, LISTS, &c.

1. Table of projections of atmospherical phenomena for 1844, from the Astronomical and Meteorological Society of Demerara—p. 34.
2. Table showing the approximate cost of sugars produced by estates at the Mauritius. Communicated by the Hon. James Stuart, of Demerara—pp. 45 and 48.
3. Abstract from the register of arrivals and departures of vessels at the Port of Georgetown, Demerara, for year ending 30 June 1845—p. 51.
4. Ditto, for year ending 31 December 1845 (annexed to report).
5. Table showing, as nearly as can be ascertained, the exports and imports of the colony, during each of the 10 years preceding 1 January 1846 (annexed to report).

Since the last anniversary report which the president and committee had the honour to lay before the society, no occurrence has taken place more worthy of notice, or more deserving of being esteemed as a harbinger of good, than the activity and increased energy with which everything bearing on the improvement of the agriculture, manufactures, and commerce of the colony is entertained and discussed. In producing this change, the society may with justice pride itself on having been to a considerable extent instrumental; and your committee entertain the hope that this spirit of enterprise and unanimity will spread, until measures of great and decided improvement in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce shall be worked out, and the colonial resources largely developed.

Drainage.

On the subject of thorough drainage, your committee have to report that the preparations for the society's experiment at plantation La Penitence are in a state of forwardness, and that the cutting of the drains and laying of tiles will be proceeded with immediately after the erection of the draining engine.

To this experiment your committee attach the greatest importance, as the first step towards improved tillage, the introduction of efficient implements and cattle-labour, the use of manures, and the other essentials of high cultivation and economical labour. The vicinity of La Penitence to Georgetown they look upon as fortunate, inasmuch as great facility of inspecting the operations and progress of the experiments will be afforded to a large number of the community.

The committee have been highly gratified to learn that experiments on covered drainage are about to be undertaken in various parts of the colony by private individuals. This is at once creditable to the public spirit and enterprise of those who undertake the experiments, and of much consequence to the society in affording the means of a more copious induction of facts on this most important subject.

Your committee cannot doubt that these experiments will be watched with the greatest interest by all parties, and that should the increase in quantity of produce or the improvement in the quality of the same prove considerable, immediate measures will be taken for the establishment of tile-works, and for the introduction of the implements best adapted to the tillage of drained clay lands.

Guano.

In the last anniversary report of the society mention was made of guano as a manure having been imported to a considerable extent, and that various opinions were entertained as to the proper method of applying it.

On this subject the committee refer to the proceedings of the society for the year 1845 (pages 58, 59, and 60), in which will be seen two able reports by Alexander MacRae, esq., and J. H. King, esq., detailing the results of experiments with guano and other manures, as tried on plantations Waterloo and Turkeyen respectively. Your committee cannot, at present,

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present, venture to give a decided opinion either in condemnation or in favour of guano as a manure for the soil of British Guiana; but a very general opinion is entertained amongst the planters that sea shells or lime, applied to well-tilled land, would be better calculated to increase the produce of the soil, and lead to its permanent amelioration, than the use of guano by itself, especially on imperfectly drained clay lands.

Metayer System.

The metayer system established on plantations Schoon Oord and Meerzorg continues to prosper. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather last year, which greatly deteriorated their produce both in quantity and quality, the farmers have not been disheartened. There are now rented on those two estates, 172 acres, instead of 70, as at the date of last report, and 20 of these are farmed by Portuguese immigrants.

This system has also been established on plantation La Retraite, belonging to Mr. De-tering. Plantation Onderneeming, the property of Mr. R. G. Butts, has likewise been farmed out for half the produce to 25 labourers.

Machinery.

The introduction of new machinery and apparatus into the colony, since the date of last report, has been confined to Gadsden and Evans' revolving evaporator on plantation Friends, in Berbice; Moody's adaptation of Derosne and Cails' apparatus at plantation Goedverwagting; and Ronald's steam-chest, on plantation Profit. Data for judging of the comparative utility of these different systems of manufacturing sugar have not yet been obtained by the society; but the committee are happy to learn that the subject is under the consideration of Dr. Shier, the agricultural chemist, the result of whose investigations will in due time be made public.

Your committee have long deplored the want of well-constructed dredging machines adapted to the cutting and deepening of draining trenches and navigation canals, whereby the drainage and texture of the land would be most materially improved; they are, therefore, much gratified to learn that the Honourable the Court of Policy have lately appointed a commission to consider the subject and to report. Your committee would also beg to call the attention of the society and the public to Nasmyth's improved steam pile-driving engine, of which so favourable reports have appeared in the proceedings of the British Association and elsewhere, and to the Rev. Mr. Bourne's adaptation of the Archimedean screw to a lifting engine, for the purpose of drainage, as both likely to prove very useful to the colony.

Immigration.

During the year that has elapsed since the date of the last anniversary report, the population of the colony has been increased by the immigration of 4,859 labourers, consisting chiefly of hill coolies from India, Africans from Sierra Leone, Portuguese from Madeira, and creoles from the neighbouring islands and the Bahamas. It is worthy of remark, that of 4,859 immigrants, bounty has been paid on but 2,658, while the remaining 2,201 have been introduced into the colony without the payment of any bounty.

Of the number of immigrants departing from the colony there is no exact record, but it is generally believed to have been inconsiderable, and almost exclusively confined to labourers revisiting their native places with the fruits of their industry, and intending to return again with others of their families and friends. Labourers from Madeira are usually found to be less costly to the colony, more industrious and provident in their habits, and more conducive to the influx of their countrymen than any other class of immigrants.

Drought.

The extreme dryness of the weather for the last seven months and a half renders it next to certain that the returns of sugar and other produce for the ensuing crop will sink greatly under an average. This protracted drought it is believed is almost without a parallel in the recollection of the oldest colonist. It is farther subject of regret that the influence of this drought may extend beyond a single season, it having been necessary in too many cases to admit sea water for the purposes of irrigation. From the records of the Astronomical and Meteorological Society, it appears that from the 1st August 1845 to 18th March 1846, there fell but 8.98 inches of rain, while the corresponding period of the previous season, by no means an unusually wet one, showed a fall of four feet four inches. It is believed, however, that in one respect the late dry season has been turned to good account, in admitting of a better clearing out of the drains and trenches than has for some years been effected.

Artesian Wells.

On various cattle farms the scarcity of grass and the want of water have led to extensive mortality amongst the stock.

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The occurrence of such calamities as these renders it imperative to make every attempt to avert their return; and as a very likely means of doing so your committee view with much interest a proposal lately discussed by the Honourable the Court of Policy, namely, to sink an Artesian well to such a depth as once for all to settle the question, whether good water cannot be got in quantity sufficient to afford full supplies during continued drought, and delivered at as great a height above the surface of the ground as will render its distribution for short distances easy.

Premiums.

Your committee continue to view the awarding of premiums for successful experiments on the subject of agricultural improvements as of vital importance, and they confidently hope that the Honourable the Court of Policy will yet be pleased to entertain some modification of the proposition formerly submitted by this society to that honourable body,—more particularly as the list of premiums then drawn up has met with the approval of the agricultural chemist. Under this head it may be noticed that one of our members Mr. M. J. Retemeyer, has offered to contribute liberally towards a premium, which he proposes should be given for an essay on “the best system of managing a plantation;” and that Charles Oliphant, Esq., of Edinburgh, has sent to the society a medal, with an appropriate device, which he is desirous should be awarded as a “premium for keeping the neatest and cleanest cottage in the district.”

Hay and Pasture.

Anticipating the period when cattle labour shall become common in cultivating the sugar cane, your committee would suggest that improved methods of managing hay and pasture lands should be made the subjects of one or more premiums, or at least of the society's strong recommendation. There can be no doubt that the price of provender for cattle may, by the means pointed out, be reduced greatly below that which it costs when imported.

Plantains.

During the year the society has been favoured with several communications on the subject of the plantain disease. Of these communications the very able report of Dr. Bonyun is more especially entitled to notice in this place. It appears in the most conclusive way to demolish the delusive hope of a remedy being found in the so-called male plantains. Of the disease itself Dr. Bonyun has most satisfactorily demonstrated the seat, namely, in the spiral vessels so abundant in these plants. If a good diagnosis is a great step towards a cure, it is but reasonable to expect that ere long this important research will be brought to a successful termination. The committee trust that the investigation may be followed up by Dr. Bonyun.

Agricultural Chemist.

In the last anniversary report it was stated, that an agricultural chemist might soon be expected to arrive in the colony, “the Legislature having placed a salary for such a person on the Estimate, together with the requisite funds for fitting up a laboratory and for procuring the necessary chemical apparatus.” The expectation here held out has been realized by the arrival in the colony, on the 28th of October last, of John Shier, LL.D., professor of agriculture, from Marischal College, Aberdeen.

Shortly after the arrival of Dr. Shier, he addressed to his excellency the Governor a letter detailing the duties of the agricultural chemist, which will be found in the printed proceedings of the society. The duties thus detailed embrace matters of such importance as to have induced the Legislature to appoint a committee to confer with Dr. Shier, and, upon the report of that committee, the Legislature was pleased to order the sum originally granted to be increased, so as to procure the requisite chemical apparatus, and to fit up and furnish a suitable laboratory to be placed at the disposal of Dr. Shier.

Your committee have pleasure in learning that the subject of agricultural chemistry continues to attract increasing attention among the agricultural community; that the materials for extensive and important researches have been collected from all parts of the colony by Dr. Shier, and that a large and commodious laboratory is now nearly completed to enable that gentleman to carry on his researches in the colony.

Lectures.

At the request of his Excellency the Governor, Dr. Shier has delivered in Georgetown four excellent lectures on thorough-draining and sub-soiling, which were numerously attended by planters and others interested in those important subjects. From these lectures it may be argued that, under Dr. Shier's direction and advice, the knowledge and practice of agriculture in this colony will ere long make considerable progress. It is intended that the lectures already delivered shall be repeated in the counties of Essequibo and Berbice, for the convenience of parties residing in those districts.

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Railway.

Since the date of last report the scheme for establishing a railway between Georgetown and Mahaica, along the east coast, has advanced considerably towards maturity. To the completion of this undertaking the committee look forward with the greatest interest; and they conceive it to be a subject of congratulation that this portion of the colony will, in all probability, soon enjoy the advantages of so important a means of improvement. The committee are also gratified to learn that the directors of the Company, actuated by an enlightened policy, have encouraged the idea of uniting with their scheme a general and effective system of drainage of the district through which the line is intended to pass.

Exports and Imports.

Your committee have pleasure in calling attention to the registers of colonial exports and imports kept by the society, and to the tabular extracts from them published periodically. These registers have been recently much improved, and a mass of statistical information is in course of accumulation, the importance of which it would not be easy to exaggerate.

From the tables annexed to this report, it will be seen that the exports of sugar and rum for the year 1845 exceed those of each of the four preceding years. It will also be observed, that although the imports in 1845 have considerably increased, the duties on articles imported have slightly decreased, in consequence of the discontinuance of the *ad valorem* duty, and the reduction of the specific duties on various articles imported during the last six months.

Exchange and News Room.

Your committee have the greatest satisfaction in reporting, that there is at last every prospect of a suitable building as an exchange and news room, alluded to in the last anniversary report, being speedily erected. A sum amounting to nearly \$7,000 has already been subscribed; and Mr. Catherwood, the talented engineer of the Demerara Railway Company, has, with that liberality characteristic of men of science, prepared, without remuneration, a design for the intended building, which when erected will be as ornamental to the city as it will be useful to the colony at large, and particularly to the two classes of which your society is formed.

So soon as the foundation stone is laid your committee have every reason to believe that the remaining part of the necessary funds will not be wanting to raise and complete an edifice worthy of the increasing intelligence and importance of the colony.

Library.

The chief progress which has been made since the last report in the formation of a library has been the transmission of a further order for books to the extent of 100*l*. Donations of books to a considerable amount have also been received during the year, and to the different contributors the thanks of the society are due. As a good well-kept library is one of the main desiderata of the society, it is necessary that the rules laid down for the conservation of the books, and their return to the library within the time allowed for perusal, should be strictly adhered to by the members.

Charter of Incorporation.

A Bill for incorporating the society, and for granting to it certain powers, has been prepared by the secretary, and, with the sanction of his Excellency the Governor, has been read a first time in the Court of Policy. This Bill has been printed in order that it may be carried through its several stages, and there is every reason to hope that in due time it will be passed into an ordinance incorporating the society, and giving to it such rights and privileges as are essential to its well-being.

Honorary Members.

The Right honourable W. E. Gladstone, Secretary of State for the Colonies; Dr. Shier, our talented agricultural chemist; and Mr. Catherwood, the artist, to whom the public is indebted for the highly interesting drawings and illustrations of the antiquities of Central America, have been elected honorary members of the society since our last anniversary. It is further gratifying to state, that the number of ordinary members and associates has considerably increased during the same period.

Vice-Patron.

In conclusion, your committee have very great pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy and support which the society continues to receive from its vice-patron his Excellency the Governor.

On behalf of the committee,

William Arrindell, President.

W. H. Campbell, Secretary.

I.—TABLE OF IMPORTERS at the Port of Georgetown, British Guiana, from the Year 1836 to the Year 1845, both inclusive: prepared by the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana.

ARTICLES.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Beef, pork, &c.										
Bread, <i>do.</i>		5,759	5,303	2,036	2,421	9,260	14,070	12,243	18,955	15,853
Brandy		39,102	56,706	54,528	25,056	212,782	476,330	717,506	1,069,321	1,196,916
Butter		276,900	216,480	21,360	27,000	38,122	77,460	46,693	45,400	54,129
Candles, sperm		102,402	168,180	17,123	1,875	59,640	104,774	104,774	508,573	694,497
Do, tallow						11,300	8,320	10,069	32,249	24,895
Cattle		3				54	8,383	67,502	410,657	437,805
Chocolate						253	54	117	737	641
Cheese						1,120	298	81,879	235,284	266,788
Cigars				168	527	439	400	486	1,807	2,253
Corn and pulse		508	5,242	4,040	6,236	22,619	16,284	18,101	1,288	1,102
Corn meal		1,425,662	2,352,108	2,601,122	1,202,126	1,202,126	47,496	764,850	1,838,074	947,050
Cocoa				1,075	1,222	1,748	6,303	10,106	25,473	64,806
Cordials		731	1,549	1,075	1,222	1,748	752	640	1,176	1,601
Fish, dried		187,418	82,752	52,002	31,718	51,700	45,364	48,789	69,071	59,415
Flour		10,059	16,906	14,259	13,145	20,374	20,374	22,108	35,696	35,696
Gin		9,723	24,560	68,128	15,220	26,115	25,280	15,244	40,569	24,778
Hams, &c.				2,054	904	1,023	1,114	658	241,501	307,498
Herrings, &c.		435	1,092	2,054	904	1,023	1,114	658	1,432	1,576
Horses		369	485	196	234	121	121	104	154	130
House frames						2,275	2,275		66	
Lard						6,450	30,540	45,851	124,724	124,968
Lumber		7,828	11,852	12,675	4,073	14,225	8,458	6,349	7,693	8,337
Mackerel		604	892	1,982	737	2,956	6,268	4,056	4,067	2,288
Malt liquor								594	2,816	3,637
Do								11,898	47,381	56,431
Mules				84	32	81	55	36	78	157
Oats						4,008	9,770	11,008	29,974	32,953
Oil, sperm						63	1,427	1,427	638	378
Do, paint, &c.						2,680	9,485	18,818	28,349	30,704
Pepper, sago, &c.						6,308	12,173	19,668	13,123	13,063
Pitch, tar, &c.						558	683	886	1,493	1,337
Potatoes				693,265	2,356,403	3,766,885	2,048,840	3,069,707	1,801,930	2,057,554
Rice		5,738,703	10,677,604	152	383			163		407
Do		111	736	277						
Rum		196	387	276						
Salmon						310	486	242	412	181
Shingles and Clapboards						7,890	4,390	1,495	2,059	3,380
Soap		94,613	188,123	500	2,063	1,890	125	194,122	519,697	765,164
Staves		812	1,005	260	106	643	240	652	1,529	1,359
Sugar, refined and bastard				4,539	3,666	47,040	142,826	255,607	225,381	125,357
Tea		80,510	193,643	196,945	79,828	7,460	7,460	9,142	9,439	10,957
Tobacco						22,310	76,364	68,000	129,720	16,512
Turpentine		778	400				1,838	1,811	4,287	2,844
Whiskey		70,598	89,305	47,356	90,986	64,697	34,037	50	193	28
Wire								55,377	87,692	70,697
Amount specific duty		Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
Amount <i>ad valorem</i> duty		105,607 2	136,976 34	160,846 33	88,671 87	207,409 58	258,512 56	267,810 31	329,240 19	327,655 61
		45,019 82	20,853 20	4,075 46	1,710 6	57,011 96	59,552 30	52,146 40	35,411 9	19,692 63
Total Amount of Duties		150,626 84	157,829 54	164,921 79	90,371 93	264,421 54	318,064 76	319,956 71	364,651 28	347,308 24

Note.—In the instances where blanks occur in the preceding table, the quantities of the articles imported could not be ascertained, no record having been kept, in consequence of their being at the time exempt from colonial duty. The small quantities of some articles imported in particular years arises from such articles having been exempt from duty during a portion of those years.

II.—TABLE of EXPORTS from the Colony of *British Guiana*, from the Year 1835 to the Year 1845, both inclusive, prepared by the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana.

ARTICLES.	COUNTIES.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Sugar, hogsheads -	{ Demerara and Essequibo -	56,238	52,005	43,078	30,050	33,628	27,804	28,899	28,850	30,721	31,107	
	{ Berbice - - - - -	11,015	10,515	11,457	8,394	7,928	6,395	6,888	8,278	8,480		
	TOTAL - - - - -	67,248	62,520	54,535	38,444	40,556	34,199	35,738	38,909	39,647		
Rum, puncheons -	{ Demerara and Essequibo -	21,886	19,222	14,093	14,655	11,984	9,102	8,677	7,243	9,946	13,072	
	{ Berbice - - - - -	5,311	4,904	3,509	3,776	4,087	2,594	1,954	1,953	1,760	2,067	
	TOTAL - - - - -	27,147	24,626	17,602	18,431	16,071	11,118	10,631	8,296	11,706	15,139	
Molasses, puncheons	{ Demerara and Essequibo -	54,958	33,343	27,706	22,243	14,103	13,252	14,081	20,004	17,203	12,583	
	{ Berbice - - - - -	2,202	4,745	3,723	3,263	1,441	1,896	3,813	4,953	4,474	4,180	
	TOTAL - - - - -	27,160	38,088	31,429	25,506	15,599	16,179	17,894	24,957	21,677	16,763	
Coffee, lbs., Dutch	{ Demerara and Essequibo -	1,299,080	2,117,250	1,849,650	2,486,240	747,450	1,591,350	568,920	1,372,650	428,800	716,137	189,375
	{ Berbice - - - - -	1,979,850	2,084,100	2,217,300	1,700,550	1,825,950	519,750	804,470	999,300	774,600	312,525	
	TOTAL - - - - -	3,278,930	4,801,350	4,066,950	4,186,790	2,033,250	3,357,300	1,088,670	2,177,120	1,428,100	1,490,773	501,900
Cotton, bales	{ Demerara and Essequibo -	1,476	2,220	1,765	1,210	1,013	160	40	8	—	—	—
	{ Berbice - - - - -	843	976	745	593	351	60	—	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL - - - - -	2,319	3,196	2,510	1,803	1,364	170	40	24	—	—	—

W. H. Campbell, Secretary.

EXTRACT from the Register of Arrivals and Departures of Vessels at the Port of Georgetown, Demerara, for the Year ending 31 December 1845.

ARRIVALS.

FROM	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total Number of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.	Average Length of Voyage.
Alexandria, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	290	32
Angostura	-	6	6	1	1	3	5	6	6	8	6	4	52	3,054	6 1/2
Baltimore, U. S.	2	2	3	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	4	6	35	4,322	24
Bangor, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	337	26
Barbados	4	7	3	3	7	7	6	6	5	6	4	7	65	5,207	4 1/2
Barbados, via Tobago	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	24	17,581	2 1/2
Bath, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	197	25
Belfast	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	764	38
Berbice	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	2	10	780	1
Bermuda	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	5	355	18 1/2
Boston, U. S.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	373	34
Bridgeport, U. S.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	472	25
Bristol	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	2	-	-	8	2,765	34 1/2
Calais, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	697	27 1/2
Cayenne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	34	3
Charlestown, U. S.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	86	16
Clyde	4	5	1	2	2	7	3	9	9	5	5	4	56	14,789	38 1/2
Cork	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	285	34
Digby, N. S.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	58	28
Dublin	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	5	1,249	38
East Indies	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	1,815	95	
Eastport, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	4	970	31 1/2
Fayal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	224	21 1/2
Gambia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	110	16
Georgia, U. S.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	159	23
Guadaloupe and Barbados	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	36	4
Guernsey	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	554	35
Halifax, N. S.	3	1	3	1	6	1	5	1	2	2	-	2	27	2,113	24 1/2
Ichaboe	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1,084	36
Liverpool	3	3	4	2	4	2	4	5	4	7	-	-	41	12,063	37
Liverpool, N. S.	2	-	5	2	3	1	1	2	4	2	2	1	25	4,371	33
London	4	2	4	3	2	5	3	4	3	3	5	-	38	13,114	36
Lunenburg, N. S.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	90	23
Machias, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	6	1,112	26
Madeira	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	3	-	1	1	1	10	1,172	26 1/2
Malaga Islands	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	179	45
Martinique	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	61	17
Newburn, U. S.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	544	28
New Edinburgh	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	108	20
Newfoundland	2	1	1	-	3	1	3	1	2	3	1	2	20	2,655	29
New Haven, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	277	23
New Orleans	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	399	26
Newport, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	388	47
New Providence	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	564	3
New York	2	2	2	4	3	4	1	1	2	2	4	1	28	3,585	21 1/2
Norfolk, U. S.	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	1,109	28
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	110	31
Passamaquody, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	167	28
Pernambuco	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	185	8 1/2
Philadelphia	1	-	2	1	3	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	16	1,818	25
Plymouth, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	137	34
Portland, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	337	24
Ragged Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	66	24
Rhode Island	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	83	26
St. Andrew's	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	1,049	31 1/2
St. Bartholomew	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	8
St. Eustatia	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	113	7
St. Helena	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	388	22
St. Stephen's	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	514	29
St. Thomas	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	370	14 1/2
Savannah, U. S.	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	291	24 1/2
Shelburn, N. S.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	121	22
Sierra Leone	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	961	31
Stranraer	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	165	36
Surinam and Berbice	1	2	-	-	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	14	469	2
Teneriffe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	62	18
Trinidad	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	324	19 1/2
Troon	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	5	1,374	44
Warren, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	166	25 1/2
Wilmington, U. S.	-	2	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	1,529	29
Windsor, N. S.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	87	28
Workington	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	146	49
Yarmouth, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	168	29
TOTAL	39	50	56	33	50	53	50	60	55	52	61	49	608	113,771	-

* Mail Steamers.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

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DEPARTURES.

DESTINATION.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total Number of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Alexandria, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Angostura	3	6	4	2	1	3	4	5	10	6	3	7	54	2,896
Antigua	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	365
Baltimore	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	9	881
Barbados	7	6	7	4	9	8	10	9	3	5	5	6	79	6,536
Barbados, via Tobago	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	24	18,644
Belfast	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	5	948
Berbice	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	7	1,400
Bermuda	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	533
Bonar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	197
Bridgeport, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	163
Bristol	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	2,123
Clyde	3	3	2	3	1	2	2	-	3	4	7	4	34	7,986
Cuba	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	124
Curaçoa	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	712
Dominica	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	79
Dublin	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	2	3	2	15	3,869
East Port, U. S.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	304
Fara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	147
Grenada	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	87
Halifax, N. S.	-	3	2	2	1	4	4	3	1	-	-	1	21	1,730
Honduras	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	633
Jamaica	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	726
La Guayra	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	220
Leeward Islands	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	69
Liverpool	2	2	2	4	-	1	3	-	3	2	2	4	25	7,110
Liverpool, N. S.	3	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	5	1	24	4,413
London	5	6	-	3	3	2	1	2	1	5	5	3	36	12,538
Lunenburg, N. S.	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	1	-	1	-	8	754
Madeira	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	212
Maine, U. S.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	222
Martinique	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1,509
Mobile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	158
Nassau, N. P.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	450
Newburn, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	450
Newfoundland	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	6	862
New Haven, U. S.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	408
New Orleans	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	11	3,461
New York	-	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	3	-	3	1	17	2,604
Norfolk, U. S.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	87
Pensacola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	87
Philadelphia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	4	519
Port Frankland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	132
Quebec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	812
Ragged Island	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	69
Rhode Island	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	83
Shelburne, N. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	66
Sidney, C. B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	109
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1,423
St. Andrew's	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	541
St. Christopher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	101
St. Domingo	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	790
St. John's, N. B.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1,237
St. Lucia	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1,237
Santa Martha	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	298
St. Stephen's	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	7	320
St. Thomas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1,319
St. Vincent	3	6	12	5	7	8	6	4	4	8	2	6	71	10,876
Surinam	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	68
Tobago	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	16	538
Tobasco, Mexico	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	623
Trinidad	-	-	-	4	1	-	3	-	2	-	1	3	14	149
Turks' Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2,148
United States	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	7	901
Workington	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	580
Warren, U. S.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	292
Yarmouth, N. S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	166
Unknown	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	1	2	-	-	8	289
TOTAL	44	47	48	44	44	50	52	47	47	52	61	58	594	118,489

0.32.

W. H. Campbell, Secretary

HARBOUR MASTERS REPORT OF LABOURERS INTRODUCED, 1845.

A TABLE showing the Number of VESSELS, with the Amount of their TONNAGE, and the Number of MEN employed navigating the same; also the Number of PASSENGERS, including Immigrants on Bounty, that arrived in the Ports of British Guiana during the Year 1845.

WHERE FROM.	NATION.					Total Number.	Total Crews.	Total Tonnage.	Passengers.	Immigrants (Bounty).	CARGOES.		REMARKS.	
	British.	American.	Venezuela.	Portuguese.							INWARDS.	OUTWARDS.		
				French.	Dutch.									
PORT OF GEORGETOWN:														
United Kingdom	170	-	-	-	-	176	2,713	61,757	1,005	-	General merchandize, coals, machinery.	produce; ballast.	From the United Kingdom the colony is supplied with manufactured goods of all sorts, coals, bricks, and lime, also machinery.—To the United Kingdom is exported almost all the produce of the colony, also some cargoes of greenheart timber.—British North America supplies all the salt fish, most of the lumber, and some provisions, and receives a small quantity of rum and molasses. The trade of this colony with the English and foreign West India Islands consists in an exchange of merchandize, provisions, &c., as superfluities or scarcities occur.—From the United States is received flour, bread stuffs, cornmeal, rice, provisions of every sort, horses, mules, sheep, pigs, and live stock, &c. Fresh provisions, vegetables, &c. &c. In fact the colony is in a great measure dependent on the United States for a supply of food.—The arrivals from India, Africa, and Madras are with emigrants; from the two former some rice is received; from the latter, wine, potatoes, onions.—Almost all the cattle consumed are imported from Venezuela.	
British Possessions of North America, Newfoundland	89	-	-	-	-	80	780	11,331	-	-	Lumber, salt, fish, provisions	ballast; produce, rarely.		
British West India Islands and Colonies	81	-	-	-	-	82	3,096	10,816	558	-	Merchandize, rum, provisions, &c. (Emigrant ship) rice, &c.	merchandize; ballast.		
India	3	-	-	-	-	3	92	2,111	816	-	-	inward cargo; produce.		
Africa	6	-	-	-	-	6	80	1,671	395	-	-	produce; ballast.		
United States	23	(*)114	-	-	-	137	1,217	19,791	-	-	Flour, rice, all sorts of provisions, candles, butter, &c.	ballast.		
Madras	-	-	-	-	(*)9	10	99	1,101	688	-	Wine, potatoes, onions, &c.	ballast.		
Foreign West India Islands and Colonies	33	-	-	-	*	35	193	1,882	-	-	Wines, brandy, merchandize, &c.	merchandize; ballast.		
Venezuela	5	-	-	-	(*)48	53	379	3,150	-	-	Cattle, cigars, tobacco	ballast.		
Brazils	2	-	-	-	2	2	21	185	-	-	Ballast	produce.		
PORT OF NEW AMSTERDAM:	418	115	48	9	2	593	6,570	113,355	1,321	1,311	-	-		
United Kingdom	33	-	-	-	-	33	305	7,049	†83	-	-	-		-
British Possessions of North America and Newfoundland	18	-	-	-	-	18	126	3,420	-	-	-	-		-
British West India Islands and Colonies	9	-	-	-	-	9	65	698	181	-	-	-	-	
Africa	4	-	-	-	-	4	80	1,084	-	1,034	-	-	-	
United States	-	-	-	-	-	19	150	2,609	-	-	-	-	-	
Foreign West India Islands and Colonies	5	-	-	-	-	6	31	218	-	-	-	-	-	
487	134	48	9	2	2	682	7,417	129,193	2,085	2,245	-	-		
GRAND TOTAL											4,330	-	-	

(*) 921 Tons.
(*) 2,861 Tons.
(*) 2 French and 1 Dutch schooners of war called at the Port of Georgetown.
† 605 Passengers opposite to the United Kingdom, include passengers from all parts of the world, excepting the places enumerated, ditto.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.—Ports of British Guiana.

	Ships.	Men.	Tonnage.
Number of Arrivals, 1844	550	4,831	87,367
Ditto - ditto - 1845	682	7,417	129,193
Increase in Year 1845	132	2,586	41,826

TOTAL Number as above - 4,330
Less Europeans - 688
3,642

J. M. Holmes,
Acting Harbour Master.

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Jovis, 16 die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.	Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Cardwell.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Milner Gibson.	Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Goulburn.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Hope.	Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Matthew James Higgins, Esq., called in ; and Examined.

9810. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Demerara Proprietor?—I have been owner of an estate in Demerara since the year 1841.

M. J. Higgins,
Esq.

9811. And you also have an interest in sugar plantations in Grenada?—I have.

16 March 1848.

9812. You went out to the West Indies at the period of emancipation, did you not?—I was there in the winter of 1838–9.

9813. When apprenticeship ceased?—Yes.

9814. You have been in Demerara also very lately?—It is exactly a year since I returned.

9815. Will you give to this Committee the results of your observations upon the comparative cost and merit of free labour as compared with slave labour?—Your Lordship is aware that several statements have been made in the House of Commons, I think by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Wilson, composed of extracts of pamphlets, stating that there was no doubt that at the present moment free labour was cheaper than slave labour. The pamphlets which have been most relied upon are those of Dr. Jelly and Mr. Scotland. I see Dr. Jelly states that cane-hole digging, which in slave time cost 4 *l.* 10 *s.* to 5 *l.* 8 *s.*, at the present moment may be obtained at from 2 *l.* 14 *s.* to 3 *l.* 2 *s.* Mr. Scotland calculates the cost of a negro slave per annum at 15 *l.* 16 *s.*, and he calculates 300 working days of a free Jamaica peasant at 1 *s.* per diem, making 15 *l.* sterling; a balance against slavery and in favour of freedom of 16 *s.* I will put in to the Committee, an abstract of returns showing the cost of producing sugar in the following West India colonies, during the last three years of slavery, three years of apprenticeship, and the first three years of free labour.

[*The Paper was delivered in, and is as follows :*]

ABSTRACT of RETURNS showing the Cost of producing Sugar in the following West India Colonies, during the last Three Years of Slavery, Three Years of Apprenticeship, and the first Three Years of Free Labour.

COLONIES.	Average of Estates.	—		—		—	
		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Jamaica - - - - -	22	10	5 ½	9	2 ½	29	2
Grenada - - - - -	13	9	2 ½	9	-	24	9
St. Vincent - - - - -	3	7	3 ½	7	1	21	6
Guiana - - - - -	9	6	6 ½	8	2	24	11
Tobago - - - - -	2	8	5 ½	11	2	27	10
Trinidad - - - - -	2	9	5	8	3	32	6 ½

The average cost is exclusive of interest on land and plant, and is inclusive of rum and molasses.

Those statements, I may state, have been very carefully prepared, and there is

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no reason to suppose that there has been any very material diminution in the cost of production, and certainly none in the cost of labour since that time. If such be the case, it is very clear that either those gentlemen who have stated that labour is now cheaper than it was during slavery, must have stated what is not true, or this must be the most complicated falsehood that was ever invented; and I think that Government, who can have no difficulty in determining, through their Governor, what is really the case, should have done so before our complaints were answered by such statements as these, which must certainly destroy all confidence in the minds of the unfortunate planters when they see these accounts sent out to them; and find not only that what they say is not believed, but that these statements, which give a ridiculously false impression of the actual state of things, are thus put forward. I submit that the real question is, not whether this or that job is done cheaper now than it used to be done during slavery, but whether the state of labour in Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica is such that a man can grow and manufacture sugar in those colonies with a less outlay of money for labour than he could during slavery. I do not believe any one thinks that such is the case. If it were so, there would be no use in debating the question at all; at any rate, why not ask the question of the governors of those colonies, and state to the country what answer they give?

9816. Do not the comparative profits of those various periods speak to the truth of the statement which you have put in, and against that of those who allege that free labour is cheaper than slave labour?—Certainly.

9817. Can you give the Committee any account of the net proceeds of your estates during slavery, and apprenticeship, and freedom?—I was not a West Indian proprietor during the period of slavery.

9818. You do not know what the estate produced before you came into possession of it?—I believe, on the average of 16 years, it produced 5,000 *l.* a year; that was before emancipation; I came into possession some years afterwards. In corroboration of what I have said, I will mention that in a despatch which Lord Harris, the Governor of Trinidad, sent home on the 28th of December 1846, he states, “I possess a detailed account of the produce and expenses of the same estate before and since emancipation: previously sugar was made for 55 cents (2*s.* 3*d.*) the 100 lbs.; it now costs five dollars (or 1*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*).” That is strongly corroborative of the statement made by Messrs. Cavan, which I have put in: and that there may be no doubt as to the competence of Lord Harris to give an opinion on this matter, on the 21st of May 1847, six months afterwards, Lord Grey writes to thank him for “the care and ability which his Lordship brings to the consideration of every subject connected with the welfare of the colony committed to his charge.” Therefore I think his Lordship’s evidence ought to weigh more with ministers than that of Dr. Jelly, who has never grown any sugar, and Mr. Scotland, who is erroneously stated to be a planter. I have inquired among Jamaica people who Mr. Scotland was, and the following is the only account I can get of a person of the name of Scotland, in the island: “My dear Sir,—I can only hear of one person named Scotland, in Jamaica; he either is or has been in the Assembly, I rather think the latter; he is a small storekeeper at one of the ports, Annotto Bay, I believe, in the parish of Mitcalfe. I cannot learn that he ever was engaged in the planting line.” I have no doubt your Lordship is aware that it is very easy to reduce the expenses and increase the production of sugar upon paper, much easier than it is to do so in reality.

9819. There has been an attempt to reduce the wages in Demerara within a short period, has there not?—It was felt to be exceedingly desirable that we should reduce the wages.

9820-1. Can you give any information to the Committee of the spirit in which the labourers have met that reduction of wages?—I wrote to my agent to direct him to do his best to reduce wages. In a letter which I received from him by the packet which arrived previous to the late sugar debate, he told me that he thought there would be great difficulty in doing it; that he would not make any promises, but that he would do his best. The first I heard of the success of the experiment was from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who informed the House of Commons, “he was happy to find that the reduction of wages had been met in the best possible spirit by the labourers themselves; and, feeling that the reduction had been produced by unavoidable circumstances, they had submitted to it patiently.” That was exceedingly cheering intelligence, and I was very glad

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glad to hear it. It was corroborated too by Lord Grey, who stated that "he had received another despatch upon quite a different subject, from the Governor of British Guiana, dated January 1st, in which it was stated incidentally by Governor Light, 'The labourer of ordinary work in the field completes his task in four or five hours, hitherto paid at the rate of four, five, or six bits (equal to 1s. 4d., 1s. 8d., and 2s. 1d.). Supposing each ratio to be reduced a bit, the labourer, by adding another hour to his work, can still earn as much as before.' This was written in anticipation of what would happen; but he (Earl Grey) had seen a local newspaper which stated that a reduction of 25 per cent. had taken place, and had been met cheerfully and with good humour by the negroes, who knew that the planters could not help it. There had thus been obtained all at once, without any expensive immigration scheme, the great advantage of one-fourth to the supply of the labour in the colony. Could there be a more direct proof of the truth of the argument he had brought forward? This being the case, then, would any man tell him that the system of protection had been of advantage to the planters?" Thus could Lord Grey at once, by a simple arithmetical calculation, arrive at what he declared was a direct proof that equivalent to from 12,000 to 20,000 labourers had been added to the labour of the colony. but by the next packet I received this newspaper, the leading article of which begins thus: "21 January 1848.—As might have been expected at a time like the present, when the whole country may be described as at a stand, owing to the refusal of the labouring population to turn out to work on estates for reasonable wages, the state of things consequent on this general strike forms the all-engrossing subject of thought and conversation among all classes." That assertion of the editor is corroborated by a proclamation by his Excellency Henry Light Esq., Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the colony of British Guiana, &c., suggesting that the labourers should go to work, and stating that up to that date they had not done so; and there are also two other proclamations, one stating that fires had been discovered in the megass logie of plantation Montrose, in the overseer's dwelling of plantation Lusignan, in the megass logie of plantation Melville, on another, that two megass logies on plantation Palmyra had been set on fire by the negroes, and offering rewards amounting to 3,000 dollars for the apprehension of the incendiaries. I also beg permission to read to the Committee an extract from a letter received by the house of Messrs. Bosanquet & Naghten, on the 6th of March, as to the way in which the attempt to reduce the wages had been met by the labourers: "To add to the alarm we are in upon other accounts, we are in constant terror of having logies or other buildings set on fire; the negroes believing that, as soon as the ruin of the planters here is quite complete, they will get possession of the estates upon their own terms. I cannot complain of your repeated observations respecting the position of your account; for it is, I fear, quite certain that, unless we are assisted by Government in some way or other, we cannot continue the growth of sugar." I have, likewise, an extract from another letter, of the 2d of February 1848: "Many of the people of this estate were ready; assented to go to work on Monday, 24th January; but, instigated by two violent characters, they returned to their houses, only one man and two women having the courage to brave the taunts and threats levelled at them. Informed of this early on Thursday morning, I was compelled to prompt measures, and ordered these two ringleaders off. I had to call in the police, and three out of four riotous characters are under arrest. The trials for assaults commenced on Saturday, and deferred to Monday, 31st January, at 12 o'clock. While the trial of the prisoners was proceeding at 'Panama,' one of my megass logies, the old but largest (120 feet), was found suddenly ignited, and of course shared the fate of all others filled with such combustible materials. I am now endeavouring to trace the perpetrators. The criminal courts detaining Mr. C. and the sheriff still in town, I do not know what might have occurred had not Inspector S. (who was ordered to pl. Palmyra) opportunely arrived, and, with his characteristic activity, acted so decisively. I had apprehended the catastrophe and placed sufficient night watch, but certainly did not anticipate a day incendiary; though, if once intended, the ready match can hardly be avoided, I look upon the country to be in a dangerous state." The packet which last went out will convey to those unfortunate colonists the information, that it has been stated by the first Ministers of the Crown, in both Houses of Parliament, that the labourers have met the reduction with the greatest willingness and meekness. I cannot

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not conceive anything more likely to injure their confidence in the good faith of ministers, if it is possible to injure it more than has been already done, than finding those statements put forward as positive facts from such a high quarter, on the mere faith of colonial newspaper reports.

9822. It is to be feared that there is too much truth in the speculation of the negroes, that if the planters are compelled to throw up their estates, they are very likely to get into possession of them; because if the planters should abandon their estates, probably they would be glad to take a pound an acre for them?—There is no doubt I fear of that fact, that a great portion of the sugar colonies will lapse into the hands of the negroes.

9823. You can explain to the Committee the very different effect which a strike on the part of the labourers has upon the sugar planter in the cultivation of his cane and the manufacture of sugar, and the effect of a strike, however disastrous it may be, of labourers for wages engaged in a cotton factory, or even in an iron or coal mine in England?—I will illustrate that by what is taking place upon my own estate at this moment. I expected to have made this year 300 hogsheads of sugar; 50 of them would have been made in the months of December and January. I received intelligence from the manager that he expected a particularly good yield from the last 50 acres of canes. These accounts not only convince me that that sugar has not been made, but that those canes, instead of being cut when ripe, and probably producing a hogshead and a quarter an acre, would have to be turned over, and probably, whenever I may be enabled to reap them, will not produce more than three quarters of a hogshead, and that not of such good sugar. Besides, there are the young canes on the estate, which will have remained unweeded for upwards of six weeks or two months, supposing the people then go to work; and anybody who understands anything about planting, will easily see the fact that the yield of canes which have remained so long unweeded will be most materially diminished when they come to be cut.

9824. People in this country can scarcely imagine the rapidity with which the rank growth of weeds will smother the sugar cane?—In the rainy season the weeds will positively conceal the young sugar cane altogether. Even in the manufacture of sugar it is difficult to describe the inconveniences of the smallest strike. The negroes of the estate are divided into small parties, one to cut the cane, and one to bring it home, and so on. A strike of one of those small bodies will very often greatly impair, if not destroy, the whole of a day's work; and it constantly happens that you find the people will not bring home the canes when cut, or that the mill people will not work to put the mill round.

9825. The striking work for 24 hours will destroy the produce of a whole year, under those circumstances, as far as the canes already cut are concerned?—As far as that quantity of canes is concerned.

9826. It is not only that the weeds, if permitted to grow with this rankness, smother the canes and prevent the same quantity coming to maturity, but they lessen the quantity of the sugar to be obtained from those canes that survive?—No doubt of it. At the end of this year if I were asked, "how is it that the Cuban or the Brazilian produces more sugar per acre than you do? it must be because you do not cultivate your cane with the intelligence he does," I should find it difficult to defend myself; yet the fact is, that just at the time when if I could get a regular supply of labour to weed my canes, and carry on the operations of my estate, I might make my sugar advantageously, the labourers sometimes will knock off; and it is upon that account that our produce per acre is very much impaired, by the impossibility of our cultivating the canes so well as they ought to be cultivated.

9827. In like manner, if the labourers think fit to strike work at the period when the rain comes, and the cane-holes should be dug? and the canes planted, that destroys the crop for a year and a half afterwards?—Of course it does.

9828. In the same way if the labourers strike work during the manufacture of the sugar, and leave the sugar in what are called the copper walls, in the course of 24 hours the liquor sours, and is entirely spoiled?—When I was in the colony in 1839, I remember seeing above 400*l.* worth of cane which had been set fire to, and it was necessary to cut; the negroes refused to grind it off; at the time work was very irregular and uncertain, and the whole of it was destroyed.

9829. That could not have happened during slavery?—Certainly not.

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9830. The greater part of the cost of the manufacture of sugar had been completed to its last stage when that occurrence took place; it was just at the critical moment of realizing the crop, that the negroes, by striking, were able to destroy the fruits of all the previous outlay?—The canes were exactly in the same case as a fat ox would be if it had been killed, and they prevented your selling it or taking it to market.

9831. The Committee have had a letter before them from Demerara, which arrived by the last packet, stating that the labourers had struck work, leaving what are called the copper walls full of liquor, and that it was expected that the labourers on every estate in the colony would follow the example?—My belief is, that when the last packet left, the Creole labourers on every estate in the colony had struck, and that they were doing their best to intimidate the Coolies and the few Africans from working also.

9832. The result of that, if it continues, will be, that the entire outlay upon the colony will be lost, and that there will be no return whatever?—Precisely so.

9833. Can you give any further information to the Committee as to the causes to which you attribute the scarcity and dearness of labour in British Guiana?—I was looking at the pay-list of my own estate this morning, and I find I have 209 persons on the pay-list, but the average number of people who work is not more than 87; they come and do a day's work, and then go away again. During slavery, about half the male negroes used to work in the fields; the other half were boatmen, and carpenters, and blacksmiths. Every woman on the estate then worked in the field; now the case is altered; and as they get rich they keep their wives at home to take care of their houses, or look after the children, who used all to be reared in the nursery of the estate; and for that reason, at least half the female labourers have been taken from the field and from the estate, and applied to other purposes. That is one of the reasons why we have not experienced so much benefit as might have been expected from the 40,000 immigrants who are stated to have been sent into the colony since the commencement of immigration; compare this with Mr. Scotland's estimate of the balance in favour of freedom.

9834. Have there been 40,000 introduced?—So I saw it stated in Parliament. The restrictions under which they have been imported have rendered their labour comparatively valueless, for we were not allowed to make engagements with them out of the colony; and when they came there, a great part of their time was spent in wandering about from one estate to another. I attribute, in a great measure, the mortality among them to that. They would stay a month perhaps with you, and at the end of a month they would walk off and wander about the colony in small bodies; and if you were applied to for any report as to their sanatory condition, all you could reply was, that they had walked off when their month was up, and you could say nothing about it. I think in that manner the mortality was heavier than if they had been obliged to remain upon an estate for six months, and been taken the care of which the planter would have been forced, for his own credit, to bestow upon them.

9835. It has hitherto been the practice of the planters, has not it, to find them medical attendance?—It has hitherto been our practice to find medical attendance for all the negroes, but we were obliged to provide the Coolies very amply with medical attendance.

9836. By an ordinance of the Government, those who imported Coolies were obliged to pay for a visitation every 24 hours, were they not?—I think every 48 hours. I think on referring to the ordinance it will be seen that no one in England under the class who pay income tax can hope to enjoy such medical attendance as we are obliged to find those Coolies. The ordinance states: "Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, that upon and after the publication of this ordinance, every person employing, on any plantation or otherwise, immigrant labourers under contract for six or 12 months, as the case may be, shall engage at his own expense a duly licensed medical practitioner to visit such immigrant labourers once in every 48 hours, and oftener if required." I do not object to this, but I say that, under present circumstances, we cannot afford it.

9837. That entailed, I apprehend, such an expense upon the planter, as rendered the labour of the immigrant almost profitless?—I cannot speak as to that; I never had any of them upon my estates; I always gave directions that they should not be received, because I thought by their coming upon the neigh-

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bouring estates the effect would be as favourable to me, and I did not wish to be mixed up with it.

9838. Is it not quite clear that if immigration is to be carried on in a way that is to be beneficial to the planter, who is the importer of the immigrant, and who has to teach him his business when he first comes, he ought to be secure of retaining his services after he has learned his business, for a sufficient period to remunerate him for the cost and risk of importing such immigrant?—I think we ought to have contracts for at least twelve months.

9839. Do you think in twelve months the immigrants would have learned their business, and remunerated the importer for the cost and risk of bringing them?—I would much rather have contracts for a longer time; but I think if there was a good vagrant law, and contracts for twelve months, so that if they did not continue to labour for me they would be obliged to go and hire themselves to some one else, it would answer the purpose.

9840. You mean that not only the importer of the immigrant should have a right to enter into a contract for twelve months for his services after his arrival, but that those who engaged him afterwards should also have the right to enter into annual contracts?—Of course, with the free will of the labourer; just as you might do in this country.

9841. One of the great disadvantages under which you labour in British Guiana is this, is not it, that you cannot secure the continuous labour of the free labourers now in the colony?—That is what increased very much the actual cost of the very high wages; that is to say, you not only pay a man a dollar a day if he chooses to do two tasks, which they often do, but you cannot depend upon that labour; and therefore it is less valuable than if you could say, I shall have that man's labour for 30 days consecutively.

9842. You suffer greatly from the seduction of labourers from you by the competition of other planters, do you not?—We do. The estates are very large; most of the buildings are capable of taking off a greater quantity of sugar than they have labour to grow, and as the Committee is aware, an estate of 600 hogsheads would be able with the same rate of wages to grow its sugar much cheaper than one of 300. The expense of the estate does not increase in the same ratio as the amount of the crop does, therefore it was a great object with the planters to increase their crops if possible; they also hoped that the restrictions on the importation of labour would be removed, and they have foolishly gone on bidding against each other till the wages have got up to the present rate.

9843. The Governor makes the law in the colony, does not he?—Yes, subject to confirmation by the Colonial Office at home, in fact the Colonial Office makes the laws, because if they do not approve of them they are disallowed.

9844. Have there been any beneficial industrial ordinances passed within the last two years, or previously; or have any beneficial ordinances of any kind been proposed from the colonies, and disallowed?—I am not aware of any.

9845. You do not know whether any new ordinances have gone out since your return to England?—No.

9846. Have you yourself seen anything of the Coolies, or the Portuguese, who have been imported into British Guiana?—When I first visited the colony there were four or five bodies of Coolies established there, and they did tolerably well at first. There was one man, I forget his name, who became bankrupt, and the Coolies upon his estate were used very ill, and the consequence was that for some years immigration was altogether forbidden, or such restrictions put upon it that it actually ceased. I do not think the Portuguese will ever make satisfactory field labourers, but I think they have done a great deal of good to the colony by taking the small shopkeeping and huckstering out of the hands of the negroes, who have gone back into the fields. I do not think the mortality among them now is so great as it was at first, because a batch going out to the colony now fall among their own countrymen, who put them up to the ways of the colony, and tell them how to take care of themselves, which was an advantage the first immigrants did not enjoy.

9847. Governor Light has explained that the great mortality which occurred arose from a visitation of the small-pox, which fell naturally upon all the Europeans there; not only the Portuguese, but upon others, and that there has been no such mortality since?—I had 35 upon my own estates; they were sent there by the Governor; the small-pox broke out among them, and I think 21 out of the 35 caught the small-pox, of which number six or seven died; and as soon

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as they got well they did not like the estate, and they walked off; I never got a day's labour from one of them afterwards, though they cost me altogether about 600*l*.

9848. That is one of the inconveniences which arose out of the restriction which prevents the importer entering into a contract with the immigrant to serve his new employer for a period of 12 months?—Precisely so. My estate is in the most healthy situation in the colony, probably; therefore there was no reason on that account why they should leave it.

9849. Have you any views upon the subject of African immigration, which you can state to the Committee?—It would be most beneficial to the colony if we could procure such immigrants; but there should be no stipulation to send the people back after a limited period, as we do with the Coolies; it unsettles them.

9850. You think that when they come to the colony, they should be obliged, under the excitement of what is now called self-reliance, to depend upon their own exertions for earning money enough to take them back when they might desire to go back?—Certainly.

9851. That they should be free whenever they should earn money enough to pay their passage to go back, if they thought fit?—Yes.

9852. If that were the regulation, in your opinion the immigrants, instead of leading the vagabond life which many of them appear to have done, would devote themselves to industrial pursuits?—I think so.

9853. Do not you think that there should be a further restriction; that they should not be allowed to go back till they have paid the expense of their immigration, which in the first instance had been discharged by the importer?—Yes. I think there was an ordinance, I am not sure whether it is in force in Trinidad now, which was proposed by Lord Grey, to the effect that such labourers as could not prove an industrial residence for five years, should be disentitled to their passage back.

9854. Not only that they should be disentitled to a passage back at the expense of the colony, but disentitled altogether?—I believe they might have gone back if they could have paid for it themselves.

9855. Should not that principle be carried still further, and the immigrant refused leave to go back till he had paid for his passage out?—I do not think there would be any advantage in keeping an idler in the colony.

9856. At present you import the labourer at an expense, say of 7*l*.; he might get back again, if he were a Portuguese, for about 2*l*. or 3*l*. to Madeira; or if he were an African, for something like that amount to Africa; would you permit him to go back as soon as he had realized that 2*l*. or 3*l*. which might be necessary to pay his passage back; or would not you require that he should both pay his passage home and his passage out, before he left?—I should prefer that he should put the colony to as little expense as possible, if he did not choose to remain there.

9857. Should not there be a regulation obliging the immigrant to repay to the colony, or to the importer, the cost of his passage out, before he was allowed to return at his own cost?—No doubt it would be advantageous to the interests of the colony.

9858. The cost of his passage out should be considered a debt against him, till he had by his labour discharged it?—I think if that were understood, it might possibly have the effect of preventing immigrants from coming.

9859. At the wages you are giving the free labourer in British Guiana, would not the free labourer very easily, in the course of two years, earn wages enough to pay his voyage out and home again?—It has been said that the best way of judging of the wages of the colony is from what are paid to the task gangs. On the Demerara Railway, which is now being made, it was stated in one of the last reports we had, that a labourer, for nine hours work per diem, earns 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars a week.

9860. That is 30 *s*. a week?—Yes.

9861. It would not be a very severe tax upon a man who earns 30 *s*. a week to oblige him, at the end of two years, to pay his passage out and home again?—Certainly not.

9862. Are you aware that the sugar cultivation has been said to be carried on in Porto Rico by white labourers?—Yes.

9863. Do you believe that story to be true?—The production of Porto

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Rico is about 47,000 tons of sugar. It was stated by a Member of this Committee, Mr. Wilson, that the negro population of Porto Rico is 50,000. It is also computed that the production of sugar per negro, in Cuba, on an estate is three tons to each negro. Assuming the negroes do all the hard work of Porto Rico, and that only one-third of those 50,000 are employed upon the sugar plantations, that would account for the whole crop of 47,000 tons, without a white man putting his finger to it. Therefore, though there may be circumstances in which the white men may work in a sugar plantation, it cannot be the rule, unless they do the hard work, and the negroes do not, which I think is not likely.

9864. Are you not aware that it has been stated by Mr. Merivale, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the great increase in the sugar cultivation of Porto Rico has arisen from the great quantity of capital, and the large importation of slaves which has taken place there?—I am not aware what the production of Porto Rico was; but considering that the population of the island is 500,000, I cannot think that 47,000 tons of sugar is any great production.

9865. You have heard it stated, that it is the enormous increase of free-labour sugar in the East which is the cause of your distress, and not the competition of slave-labour sugar?—I saw a computation which was made some weeks ago in the "Economist" to that effect, in which it is stated that at present there are 485,000 tons of free-labour sugar grown in the world altogether, "irrespective and independent of the Acts of the British Legislature, either as regards slavery or protection against foreign producers." The production of the East Indies being 70,000 tons, it has been shown before this Committee that the sugar importation from the East was very small as long as it was in competition with Brazil and Cuba, and only began to increase when it shared the protection which was given to the English West Indian colonies; and I believe evidence has also been given which proves that it is not likely to be continued, now that it is to be placed in competition with the foreign slave importing countries. Then there is the Mauritius, producing now 65,000 tons, which I think comes under the same category. There is Java too, from which 75,000 tons come. There is a gentleman of the name of Jukes who has published a book upon the subject; he was for some time in Java, and has written a full account of the sugar cultivation there; and he states that the labourers there will not work for the planters, even if they pay them, unless they are forced to do it by the Government; and that when a man hires land of the Government, he also contracts with the Government to be supplied with labour at 2½*d.* to 3*d.* a day; that they work 12 hours a day for that sum, and that the officers of the Government compel them to do that work, so that that can hardly be called free-labour sugar. I think that is very modified freedom, if it is not mitigated slavery. Then we come to the 100,000 tons of beet-root sugar, I will read the statements that were made about beet-root sugar. Mr. Wilson stated in the House of Commons, that "a change had taken place with respect to the cultivation of sugar, of which few persons were probably aware. The quantity of sugar at present produced on the Continent amounted to more than two-thirds of the whole amount produced in our West India islands not longer than 20 years ago. The total quantity of sugar produced on the Continent at the present time was 100,000 tons, and that production took place not only in competition with slave labour, but under other disadvantageous circumstances. This was the competition to which the West Indian interests were exposed." The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated also, "there was a remarkable circumstance connected with the French colonies in the West Indies, where slave labour was employed. Some years ago the beet-root sugar manufactured in France began to come into competition with the colonial sugar, and the French colonists petitioned for the imposition of a duty on the beet-root sugar produced at home. In 1843 a duty was imposed on beet-root sugar, which was to increase five francs a kilogramme each year until 1848, when the duty on beet-root sugar grown in France, and on slave-labour sugar grown in the colonies and imported into France, would be equalized." I thought that was a mistake in the report of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; but as his speech has since been printed and circulated, I believe from the Colonial Office, and that statement is in it, of course he believed it when he stated it; but as that would leave the duty on French colonial and home grown sugar, when it is equalized, about 1,012*l.* a ton, it is very clear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no acquaintance with the subject at all; therefore I will only deal with the figures as Mr. Wilson has put them

them forth: 'In 1828, 20 years ago, the British West Indian colonies, according to the figures published in the 'Economist,' produced 198,000 tons of sugar; consequently the quantity of beet-root sugar now grown in Europe according to the same authority (100,000 tons), is not two-thirds of that quantity, but very little more than one half, a considerable inaccuracy for a professional statistician. In 1828 about 4,500 tons of beet sugar were grown in France; in 1838 that quantity had increased to 80,000 tons. Up to that date no duty whatever had been levied on it, whilst sugar produced by the limited and mitigated slavery of the French West and East India colonies paid 18 s. per cwt. on raw sugars and 25 s. per cwt. on refined sugars, and those of slave importing colonies, like Cuba and Brazil, and all other sugars whatever, a duty of 32 s. per cwt., with an additional increase of 8 s. per cwt. if imported in any but French ships. It is very clear, therefore, that up to 1838 beet sugar had not been in competition with slave sugar of any sort or kind. Mr. Macgregor states, in Part 4th, page 176 of his Commercial Tariffs and Regulations, that "French colonial sugar costs at home on an average 40 francs per cwt. more than foreign colonial sugar, in consequence of the restrictions imposed on it to favour the beet-root." In 1838 a duty of about 8 s. per cwt. was first imposed on French beet-sugar; in 1840 the production had fallen down to 25,698 tons; the duty on beet sugar was in that year raised to 12 s. 6 d. per cwt. In 1843 the production having remained about stationary, the duties were again altered, an annual increase of 2 s. per cwt. being imposed upon beet-root sugar until August 1848, when the duties on French colonial and home-grown sugars will be on a par, about 20 s. per cwt. The duties on all other sugars remain unchanged. The population of France being 36,000,000, and the average production of their colonies (Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Bourbon) but 90,000 tons, it is obvious from the foregoing facts, that Mr. Wilson was in error in stating that in France that branch of industry had increased in competition with slave labour, and under other discouraging circumstances; for after all, when the duties were equalized next August, it would have enjoyed a monopoly of the supply of 36,000,000 of people, less 90,000 tons of French colonial sugar, which the French colonists could not in any material degree increase. According to Professor Dietrich, in 1838, 10 years back, the Zollverein produced about 6,500 tons, Russia, 7,500 tons; Belgium, 15,000; and Austria, 2,300; that is, 31,300 tons. Mr. McCulloch states the production of France in that year to have been 80,000; that makes 111,300. Mr. Wilson states that the produce of 1847 in all Europe was 100,000 tons of sugar; but the truth is, that so far from there having been any increase in the last 10 years, there has been a decrease of 11,300 tons. I endeavoured as far as I could to ascertain what the actual produce of sugar was for the last year. Mr. Wilson's information may be more correct than mine, but from the errors I have already pointed out in his data, I very much doubt it. I can only find that the Zollverein produced 14,000; Belgium, 4,000; France, 51,110; Austria, 6,000; Russia, 9,000; making 84,111 in 1847. Therefore if my figures are right, they would show a decrease of upwards of 27,000 tons in those 10 years. I am perfectly willing, however, to accept Mr. Wilson's figures, which contradict him, by showing a decrease of 11,300 tons, instead of an increase. I believe that the duties are so arranged in Belgium, that when the production exceeds 4,300 tons, the duties on colonial and beet-root sugar are to be equalized; therefore I have no doubt that more than 4,000 tons are made in Belgium, but they cheat the revenue exceedingly, in order ostensibly to keep it under that amount, it being the interest of the producer of beet-root sugar to retain the protecting duty. If they were to make 400 more tons of sugar, they would lose that protection; therefore they keep it just under the limit at which it must arrive before the duties are equalized.

9866. Mr. Wilson.] Are you aware that it has now got up to the highest point? — That must have happened within the last month or two, if it has happened at all. Taking Mr. Wilson's figures they will show that in 10 years the production of beet-root sugar in Europe has decreased upwards of 11,000 tons. It appears that in some of the states of the Zollverein the production of beet-root sugar has been abandoned; it has increased very much in Prussia, but in almost all the others it has decreased.

9867. Chairman.] Has not it a great protection in Prussia? — In the Zollverein, foreign sugar in 1843 paid 30 s. per cwt. import duty.

9868. Mr. Wilson.] You are aware that the duty on foreign sugar for consumption is not the real duty paid in the union customs upon sugar; they charge

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a very high duty upon raw sugar taken into consumption, but a very low one on sugar taken for refining, for the purpose of encouraging refining; hardly any raw sugar is therefore used in the customs union; it is almost all used in the shape of refined sugar?—I am aware that there is a considerable difference. I think if it is considered that what I have stated is the case with regard to beet-root sugar, if you deduct the 100,000 tons of beet-root sugar, 65,000 tons of Mauritius sugar, and 70,000 tons of East India sugar, and make some allowance for the mitigated slavery of Java, there only appears 30,000 tons remaining of Manilla, Siam, and China, besides what is produced in the British West Indies, out of those 340,000 tons which we shall have to compete with. I am not informed as to Manilla and Siam, but I have no doubt that the portion of the 30,000 tons coming from China has not been in consequence of any increased cultivation, but only that the high prices have tempted speculators to bring it over, and that they have burnt their fingers in doing so, and will not attempt it again.

9869. *Chairman.*] Is not there also another answer as to beet-root sugar, that the price of sugar in France was, at the period of the late disturbances, about 5*l.* 11*s.* a ton higher than it was in London under the general protection which is given to colonial and home-made sugar in France?—So I have understood.

9870. You stated that 80,000 tons is the average produce of the colonial sugar of France?—Ninety thousand tons is the average produce of Bourbon, Martinique, and Guadeloupe, and there were 51,000 tons of beet-root sugar produced in France in 1847.

9871. That makes 140,000 tons of sugar to be divided among 36,000,000 of people?—Yes, and with 26,000,000 we consumed 290,000 tons; therefore that will show that the home-grown and colonial sugar of France has a very considerable protection, the home-grown having the monopoly of the home market, less 90,000 tons of French colonial, which cannot be increased.

9872. It does not appear by the tariff of the Zollverein that since 1843 there has been any alteration at all in the duties on sugar; therefore the duties on sugar are such as you have stated?—It is 30*s.* per cwt. on unrefined sugar.

9873. The last few questions and answers have arisen out of a question whether the reduction of the price of sugar, and the great distress in the British West Indies, arose from the inundation of sugar grown in the East, or from slave-grown sugar; is it not the fact that the period from which this low price of sugar is to be dated, is the period when the Act of 1846 came into operation, introducing this large amount of slave-grown sugar?—I conclude that the 35,000 tons of slave-grown sugar which were introduced into this country must have had some effect in reducing the prices; if it had been at the same price as free-grown sugar, I think the people of this country would have given the free-grown sugar the preference, supposing it did not affect their pockets.

9874. When you speak of the slave-grown sugar introduced, you speak of the sugar entered for home consumption. The quantity imported was 100,000 tons, and upwards; and the remainder is hanging over the market, and hanging over the heads of the British planters, who have large stocks on hand?—Naturally.

9875. It has been a matter of discussion whether sugar can be grown by free labour as cheaply as by slave labour, and whether or not the British colonies, had they been permitted to retain their slaves, could have grown sugar at such a price as to compete with the slave-grown sugar of other countries; is not it the fact, that whilst the British colonies were allowed the use of their slaves, they did, in 1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832, produce sugar as cheap as it is sold now?—We did so.

9876. You were perfectly capable of meeting and successfully competing with the slave-grown sugar of Brazil and Cuba?—I think we were. I will point out to the Committee that one circumstance has been either ignorantly or dishonestly cited as a proof that we were as badly off in those years as we now are, because the price of sugar was the same. I see that is put forward in the report of Sir Charles Wood's speech. It is not stated that the cost of production was much less at that time. The paper I have already put in will show that a hundred-weight of sugar grown in Jamaica in those years only cost 10*s.* 5½*d.* to make, while subsequently it cost us 29*s.* 2*d.* to make, and therefore the same prices which would have left us a fair profit formerly, would ruin us now.

9877. And you have also stated that the estate which you now possess, when in the hands of your predecessors, had averaged a clear income of 5,000*l.* a year, whereas now it does not do anything of the kind?—This year, I shall lose.

9878. Can

9878. Can you tell the Committee what the estate has done for you in the last two years?—In 1843, I made 300 hogsheads of sugar, averaging 16 cwt. net over here; the profit was 2,779*l.* In 1844, I made 315 hogsheads; the profit was 1,051*l.* In 1845, I made 293 hogsheads of sugar; and the profit was 495*l.* And in 1846, I made 220 hogsheads of sugar; and the profit was 1,176*l.* That would give the average income of the four years, 1,375*l.* In the present year I shall make 250 hogsheads; and, at the present prices, I expect I shall lose about 1,000*l.* I will give what would have been the result in those four years, supposing the prices had been as they now are. In 1843, I should have gained 609*l.*; in 1844, I should have lost 180*l.*; in 1845, I should have lost 2,457*l.*; and in 1846, I should have lost 1,555*l.*

9879. What would have been your average loss?—The average would have been 820*l.* a year, instead of an average gain of 1,375*l.*

9880. That is just the contrast between the prices as reduced by the Act of 1846 and the prices as they would have been if the Act had never passed?—It is so.

9881. I understand your evidence to amount to this: that it is the 36,000 tons of slave-grown sugar which have actually come into competition, and the 60,000 tons of slave-grown sugar hanging over your heads, which has, in your opinion, reduced the price of sugar, and not competition?—I do not attribute the present price of sugar entirely to the Act of 1846; I attribute it to the Act of 1846 and the Act of 1844.

9882. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] Perhaps some part of it to the monetary crisis?—Were it so, that would have affected the estates in Cuba as much as it has done ours; but such does not appear to be the case.

9883. *Chairman.*] When it is attempted to be alleged that it is the monetary pressure, and not the Act of 1846, which has produced the evil, is not there a clear and distinct contradiction to be found to that in the circumstance that British sugar has fallen 13*l.* a ton, and slave-grown sugar has maintained its price?—It is rather higher I think now than it was prior to the Act of 1846. I have an estimate of the profit of a sugar estate in Cuba in the years 1845, 1846, and the present year. It is a very large estate, belonging to an absentee proprietor, who lives in Paris; it is managed by his agent. It is an old estate, not particularly good land; that is to say, it does not produce much above a hogshead an acre; therefore I am not going into an extreme in quoting it, because they say there are some estates in Cuba that produce three or four hogsheads. "Profit of the Saratoga estate on the crop of 1845 and 1846; 4,000 boxes of clayed sugar, weighing 16,000 cwt., equal to 20,000 cwt. of muscovado." (They calculate that five tons of muscovado contain the same quantity of saccharine matter as four tons of clayed sugar), "made from 933 acres of canes." In order to compare the estate with the details already furnished to the Committee of British plantation estates, nothing has been deducted from the annual profits for capital invested in plant and land; the calculations are made, taking the dollar at 4*s.*; the produce sold for 12,899*l.* in Cuba; the expenses were 7,430*l.*, leaving a net profit in 1845-46 of 5,469*l.* The crop of 1846-47 was a more ample crop than the previous one, but I am not able to say how much, so I will therefore take it at the same as the previous crop. It sold at 7*s.* a cwt. more than that of 1845-46; that would add a profit to the above of 7,000*l.*, leaving the profits of the estate in that year, 12,469*l.* As the prices of the present year are equal to what they were when this calculation was made, I calculate that the proprietor of this Saratoga estate would only make 5,400*l.* It is therefore very clear that the acts of the Legislature have affected the price of our sugar much more than they have that of slave countries.

9884. Mr. *Wilson.*] The first calculation was taken from an account of the estate, but the last is an assumed sum, taking a difference of price?—It is a calculation showing the least the owner can receive this year; he will probably receive more.

9885. Are you aware of the actual cost attending the cultivation of that particular year?—Certainly not; the only thing that I am aware of is, that the crop is rather better. There is another small estate, of which I can put in the details, the San Juan estate, belonging to an American, Dr. Wilson, who manages it very well. The produce in 1845-46 sold at 5,000*l.*, and the expenses were 1,100*l.*, leaving a net profit of 3,900*l.* The higher price of 7*s.* in 1846-47, would raise the profits of this estate up to 6,400*l.* This year, again, it would have fallen to 3,900*l.*

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9886. *Chairman.*] You were in Cuba yourself, were not you?—I spent a month there.

9887. Did you see a good deal of the island?—I saw as much as I could; they are not very willing to let you see much. I took out a letter from Messrs. B. to a large house in the Havannah, but they refused to let me go on their estates.

9888. Do you think that the proportion of the white population in Cuba has anything to do with the success of the sugar cultivation in Cuba by the negroes?—I do not.

9889. How many miles of railway are there completed in Cuba?—I think there are about 160 miles. There is the Guines Railway, 45 miles long; the Batabano Railway, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles; the St. Antonio Railway, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; the Sabanilla Railway, $17\frac{3}{4}$ miles; the Cardenas Railway, $29\frac{1}{2}$ miles; the Juccaro Railway, 25 miles; and the Coliseo Railway, 16 miles. That makes 150 miles. Then there is one from Puerto Principe to Nueoitas, which was being constructed; there were, I believe, about 10 miles of it made. One from Cobre to St. Jago, which is about the same length, and they were beginning a third from Trinidad to Casilda; that would make about 170 miles.

9890. Is it understood whether any English capital is engaged in those railways?—For the Sabanilla Railway there was a loan raised in London by a man of the name of Robertson.

9891. In the British West Indies I believe there is one railway in Jamaica, and you have spoken of a railway in Guiana?—When I came home from Cuba I and some other West Indian proprietors undertook to make a railway in British Guiana. The directors were all connected with the colony, and held one-third of the shares. We set to work to make the railway as economically as we could, and I believe there was no railway in which the shares were less in the market than ours. We thought it would be greatly to our benefit, and to that of the estates. We have now sunk about 100,000 *l.*; there is about one-third of the railway made, and two-thirds of the materials for completing the whole are there. The West Indians, however, with one or two exceptions, are bankrupts, and cannot pay up any further calls. 7 *l.* 10 *s.* out of the 20 *l.* shares have been paid up, but English people of capital who hold shares in it have no confidence in it now. They say, what is the use of making a railway when the colony is going out of cultivation, and will not pay up the calls; we have just become bankrupt, in fact, and the 100,000 *l.* invested there is utterly wasted.

9892. When it is complained of the British West Indians that they do not possess the same energy, and do not invest the same capital in the improvement of their estates or in the construction of railways, as the Cubans do, is it not the fact that the decay of the British plantations from the acts of the Legislature here, has deprived them of the credit which would enable them to carry out those improvements; that capitalists have transferred their credit to Cuba, and so enabled the Cubans to effect the improvements which they have made; and that the various alterations of the law, first the emancipation of the slaves, afterwards the admission of free-labour sugar, and subsequently, the admission of slave-labour sugar, has ruined the British West Indies and destroyed their credit?—I had not paid much attention to any sugar cultivation except my own at that time. I believed Lord John Russell's assurances that he was convinced that the Act of 1846 would rather improve our condition than otherwise; that it would only subject us to wholesome competition, and, in fact, be a benefit to the colonies. I therefore invested a great deal of money in this railway, which I am now very sorry for.

9893. You were misled by those free trade doctrines?—I was very much misled by them.

9894. If you ever were a free trader you have been cured of those delusions, have not you?—There is nothing so convincing as a breeches pocket argument. I believe that free trade ought to be used with judgment, and not in the reckless manner in which the gentlemen of the Manchester school wish to administer it.

9895. What is the comparative number of the black and the white population in Cuba?—The census gives the entire population at 1,760,240, of which the whites and the slaves are in about equal proportions.

9896. You have seen something of the Cuban plantations; can you give the Committee any information as regards the cost of labour in Cuba, and the wages paid there?—The estates are entirely cultivated by slaves; and last year, when the

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the prices rose very high, they broke up the coffee plantations, which had been much injured by the hurricane of 1846, and made the slaves upon those plantations into gangs, which were let out to the sugar cultivators. The coffee plantations were generally considered as asylums for the young and the old; the work on them was very light; but they broke those up, and turned the negroes all over to making sugar. When the prices got so high they paid as much as 17 dollars a month each for 10 women to work on this very estate of Saratoga, and they were to be fed besides. I may just state that I think that very fact shows how very unfair it is to cite particular cases of work done by task-gangs as a proof that slave labour is dearer than free labour, because the ordinary price was nothing like that. The ordinary price used to be 12 dollars for a man, but it was the very high prices obtained for the sugar which rendered it expedient for them just then to pay this very high rate, which no conscientious person who knew what he was talking about would say was the ordinary rate prevailing in Cuba.

9897. Do you suppose they got the 17 dollars' worth of work out of those 10 women?—I think they did their best; they worked them very hard.

9898. How many hours?—The way the work of the estate was done was this: they worked them during the whole of the day, and in the evening they gave them about half an hour for their supper, and then collected them all before the works, and told them off into two gangs; one of those gangs went back to work till 12 o'clock, and afterwards they were relieved by the other, till six in the morning; and then they were all sent out to the field again. So that they got 18 hours' work out of every one of them, men and women.

9899. It could not have answered to have grown sugar ordinarily at that cost; it must have been only just at the period of crop time?—They had a weak gang on the estate, and they had more canes ripe than they thought they could take off; therefore, considering the high price they expected to, and actually did, sell it for, it answered their purpose to hire and employ those people for the crop time at that rate.

9900. How long does the crop last in Cuba?—About four months; but then they work these hired people to death; they were not likely to treat them more leniently than their own slaves.

9901. A task-gang is worked harder, of course, than the slaves of the estate?—If possible. It is just the case between your own horse and a job horse which you hire. If the planters find it pay, they will work their own slaves to death. They admit it to be a mere financial question.

9902. Did you learn what in Cuba was considered to be the annual cost of the subsistence of a slave?—I have the details here, taken from the books of the Saratoga estate; they were rather short-handed upon that estate, and therefore they bought most of their provisions for the negroes, instead of growing them; for that reason I was able to come at it more closely. The following are the annual expenses of a Cuban slave: jerked beef, 5 dollars, 40 cents; corn, 5 dollars, 25 cents; vegetables, 1 dollar, 80 cents; salt, 62 cents; medical attendance, 1 dollar; medicine, 1 dollar, 25 cents; extras in hospital, 50 cents; two suits of clothes, 3 dollars, 50 cents; great coat, 1 dollar, 50 cents; cap, 20 cents; blanket (one in two years, 50 cents), 25 cents; total, 21 dollars, 27 cents. That makes rather more than 5*l.*; about five guineas. This was an estate where the negroes were said to be treated better than on any estate in Cuba; and I have no doubt, on many estates, their maintenance does not cost nearly so much. If they grew their own provisions, or made their own clothes, it would not cost so much. I have here the value of a sugar estate, with all its appurtenances, in Cuba, March 1846, calculated by Mr. Duggan, administrator of the Saratoga Ingenio. He did not do this for me, but he had been told by his principals to make the computation, and he gave me a copy of it. Here is the value of the lands, the animals, the negroes; and the value of the buildings. This was an estate which made equal to about 1,000 hogsheads of muscovado sugar. The prime cost of the land, 1,850 acres, he estimates at 11,000*l.*; the cultivation on the land, 6,245*l.*; animals, 1,986*l.*; the negroes, 20,476*l.*; and the buildings, 2,266*l.* That would make the cost of the plant, lands, and negroes, 61,873*l.* Here are the annual expenses and the salaries, which amount to 7,430*l.*; and the net profit amounts to 5,469*l.*

[The Witness delivered in the following Paper:]

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VALUE of a SUGAR ESTATE, with all its appurtenances, *Cuba*, March 1846; calculated by Mr. Duggan, Administrator of the Saratoga Ingenio.

16 March 1848.

A box of clayed sugar weighs 4 cwt.

Clayed sugar requires a quarter more labour in its manufacture than muscovado, and the amount extracted from a given quantity of cane is a quarter less.

Three caballerias of land are equal to 100 acres.

In rendering dollars into pounds sterling, the dollar has been, for convenience, estimated at 4 s.

Lands:	Dollars.	Dollars.
55 $\frac{1}{2}$ caballerias, at <i>Dls.</i> 1,000 - - - - -	-	55,500 ⁰⁰
28 planted in cane.		
8 — in pasture.		
2 — in vegetables.		
3 — in fallow.		
14 $\frac{1}{2}$ — in wood.		
55 $\frac{1}{2}$		
20 caballerias of cane in good condition, <i>Dls.</i> 1,200 - - -	24,000 ⁰⁰	
8 - - - - in poor condition - - - 500 - - -	4,000 ⁰⁰	
25,000 plantation trees, at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents. - - - - -	3,125 ⁰⁰	
Orchard trees, &c. - - - - -	100 ⁰⁰	
		31,225 ⁰⁰
Animals:		
125 $\frac{1}{2}$ yoke of oxen, at <i>Dls.</i> 59 ⁵⁰ - - - - -	7,467 ²⁵	
30 mules - - - - 51 - - - - -	1,530 ⁰⁰	
5 horses - - - - 34 - - - - -	170 ⁰⁰	
15 cows - - - - 25 - - - - -	375 ⁰⁰	
24 calves - - - - 5 - - - - -	120 ⁰⁰	
267 sheep - - - - 1 - - - - -	267 ⁰⁰	
		9,929 ²⁵
Negro men:		
4 drivers, at - - - <i>Dls.</i> 600 - - - - -	2,400	
1 engineer, at - - - 650 - - - - -	650	
11 prime negroes, 1st class, at 550 - - - - -	6,050	
13 prime negroes, 2d class, at 500 - - - - -	6,500	
31 able negroes, 1st class, at 450 - - - - -	13,950	
57 able negroes, 2d class, at 400 - - - - -	22,800	
28 ditto - - - ditto - 350 - - - - -	9,800	
12 ditto - - - ditto - 300 - - - - -	3,600	
2 ditto - - - ditto - 250 - - - - -	500	
10 ditto - - - ditto - 200 - - - - -	2,000	
3 ditto - - - ditto - 150 - - - - -	450	
10 negro boys, at - - - 100 - - - - -	1,000	
6 - ditto - - - - 50 - - - - -	300	
159		70,000 ⁰⁰
Negro women:		
6 prime wenches, at <i>Dls.</i> 400 - - - - -	2,400	
49 wenches, at - - - 350 - - - - -	17,150	
22 - - - - - 300 - - - - -	6,600	
9 - - - - - 250 - - - - -	2,250	
8 girls - - - - - 200 - - - - -	1,600	
6 - - - - - 150 - - - - -	900	
4 - - - - - 120 - - - - -	480	
4 - - - - - 100 - - - - -	400	
12 - - - - - 50 - - - - -	600	
120 women.		32,380 ⁰⁰
159		
279		

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	Dollars.	Dollars.
Buildings:—One large engine and boiling-house, 250 feet long, of various widths, from 70 to 100 feet, with two steam engines, four trains of sugar boilers of iron, on the Jamaica plan	38,000 ⁰⁰	
Two large purging buildings, built of stone and wood, tiled roofs, with room for claying 11,144 pots of sugar, with railway conveniences, machinery for mixing and raising clay, cars for railways, &c. - - - - -	25,000 ⁰⁰	
One large stone dwelling-house, with yard and garden -	4,000 ⁰⁰	
One large square block of stone buildings, with 52 rooms and yard in centre for negro dwellings, 300 by 200 feet -	6,000 ⁰⁰	
One square stone building, with yard in centre, divided into several rooms for a hospital - - - - -	2,500 ⁰⁰	
One large building, including stove for drying and packing -	6,000 ⁰⁰	
One large house, 180 feet by 70, for the purpose of drying cane trash, with railways from mill - - - - -	2,700 ⁰⁰	
One small dwelling-house of stone for engineer and driver -	1,500 ⁰⁰	
One small pump-house - - - - -	250 ⁰⁰	
Other minor buildings about the estate - - - - -	725 ⁰⁰	
One clock steeple, with clock and bell - - - - -	800 ⁰⁰	
One bell-post, with large bell weighing 800 lbs. - - - - -	500 ⁰⁰	
One large stone water tank sufficient to contain 70 pipes of water - - - - -	800 ⁰⁰	
One large dam or reservoir for water, containing from 10,000 to 12,000 cubic yards of water - - - - -	5,000 ⁰⁰	
One smaller ditto, for watering cattle - - - - -	2,000 ⁰⁰	
One stable for 14 horses - - - - -	350 ⁰⁰	
One coach-house - - - - -	350 ⁰⁰	
Kiln for burning tiles and bricks - - - - -	300 ⁰⁰	
One lime-kiln - - - - -	200 ⁰⁰	
One well 180 feet deep, with tanks, buckets, and machinery -	500 ⁰⁰	
Four smaller wells in different parts of estate - - - - -	500 ⁰⁰	
One railway from boiling-house to purging-house, with attachment to engine - - - - -	300 ⁰⁰	
One railway for discharging clay from buildings - - - - -	200 ⁰⁰	
One railway for supplying the furnaces with fuel from bagass house - - - - -	200 ⁰⁰	
One railway for transporting sugar to drying-house, with car -	300 ⁰⁰	
4,848 fathoms of dry stone wall on the boundaries of the estate, at dollars 1 ⁰⁰ - - - - -	4,848 ⁰⁰	
Embankments and bridge over stream - - - - -	1,000 ⁰⁰	
1,140 fathoms of hedge fence, at 25 cents - - - - -	285 ⁰⁰	
Several small stone bridges and stone drains for water in various parts of the estate - - - - -	2,000 ⁰⁰	
Two fire-engines, with hose, buckets, &c. - - - - -	1,000 ⁰⁰	
34 ox-carts, at dollars 46 ⁵⁰ - - - - -	1,581 ⁰⁰	
Tools of various kinds - - - - -	640 ⁰⁰	
		110,329 ⁰⁰
		309,363 ²⁵
Prime cost of land, 1,850 acres - - - - £. 11,100		
Cultivation on land - - - - - 6,245		
Animals - - - - - 1,986		
Negroes - - - - - 20,476		
Buildings, &c. - - - - - 22,066		
	£. 61,873	
ANNUAL EXPENSES of the Saratoga Ingenio :		
Cattle, horses, and mules - - - - -		2,300 ⁰⁰
Annual consumption of meat for 310 negroes, 140 lbs. per diem, at 6 dls. per 100 lbs. - - - - -	3,066 ⁰⁰	
325 lbs. of corn per diem, at 1 ²⁰ dl. per 100 lbs. - - - - -	1,423 ⁵⁰	
800 mule loads of vegetables, at 75 cents - - - - -	600 ⁰⁰	
Clothing, at 3 ⁵⁰ per head - - - - -	1,085 ⁰⁰	
		6,174 ⁵⁰

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	Salaries to Whites :	Dollars.	Dollars.
Administrator, per annum	- - - -	2,000-00	
Engineer	- - - -	1,200-00	
Mayoral (overseer of negroes)	- - - -	500-00	
Clerk	- - - -	480-00	
Cattle carers, two	- - - -	360-00	
Mule-driver	- - - -	300-00	
Two sugar boilers, 6 months	- - - -	1,200-00	
Two carpenters	- - - -	1,000-00	
Ploughman	- - - -	300-00	
			7,340-00
Transportation of 4,000 boxes of sugar to Matanzas, including storage, at 1-75 dl. per box	- - - -	7,000-00	
4,000 boxes, at 1 dl.	- - - -	4,000-00	
450 hides at 2-50 dls.	- - - -	1,125-00	
40 lbs. of 10 and 12-penny nails, at 3 dls.	- - - -	320-00	
15 lbs. of fourpenny nails, at 8 dls.	- - - -	120-00	
Taxes	- - - -	1,000-00	
Loss in negroes by deaths, and total estimation of their value in 50 years	- - - -	5,119-00	
Other minor expenses, doctor's fees, and medicines	- - - -	2,653-00	
			21,337-00
Annual Expenses	- £. 7,430		37,151-00
Produce of Saratoga Ingenio, 1845-6.			
1,333 boxes of white sugars, at Dls. 4-50	- - - -	18,326-25	
1,333 ditto of browns - at - 3-	- - - -	16,995-75	
1,334 ditto of cacarachos at - 2-50	- - - -	14,173-75	
4,000 cases paid by merchants - 3-25 each	- - - -	13,000-00	
800 hogsheads of molasses, at - 2-50 „	- - - -	2,000-00	
			64,495-75
		Net Profit - - - \$	27,344-25

Profit £. 5,469; not quite nine per cent. on capital invested in the estate.

The calculations generally made of the profits on West Indian estates (British) allow nothing for interest on capital so invested, but merely consider the profits on the annual produce and expenses.

ANNUAL EXPENSES of a Slave.

Jerked beef	- - - -	Dls. 5-40
Corn	- - - -	5-25
Vegetables	- - - -	1-80
Salt	- - - -	62
Medical attendance	- - - -	1-00
Medicine	- - - -	1-25
Extras in hospital	- - - -	50
Two suits of clothes	- - - -	3-50
Great-coat	- - - -	1-50
Cap	- - - -	20
Blanket, 1 in two years	- - - -	25
50		Dls. 1-27

On this estate each negro raises equal to 64 cwt. of muscovado.

Cost of production on quay at Matanzas	- - - -	Dls. 2-31 per cwt.
Sold for	- - - -	4-3

9903. That is calculated without the interest of the plant?—Yes, merely the current expenses, and the profit upon the sale of the produce. Here is an account of the small estate which I referred to as belonging to an American, Dr. Wilson, the muscovado estate of St. Juan. “The estate of St. Juan, the property of Dr. Wilson, who resides at St. Jago, a few miles off, has extensive mountain land for woods and pasturage, and a large plantain walk.” This is a specimen of one of the cheap estates. “There are this year 330 acres under cane, which will yield at least 340 tons weight of sugar; the cane is chiefly ratoon, and not particularly fine, as the limited amount of produce will show. The rum on this estate is very fair in quality, but the value of Cuba

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rum is so uncertain, from the want of demand, that I cannot give the result. The land in this neighbourhood is not of much value. The buildings and machinery cannot have cost more than 3,600 *l.*, and have been erected generally by the people of the estate. The proprietor is a clever and ingenious man, who understands the application of labour very well; he owes nothing, and obtains his implements from England and the United States at first hand. The cattle and horses yield rather a profit than otherwise, as he rears them, and they increase. The negroes, by the books of the estate, have increased. They never work in crop time over 14 hours, and generally 12, and have an hour and a quarter for their meals. This is an exception to the general run of the estates. All have their grounds and separate houses or rooms; within the last few years several have purchased their freedom by selling pigs, poultry, &c. The number of negroes is 110 in all; the first gang not more than 75. The expenses of the estate are about 1,100 *l.* per annum." The cost of 110 negroes is 400 dollars each, 44,000 dollars; machinery, cattle, &c., 20,000 dollars; that would make the cost of the estate 12,800 *l.* Then the produce, 7,000 cwt., at three dollars, is 21,000 dollars; rum, say 4,000 dollars. Deducting the annual expenses, it would leave a profit of 19,500 dollars upon the crop of 1845; that would be nearly 4,000 *l.* Here is the detail of the annual expenses.

[The same was read, as follows:]

DETAILS OF ANNUAL EXPENSE:

	Dollars.
Blacksmith's work - - - - -	111·35
Carpenter's work - - - - -	103·68
Mason's work - - - - -	164·66
Sawyer - - - - -	6·80
Engineer - - - - -	341·9
Tinman - - - - -	27·50
Brickmaker - - - - -	34·40
Wheelwright - - - - -	115·
Tailor - - - - -	75·
Stuff for clothes - - - - -	154·
Overscer's salary - - - - -	1,200·
White boy under him - - - - -	80·
Provisions and implements - - - - -	1,356·13
Sugar-boiler - - - - -	80·
Carriage of sugar to port - - - - -	1,332·25
Ditto - of rum - - - - -	355·
	\$ 5,536·86

Upon this estate, taking the interest at nine per cent. upon the negroes, and the expenses of maintaining them, that would make only 74 cents per cwt. for the cost of labour. I have before stated that task-gangs were paid 17 dollars per month in 1846-47 for each individual; therefore it shows how fallacious it is to take the labour of a task-gang, and to say that that is the cost of labour in that colony, when here we have only 74 cents per cwt. for labour.

9904. Mr. Wilson.] What was the produce per acre of this estate which you have been referring to?—It was a little more than a ton an acre. The facts quoted from Dr. Jelly and Mr. Scotland may be now judged as to the unfair idea they give of the cost of labour in Jamaica, when it is stated by them that labour does not cost above a quarter in Jamaica what it did; that what cost 8*l.* in slavery may be now done for 2*l.*

9905. Chairman.] You have already said that the average production of each negro in Cuba is about two tons?—More than that. I have here some questions, which were answered by Mr. Tolme, who was then our consul at the Havana, and who is a very intelligent man; we sent him over a number of questions respecting Cuba, to be answered, and he says that, taking the average, they would produce about three tons per negro of clayed sugar.

9906. Did you witness yourself the working of the slaves upon some of the estates?—I did; they were very hardly worked indeed; they were dreadfully emaciated and thin, and so weary that you saw them dropping to sleep in all directions. On the Saratoga estate, where the administrator was a very humane and intelligent man, and deplored the work he was obliged to make those

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people do, the machinery of the estate not being equal to the crop, he was obliged to keep the mill going all night. He attracted my attention to the fact, that towards six in the evening, and towards 12 at night, there were always half the gang had been worked 18 hours; and that the whip, which you did not hear in the day-time, was heard going constantly during those hours. I think people who visit Cuba mostly form their ideas of slavery from the domestic slaves in the town, who are very well treated indeed generally, and also from the slaves who work in gangs upon the quays. There are certain nations, such as the Ashantees, who are very bold and intractable; when a slaver brings them in, the Cubans will not take them to work at the plantations; they are afraid to do so; but they buy them, and let them out to themselves at the rate of a real for every hundred dollars paid for them; so that if a man has been bought at 300 dollars, he pays his master three reals a day, and all he gets above that is for himself. In that way you see gangs of fine handsome fellows working very cheerfully on the quays, unstimulated by the whip, because they get a part of the proceeds of their labour.

9907. The African when working for himself will work as hard as any one else, will not he?—Some of the finest races of people, the Ashantees, Kroomen, and others, will do so.

9908. From what you learned, was the severe labour of the slaves upon this estate an exception to the general rule, on account of the machinery not being equal to the crop?—No, I am certain it was not; I think, on the contrary, the administrator of the estate was a humane man, and that he would willingly have spared those people the work if he could, and that he did his best to alleviate their condition.

9909. Is not it the fact that the cultivation of the plantations has been so stimulated by the high price of sugar consequent upon the admission of slave-grown sugar into this country, that on all the estates the machinery at present falls short of the demand?—I do not think, so far as I saw, and I saw about four or five estates, and made diligent inquiry respecting others, that the machinery of the estates in Cuba is as good as it is in Demerara, but within the last two or three years they have imported in several instances, from France and America, some very fine machinery. The sugar in Cuba has been hitherto made by the old Jamaica process, except in two or three instances. The reason that Cuban sugar has been better than ours has been because it was clayed sugar, which we were forbidden to make.

9910. The improvement in machinery which has taken place the last few years, has arisen very much out of the high credit in which the Cuban planter has been?—Of course it has; and it is but to a very limited extent improved even now.

9911. You think, generally speaking, that the machinery is not equal to the crop in Cuba at present?—I think not. I learned there that there were a considerable quantity of canes that were damaged in consequence of the machinery not being able to take them off.

9912. Therefore the rule of working the slaves day and night is pretty universal?—It is the general rule there to work them at night. If they had very large clarifiers they could grind off enough juice in the day to prevent their having to keep the mill going at night. That is what used to be done in our colonies, when we used to work night and day; but when the clarifiers are not big enough to do that, they are obliged to keep the mill going. The people, when the clarifiers are full and there is a little interval, all drop to sleep. You see them lying about on the heaps of canes, but as soon as the coppers have been struck and refilled, you hear the crack of the whip, and the work goes on again.

9913. When the crack of the whip is successful they are not struck, I suppose, but if it is not successful they are punished?—The plan is this: in the buildings there is a platform round the engine, just over the mill. The driver has a long whip, like a French postboy's whip, and he leans over the bar in front, when they are feeding the mill, for instance. The negroes run up with their bundles and throw them down into the mill. Sometimes the mill is not fed, and then this fellow, from his rail, strikes the first man that comes up with a bundle of canes. I said to him once, "That is the very man you ought not to strike;" but he told me it came to the same thing in the end, and I have reason to believe it did. Upon none of the estates that I was at did I see the men formally punished. I suppose they would be unwilling to let one see it. I only saw

them

them struck in that way. I remember a deformed woman who was put to scrape the bits of cane out of the channel in which the juice ran from the mill to the clarifiers; there was a grating through which it was to run, which got choked up if those bits of cane were not removed. This woman gradually dropped to sleep, and then the fellow would go to one side and strike and holloa at her, just as you would strike an animal. He found out that she was neglecting her work by the grating getting choked up and the cane juice running over the side. The people in the field are stimulated by a driver or mayoral on horseback, armed with sword and whip. They generally have dogs with them, to prevent the slaves skulking from work in the large fields of cane; they could never get them out without dogs.

9914. The proportion of women on the estates is very small, is it not?—I think it is estimated that the black men are to the women about 10 to 1; but this gentleman with whom I staid told me that he had been employed upon a plantation where there were 400, and no women, and that the results were too horrible to be mentioned. I was myself upon a cattle farm, where the proprietor told me that he never allowed any women upon his estate at all. They never will allow the gang of one estate to mingle with the gang of another; they keep them quite isolated.

9915. Do the negroes appear to be very sulky?—They appeared really so debased and degraded, that they did not even seem to have the energy to be sulky. I never had been in a slave country before, and I could not conceive that human beings could be so debased; I have seen more misery in Ireland, but not such unintelligent misery as that seemed to be.

9916. You saw the negroes in the West Indies under the apprenticeship, did not you?—No, it was just over when I went out there; but I do not apprehend it was anything like that I have described; there had been so many mitigations of their slavery, that I do not think the general condition of our negroes in slave time was anything like what it is in Cuba.

9917. The natural tendency of the mind of the negro in the West Indies is to be merry and joyous, is not it?—I cannot express what a relief it was after leaving Cuba to go to Nassau, where there is a very fine race of negroes; to see the impudent looks of those people, and to hear the saucy observations they made upon us, was quite refreshing to see it, after witnessing the downcast weary look of the Cuban slave.

9918. Does the driver of a Cuba estate go armed?—They generally go armed with a long cutlass, and they are attended by a couple of bloodhounds.

9919. Are the negroes locked up at night?—On the sugar estates they are locked up in a large square stone building.

9920. With dogs outside?—Yes, which are very well trained indeed. I observed to one of the Americans who was there that his dogs looked rather heavy; in order to show me how good they were, he caught hold of a negro and pretended to struggle with him, and the dogs would instantly have attacked him, if the American had not lifted up his hand to stop them; they walk about among the negroes without pretending to see them as it were, just as a well-behaved dog will walk by a cat; they never appear to fraternize with the negroes at all.

9921. Do you think that it is possible for British Guiana or Grenada to continue in cultivation at the present prices?—I do not know much about the cultivation of Grenada; I have a share in an estate there, but I have never taken any part of the management of it. I do not think it is possible to continue the cultivation of British Guiana at the present prices.

9922. At what different price from the present do you think it might go on?—If we had more labour and could reduce the wages, no doubt we could cultivate sugar much more cheaply than we do.

9923. What reduction of wages would enable you to bear up against so low a price as now exists?—That depends upon whether you think we have any right to get interest upon the plant and capital sunk on the estates; but I think if we could reduce wages one-half we could go on.

9924. Do you imagine that there is the smallest prospect of reducing wages one-half without a large importation of fresh labourers?—I think we shall be burnt out before that. I think the next packet will bring intelligence of more fires in the colony.

9925. Coffee was grown in that country, was not it?—It was; but as labour

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became dear and scarce, the planters found out that it could be grown cheaper elsewhere, and therefore they ceased to grow it.

9926. The cultivation of coffee is driven out of the West Indies practically, is not it?—Nearly so; they used to cultivate a good deal in Jamaica, but it is decaying there; and they cultivate some in Hayti.

9927. Was not coffee cultivated in Grenada upon your estates?—No, none.

9928. You would propose, as far as immigration is concerned, that all restrictions should be taken off from the British planter, and that he should be enabled to get labourers where he thinks fit, entering into such contracts as he and the labourers could agree on?—I think that would be the best thing to do; the Government only to interfere to see that we treated them well when we got them; to punish us if we treated them badly, but to allow us to get them where we could.

9929. Do you entertain any apprehension that if free access to Africa were given to the West Indian planter, anything like slave trading and slave dealing would occur in another shape?—I think we should do our best to prevent it, because we know the outcry that would be raised against us, supposing we were wicked enough to do it. I think if it did occur in any one particular instance, it would occur from the misconduct of the individual employed, but certainly not from any desire the planters in general would have to be guilty of it.

9930. The law making slave dealing felony, and the law making the evidence of the black good against the white, would put any planter so disposed in imminent peril of being found guilty of felony?—I do not think it could be done without being found out, and I do not think it would be the wish of the planters that it should be done.

9931. Have you any other suggestion to make to the Committee?—None.

9932. Mr. M. Gibson.] You cautioned the Committee, in the commencement of your examination, against placing reliance upon certain statements which have been made relative to the cost of producing sugar in the British West Indies?—I spoke of the cost of labour; I was referring to Dr. Jelly's and Mr. Scotland's statements.

9933. The observation had reference to the drawing a comparison between the cost of producing sugar now and the cost of producing sugar during the period of slavery?—Precisely so.

9934. You stated that the cost of producing sugar during the period of slavery was 12 s. a cwt., and that now it was 29 s.?—In Jamaica, on the average of 22 estates, it was in slavery 10 s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In the three years subsequent to freedom it was 29 s. 2 d.; but I have no doubt since that time, from various improvements of which our estates were susceptible, it may have been grown cheaper; I do not know what the average is now in Jamaica, but I think it is considerably above 20 s.

9935. Are you aware that a statement has lately been made on authority in Jamaica that it is about 21 s. a cwt.?—That is very likely to be the case; in which I have given was the average of the three years immediately after slavery.

9936. Can you explain at all the discrepancy which exists between the statements of parties from Jamaica, as to the cost of producing a cwt. of sugar at different times. I have before me a representation from the Assembly at Jamaica, signed by the Speaker, and made to the Government of this country in the year 1812, in which it is stated that sugar could not be brought to the British market with the most moderate recompense to the grower for less than 50 s. per cwt. You admit that now, at any rate, it can be brought to the market at much less than that. How do you explain that discrepancy?—Possibly I am nearer right than the gentleman who made that representation in 1812.

9937. Is it not your opinion that the statement made by the House of Assembly of the colony, signed by the Speaker, in an authoritative manner to the British Government, is a more authentic document than mere statements of particular estates?—I think if the object of this Committee is to ascertain what the present condition of the colony is, they will arrive at much more wholesome conclusions by listening to statements made by respectable men, who are alive to substantiate them, and by having them verified by the Governors of the various colonies, than by referring to what occurred 36 years ago.

9938. The important question is to ascertain what is the difference of the cost of production now as compared to the time of slavery, because it is contended, that in consequence of the greatly increased cost, it is impossible to com-

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pete with slave-grown sugars; I wish to call your attention to the statements that were made by those parties during the time of slavery, in order to ask you to explain how this extraordinary discrepancy arises between your statement and the then statement of what the cost of sugar was in the time of slavery?—I have no possible means of giving any explanation of what occurred in 1812; I am not old enough to do that. I think it is very reasonable that you should take the statements of planters or proprietors like myself with some degree of doubt. Lord Harris, who is the Governor of Trinidad, on the 28th of December 1846 wrote this letter to Lord Grey:—"I possess a detailed account of the produce and expenses of the same estate before and since emancipation; previously sugar was made for 55 cents (2s. 3d.) the 100 lbs.; it now costs five dollars." This was in answer to a letter from Lord Grey, in which his Lordship thanks him "for the care and ability which his Lordship brings to the consideration of every subject connected with the welfare of the colony committed to his charge;" therefore I think that it is the best evidence you can have, and is strongly corroborative of what I and others have told you. Lord Harris is a disinterested man, of high character and intelligence, and can have no object in picking out an extraordinary estate in order to mislead the Colonial Minister; and I think that his statement is better evidence as to the state of matters in 1847, than even what was said by the Speaker of the House of Assembly in 1812.

9939. Except that Lord Harris's statement relates to particular estates, and the statement of the House of Assembly is a statement of the general cost over the whole island?—I find myself totally unable to give an opinion upon reports made by the House of Assembly in 1812, which I have never seen.

9940. You cannot explain how it is that the statements made at that time differ so materially from the statement you have made now?—You must recollect that in that computation, on which you dwell so much, they probably took in the interest upon the plant of the estate; in this calculation there is no interest taken; they are merely the colonial expenses of the estate.

9941. At that time no doubt the freight and charges of bringing sugar to this market must have been greater than they are now?—Yes, war freights and war insurances on both produce and supplies; and I think there were certain restrictions under which they then laboured, which have been since removed. I cannot say exactly what they were, but I am informed that that is the case. It is possible, however, that that was an exaggerated statement. I think many such took place with regard to corn.

9942. In 1830 I found there was laid before a Committee of the House of Commons some calculations and explanations relating to the commercial position of the West India colonies; and among them was laid before it the average cost of production of a cwt. of sugar in the British West Indies, without any charge for interest upon capital, and allowing for rum; they made the cost 15s. 8d. a cwt.?—You might just as well strike an average of the cost of labour in Middlesex and in the Isle of Skye, as take the British West Indies altogether and strike an average between them. It would assist you as materially at arriving at the truth, which I presume to be your wish.

9943. Is not there a great difference between the cost upon different estates?—There is.

9944. May not we sometimes have given to us the cost of production upon those estates where the expenses are the greatest, and at other times the cost of production upon those estates where the expenses are the least?—There is no doubt that that is the case. You must of course consider the character of the man who furnishes you with the information; a man who is trying to prove his own point will do that on both sides. I have known that done very lately by other interests than the West Indian.

9945. Do not you think that the same caution is requisite in reference to the statements which have been recently made before this Committee which you think to be requisite in reference to all former statements, and that we must attach faith to them, in order to guide us, with some hesitation?—I think that you cannot do better, having such men as the present Governors of your chief sugar colonies as Lord Harris, Sir Charles Grey, and Mr. Light, than rely upon the reports they have made; but in the course of the last sugar debate those reports were not alluded to; we were only confuted by the statements of medical men and storekeepers.

9946. You have described your particular property as having a very fluctuating

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ating income; that is to say, the income of one year will differ from the income of another by 50 per cent., and 100 per cent., and so forth?—Yes.

9947. As it has shown those great fluctuations in former times, how do you know that the present depression may not be succeeded by a restoration of prosperity?—Because I do not anticipate any rise in price; I anticipate a fall in the price of sugar; I think it is inevitable. It has been stated before this Committee, by Lord Palmerston, that in the last two years 110,000 negroes have been imported into Brazil; we know that upwards of 37,000*l.* worth of machinery has been sent there during the last year from this country alone; therefore I anticipate a great increase in the produce of Brazil, and also of Cuba. Mr. Wilson tells us that we are to look for great supplies from the East, which I very much doubt; however, if either Mr. Wilson or myself is right, we have every reason to suppose in either case that we shall be swamped. I think we shall be swamped by the produce of the slave colonies. Mr. Wilson thinks we shall be swamped by the produce of the free-growing colonies. In either case the effect upon the price will be the same to the British planter.

9948. Nothing that has been said here in reference to the present depression and the future prospects of the colonies is stronger than was said in former times to Committees of this House, of past distresses, and of the then prospects?—Reasoning as you do, it would appear that we could never make a complaint now-a-days with justice; and that any complaint which we may make may be satisfactorily parried off by the observation, Your forefathers complained equally loudly in former times.

9949. When you had a monopoly in this market, and when you had a control over labour, the then existing distress was as great, and your future prospects were as gloomy as they are now?—I think you will find the profits of the West Indians in those days were very great. A man who has had 20,000*l.* a year if he is brought down to 2,000*l.* would be very likely to cry out as loudly as a man who from 2,000*l.* is now brought down to nothing. I think it is too much to expect that the representations made by the West Indians 20 or 30 years ago should all agree with the representations which we are making now, when the very assertions and arguments made by Ministers in the House of Commons on the 3d of February were broken down by the next packet, as was the case in respect to the strike in Demerara.

9950. I wish to call your attention to this fact: at the time that I have alluded to it was represented by the Assembly that their distresses were very great. They say, "Cotton, pimento, &c. are also suffering very severely from that depreciation. The sugar planters, however, call more especially for some interposition. The ruin of the original possessors has been gradually completed; estate after estate has passed into the hands of mortgagees and creditors absent from the island, till there are large districts, whole parishes, in which there is not a single proprietor of a sugar plantation resident." The distress, they add, cannot well be aggravated; the remedy suggested was a high protecting duty; they had a high protecting duty, and distresses of as great an extent occurred after that. What is your reason for thinking that the same remedy now which was applied then would have a different effect from what it had then?—I can only repeat what I before stated. The West Indians were then in the receipt of very large incomes, probably 10,000*l.* or 20,000*l.*; and when those men were brought down to incomes of 2,000*l.*, they considered themselves utterly ruined, and with the establishments which they had, they were so to a certain degree. I think if you can prove that the resident proprietor is now prospering in Jamaica, that is sufficient for your case. I do not think we absentees have a claim for protection. Prove to me that the resident proprietors are flourishing, and I will submit to my fate as an absentee cheerfully; moreover, I shall then be able to sell my estate.

9951. Does not it lead to the inference, that inasmuch as this remedy has been applied frequently without effect, there must be other causes of a more public character?—The causes were probably, that the estates were not well managed; perhaps they were behindhand in agriculture in those days. They were so at home.

9952. It leads to the inference that there are other things besides mere price which have brought about this state of ruin in the West Indies?—I do not think I can admit that. It is possible, I think, for us to increase our cultivation now per acre. I think we may make great improvements in the manufacture and in

the cultivation of sugar; but as we have no monopoly of improvement, and as the competing slave-importing countries have plenty of money in their pockets just now, as is shown by the accounts of the Cuban estates which I have produced, and we are bankrupt, they are more likely to go ahead of us in improvement than we are of them; you cannot tell us that we are to rely for our future prosperity upon improvements in agriculture unless you can give us a monopoly of them. If they increase their improvements at the same rate we do, that will not give us any advantage beyond what we now possess. The Cuban is improving his estate as much as he can, and he has more ready money than I have, therefore the balance of improvement is likely to be in his favour.

9953. The principal recommendation which has been given to the Committee, is to raise the price of sugar in the British market. I wish to know from you whether it would not be advisable to turn a larger share of attention to the other causes which must be independent of the price, inasmuch as when the price has been raised before, great distress has still happened?—I am not aware what remedies they have in their hands in any way.

9954. Must not there be a great many other causes operating against the West Indian interest besides the mere depression of the price here?—I am not aware of any cause that does not equally affect the Cubans, excepting the irregularity and insufficiency of our labour.

9955. Do you think that the relations between the employer and the employed are upon as good a footing as they might be placed on?—I am sure they are not; they are so much to the advantage of the employed, that the employers are in a condition in which no employers in any other part of the world, that I have ever heard of, are placed.

9956. Is there the confidence among those who are employed, in their employers, that there might have been, had a different system of management been adopted from the commencement of freedom?—I think that the employed have so much the advantage in every way, that the result is an utter want of confidence in the employers, or rather a certainty that they cannot, no matter what are the contracts or the terms they offer to their labourers, secure a fair return in labour for the wages which they pay.

9957. You have a great advantage in Demerara over some of the other colonies, inasmuch as the land is extremely fertile, and it requires a great deal less labour to produce a certain amount of sugar than in Barbadoes?—That is quite a mistake. The land is exceedingly good in Demerara, but being alluvial soil below the level of the sea, the quantity of labour necessary for drainage, and to keep the sluices open, would be greater upon an estate in Demerara than in Barbadoes, and certainly greater than in Cuba.

9958. Have you a similar acquaintance with Barbadoes to that which you have with Demerara?—No.

9959. With respect to the Act of 1846, which has been mentioned, it seems that notwithstanding the prospect of continually increasing competition with the foreign sugar growers, the income from your property was better in 1846 than in 1845?—It was something better. I believe that is accounted for in one case by the failure of the sugar crop in Louisiana, which took off a great deal of Cuban sugar; and the Brazilian sugar had not come in in any quantity; and I think the crop also failed in Java. The effects of the Act had not begun to be felt then.

9960. There has been a prospect for some time, has not there, of an increasing competition between the foreign producer of sugar and the colonial producer?—Yes.

9961. Have you not had before your eyes for years therefore the competition of which you now complain?—Certainly not. I never imagined that this country would allow slave-grown sugar to come in upon equal terms with free-grown. I thought the pecuniary sacrifices which England had made at our expense would prevent her ever permitting that.

9962. Would you be prepared to recommend that steps should be taken for raising the price of sugar in the British market?—We protested very loudly against the Act of 1844; we also protested against the Act of 1846. Upon those occasions we were told that they were only wholesome incentives to production, and that they would rather do us good than harm; and now that we are prostrated by them, I do not think it is fair to ask me what I would suggest to

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replace us in the position from which we always said we ought not to have been moved.

9963. You would not suggest any remedy of that kind?—I had, rather wait till the evidence is concluded before this Committee before I made any suggestions upon it. I am perfectly aware that you have no intention of adopting my suggestions, and that if I am entrapped into an incautious answer it will be quoted against me.

9964. It was contended in former times, that the obligation to bring colonial produce from the colonies to the United Kingdom in British ships exclusively was a disadvantage which amounted to something like 2s. or 3s. a cwt. upon the sugar; what amount of disadvantage do you think there is in being compelled to bring the produce of the British colonies to the United Kingdom exclusively in British ships?—I cannot calculate the amount. There is no doubt that it is a disadvantage, because I am not aware that that restriction ever procures us cheap freights, and occasionally, on peculiar emergencies, it compels us to pay very dear ones. I do not think, however, that it makes anything like the difference which you have stated; but I have no doubt that it operates to our disadvantage.

9965. In the last Committee which sat upon the West Indies they calculated the disadvantage of the Navigation Laws, which compel sugar to be brought home in British bottoms, at an amount of 500,000*l.* a year?—My opinion is not worth much upon that subject, but I think we occasionally have to pay a high freight in consequence of them, and I do not know that the Navigation Laws ever do us any good.

9966. Do you think, at any rate, that the repeal of the Navigation Laws, as far as regards the British colonies, would be attended with no disadvantage to them under any circumstances, and that under some circumstances it might give them a lower rate of freight than they are compelled to submit to?—That is my opinion.

9967. Is there any other mode of reducing the freight and charges of bringing the produce to the United Kingdom?—I think there is no doubt that we have been injured by the restrictions against claying sugar. I think the differential duties have operated unfavourably towards us. To the estate with which I am connected in Grenada, some years ago was sent out one of the pneumatic apparatuses for making sugar; the sugar which it made was rather too white, and when it came over here it had to pay the high duty, so that it did not remunerate the proprietors of the estate to make any more; the value of the apparatus, therefore, about 1,200*l.*, was lost in consequence.

9968. With regard to the charges in England upon the sale of the produce, for instance, have you any suggestion to make?—I do not think those are worth going into, because the fairest thing is to suppose that a man sells his own sugars, and if he makes an arrangement with a man here and overpays him, that is an arrangement between him and his merchant.

9969. Individuals, if they please, may relieve themselves from that charge?—Yes, they may, and sell their produce themselves; or, even supposing the charges to be so high as to be unduly remunerative to the person engaged in business, it is to be supposed that then there would be great competition, and that many other West Indian merchants would set up and bring down the charges to their proper level.

9970. With regard to rum, when you gave the Committee an account of the income of the estate, did you mean the profit from the sugar on the net income of the whole?—I took the rum and the sugar; I deducted the rum from the sugar, but I made the calculation fairly; I did not sink the rum.

9971. Does the income you mention represent the whole proceeds of the estate?—Everything; the whole profit.

9972. From what you saw in Demerara, you can probably inform the Committee what you think is the capability of that country for the growth of the other productions of tropical climates?—No doubt you could grow anything there; you can grow cotton there, and coffee; but the question is not whether you can grow them, but whether you can grow them cheaper than they are grown in other countries. It has been found that cotton and coffee can be grown cheaper in other parts of the world, and therefore they have given them up in Demerara.

9973. May

9973. May not there be a danger of giving too great a stimulus to the cultivation of sugar, to the neglect of other products?—If sugar were abandoned you would perhaps have a feeble coffee cultivation; I do not think you would have cotton.

9974. Looking to the fluctuations which have occurred in the sugar cultivation, the severe distress, and the great amount of ruin which has constantly occurred in connexion with sugar cultivation, do you think it would be wise in the Legislature to be stimulating continually the production of sugar in our colonies?—I think they must look at the alternative they are placed in; if it is not done, there will be plenty of sugar in this country, but it will come from Cuba and Brazil. The country must make their election between free and slave-grown produce.

9975. In reference to the future and permanent interests of the inhabitants of the colonies and the parties who may in future become connected with them; seeing, as we have done, the greatest distress occur from time to time, extensive bankruptcies and general ruin connected with sugar cultivation, under the operation of stimulating the production, do you think it wise for the Legislature to persevere in the attempt to stimulate by protection the cultivation of sugar?—I do; I think you have placed us, or are about to place us, in competition with the slave-importing colonies, before you have even given us time to take the precautionary measures for which the present small protection which we have was conceded to us. We were told in 1842 that the captured Africans should be sent over to the West Indian colonies; there have been about 5,000 sent since Lord John Russell stated that, and the rest have been sent to Sierra Leone, where they absolutely do nothing, and are in a most deplorable condition, morally and physically.

9976. The question has reference, not to the interests of the planters alone, but to the condition of the whole population in the colonies?—I will give the Committee a better opinion than my own. On the 18th of September last Lord Harris, in those despatches which were withheld until the late sugar debate was concluded, writes thus to Lord Grey: "My Lord, I have already mentioned to your Lordship the distress existing at this time in the colony, and which is increasing daily, and amounts to an unprecedented stagnation of business, the cases of which constantly brought to my notice, viz. estates having the finest promise of a larger crop than was ever previously produced being almost abandoned for the want of means to pay for the necessary labour, are most distressing. Without entering into any of the details mentioned in the petition, either concerning anticipated concessions or as applicable to future remedies, I do not hesitate to express to your Lordship my conviction, that if this colony is not to be left to subside into a state of comparative barbarism, which would result from the ruin of its largest proprietors, some more than ordinary relief is necessary to support it in the contest in which it, in common with the other British West India colonies, is now engaged. Circumstanced as it is, I believe it incapable of successfully competing in the British market with the produce of countries in which slavery is still permitted, unless the advantages of free trade are conceded to it as well as the disadvantages. And I would add, that relief should come speedily, if it is to produce any effect." That is the opinion of one of the best governors in the West Indies, according to Lord Grey.

9977. When was that received?—It was written on the 18th of September last; I suppose it was received in October or November last. It was moved for before the recess by Mr. Hume, and placed on the table of the House of Commons five minutes after the sugar debate was concluded. I think it is very important that these things should be recorded, in order that the public may know whether the question was really discussed with the candour and fairness which we were promised.

9978. When was it moved for?—Before the Christmas recess.

9979. Knowing the state of the whole population, do you think it essential to their future happiness and welfare that a stimulus should be given to the cultivation of sugar in particular?—I think it is essential to their future improvement that there should be a white population among them. I do not think, whether the sugar cultivation is continued, or any other introduced, you will get white speculators to go out there unless they can make more than in this country would be considered a fair return for their capital. A person having 5,000*l.*, and wishing to invest it in a colony, would naturally rather choose Canada or

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Australia than a tropical climate, unless he saw that in a certain time he could make a more rapid return than he could in more temperate countries, and then come home and enjoy it in England. I do not think you will get Englishmen to go out there with the notion of passing their lives, and that their children should pass their lives in those tropical climates; the change for a Spaniard to emigrate to Cuba is by no means so great.

9980. You have a great deal of valuable timber in Demerara, have not you? There is a great deal of fine timber up the rivers, but it is expensive, because labour is dear in cutting it.

9981. And the land is suitable for the production of pretty nearly every description of tropical produce in abundance, is not it?—I believe so; but that proves nothing, unless you look to other circumstances with it; if you will read the programme of the colony of Sierra Leone, when it was first established, you will find that there was nothing they could not grow there in the greatest abundance; they astonished people by saying that cotton, indigo, coffee, and every other tropical production grew there spontaneously. There was certainly no want of labour; for about 60,000 people have been sent since its foundation to Sierra Leone; and yet I think, about 10 years ago, there was a computation made that a negro at Sierra Leone produced 1 s. 6 d. a year by his labour, and consumed 2 l. worth of English manufactures; whilst if he were sent to Trinidad, the same man would produce 17 l. sterling a year, and consume about 12 l. worth of English manufactures; but still the captured Africans have constantly been sent to Sierra Leone since that time.

9982. Perhaps that may arise from the obligation of some treaties?—Those treaties appear to bind us only; they never bind the nations with whom we make them. Look at our treaty with Brazil.

9983. A statement was made before the Committee of 1832, in reference to the difference of duty between British spirits and rum; it was stated to be 1 s. 6 d. in England, and some other sum in Scotland and Ireland; and it was further stated that it was intended as a protection to the domestic producer of spirits here, in reference to certain restrictions which he laboured under, but that it was very prejudicial to the producer of rum in the colonies; what have you to say upon that point, as to any relief which could be afforded in that direction?—The natural relief I should suggest would be, what impartial arbitrators should consider an equalization of the duty; but I am not very well informed upon that point, and I had rather not say anything upon it.

9984. It is complained of as one of the restrictions under which you labour?—Yes.

9985. You have enumerated several restrictions; for instance, the Navigation Laws, the inequality of duty between rum and corn spirits, and the restrictions which you complain of in reference to your supply of labour. Those, as I understand you, are some of the principal restrictions which you complain of, which render you unable to compete with the sugar of Cuba?—Those three points were recapitulated at the passing of the Bill of 1846 by Lord John Russell, and we were told that we were to be relieved from them. Hardly anything has yet been done. The best part of our protection has expired, namely, the 7 s., and the 6 s. has nearly expired, but although we are consoled by the assurance that these advantages are in progress of being given to us, they are not given to us yet.

9986. You are aware that it would be quite inadequate to continue merely the present amount of protection, inasmuch as your distress has happened under it?—If the present prices of sugar continue, I think it would.

9987. Have not we proof that 6 s. a cwt. protection is not sufficient to prevent the ruinous price?—I think it has been proved by the experiments in the next rooms, that our present protection is not equal to 6 s. a cwt.

9988. Mr. Villiers.] Are the Committee to understand that you have no recommendation to make; that you have not matured any suggestions or plans for the relief of the colony with which you are connected?—I have not matured any plans for the relief of the colony with which I am connected, which I think would be acceptable to you.

9989. Do the Committee understand you to say that you have no clear ideas as to the way in which the colony could be relieved?—I do not think I have anything to suggest which has not been already suggested and considered unworthy of being attended to by the present Government.

9990. Did not you say just now that it was not for you to make any suggestions on the subject?—I said I thought it was unreasonable, after those measures had been enacted against our most urgent remonstrances which we foretold would ruin us, that when the colonies got into the difficulty which we said they would get into, you should turn round to us, and say, “Now, gentlemen, we are ready to listen to any suggestions which you may have to make, which will put you back into the position from which we have cast you.”

9991. But do you say that the colony of Demerara might be saved if labour was allowed to be freely imported?—I think it would be very beneficial to us; but I am by no means sure that that remedy has not been put off till it is too late. I do not think any person who has not been in that country can form any idea of the evil which a cessation of work for two or three months in such a colony is likely to produce. I believe the relief which would have been materially useful to us three months ago, would be of no use to us now; and every day you put off relieving us, if there is any intention of doing so, you have a more difficult task to fulfil.

9992. Do you suggest to the Committee that a protective duty should be maintained, or that it should be increased, and that labour should be introduced as you have proposed?—I am unwilling to suggest that protection should be increased, because I know that that proposition is always met by derision, and I do not wish to expose myself to that; I only wish to state my belief of the condition of the colonies, and to leave it to the persons in whose hands they unfortunately are to do what they please, they having the circumstances before them and incurring the responsibility of their policy.

9993. Do you share the opinion of other intelligent witnesses who have been called here, that if the price could be raised in this country, and the colonies could have the power of importing freely, and in sufficient numbers, the labourers they require, their prosperity would be maintained?—I think if you could raise the price for the present, and give us the means now of continued cultivation, by procuring additional labourers (for if we are to import them, it must be through the intervention of the Government), the colonies might then, perhaps, still thrive.

9994. What is your opinion of the colonies all having the same advantage of importing labour to the amount that they allege to be requisite; what would be the effect upon the production of sugar?—It would increase the quantity of sugar, and we should have enough to supply this country, and a little more. What we should make more than this country would want would go into the markets of Europe, and under those circumstances our price would be regulated by the price of slave-labour sugar; but the great advantage would be, that when we make an abundance of sugar, though we should get low prices we could bear them better, because, even at the present prices, supposing it costs 2,000 *l.* to make 100 tons of sugar, you can make 200 tons for 3,000 *l.* On the other hand, supposing our crops failed, the effect of a protection would be to ensure us a high price, though when the crops were abundant our prices would go down, because the surplus which we should have to send out into the markets of Europe would regulate the price. At any rate, we should in such a case enter into competition with slave-labour sugar, with money in our pockets, and not as we now are, bankrupts.

9995. What is your opinion as to the effect upon the price which is mentioned here as essential to the continued prosperity of the islands: if all those islands are to go on increasing their production, will not the whole quantity in the markets of the world be so much increased as that that which is stated as so essential to prosperity will not be maintained?—That question was put to me just now. I think if you will look into the evidence which has been given respecting East Indian, Mauritius, and beet-root sugar, you will see that there is no great chance of their competing with the sugar of slave-importing and slave-killing countries.

9996. If we should supply ourselves entirely from our own possessions owing to the increase of produce, all that which would otherwise come from other countries would be thrown upon the general market and the price be much reduced?—There is no doubt that the quantity of East Indian and Mauritius sugar will diminish very much. Put yourself in the condition of a West Indian planter; you make 300 tons of sugar; we will say that that is increased to 500 tons in good seasons by more labour. You are obliged to compete in the markets of Europe, because you make more than England wants; but you can afford

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then to take a much lower price, because you can grow and manufacture 500 tons of sugar at a lower rate than you can 300. Supposing a bad year comes, and your crop is reduced to 200, then the protection ensures you a good price. But what position am I in now?—I have made a good crop this year, and I lose 500*l.* by it; supposing next year I only make half the crop, what will be the result?

9997. There has been a good crop everywhere else this year, has not there?—There has.

9998. Is there any other means but that of excluding slave sugar, and perhaps foreign sugars also, of maintaining a price sufficient to meet the views and support the expenses of the West India body?—I do not think there is any other means of supporting the price.

9999. If we are to allow foreign sugar to come into this country, you think any introduction of labour, and any minor advantage that we may confer upon you, would really in the end be a delusion?—I do not think any importation of labour will enable the British West Indies to compete with the slave-importing colonies of Cuba and Brazil for some time to come.

10000. You consider their prospects perfectly hopeless?—That depends whether the party now in power are prepared to give us protection or not for the present.

10001. You do not expect us to exclude all foreign sugar from the country, do you?—I believe there are some people who are sanguine enough to expect it; I do not expect it, because I do not believe that the gentlemen who have been dealing with the colonies understand the subject very fully; at least I know a good many of them do not; and I do not think they are aware of the evils which they have inflicted upon us. I think they will appear more fully in the course of next year. They have an indistinct hope that matters will come right somehow. The estates now are starved, as it were; the cultivation is not kept up, therefore people go on reaping and reaping, but they do not sow. I am sure Lord Grey did not know what the true facts of the case were when he told the House of Lords that there had been an accession of one-fourth to the labour in the colony of British Guiana, at the very time when every one connected with the colony knew that there was not a sugar estate working in it. He believed it was so, or I am convinced he would not have said so, but unfortunately it was very much otherwise.

10002. It was not to confer a decided benefit upon the colonies that the change of the law took place; it was for the purpose of meeting the demand of the community here, that they should have their sugar as cheaply as it could be obtained?—I never thought it was for the purpose of conferring a benefit upon the colonies.

10003. You have suggested a plan for introducing labour, that would apparently give very great power to the planter over his servant?—It would give about the same power to the planter over his servant that the farmer has over his servant in England; not more, I think.

10004. You recommended, and indeed expected, that you should be allowed to make a contract with the labourers for 12 months?—I never said I expected it. I said I thought it would be an improvement. If you take the position of an English labourer in a close parish in the West of England, where the farmer farms the whole of the parish, he is really in a worse position than a labourer would then be in Demerara; he cannot get employment anywhere else, and the farmer may fix the rate of wages and vary it from week to week; and the only alternative the English peasant has is to go into the workhouse.

10005. I understood you that the immigrant was not to return to his native country unless he could bring a certificate of having acted fairly by his master for five years, and unless he agreed to pay so much for his passport to return, even supposing he had such a certificate?—I think what I stated was, that an African imported from Africa on an understanding, which of course is explained to him there, that he is coming away for the purpose of labouring on the sugar estates in the West Indies for a certain period, should not be allowed to go back till he had paid the cost of his transit to the West Indies, or laboured for that period; so that he should have fulfilled the contract under which he was brought over, or have repaid the planter the expense which he had been put to by his omitting to fulfil it. I cannot see anything unjust in that.

10006. Under those circumstances, do not you think it would be tantamount

to a security for his faithful service during the time, that he should repay the master's expenses of bringing him there, and that he should not be allowed to return till he could produce a certificate from the master that he had given him satisfaction during five years?—Assuming that to be so, the cost of bringing labourers over would be from 6*l.* to 7*l.*; and in Demerara the wages being, as is stated, on the Demerara Railway, upwards of 30 *s.* a week, it would be no very onerous thing for him to labour for four or five weeks, and then he could set himself as free as possible. I mention that as the highest price paid for task-work.

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10007. That is the amount of wages before this immigration takes place?—Yes, certainly.

10008. Have you any doubt that under those circumstances, in the case of men pressed by their necessities and their hopes of returning, and other hard conditions which perhaps would be imposed, their service would be tantamount to forced labour during the five years of their contract?—I do not think such a labourer would be reduced to the condition of the labouring man in this country; a man must have some stimulus to work, either his natural or acquired wants, or the stimulus of the lash. Our object is to give him a stimulus to work which shall be more humane than the stimulus of the lash.

10009. Have you any doubt that the plan you propose would be sufficient to secure continuous labour in the island?—I hope it would; I cannot say that it would.

10010. That is a regulation which has been proposed by Lord Grey, has it not?—An ordinance has been issued to that effect, but I think it is only for six months. Lord Harris proposed some regulation of that kind, which was disallowed, and I think Lord Grey's ordinance was founded upon the one which Lord Harris proposed.

10011. That would be satisfactory to the West Indians as far as getting labourers goes; but is not there this other difficulty, that there is now a great want of capital in all those islands; and that upon these labourers being introduced by the Government, the planters would have a difficulty in finding the means of employing them. Has not that representation been made by some of the authorities of the various colonies?—We have not had very free access to their despatches lately. We do not know what the opinion of Sir C. Grey or Mr. Light is upon these points.

10012. Do not some of the Governors refer generally to the want of capital in the islands?—I have no doubt that want prevails at this moment to a considerable extent; but up to six months ago, I will venture to say the non-payment of the labourers regularly was a very rare exception, instead of being the rule; and I can only say, that in my two visits to Demerara I never knew an instance in which the labourers were not paid within a week of the time for paying them; we used to pay them once a month. I believe at this moment there is an universal disability to pay.

10013. You confine your observations to Demerara, do not you?—Yes.

10014. You do not know anything about Jamaica?—Last winter I went to the West Indies; not so much with a view of visiting my own estate as of collecting what information I could. I went down to Trinidad and spent a fortnight there, and went round to various islands with a view of collecting all the information in my power.

10015. Did you derive your information with respect to Jamaica from the house of Cavan?—The only thing that I derived from that house was the computation of the relative cost of sugar, which I have put in.

10016. Did you ever see a memorial signed by them, together with others, with respect to the state of Jamaica and of the West India colonies generally in 1830?—No.

10017. You have not depended much upon that information?—I have already stated that I have never seen it.

10018. I suppose one reason for the great deficiency of the means of employing labour is the excessive debt with which nearly every estate is encumbered?—I do not think that is the reason. I think the reason is, that few, if any, capitalists previously unconnected with the West Indies have sent any capital out there during the last 10 years, because there was no chance of its fructifying. They preferred India and the Mauritius, where labour was less interfered with.

10019. By your own Return you appear to have been in a thriving state in

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Demerara till 1846?—My estate, I think, is the best estate in the colony of its size; it is not encumbered with debt. If you take the proceeds of it at about 1,200 *l.* a year upon the average of the last four years, that will leave a very insufficient per-centage upon the plant and the money employed in conducting it. I know of no other estate which has done so well.

10020. You alluded to the great productiveness of those estates in former times; is it not their misfortune now that they never employed any of those large proceeds to discharge their debts?—I think the fair way of dealing with this question is to take an estate which is not in debt; for instance, Mr. Scotland, in the pamphlet to which Sir C. Wood referred, proposes to contrast the case of a Cuban proprietor of large capital resident upon his estate with a Jamaica proprietor not resident on his estate, and very much cheated by his attorney. I do not think that is a fair way of arriving at a conclusion on any subject.

10021. You were asked some questions about the strike for wages, and about incendiarism; do you know of any plantation which has been fired?—I think there are four mentioned by the Governor in the paper which I have here.

10022. Were they plantations or only logies?—The logies and buildings are all close together, and they are surrounded by immense fields of cane, so that if they set fire to one of those buildings the probability is that unless the most prompt and active measures are taken the whole will be destroyed. They take the greatest precaution they can by putting the logies to the leeward of the buildings, but there is great difficulty to prevent the fire communicating with the cane and the other buildings.

10023. Is it a fact that the logies, or that the cane fields have been on fire?—If you say that a farm has been on fire in this country it may be the ricks or the dairy, or anything else; in one case, I believe, it was the logie, in another case it was the overseer's house, and in other cases it was a dwelling-house.

10024. The same thing has occurred before, has it not?—Fires have of course occasionally occurred in Guiana as in London, but not in the way in which they have now occurred.

10025. You have no proof, have you, that it has been an act of incendiarism?—The Governor expresses a strong opinion that it has been so, in the proclamation he has issued. He is a better judge of that than I can be.

10026. There has been nothing brought home to the creoles?—No; the whole colony is so combustible in dry weather, that with a pipe a man might set fire to the whole colony, without being discovered. If he set fire to any of the fields, they would all burn like tinder.

10027. You were but a short time in Cuba, were you?—I was in Cuba about a month.

10028. Did you speak the language?—No, but I had no difficulty about that, because the estates on which I stopped were managed by Americans, who are supposed to be the best administrators, and I was accompanied by a friend who could speak the language when I went to any of the other estates.

10029. You were never in Porto Rico, were you?—Never.

10030. Mr. *Goulburn*.] Mr. Milner Gibson asked you a question with reference to the price of raising sugar in the island, as stated by the House of Assembly of Jamaica in 1812; you were not aware of that statement?—I was not.

10031. Are you aware that 1812 was a period of war?—Yes.

10032. Do you happen to know the difference between the war freights and peace freights?—I should imagine the war freights were much higher, and also the insurance.

10033. In that statement the House of Assembly stated that 16 *s.* was the expense of freight and charges; that was therefore considerably higher than it is now?—Now I suppose it would be about 6 *s.* or 7 *s.*

10034. In the statement which the House of Assembly made in 1812, do not you think it would be fair to make some allowance for the depreciation of the currency at that time?—I suppose it would, but I am not able to state much upon that subject.

10035. The price of lumber is one of the charges of manufacturing sugar, which must have been larger at that time than it is now?—Certainly.

10036. You have been asked as to the power of growing cotton in Demerara; you stated that cotton could easily be grown?—When we took the colony from the Dutch it was entirely a cotton-growing country.

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10037. Is it easy to substitute cotton upon estates which have been devoted to sugar cultivation?—I cannot give you an answer upon that subject; I never saw but one cotton estate, and that was 12 years ago; it went out of cultivation that very year.

10038. Do you know whether there is not a particular part of the preparation of cotton which requires a great deal of labour; that is the separation of the seeds from the cotton, and the packing of it?—I imagine that used to be done by machinery; the chief labour is in picking it; and the reason the estates went out of cultivation was that labour was too dear.

10039. It appears at present throughout the world that where sugar comes into competition with cotton the cultivation reverts to sugar instead of cotton?—I believe that is taking place in Louisiana at present.

10040. Would not the dearness of labour in the British colonies affect the growth of cotton there in competition with the cotton produced in other states?—It would.

10041. You have been asked as to the probability of the price of sugar being so reduced by an increased cultivation in the West Indies as to destroy all profit; does not that question of price very much depend upon the expense of labour?—Of course it does.

10042. If your labour were extremely abundant the lowness of the price would not be the same objection?—Certainly not.

10043. Supposing no assistance is given to the West Indies, what do you consider will be the effect upon the sugar cultivation?—I will not say that it would happen this year or next year, because people will be very unwilling to abandon the plant and machinery upon their estates; but I think, under the present system, there is no doubt but it will be ultimately driven out by slave produce. I am not at all afraid of being driven out by really free-labour sugar. I do not call the Java sugar free-labour sugar.

10044. What effect do you consider would be produced upon the price of sugar, supposing the estates in the West Indies should be in a great measure abandoned?—I think it would depend upon the manner in which Ministers managed their squadron on the coast of Africa. I believe they might regulate the price of sugar by the activity of that squadron. If we found sugar too dear they might relax that activity and let them get plenty of slaves; and then again, when the price fell too low, they might make the blockade more strict.

10045. Have you ever observed the effect upon the sugar market of the destruction of the cultivation of St. Domingo?—No. The production was very great in St. Domingo; now it does not produce any sugar at all.

10046. Do not you apprehend a similar effect will be the result of the present state of things in our colonies?—I think probably it will be so after a time.

10047. You have been asked as to statements of distress made at antecedent periods; do you know whether they were complaints arising from distress that was of short duration, or was the distress of similar duration, as compared with that which the West Indians now suffer?—I cannot answer that question.

10048. With respect to the encumbrances upon estates in the West Indies, have you sufficient knowledge to state whether the estates in the West Indies are more or less encumbered in proportion than estates in this country?—That I cannot say; I cannot draw any comparison. The proper plan, I think, is to take an estate that is not encumbered. If the average of estates out of debt were doing well, and only those heavily mortgaged were doing badly, there would then be no case for the interference of Government.

10049. Do you consider that it is any reflection upon the planter that he has charged his wife's jointure and his younger children's fortunes upon the estates?—Certainly not.

10050. Mr. Wilson.] You have expressed an opinion that Java sugar is not entitled to the appellation of free-labour sugar?—I have.

10051. Are you aware that it has always been treated in our Acts of Parliament as free-labour sugar?—I am.

10052. Will you state the ground upon which you form the opinion that you have expressed?—I derive my information from Jukes's Account of Java, which I think is the latest and the most authentic. He states that the labourers are not much disposed to work, that no planter can get their work except through the interference of Government, and that in renting the land the Government undertake to supply the planter with labour at from 2½ d. to 3 d. a day for 11 hours,

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and night-work at double that amount. I am aware that this is in contradiction to the evidence of a gentleman who has been examined before the Committee; but Mr. Jukes is a man of considerable attainments; he has written a very complete account of the sugar cultivation, and that is what he states, that those men are so compelled to work by Government.

10053. Had he visited Java?—He had not only visited Java, but he had enjoyed great and rare facilities for acquiring information. He was there twice; he went with Captain Blackwood, who commanded the surveying expedition, and the Dutch authorities gave them leave to travel all over the interior, which is a privilege not generally given to Europeans.

10054. Do you gather from his book that when the Government let a plantation, they also enter into a contract with the planter to furnish labour at that rate?—That is the conclusion which I come to. What Mr. Jukes says is this: "The Coolies or workpeople are supplied (*i. e.* compelled to work) by the Government, both for cutting canes and for the work in the mill. From the natural indolence of the Javanese, great difficulty would be experienced in procuring workpeople without the assistance of Government." Mr. Jukes here explains in a note, "the meaning of this is, that the people are compelled to work by their rulers, native and Dutch, and to receive such wages as they may choose to order them; if not a system of slavery it is one of the most complete serfdom. Fifteen doits ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d. English) is paid a daily labourer by fabricants who have old contracts; 20 doits by those of later date. Daily Coolies are obliged to work from six in the morning to six in the evening. For night-work they generally receive double wages."

10055. Are you aware that in Java there are two classes of estates; what are called the free estates, and those which are called the Government estates?—The greatest portion of the sugar there is grown by the Maatschappy Company, I believe; there are a few estates which belonged to the English, who held the island for a short time.

10056. You are not aware that the Maatschappy Company is a mere trading company, having a commission, and having nothing to do with the cultivation?—That is not my impression, certainly; they are connected with the Government, I think. The cultivation is carried on by agriculturists, who rent land of the Government, are supplied by the Government with forced labour, at a very low rate, and are bound to sell their produce to the Government at a fixed price.

10057. Is the passage which you have read from the work of Mr. Jukes your only reason for thinking that the labour in Java is forced labour?—It is the only reason; I have no practical knowledge of Java myself; I have never been there.

10058. Do you think that description sufficiently justifies the opinion that it is forced labour?—If you supply a man's labour at 2 d. or 3 d. a day, and compel him to work for that sum, I call that forced labour.

10059. Would not it rather depend upon the extent of the compulsion?—I take it that the Dutch are not people who are likely to be very particular as to the means of compulsion, considering that they are slaveholders in other countries, and that it is an object to them to get the work done.

10060. When I was recently in Holland, I had a communication with a minister, who had resided in Java for many years; the account he gave me of the state of the labour, and the mode in which the labour was provided, and by which the Dutch had managed the colony so successfully, was this. He stated that, upon the acquisition of the colony by Holland in the first instance, they found that the island was divided into a great number of tribes; somewhat similar, as he said, to the clans in Scotland, and that each tribe of people had its chief. The first thing that the Government did was to enter into an arrangement with the chief of each clan, for the purpose of encouraging the production of sugar and coffee in the island; and in order to induce them to offer no opposition to the plans of Government, but rather to aid them, they paid them a commission of a certain portion of the produce of each clan, or each district. The people, it appears, are as much attached to their chiefs as the Scotch are to the chiefs of their clans, and they are always exceedingly willing to defer to any arrangement, or to follow the advice of their chiefs. By that means they had no difficulty whatever throughout the whole island, containing upwards of 7,000,000 of people, in getting the whole population immediately to become industrious and laborious in the production of sugar and coffee. Therefore, so far as the

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willingly following the chief of a clan may be called a description of servility, to that extent we may say that there is that description of servility in Java?—We know that the Dutch are slaveholders, and therefore what is likely to appear to a Dutch minister comparative freedom would probably be objected to by many gentlemen who take an interest in the negro in this country, as no better than modified slavery.

10061. You allude to Dutch Guiana?—Yes. The Dutch being slaveholders, they do not take those enlightened views of free and slave labour which we take in this country; and also I would observe, that when a Dutchman is stating those facts about Java, the same degree of suspicion may attach to him, that it is his interest to make the sugar appear to be free grown, which Mr. Milner Gibson stated must necessarily attach to the West Indians when they were making representations of their distress. People, when their interests are concerned, are liable, almost involuntarily, to make somewhat exaggerated statements. The Dutch minister might have seen that it was an advantage to their sugar to be considered as free-labour sugar in our market; and his information appears to be diametrically opposed to that of Mr. Jukes, who is evidently an enlightened and intelligent man, and whose testimony is worthy of consideration. Captain Francis Blackwood, commander of the expedition to which Mr. Jukes belonged, has assured me that he is a person whose testimony is entirely to be depended upon; that he paid much attention to this subject, and had the best opportunities of acquiring the information which he has given upon it. He moreover was there very recently, and his testimony is surely worth more than that of men who have not been there for many years.

10062. You would not call the Javanese slaves?—It is not a slave-importing colony, though there are domestic slaves existing in the island.

10063. Nor have you ever heard, I dare say, of the purchase or sale of slaves in the colony?—I have not heard of it; there are domestic slaves in the houses.

10064. One of the most distinguishing features of the relation between slave and free labour I take to be, that the employer has the entire control over the person of a slave; that he becomes a commodity saleable, like any other commodity. Have you ever heard that anything of that kind exists in Java?—No; it is more like the labour of apprenticeship.

10065. Making a contract and enforcing that contract in a rigid manner?—Yes.

10066. Are you aware of the mode in which the collieries in the north of England are worked in that respect?—Yes, in the same way that men engaged on board ship work.

10067. They make a contract for a year, and they lose their wages if they break their contract?—Yes.

10068. You do not see any difference between a contract of that kind, strictly enforced, and the description of labour you have described as existing in Java?—There is this difference, that in one case the wages are dictated by the employer, and in the other the colliers dictate their own wages; they may say, I will not come and work for you unless I get such a price; they often strike for wages; now in the other case the wages are dictated by Government, and a due return in labour enforced.

10069. The wages are dictated by the employer as far as regards the contract of the planter, but it does not follow that the Government are enabled to enforce it. You are no doubt aware that the contract between the planter and the Government is something of this kind: the Government undertake to supply labour at a certain rate, and to take produce at another rate; it is a speculation on the part of the Government; they may lose or they may gain by the rate they undertake to pay the planter, or they may lose or gain by the rate at which they undertake to supply labour?—Mr. Jukes distinctly says, they pay a man 2½*d.* for 12 hours' labour, and 5*d.* if he works all night.

10070. With regard to the quantity of free-labour sugar, Java, you say, supplies about 80,000 tons?—My attention was called to it by a publication in your own paper; I have assumed your figures, such as they are, to be correct. Java is mentioned as producing 75,000 tons.

10071. Manilla, China, and Siam, produce 30,000 tons?—Yes.

10072. And the continent of Europe 100,000?—Yes.

10073. You stated an objection to a remark which had been made by me, that the cultivation of the beet-root on the Continent had increased rapidly of

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late years, by showing the Committee that instead of increasing it had diminished since 1838 down to the present year 11,000 tons?—Yes.

10074. What was the production of France in the year 1838?—Eighty thousand tons.

10075. The production of France in 1838 was 80,000 tons, and the production last year 51,000, therefore making in round numbers a production of 30,000 tons less in France?—Yes.

10076. Are you aware that when 80,000 tons were produced in France they had a high protecting duty against colonial sugar?—They had.

10077. You are also aware that subsequently to that period that protection was in a great measure repealed?—I am.

10078. You are also aware that the immediate consequence of the reduction of that protection was to diminish the production from 80,000 tons as low as 26,000 tons in the year 1840; from 1838 to the year in which the production in France was 26,000 tons, can you inform the Committee how much the whole production of Europe fell?—I have not those figures.

10079. Supposing the production of Europe had been in other parts the same, what would the result have been when that change from that particular cause took place in the production of France?—I think you are assuming what is not the case; I do not think that the production of the other parts of Europe fell off; I think the production rather rose in the other parts of Europe when it fell off in France.

10080. You are aware of the circumstances in which the rapid increase in France has taken place, notwithstanding the gradual reduction of the protection?—Yes; the cause has been this, I think; that the small refiners have been knocked up, and that it has fallen into the hands of fewer manufacturers, and that they have connected the culture and manufacture of sugar with farming operations, and have fed their beasts with the refuse, and by that means they have been enabled to take a smaller profit; I think that is one reason of their being able to resume the cultivation which had fallen off, and also the fact of the French colonies producing so little sugar as they do, and having no means of increasing their supply.

10081. Prior to 1840, while this great reduction took place, they had great advantages; prior to 1838, when the change of the law was made, they had a double protection; first, a protection against their own colonies; and secondly, a protection against foreign colonies?—You are aware that the protection has only been annually diminished till the 1st of next August, when they will have to come into competition with slave labour for the first time.

10082. Prior to 1838 the beet-root sugar growers in France had a double protection; they had first a protection against their own colonies, and secondly, a protection against the foreign sugar of the world; the effect of the withdrawal of the protection against their own colonies had the immediate effect of reducing the quantity produced from 80,000 to 26,000 tons; what is the reason for the subsequent increase?—That they have found out more economical means of manufacture, in addition to what I have stated just now.

10083. Have not they found one very important and essential process, which has economized their material so much as to cause so large an increase; instead of manufacturing beet-root first into muscovado sugar, and then refining from muscovado, do not they refine directly from the root itself?—I have not gone into those details; my attention was called to your assertion that beet-root sugar had increased of late years in all Europe; I made the most particular inquiries on that subject, and I was satisfied with finding that it had not increased, but, on the contrary, had considerably diminished, and therefore I did not go into the question any deeper. The supply of French colonial sugar being stationary at 90,000 tons annually, foreign sugar of all sorts being excluded by a higher duty; the population of that country, 36,000,000, increasing both in numbers and wealth, and railways diffusing money among the labouring classes to a very large extent, it was incontestable that the beet-root sugar must increase under such circumstances.

10084. Do not you see that the assertion is perfectly correct if you take 1840; if you take 1838, you make out the statement to be incorrect, because the production of France then was stimulated by an extraordinary protection to the beet-root sugar; the whole difference may be accounted for in the production of France

France alone?—It resolves itself into this: you happened to take 1840; I take 1828, 1838, and 1847, intervals of 10 years; the inference you drew from it was, that the beet-root sugar had increased not only in competition with slave labour, but under other disadvantageous circumstances: it never has been in competition with slave labour.

10085. Have you any information as to the quantity of beet-root sugar grown in Holland?—I have taken particular pains within the last week to collect what information I could, and I do not find any documents which profess to give an account of it that mention the cultivation of Holland at all, neither have you alluded to it before; therefore I am induced to suppose that it is not very considerable; and I do not suppose also that Holland, being engaged in the Java cultivation, would have any object in fostering the home production of sugar against it.

10086. Are you aware that in making such a statement to affect the argument with regard to sugar at the present moment, the only motive for making the statement that beet-root sugar was increasing on the continent of Europe could be with reference to the latest effects of the different laws of the various countries of Europe as they at present exist; and if we find that in spite of the decreased protection in France, though the first effect of that diminished protection was to reduce the quantity, yet that the ultimate consequence of it, notwithstanding the continued gradual reduction of such protection, has been that a re-action has taken place, and that the production of beet-root sugar is rapidly again increasing in France, there must be some great cause for that, connected with improved processes of cultivation and manufacture, which may be attributed in a great measure to the competition that they have been placed under?—I have no doubt the cultivation of beet-root sugar in France enjoys the greatest advantages. The French, I believe, are the best chemists in the world; they have turned their attention to it very much. It enjoys the advantage of home cultivation under the eye of the master; it has no freight to pay, and no sea risks; but I believe there is no doubt that, as a source from which to derive the supply of sugar for the world, beet-root can never compete with the cane. With respect to your statement that an increase had taken place, "not only in competition with slave labour, but under other discouraging circumstances," it does not appear that French beet-root sugar has ever been in competition with slave labour; and it does not appear that it ever will be, as they have now emancipated their slaves.

10087. You merely mean that the law has not actually yet taken effect?—If beet-root sugar had not been protected against slave-grown sugar of Brazil and Cuba, there never would have been an ounce of beet-root sugar sold in France.

10088. If beet-root sugar has increased with a rapidly diminishing protection against slave-labour sugar, and of a certainty of its equalization in the month of August next, it is but fair to say that beet-root sugar has increased in competition with slave-labour sugar?—I consider it a most unfair statement, inasmuch as it never has been in competition with even the limited quantity of slave-labour sugar produced by the French colonies, and it never was proposed to bring it into competition with the produce of slave-importing colonies.

10089. Do you know what the protection has been this last year?—When those large establishments have got their plant up, that makes a very great difference. These people have risen upon the ruin of the beet-root growers who were ruined in 1840; therefore it is probable that their plant and machinery came into possession of the present manufacturers at very great advantage. If, for example, the English distillers were all ruined, it is easy to see that those who might come into possession of their establishments at a comparatively small expense, could afford to sell spirits cheaper than those who made so much larger an outlay originally.

10090. Have you any reason to believe that they are working with the same machinery?—They may have improved it. In the West Indies, if a planter were to fail and I wanted a set of coppers, I should get his coppers at half their original value.

10091. Have you any reason for believing that the new class of sugar producers in France have had those advantages?—Yes, that is my impression. When you talk of sugar refineries, it gives people an idea of very large establishments; you mentioned there were 72 new refiners set up in Prussia, those men each produce about 100 or 120 tons of sugar a year. In using the expression, sugar establishments in Europe, one has rather a large idea of the subject.

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10092. Do you think you are entitled to have that large idea when it was talked of as a mere agricultural succession of crop?—That was the impression I felt until I had recourse to documents, which showed me the facts of the case. There are 113 beet-root manufactories in Prussia alone; in the whole of the rest of the Zollverein there are about 20 more. The whole production of the Zollverein is about 13,000 tons of sugar.

10093. Have you any information as to the Excise duty charged upon beet-root sugar in the Zollverein?—Not that I can implicitly rely upon. In a letter which I got from Lisle they say beet-root sugar only pays a nominal duty in the Zollverein. I dare say these are not perfectly correct statements, but they are as correct as I can obtain, and I believe that they are more correct than any which have been laid before the public before; and particularly more correct than those in the possession of Sir Charles Wood, who stated that the duty upon sugar in France would amount in August next to 1,012*l.* per ton.

10094. That must of course have been a mistake?—I should have thought it had been a misprint, if I had not seen the statement continued in a report of his speech published, I believe, by the Colonial Office from Hansard.

10095. Are the Committee to understand that your only objection to competition applies to slave-labour sugar?—No; the objection I have stated is a general one, because I do not believe it is possible to admit free-labour sugar and to exclude slave-labour sugar.

10096. Are you of opinion that by admitting free-labour sugar we must indirectly admit slave-labour sugar?—I do not see how it can be avoided.

10097. If we create a vacuum on the Continent, by admitting free-labour sugar, that vacuum will be filled by slave-labour sugar?—I do not quite agree with that reasoning. The amount of free-labour sugar grown all over the world has been larger than this country required. If slave-labour sugar did not present some advantages to the public greater than were presented by free-labour sugar, I do not suppose we should import any; because I take it that the feeling of humanity still, I trust, predominant in this country when there is nothing to pay for it, would have otherwise induced the importers to give the preference to free-grown sugar over slave-grown sugar.

10098. Do you think there is any means which the public have of exercising those humane feelings: your remark would go to suppose that the public exercised a choice in the particular sugar they purchased, as to free labour or slave-labour sugar; do you think the public can have any possible means of doing that?—I think the importer might.

10099. A large portion of the sugar that comes to this country, and especially foreign sugar, is refined, is not it?—It is refined in this country. St. Croix sugar is not refined.

10100. The larger portion of their sugars are clayed sugars, are not they?—I am not acquainted with that part of the trade sufficiently to give any evidence upon it.

10101. There are no means, are there, by which the public could exercise any choice in the matter?—No, only the importer. I was alluding to a circumstance which came to my knowledge, and which is known also to an Honourable Member of the Committee, of a very strenuous opponent of slave-grown produce, Mr. George Thomas, a Quaker, who imported largely into Bristol the moment the law permitted him to do so. It struck me that, as there was no doubt, from his previous conduct in opposition to slavery in our own colonies, of his being a humane man, if there had not been a little more to be gained by importing slave-grown sugar instead of free-grown, he would have imported free grown.

10102. Can you suppose that there is a difference of price between the same sugars, whether they are free-grown or slave-grown?—I am not very much acquainted with the sugar trade. I sell the sugar I grow; I do not buy it, except the small quantity I use for my own domestic purposes.

10103. You stated that unless the slave-labour sugar were cheaper than free-labour sugar, people would prefer the latter?—The only datum I go on is my reliance on the known humanity of the country.

10104. You were asked a question as to the operation of the Act of 1846; how far you thought that Act had been the immediate cause of the pressure this last year upon the sugar trade?—My opinion is, that you cannot separate the effect of that Act from that of the Act of 1844.

10105. You are aware that in the West Indies there has been the failure of the
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West India Bank?—Perfectly; that has produced great local distress, for a short time.

10106. And it has been one of the important reasons why there has been a considerable suspension of cultivation, has it not?—I consider that the failure of the West India Bank has not affected Jamaica at all, and yet the same state of things prevails in that colony.

10107. Was not there at the same time a great contraction on the part of the Colonial Bank in Jamaica, and all the other islands as well?—No doubt; but that is owing to the distrust they have of discounting any bills.

10108. Was not it admittedly attributed to the run made upon them?—For a time; but in the colony with which I am acquainted hardly any bills are saleable now. Even with respect to myself, who am tolerably solvent, they are not so willing to cash my agent's bills, they have had so many returned by people whose credit has hitherto been as good as my own.

10109. That has been very much caused by the pressure in the money market during the last six months, has not it?—That has had something to do with it; but it is very easy to see that though it has extended itself to West India property as well as every other, yet that West India property is affected to a degree which that will not account for in any way. Railway shares have gone down 20 to 30 per cent., while a West India estate has gone down to the value of old materials.

10110. Are you aware of the effect which the present time has had upon the indigo plantation of India?—I know nothing about the indigo plantation of India.

10111. You are not aware that that is even more depressed than the cultivation of sugar?—I am not.

10112. Are you aware that during the first half of last year the price of sugar was tolerably fair?—It was.

10113. During the last four months of the preceding year it was high?—Yes.

10114. During those nine or ten months, from August 1846 till July 1847, the Bill of 1846 was in full operation?—I do not think it was.

10115. Not at the present rate of duty, but at the first scale?—There were various circumstances which kept the price of sugar up at that time; one was the failure of the crop in Louisiana, which took off the first of the Cuba sugars.

10116. That had no effect on the importations from Cuba to Europe in the end of 1846?—I think it had.

10117. It was after August 1846 that the Bill of 1846 came into operation?—It was the crop of 1846-47 in Louisiana which failed. I was in Cuba at the time, and they were exporting very largely.

10118. The consequence of the failure of that crop has been a large exportation from Cuba during 1847?—Yes, so I understand.

10119. If that had affected the prices, it should have affected the prices during the whole of 1847?—There were other sugars to come in; there were the sugars from Brazil; and there were those failures in India, which brought sugars in and sold them at much less than their cost of production.

10120. Have you an impression, that during the eight months while the prices of sugar remained high, the British producer was not exposed, to the same extent, to the competition of foreign sugar as he has been since?—I do not think the Act had come into full vigour then.

10121. Your impression is, that during the first six months of last year the quantities of foreign sugar taken for consumption, in consequence of the law not having been sufficiently long in operation, were not so large as they became at the end of the year?—I should think they were probably larger, because foreign sugars have been shut out of our market by the sugars which have been sold, the property of bankrupts at that time; therefore, very likely, the importation of slave-grown sugar was larger at the beginning of the year, before the English bankruptcies began.

10122. Your highest price of colonial sugar was obtained therefore in the presence of the largest importation of foreign sugar?—It is very possible; because from fortuitous circumstances a number of men who were very large holders of sugar became bankrupt, and their sugar was thrown into the market, and therefore even this cheaply grown slave sugar was excluded by sugar, the property of bankrupts, which was sold under prime cost.

10123. Then you take the prices of the last six months to have been the prices of bankrupts' stocks?—Yes.

10124. Therefore

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10124. Therefore the prices to be obtained in future may be higher?—I pay great attention to your statements upon subjects of commercial interest. You anticipate such immense introductions of sugar from the East, that necessarily, if your anticipations are realized, the prices will rather fall than rise. I anticipate such a large import of sugar from the slave colonies that, unless I am mistaken, the prices will fall from that cause. It appears, therefore, that we both arrive at the same conclusion from different data.

10125. When you speak of the price of sugar, you would rather take the average price of the last two years than the price of the last six months alone, would not you?—I do not suppose such a universal bankruptcy in the sugar line is likely to occur again. Therefore, for an average, I do not think it would be fair to take the last six months alone.

10126. You are aware that we have been disappointed in our first anticipation, as to the fall of wages in Guiana?—I believe I have placed evidence to that effect before the Committee.

10127. Have you any reason to hope the present obstruction to the fall of wages may be got over. I have no doubt it will eventually; but I think the probabilities are that there will be very great evil done before that time, more than the evil consequent upon the neglect of the canes. I am afraid of these fires. It is so combustible a colony that we are entirely in the power of a very few evil-disposed people.

10128. Do not you hope that the necessary suspension of labour, and the condition to which the slaves will be reduced immediately by a suspension of the receipt of wages, will produce on their part a disposition and anxiety to restore order, in order to obtain labour again?—It is possible that that may be the case; but supposing the present state of anarchy and idleness continues three or four months, I do not think the estates will be worth resuming. The chief value of the estates now is not the plant or the cultivation, but the canes actually growing upon the estates. There may be six or seven thousand pounds worth of canes growing upon an estate; if by six months' or four months' abandonment of labour those are destroyed, I do not think the planters would have any disposition to go on.

10129. There is no open outbreak in the colony, is there?—No. I have some letters in which the planters have expressed fears of that kind, but I have not any myself. They nearly roasted four men in one place. The houses are on piles, and they set fires beneath them, and the four overseers narrowly escaped with their lives; so, at least, say the colonial papers.

10130. When was that?—That was the information received by the last packet, just after we got such encouraging assurances from Lord Grey and yourself. You stated that the people had accepted a reduction of wages without any strike or sulkiness whatever, and that their good conduct had taken the colonists by surprise; and that though in wages the free labourers had been reduced but 20 per cent., they had been raised in the opinion of the planters 50 per cent.

10131. Are you aware that the encouraging assurance I gave you was a mere extract from the Guiana Gazette?—That is what I have always complained of, that we are legislated for by extracts from newspapers, instead of the despatches received from the Governors.

10132. You complain of Lord Grey that he legislates upon extracts from despatches, and you complain of me that I use extracts from a colonial newspaper?—I never made any such complaint of Lord Grey. I complained that Ministers established their case, during the last sugar debate, on the authority of trashy pamphlets and newspapers, and withheld the despatches and opinions of such men as Lord Harris, Sir C. Grey, and Mr. Light. I repeat that I never complained that Lord Grey legislated upon extracts from despatches, but I said that the only one from which he had quoted was nearly a year old, from Tobago, an island making 2,500 hogsheads of sugar, with 15,000 inhabitants. I will read the following extract from Major Græme's despatch, which I allude to:—“Tobago, with some disadvantages, enjoys several superiorities which Barbadoes and the more northerly islands do not possess. In the first place, we are on the outer boundary-line of hurricanes, are seldom or ever affected by earthquakes, and the seasons are more equal and the rains more plentiful than is generally the case elsewhere; our forests also, although (unlike those of other colonies within the Tropics) abounding in singing birds of beautiful plumage, and insects

of all kinds, are exempt from the monkey tribe, whose depredations are much dreaded by the planter; but what is still more singular, that destructive animal the cane-rat is almost entirely unknown. It is an error to suppose that in Tobago we give a higher rate of wages. The price of field-labour varies from 6*d.* to 1*s.* per diem, according to age, for attached negroes, that is for such as have houses and grounds; but 1*s.* 4*d.* is demanded on Saturdays, which is still, I regret to observe, considered as a day of exclusive freedom, and of exemption from estates employ. It may not here be out of place to give a striking evidence of the economy, laying other considerations aside of free over compulsory labour. The charge in slavery for preparing and opening an acre of land in this island, by the employment of a task-gang, was 8*l.* sterling; the same amount of work was performed very recently for 1*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, and upon a Saturday too, when the people, as stated above, demand the higher rate of wages." This is what Lord Grey quoted, to show that labour was much cheaper now than it had been in the West Indian Islands during slavery. Now, in fact, this bears as much upon the cultivation and price of labour of Jamaica, and Trinidad, and Guiana, as the circumstances of the Scilly Islands would bear upon the cultivation of Middlesex. His Lordship is reported to have said, that "those who objected to quotations from pamphlets, might see in that official authority clear evidence that freedom was not more costly than slavery."

10133. Am I to understand that the report we received in the Guiana Gazette by the packet before the last, was really altogether a mistake and wrong, or that the reduction of wages had been submitted to, but that subsequently they have refused to take them?—All the information that I have received from the colony leads me to suppose that, since Christmas, no work has been done at all by the creoles. The Africans, and some of the Coolies have remained at work, and the creole negroes were doing their best to dissuade them from continuing. My information leads me to believe that the reduction of wages has not been practically acceded to.

10134. Do you think the existing labour in Guiana would be made much more effectual if you had a much greater competition for employment?—I think at this moment, supposing two or three ships arrived laden with Africans, that probably would have the effect of bringing the people back to their work; they would exaggerate to themselves the probability of more arrivals, and that would bring wages down; but I think, without a simultaneous introduction of labour, you will find that they will resist very strenuously any attempt to reduce the wages.

10135. Supposing there was as much immigration as the colonists desire, would it have the effect, do you think, of making the existing labour more effective?—I think it would; because, if there were more competition, if one man did not work well for you, you would send him away and get another.

10136. That would be a great stimulus?—Yes.

10137. You would anticipate from the present amount of labour a much larger produce, provided there were a sufficient competition to stimulate the existing labourers?—Yes.

10138. And any new importation of labour would be productive in the same proportion as the present labour would be under the new circumstances?—Yes, I think so.

10139. You would anticipate a very large increase of production in that colony?—Yes.

10140. And you would of course expect the same result at Trinidad, and all the other islands in proportion?—Yes.

10141. And in the Mauritius?—I know nothing about the Mauritius.

10142. If we had such a large and general increase, seeing the production of the British colonies is at the present moment quite equal to our consumption, would not it very soon produce very large supplies?—No doubt of it.

10143. Would you, as you expressed a hope, reduce the cost of production by that one single change so much as to be able to compete immediately with Cuba and Brazil?—I think I can only give the answer I have already given. I think the advantage would be that if our production were increased so much we could grow sugar a great deal cheaper, and also we should be protected in some degree against bad years, because when our production shrunk to a quantity insufficient to supply the British market, then we should be ensured a certain price by protection.

10144. Is there not a peculiar difficulty in that which has occurred to you: supposing

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supposing we produced 400,000 tons of sugar in our British colonies, and that the consumption in this country was 300,000 tons, leaving a surplus of 100,000 tons to export to the markets of the world, you contemplate, in the case of a bad crop in the British colonies, supposing it were to fall down to 250,000 tons, that your protection would immediately become operative, and a higher price would in some measure recompense you for the loss of crop. Have you considered that you may have a loss of crop in Guiana, affecting your crops to the extent of 25,000 tons, while no loss takes place in other places. Have not we such a numerous class of producing colonies, and countries under the British crown acted upon by such different circumstances, both in their origin and their consequences, that no such common effect could be relied upon for any one of them?—With respect to the sugar-producing colonies in the East, I think they are done for; I do not think we shall get much more from them. Say that the crop in Jamaica fell one-half, of course it would be much better if we had protection, supposing the crops diminished, yet not diminished so much as to come within the consumption of this country.

10145. Do not you see that unless the crop were to be reduced so much as to bring it within the quantity we consume, it would have no effect in altering the relative price of slave-labour sugar?—I see that perfectly.

10146. It is clear that if there were a large failure of the crop, if it were in Brazil or Cuba or Jamaica, it would have the effect of raising all the prices a little; therefore a failure in the British colonies would affect so far the price of all sugars; but unless the failure amounted to such an extent that it brought you within the limit of the consumption of this country, your peculiar protection would never come into operation?—What I rely upon most is, that by giving us this increased labour, we could afford to sell our sugar much cheaper if we increased the cultivation; but I think without protection we shall never get up to that increased production.

10147. If I understand you, it is not a permanent protection that you want; you want a temporary protection, in order to obtain a sufficient quantity of labour as to bring you up to the point at which you think you will be able to compete?—I think that is the object that we ought to look for most, because it is the one we are most likely to get.

10148. Do you think it would be safe if your protection were increased or extended further than the present law contemplates; that it would so far restore confidence in the sugar plantations generally as to induce people, in the hope of a temporary protection, to extend their capital?—I think you will find it very difficult to restore confidence in the British West India colonies; I think when the last sugar debate goes out there, it will destroy what little confidence the colonists might have had before in the hope that Government would assist them.

10149. In a temporary protection you would have very little hope?—I only speak as to what I believe will be the effect in the colonies. I think with a temporary protection myself, I should be inclined to try it; I have considerable capital invested there, and I should be willing to make some sacrifice to try it, but I do not believe it would be at all a certainty.

10150. You made some observation with respect to the inequality of the duty upon the admission of foreign sugar and British colonial sugar into this country; you are aware that that arises from the different state in which the sugar is brought to market?—The fact is this: that the Cubans manufacture various kinds of sugar, and they select that particular species of sugar which just verges upon the limit drawn by the law to bring into this country, whereas we are obliged to send all our sugar to England; therefore some of our sugars probably contain more saccharine matter than others; but as it all comes here, we do not get the benefit which they do by selecting the particular sort, which comes in advantageously.

10151. You must be aware that that is the consequence of protection, that you are obliged to send your sugar to England; the price is better here than anywhere else?—Yes; and therefore I do not say that the protection is no boon to us, but that it is not the boon it professes to be; if there were no protection we should be worse off, no doubt; but if we are receiving a protection which is of the value of 3s., it is very hard we should incur the odium of receiving a protection to the extent of 6s.

10152. Mr. Miles.] You stated that they considered in Cuba four tons of clayed sugar equal to five tons of muscovado?—Yes.

10153. That shows the value they put upon it in Cuba?—Exactly; that is to

to say, the same quantity of canes that will make four tons of clayed sugar will make five tons of muscovado.

10154. Therefore the Cuban only pays upon that clayed sugar the smaller amount, and therefore gets the benefit of the duty?—Yes.

10155. Do you happen to know what the duty on raw colonial sugar, imposed by the Zollverein, is?—In 1843 it was 32 s. a cwt.

10156. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You have given in a statement of the cost of the production of sugar in the island of Cuba?—That is upon one estate, upon which I spent some days.

10157. Is it about a fair average of the cost of production in the island?—I should think it is; it perhaps rather overstates the cost of production.

10158. From this statement it appears that the cost of the production of sugar is equivalent to something slightly under 10 s. per cwt.?—You are aware that that is clayed sugar.

10159. There are three classes of sugar specified; white, yellow, and brown?—Those are the three classes of clayed sugar.

10160. Is it not the fact that in this Return there is no charge made for the fuel?—The fuel they burn in the steam-engines in Cuba is entirely wood that the negroes cut.

10161. Still it is of some cost?—You must deduct the cost from the labour of the negroes.

10162. Nor do I find any charge for implements?—There is an item for tools of various kinds.

10163. That is in the capital account; I am speaking of the production account?—That would not be very great, because they manufacture everything on the estate; they manufacture the pots in which they clay the sugar; they make their own tiles and bricks; so that the utmost it would be might be some cutlasses for cutting the canes.

10164. In other estimates of a similar nature which have been laid before the Committee the charge for implements is a very considerable sum?—Supposing they buy their carts or their ploughs, that would be a considerable sum; but on that estate they manufacture everything for themselves.

10165. Do they make their own ploughs?—They make a rude sort of plough. You will see from the details into which the man has gone, that if he has omitted anything, it is from an oversight, and not from any intentional misstatement.

10166. We find the charge for fuel and implements in many of the statements before the Committee, amounts to 20 per cent. upon the cost of production?—Not in the estimate of a Cuban estate; you may find it on an estate, for instance, in Demerara.

10167. Is not this an important omission?—I should say that 100 dollars would be the outside that should be put down for it, if there is any omission.

10168. Nor do I find any charge for dilapidations on buildings in this account?—I think you have not looked so microscopically into the statements which have been laid before you as to the West Indian estates; I doubt whether there are any such allowances made in those; in none that I have seen as to the production of sugar has there been any interest allowed on plant, or capital, or land.

10169. It appears in this account that there are no outgoing for fuel, no charge for implements, no charge for loss of cattle, and no charge for wear and tear or dilapidations of the buildings?—There is no charge for loss of cattle, because they breed cattle upon the estate; there are 24 calves, which will ultimately become cows and oxen. There is nothing charged for the other items, because nothing, as I have before explained, was spent upon them. I put this account in as the best I could get. I believe it to be a most correct one.

10170. It appears upon the account that the sugar costs 10 s. a cwt., exclusive of all those material items which tend to increase the cost of production?—I have also given in the cost upon another estate which is much lower; I believe that, however, to be a singularly well-managed estate.

10171. It further appears, that out of this cost, as rendered in this account, the proportions are, for package, transport, and other expenses, 3,000 l.; for labour, 4,500 l.; that is the cost of negroes' keep, salaries to white men, loss by death of negroes, and medical expenses?—That shows that labour is cheaper in Cuba than with us.

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10172. It appears, according to this estimate, that the labour costs 4,500*l.*, and the cost of transport and packing only 3,000*l.*?—The transport is expensive upon that estate; they have to go six or seven miles with the sugar in bags, and then they have to put the sugar into boxes, and send it by railway. There was no road, so that they were obliged to carry it in bags, upon horses' backs.

10173. Notwithstanding this increased transport, the labour bears a much larger proportion to the actual cost of the production of sugar in the island of Cuba than it does in the West India islands, according to the evidence before this Committee?—The only answer to that is, that in our colonies we have to pay labourers' wages; in Cuba they have not to pay them any, therefore the cost of labour is much cheaper, because, as you have not deducted anything for interest on capital invested in the negroes, you merely have the cost of their food and clothing in your estimate.

10174. You agree with me then that, according to this calculation, the cost of labour forms a very much larger proportion of the total cost of the production of sugar, as it appears in this account, than it does in the West India islands?—I believe when you can get labour from a man, paying him no wages, the cost will be infinitely less than where you pay him high wages.

10175. Just the reverse of that position appears on the face of this account, inasmuch as the labour costs 4,500*l.*, while the cost for packages and transport of sugar to the beach is 3,000*l.*?—Your calculation is, I think, erroneous; you include the salaries to white men.

10176. This cost of production excludes the interest upon capital?—Entirely.

10177. And it further appears that the production of this estate in Cuba gives about 17 cwt. per acre?—I have not made the calculation. That is clayed sugar it must be remembered.

10178. Can you inform the Committee how much per acre one of your estates in Guiana produces?—It has been very difficult to say; my own estate may have produced a ton an acre. This year, when I thought I had the very best canes that I ever had, I have been unable to take them off in consequence of this strike; they will stand over for a couple of months, and then will not yield half as much; the young canes will be choked with weeds, and at the end of the year I shall be told, "You do not cultivate so well as they do in Cuba."

10179. You stated the price of labour in Demerara to be 30*s.* per week for one description of labour; what description was that?—What they called in slave time, "prime shovellers;" people who could do good work upon a railway, and were willing to labour hard.

10180. Would that quotation apply to any considerable portion of the labourers in Demerara?—To all able-bodied men who could do the work.

10181. You state that the quantity of liberated Africans who have been sent to the West Indies has been exceedingly limited; not more than 600, did not you say?—No; I said that with reference to the last year, since 1846; there have been a considerable number more than that altogether. I alluded to those that were brought over by the "Growler."

10182. Are you aware of the number of immigrants sent to Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, since 1841?—I do not know the exact number.

10183. You have been in the West Indies?—I have been there twice.

10184. Are your estates managed by an attorney?—By one person who resides on them, and combines the two offices.

10185. How are the supplies paid for?—They are paid for over here in ready money, and sent out.

10186. Such supplies as are received in the island?—He has my instructions to pay for them every three months, which he does.

10187. It is the custom throughout the West India islands, is not it, to allow a large discount at the shops; do you get that, or does he?—I get it.

10188. Are other proprietors as active in looking after those details as you are?—That I cannot say.

10189. Are you not aware that it is not the practice to look after those details among West India proprietors?—I think it may have been so formerly, but people are much sharper now.

10190. *Chairman.*] Do not you think that a protection of 10*s.* a cwt. guaranteed to you for ten years, coupled with unrestricted access to the coast of Africa for free labourers, would set the British planters upon their legs again?—I think if the protection were against all foreign sugar it would.

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10191. The possibility of discriminating between foreign free and foreign slave labour sugar seems to be given up, therefore I will assume that there was a protection of 10 s. a cwt. guaranteed to you for ten years; you think that, coupled with unrestricted access to the coast of Africa for free labourers, would enable you to go on with your cultivation, and induce the planters to embark fresh capital in the improvement of their estates?—I think so. In my own case, two years ago, I spent 1,800 l. in putting up a still on my estate; it was my intention to have erected a vacuum pan this very year out of the profits of the estate. Having other means in this country to maintain myself, I wished to work the question fully out there, and do the best I could; but I certainly shall not send out any more capital now.

10192. You were asked whether the contract system of labour did not amount to forced labour; it is no more forced labour than the contracts which are entered into in this country between the master colliers and their men?—It is no more forced labour than practically exists in most of the agricultural parishes in the West of England. The law of settlement, and the disinclination they have in other parishes to employ any man who belongs to a parish where he is dissatisfied with his wages, almost place him in a state of serfdom.

10193. There is no more forced labour in such a system than exists in the army or the navy; a private who once enters the army is not allowed to retire from it, unless he can purchase his discharge?—Certainly not.

10194. And that discharge is a full compensation to Government for all the outlay which has been made upon him?—Exactly so.

10195. And that is all you ask?—We do not ask such a power as that; we do not ask for a man to be indented to us for 20 years, but for one year only.

10196. Mr. Wilson.] You stated that there were a great variety of estates of different soils and so on; the first effect, no doubt, would be that the worst estates would go out of cultivation: do not you think that the better estates would be very much benefited by that?—I think if the pressure upon us were not so overpowering that would have been the case, but I think the pressure which has been imposed upon us is such that it will crush us all. Those with stronger backs might have stood against a less pressure, but under existing circumstances I think we must all go.

10197. If it is a question of supply and demand of labour, and half the estates were abandoned, upon the remaining half the existing deficiency of labour would be supplied?—I think the estates which were abandoned would offer much temptation to the labourers to squat. The estates which remained might get a little more, but I do not think they would get enough.

10198. Would not the squatting be prevented by the existing laws against squatting?—In Guiana, I do not think we have suffered much from squatting. The negroes have bought a great many lands. But the Committee is aware that it is only the front strip of land which is cultivated; all the villages are in that front strip of land, and they do not go away into the interior.

10199. You are not like some of the West Indians, who state that they are in hopes that those who are the strongest, and most advantageously circumstanced among them, may maintain their ground?—I believe in my own case that I am in those circumstances, but I do not anticipate to survive my neighbours in consequence of it. I knew the best thing I could do would be to put up a vacuum pan upon my estate, and I was upon the point of doing so; I had the actual drawings for it made. If I thought I should be able to go on, I should proceed with it, but I have no intention of doing so now.

Veneris, 17^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| Lord George Bentinck. | Mr. Matheson. |
| Mr. Cardwell. | Mr. Miles. |
| Mr. Milner Gibson. | Mr. Moffatt. |

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Marryat, Esq., called in ; and Examined.

- C. Marryat, Esq. 10200. *Chairman.*] YOU are a West India proprietor?—Yes, and merchant.
 17 March 1848. 10201. In what islands is your property?—Principally Trinidad and St. Lucia.
10202. You possess estates of your own?—Yes, in Trinidad.
10203. And in St. Lucia you manage the estates of others?—We are proprietors of an estate in St. Lucia also.
10204. You are generally resident in England?—In London.
10205. But you have visited your estates three different times?—I have.
10206. Do you concur in the general opinion of the great fertility and the great capabilities of the island of Trinidad?—I do, as to its great natural capabilities.
10207. Do you think that the course of legislation adopted towards that colony has been well calculated to develop its valuable capabilities?—No, I think not ; I think the progress of the colony has been greatly retarded by the legislation of the mother country.
10208. To what special regulation do you refer?—The first check to the progress of the colony was the Act of 1825, I think, called Dr. Lushington's Act, which prevented planters abandoning the exhausted soils in the older colonies and coming down with their negroes to Trinidad.
10209. Trinidad being a more fertile soil than some of the other colonies, it would have been a great advantage to the colonists if they could have migrated thither with their negroes from other colonies?—Yes; and it would also have supplied the gradual falling off in the existing population of Trinidad, arising from two causes; one the disparity of sexes, and the other the law of compulsory manumission, which conferred the power upon any negro to buy his own freedom under the Spanish law.
10210. How came there to be that inequality of the sexes in Trinidad?—It arose from the slave trade being carried on later in Trinidad than in the other colonies. Trinidad was only ceded to England in 1802, and the slave trade was carried on there as long as it existed, till 1806.
10211. Was not the slave trade carried on in Jamaica to the year 1808?—Yes. In 1808, when the slave trade ceased, the slaves that were in Trinidad had only lately been brought in. Although there were a great many new slaves in Jamaica, the slave trade was not carried on there latterly to any great extent.
10212. Have you any returns to prove that?—No, I have not ; but I believe it is a well-known fact.
10213. To pass on to the year 1831, was there any Order in Council in the year 1831?—In 1831 there was an Order in Council from this country to regulate the labour of the slaves; it reduced the number of hours, I think, to nine a day.
10214. What had been the number of hours previously to 1831 in Trinidad?—During

—During the crop season it was considerably more, as it is in this country during harvest. C. Marryat, Esq.

10215. The apprenticeship answered pretty well in Trinidad, did it not?— Yes, it did. 17 March 1848.

10216. And it was in the year 1838 that by an Order in Council, the apprenticeship was brought to a close; in fact, by the Act of Parliament?—It was in reality by the Act of Parliament.

10217. Was there, accompanying that Order in Council, any regulation issued limiting contracts, or making contracts invalid, except such as had been made in the colony itself?—Previously to the abolition of slavery there was an Order in Council, in July 1838, which prohibited all contracts which had been entered into out of the colony; the object of that was to prevent people buying up the apprenticeship of the negroes in the other colonies, freeing them, and bringing them down to Trinidad as apprentices there; then in September there was another Order in Council, which made all contracts illegal, except those which were entered into within the colony.

10218. Did the sudden termination of the apprenticeship prove injurious to the colonists of Trinidad?—Very much so; it robbed them of the benefit of the two years of apprenticeship.

10219. Can you show by any returns the comparative produce during the four years of apprenticeship, and during the subsequent years?—I find that in the year 1839 the decrease in the crops, as compared with 1831 and 1833, the last years of slavery, was 12 per cent., and 20 per cent. in 1840; but the great loss was from the increase in the cost of production.

10220. There was an increase of price in those latter years, was there not?— There was.

10221. Was that increase of price equivalent to the increased cost of production?—Not at all.

10222. Have you any document to prove that?—I have no statement showing the actual increased cost of production.

10223. Was any preparation made to supply the colony with fresh labour at the period of apprenticeship in 1838?—None, by the Government.

10224. Did the colony seek to add to their labour by immigration?—They passed an immigration ordinance, the object of which was to introduce labour from all parts at the expense of the colony.

10225. When was that?—In November 1838; it was disallowed in the first instance.

10226. Why was that disallowed by the Secretary of State?—There were several clauses objected to; one objection was to the system of paying the agents, who were to collect the immigrants, *per capita*. But there was another ordinance passed in 1839, which was allowed on the 30th of September, with the exception of a clause which provided for immigrants from Africa, which was expunged.

10227. That is to say, you were excluded from Africa?—Yes.

10228. But you have since that been permitted to seek for emigrants from Africa?—In March 1841; that originated with the people themselves in Sierra Leone. The people who had been sent out from Jamaica petitioned to be allowed to go back to the West Indies, and after some discussion here it was allowed that ships should go out to take them to the West Indies.

10229. It appears that in the course of six years, that is to say, from the year 1841 to 1847, there have emigrated about 6,000 Africans to Jamaica, Trinidad, and Guiana?—That appears to be the case by the Parliamentary papers.

10230. Of whom 1,826 were for Trinidad?—Yes.

10231. Was this permission to emigrate accompanied by a restriction which proved injurious?—There were a great many restrictions which tended to prevent it.

10232. What were those restrictions?—The restrictions were as to a number of necessary forms which it was required to go through, such as signing their names, and being examined, and all that sort of thing, which created distrust on the part of the people, and finding that they must have been in the colony a certain period before they could leave it again.

10233. Those regulations have since that been repealed?—By degrees they have gradually been repealed.

10234. There has been a long conflict and remonstrance on the part of the West

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West India body before they were repealed?—Yes, there has been a long correspondence.

10235. You were yourself engaged in that correspondence?—I was.

10236. Now that those restrictions are removed, is emigration going on from Sierra Leone with success?—No, that has almost ceased latterly.

10237. How is that?—There have been so many impediments in the way. All the public functionaries naturally do not like it; the resident merchants and others all oppose it, and at last it has ceased.

10238. You have latterly had some captured Africans liberated at Sierra Leone sent to Trinidad?—Some have been sent.

10239. How have they answered?—Very well. They like them very much when they can get them, but a very small portion of the Africans that have been liberated since the emancipation have gone to the West India colonies; I think the total number of liberated Africans that have gone to the West Indies is about 12,000.

10240. How many have you had in Trinidad?—3,181 is the total that had gone to Trinidad up to 1846; I think it was given in evidence here, that 43,000 had been liberated since 1838.

10241. You have also had a great many coolies introduced from India?—Yes. They were not permitted till 1844.

10242. Since that time there have been about 4,350?—Yes; and there are 1,000 more expected this year.

10243. Do you find them a great deal too expensive?—They are very expensive.

10244. What is the difference between the expense of importing a coolie and importing an African?—£.7 a head is the sum fixed by the emigration ordinance, from Africa.

10245. Does the expense of importing a coolie, and the obligation to take him back again, amount to 19*l*.?—More than that. It is 15*l*. for the passage money alone, and there are the expenses of the establishment in India, and sending them back; I should think it would be nearer 25*l*.

10246. That includes the double passage?—Yes.

10247. And when you got him, the coolie did not do half the work of the African?—There is a great difference of opinion about that.

10248. What is your opinion?—I have no personal knowledge of the matter. Some parties are very well satisfied with them; others are not. The difficulty has been the want of proper laws in the colony to keep them steady to their work.

10249. Are you acquainted with the substance of Major Fagan's ordinance in Trinidad, with respect to coolie emigration and coolie contracts?—I recollect reading it at the time.

10250. Do you know that as long as that ordinance remained in force, the coolies worked very well, and that things have gone wrong since that ordinance has been annulled?—I understand that to be the case. My correspondence goes to that effect.

10251. You have not got with you any correspondence that you can lay before the Committee upon that subject?—No, I have not.

10252. Was any attempt made to bring Chinese to Trinidad?—There was authority given by the Government to go to China in 1843, to obtain Chinese from Singapore.

10253. Was that accompanied by restrictions which rendered the permission nugatory?—Yes, it was so complicated; the restrictions were so great that nobody acted upon it; they found that it did not do.

10254. You spoke of an Order in Council, dated the 7th of September 1838; does that still remain in force?—No; it has been modified lately; but it was only in April 1847, I think, that it was modified to any extent in Trinidad, with regard to contracts.

10255. It has been improved now, has it not?—So far that you may enter into a contract, but the terms are so advantageous to the immigrants, that it counteracts the benefit of it in a great degree.

10256. But the last form of contract to which Lord Grey assented, as amended by Lord Harris, is tolerably satisfactory to the colony, is not it?—The ordinance of the 22d of April 1847 is the last one. It throws the whole expense of importing the emigrant upon the party who employs him; the emigrant

is entitled to claim the current rate of wages of the colony; and besides that, he has the power, upon giving notice, of throwing up his contract at the end of six months upon paying a portion of the expenses of bringing him there; so that the planter, at all events, has the expense of bringing him, and has still to pay him the same rate of wages as he would any other resident labourer.

10257. You would propose not to allow the immigrant to change his master till, either by himself or through the person who took him into his service, the first importer was repaid the cost of importation?—That would be an inducement to individuals to import emigrants.

10258. When the immigrant first arrives, is it not the fact that he is very raw at his business, and comparatively of little value to the planter?—He is much better after he has been some time at the business; labour is new to him probably.

10259. He does not become a skilful labourer in the various departments of sugar cultivation till he has been nearly two years upon the plantation?—No.

10260. Is the effect of the present regulation that the planter only secures him for six months, and then he runs away and gets to the bush?—I am not aware that this has been acted upon; I do not think anybody has ventured to introduce immigrants upon those terms; I have not heard of any.

10261. Have not the Government recently made arrangements for conveying emigrants from other parts of Africa besides Sierra Leone; have not they sent some from the Kroo coast?—The "Growler" was intended for that, but she has never gone there to take any emigrants yet.

10262. Were the emigrants she had only from Sierra Leone?—Liberated Africans from Sierra Leone. She called at the Kroo coast, but she was full of emigrants from Sierra Leone before she called at the Kroo coast. She went with a number of liberated Africans to Demerara, and then she came back to Africa and filled a second time, and then took them to Trinidad, and now she has come home as being unfit for that service for which she was intended.

10263. In what way was she unfit for the service?—The object of employing a steamer was to shorten the voyage from the West Indies to Africa on account of its being against the trades; but the "Growler" had not power; she could not do it; she took double the time that a sailing vessel did.

10264. Practically, is not the only mode of conveying emigrants cheaply from Africa, to let the ships going out in ballast for sugar call at the coast of Africa and take them out, and go with the trade winds?—That is the cheapest way, no doubt.

10265. Was not the "Growler" obliged almost to make Bermuda before she could lay her course for Africa?—Yes.

10266. Do you know how many days she was making her voyage back to Africa?—Fifty-eight; Lord Harris mentions, in one of his despatches, I think, the "Senator," a sailing transport, took about 38.

10267. In the ordinary course of things, would not a deep sugar-laden merchantman have got home and discharged her cargo, and been at the coast of Africa again in those 58 days?—I should think she would.

10268. So that the entire cost of the freight against the trade wind was wasted?—That was in consequence of that vessel not being fit for her duty; she ought to have been able to have steamed directly across.

10269. But then she must be a much more expensive scale of vessel than the "Growler" was, if she was to be calculated to make a good passage in the teeth of the trade winds?—She must have more power for that service; but that was the only object of employing a steamer.

10270. But as the cost is everything, the cost of employing a vessel of that sort would make the freight of the negroes too heavy?—The estimate was that by being able to steam both ways she would make six voyages a year, but in consequence of her being obliged to sail back she would not make above three, and that would double the cost.

10271. What did the Admiralty get from the colonies for the passage of the immigrants?—£. 10 a head.

10271*. How many immigrants did she carry out?—She only made two voyages. I think she took about 450 each voyage.

10272. If the merchants had been left to carry the immigrants as they thought fit, how many would they have got out for the same money?—In the proportion of the difference between 7*l.* and 10*l.*; the Government was to receive 10*l.*; and

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I think the sailing vessel received 7*l.*; but it is fair to say that the "Growler" was sent at the recommendation of the West India body. It was thought that the employment of a steamer would facilitate the immigration.

10273. Did they ask for the "Growler"?—No; they suggested the employment of a steam vessel, supposing that she would make the voyage in about half the time that a sailing vessel would.

10274. They did not profess any predilection for the "Growler" in particular?—That was the Admiralty's selection.

10275. Mr. Miles.] Is not she notoriously about the worst vessel in the service?—She seems to have proved herself so. I see that the number that the "Growler" took to Trinidad was 441, and to Demerara 476.

10276. Chairman.] Since that the Government have chartered two ships?—I understand that two ships have been chartered.

10277. The "Bangalore" is one, and the "Persian" is another?—Yes.

10278. How many labourers are they calculated to carry out?—I do not know their tonnage, but I should think about 600.

10279. Is not the arrangement this: that the "Bangalore" is guaranteed 700*l.*, whether she gets any immigrants or not; and supposing her to get her full complement, she is to receive 7*l.* a head?—Yes, I presume under the emigration ordinance; but I do not know who is to pay that.

10280. Are those two cargoes that were sent by the "Growler," and those two ships chartered by the Government, all that has been done in the way of supplying the West India islands and colonies with immigrants?—There have been other vessels sent, I understand, to Demerara and Jamaica.

10281. What vessels were they?—I do not know their names; I understand there were two sent to each, two for Jamaica and two for Demerara. I understand that, in consequence of there being so many captured Africans at Sierra Leone, they have sent those vessels there.

10282. Can you state what is the aggregate amount of immigration that has actually taken place since the year 1838 into Trinidad?—It appears by a Parliamentary Return, No. 496 of last Session, that the total number which arrived in Trinidad, from 1839 to 1846 inclusive, was 17,788, including men, women, and children.

10283. A large portion of those appear to have been from the West Indies?—Yes, upwards of 10,000 of them.

10284. And about 1,300 from the United States; what are those; are they free blacks?—Free blacks.

10285. From Rio Janeiro, 504; what are those?—Liberated Africans.

10286. Then from Africa it appears that there were about 1,800?—Yes.

10287. From St. Helena, about 850?—Yes; those are liberated Africans.

10288. From the East Indies, about 2,700; those are coolies?—Yes.

10289. And from Madeira, 379?—Yes.

10290. Can you give the Committee any notion of the comparative value of those different descriptions of emigrants?—The coolies we have not had much experience of; they have only been one year. The United States' people were very good hardworking people, but I do not think they remain there a great many of them now.

10291. Is that because they no longer give sufficient wages?—They made an immense deal of money, and went back; they used, some of them, to do as much as three tasks a day.

10292. What did they get per task?—Two shillings a task, at that time.

10293. So that they actually got 6*s.* a day?—They could get it at that time.

10294. What did the Rio Janeiro liberated Africans get?—They at first were not nearly so effective; they had to be taught everything.

10295. How long did it take to teach them their business?—They were very useful at the end of the year.

10296. But not at all equal to the Americans?—No, certainly not.

10297. In point of fact, the raw imported African is very far from being equal to the civilized labourer?—Certainly, much less competent.

10298. Is it your opinion that those emigrants brought at the public expense have not proved half so useful as immigrants introduced by individuals would have

have been?—I think if they had been under some contract or under some restraint they would have been much more useful.

10299. But it is your opinion that if the immigration had been left to private enterprise, the planters or merchants would have taken care to have picked their people better?—Yes; I think there would have been more care taken in the selection.

10300. You were understood to state that what was especially required was an indenture for longer service, so that those who were at the cost of importing labourers should have a compensation of a longer period of service?—Yes; the great advantage of that would have been that it would have ensured a greater quantity of continuous labour.

10301. Is not there also another great advantage which you all look to by longer indentures, that you would thereby get the emigrants located and attached to the soil, and to a certain extent fixed to the soil?—Yes; there is an impression that if they were settled on a particular estate for a time, they would be induced, by proper treatment, to remain there.

10302. You think that probably, if they were under contract for two or three or five years, they would settle, and probably marry, and remain fixed to the estates to which they first went?—I am not in favour of too long a contract.

10303. How long a contract do you think desirable?—I think three years the extent.

10304. You think that three years would be sufficient?—Yes.

10305. And you think that it should be part of the contract, that the African should not be allowed to leave the service of the importer till he had repaid the cost of his importation to him, or till a new employer hiring him, should repay to him the cost of the importation?—I think that would be fair.

10306. Were contracts often entered into between the immigrants imported by the Government and the planters?—Never, I believe; I am not aware of any; they were discouraged, in fact.

10307. Were they discouraged by the Government immigration officers going on board the immigrant vessels and dissuading the people from entering into engagements?—It was the practice of the Government immigration agent to go on board and ask them if they were under contract, and tell them if they were that the contracts were not binding, which naturally made them suppose that contracts were not good things, and that the Government disapproved of them.

10308. Those proceedings excited distrust in the minds of the new-comers, and a prejudice against entering into contracts?—I believe they did.

10309. Whose business was it under that ordinance to collect emigrants?—There were agents appointed by the governor.

10310. How were they paid?—They were paid a fixed sum.

10311. Do you know what that sum was?—It varied in different places, according to the probable amount of the immigration.

10312. Were the agents rather inactive?—There was no great inducement to exertion; they got their salary, whether they got any emigrants or not; and that fact prevented the colonies appointing agents in many cases, because in the uncertainty of obtaining the emigrants, they did not like to go to the expense of employing agents.

10313. What description of people were employed as agents?—I do not know. I think there were only two appointed, one in Sierra Leone, and the other in North America.

10314. To go to another subject, have you got any returns to show to the Committee the diminution in the produce of the principal colonies during the last three years of freedom, as compared with the last three years of slavery?—Here is a statement showing the comparative crops in the nine principal West India colonies for the three years, 1831-32-33, being the last three years of slavery, and the three years, 1844-45-46.

[The same was delivered in, and read, as follows:]

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STATEMENT showing the Comparative Crops in the Nine principal West India Colonies for the Three Years 1831-33, being the last Three Years of Slavery and the Three Years 1844-46.

COLONIES.	Tons, Sugar.		Increase or Decrease, comparing Average 1831-33 with 1844-46.
	1831-33.	1844-46.	
Jamaica - - - - -	68,629	30,807	58 $\frac{1}{10}$ p' ct. decr.
Guiana - - - - -	44,178	24,817	43 $\frac{1}{10}$ " "
St. Vincent - - - - -	10,056	6,636	36 " "
Grenada - - - - -	9,634	3,779	60 $\frac{7}{10}$ " "
Tobago - - - - -	5,321	2,514	52 $\frac{1}{10}$ " "
	137,818	68,553	50 $\frac{3}{10}$ " "
Barbadoes - - - - -	17,174	16,378	4 $\frac{6}{10}$ " "
Antigua - - - - -	7,767	8,963	15 $\frac{4}{10}$ " incr
St. Kitt's - - - - -	4,382	5,558	26 $\frac{8}{10}$ " "
	29,323	30,899	5 $\frac{3}{10}$ " "
Trinidad - - - - -	15,428	16,539	7 $\frac{2}{10}$ " "

10315. Mr. M. Gibson.] This is a table of the exports?—That is a table showing the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom from those places. It is taken from the Parliamentary papers.

10316. Chairman.] As the price of the produce was very much greater in the three years of freedom than in the three years of slavery, have you any statement to show what the value of the produce was in those years?—No, I have not.

10317. The result is that the produce, in money, will be far larger in the last three years than it was in the three years of slavery, as regards those four last colonies?—Yes.

10318. Have you any statement showing the cost of production in each of those periods?—I have not.

10319. Can you account for the great increase which took place in the progress of Antigua?—The crops of Antigua are very much dependent upon seasons; they are subject to very great droughts occasionally, and therefore that will vary, perhaps, more than any other island.

10320. Do you ascribe the increase in the crops of Trinidad to the immigration?—I do. In preparing that paper, I have divided the colonies into three classes: first, those colonies in which negroes, from the great facilities of obtaining land, or of squatting, may freely retire from the sugar estates; secondly, those in which the population is dense, and where, consequently, those facilities do not exist. Then it will be seen that Trinidad is an exception, notwithstanding the great facility it affords of acquiring land or of squatting; because in the first class, it will be seen, that the decrease in the crops amounts to 50 per cent. In the second, where the population is dense, there is rather an increase. And in Trinidad, where there is plenty of land, and where there are great facilities for labourers retiring from estates, still there is an increase.

10321. Then are the Committee to understand that the conclusion to be drawn from your practical observation is this, that where the population is dense, there the colonies have been able pretty well to work up against the competition to which they have been exposed, and to get labour cheap; but that where the population is thin there has been no power to oblige the labourers to work, and consequently a very diminished produce; and that the argument which you deduce

deduce from that is, that if you could procure a large amount of imported labourers, you could work up the produce of the other colonies to what they were during slavery?—Yes; that has been the effect in Trinidad. By the great quantity of immigration which they have had, they have got their crops back to what they were in slavery, or even more; which must be attributed to immigration, because the labourers there have the same facilities of retiring that they have in the other colonies.

10322. But you have no statement to show the increased cost at which the produce has been obtained?—I have no statement of it, but I know that it has been very great. The immigration has not had the effect of greatly reducing wages.

10323. Have you no means whatever of stating the difference in the cost of production?—I can only state with regard to my own estate, that during the apprenticeship, it gave a revenue of about 1,700 *l.* a year, and that ever since it has sunk more than that per annum. But that partly arises perhaps from increasing cultivation, because the cultivation has very largely increased, and therefore it is hardly a fair criterion.

10324. Have you prepared any statement to show the effect of immigration upon the quantity of sugar produced?—Here is a statement showing the comparative crops in Trinidad for the three years 1831, 1832, and 1833, being the last three years of slavery (giving the average of those years), and the years 1834 to 1846 respectively.

[The same was delivered in, and read, as follows:]

STATEMENT showing the comparative CROPS in *Trinidad*, commencing with the Average of the Three Years 1831-33, being the last Three Years of Slavery, and giving the Years 1834 to 1846 respectively.

	Tons, Sugar.	Increase or Decrease.	Immigration.
1831-33	15,428	—	—
1834	16,980	10 per cent. incr.	—
1835	14,469	6 $\frac{9}{10}$ " decr.	—
1836	15,607	1 $\frac{1}{10}$ " incr.	—
1837	14,768	4 $\frac{3}{10}$ " decr.	—
1838	14,312	7 $\frac{9}{10}$ " "	—
1839	13,433	12 $\frac{9}{10}$ " "	1,006
1840	12,288	20 $\frac{3}{10}$ " "	2,015
1841	14,080	8 $\frac{7}{10}$ " "	1,952
1842	14,300	7 $\frac{1}{10}$ " "	2,872
1843	16,168	4 $\frac{3}{10}$ " incr.	2,843
1844	13,729	11 " decr.	2,530
1845	18,207	18 " incr.	1,635
1846	17,664	14 $\frac{5}{10}$ " "	2,935
	<i>Cwts.</i>		
Average import of Cocoa } 1831-33	9,623	—	—
into Great Britain - - } 1844-46	20,409	—	—

10325. There appears to have been a decrease every year after 1836 till 1843?—Yes, the estates had gone so much out of cultivation that they had to be re-established.

10326. How do you account for the increase of cocoa which appears upon that statement?—Owing to the immigration; the cocoa planters were unable to obtain labour at all before the immigration began; and partly because there has been a greater demand for cocoa here; the duties were reduced here.

10327. Has there been a falling off in the general produce of cocoa lately?—I am not aware that there has, except from the casualties of the season; I believe the generality of the cultivation of cocoa has increased.

10328. Has not this augmentation in the export of sugar and of cocoa yielded to the revenue of the colony of Trinidad compensation for the cost of introducing immigrants?—I think it has. I find that the average amount of the export duty in the years 1844, 1845, and 1846, which is an *ad valorem* duty of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., was 15,569 *l.*, whereas if the production had declined in the same proportion as in

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other colonies, 50 per cent., the amount would of course have been only one half; therefore the revenue from that source alone has increased by 7,784 *l.*

10329. Therefore you argue from that, that 7,784 *l.* is the surplus obtained for the increased produce of the island, and that that pays for the immigration?—It goes partly towards it; but, besides that, I find that there is an increase in the import duties, which have risen from 8,053 *l.* in 1831, 1832, and 1833, to 47,550 *l.* in 1844, 1845, and 1846; then the tonnage duties have also increased from 965 *l.* per annum to 4,285 *l.*

10330. What does that amount to altogether?—I cannot attribute that increase of import duties altogether to that cause, because there has been an increase of import duties in all the colonies; but the cost of immigration altogether, from 1841 to 1845, has only been 54,000 *l.*, that is 9,000 *l.* per annum, and the export duty alone is 7,889 *l.* per annum. A very small proportion of that large increase of the import duties would more than supply the difference.

10331. Has not a considerable part of this increase in the import duties arisen from augmented rates on articles consumed by the labouring population?—The tariff was raised in a very small degree, I think.

10332. How much?—Formerly the general rate was 3½ per cent on all imports; it is now rated in a different way; it is rated by the package.

10333. What do you conceive it amounts to *ad valorem*, as compared with the former duty?—On the principal articles, such as flour, it has not been increased since the abolition of slavery.

10334. Is that the principal article upon which this duty is levied?—No, only a small portion. I believe a very small part of the import duties falls upon the labouring population.

10335. Upon whom do they fall?—Upon the mass of the population who are not labourers.

10336. How do the mass of the population get their bread?—They comprise a large town population, the proprietors, merchants, managers, and overseers of estates, clerks, and tradesmen of all kinds; and they are all, in fact, dependent upon the agriculture of the colony.

10337. Are you of opinion that it is bad policy to have a high tariff for the purpose of compelling the labourers to contribute to the expense of immigration?—Yes, I think a high tariff would neutralize the effect intended; it would induce the labourers to cultivate their provision grounds instead of working for hire.

10338. You concur in opinion with Lord Grey upon that point?—Yes.

10339. But if you do not get the revenue in one way you must get it in another. Do you think it would be advantageous to have an export duty on sugar. Is the price of sugar so good in the market as to afford 1*l.* a ton upon sugar?—I believe, put it which way you will, the taxes come out of the planters' pockets, whether it is import or whether it is export.

10340. Would you propose to levy a higher duty on Manchester goods?—Some years ago the colonists were prohibited putting any duty upon British manufactures. I believe they now levy 3½ per cent.

10341. Manchester was protected in the Trinidad market?—Manchester and Glasgow were protected.

10342. Would you propose to raise the customs duties upon British manufactures?—Not beyond what they are now.

10343. Can you state what portion of the revenue of Trinidad is raised from British manufactures?—I cannot answer that question.

10344. You were understood to say that the larger portion was derived from provisions. Can you give the Committee any information with respect to the extent of the importation of bread stuffs into Trinidad?—Here are two papers which will show, I think, that the duties on bread stuffs have not had any effect in preventing the consumption.

[The same were delivered in, and read, as follows:]

17 March 1848.

IMPORT of WHEAT FLOUR into *Trinidad*, in the Years 1835 to 1844 inclusive.—
(Parliamentary Paper, Duties on Imports and Exports, Shipping, &c., No. 679;
25 August 1846).

1835	-	-	-	13,706	barrels.
1836	-	-	-	17,465	"
1837	-	-	-	18,117	"
1838	-	-	-	14,080	"
1839	-	-	-	23,740	"
1840	-	-	-	34,724	"
1841	-	-	-	36,058	"
1842	-	-	-	40,416	"
1843	-	-	-	30,100	"
1844	-	-	-	36,663	"

IMPORT of INDIAN and other CORN MEAL into *Trinidad*, in the Years 1835 to 1844
inclusive.—(Parliamentary Paper, Duties on Imports and Exports, Shipping, &c.,
No. 679; 25 August 1846).

	Bushels.	Barrels.
1835	768	803
1836	1,219	1,380
1837	2,143	2,007
1838	1,558	185
1839	2,880	2,228
1840	8,152	1,802
1841	26,123	4,828
1842	57,294	5,385
1843	25,279	5,097
1844	33,577	5,893

10345. It appears, from that paper, that there is 9,000*l.* a year derived from flour alone; would you propose to raise that 9,000*l.* a year from British manufactures instead?—No; I think it is a fair tariff, and is very well as it is.

10346. What is the duty on Indian corn?—It is 1*s.* a barrel; the duty on corn is 2 ½*d.* a bushel.

10347. What proportion do the labourers on estates constitute of the whole population?—By a Parliamentary paper, No. 62, of February 1848, Lord Harris states, that the total number of labourers at work for hire, in June last, was 17,537, the whole population being 80,000.

10348. What effect has immigration produced in respect to the command of labour, and the price at which it can be obtained?—Until lately it has not had much effect upon the command of labour.

10349. That is because it has been insufficient?—Yes; every planter wanted to obtain sufficient labour to work his estate up to the full capabilities of his machinery, and therefore the competition prevented the lowering of the wages.

10350. Then the fact is, that as far as improvements are enterprize and concerned, *Trinidad* has been rather overdone, the proprietors having sent more machinery, and built more mills, than they had labourers to work, and crop to occupy them with?—Yes; all improved machinery requires, while it is at work, an increased quantity of labour.

10351. With respect to squatting; has *Trinidad* suffered much from squatting?—Yes; I believe a great deal of the benefit of immigration has been neutralized by the number of people who are able to retire and squat.

10352. Has the Government taken any measures to prevent squatting?—They have done nothing effectual. Lord Glenelg pointed out the necessity of taking measures to prevent it in 1836, but in this Parliamentary paper, which I referred to just now, there is a letter from Lord Harris, from which it appears that he is only going to do now what Lord Glenelg stated ought to have been done in 1836.

10353. What did Lord Glenelg state ought to be done in 1836?—That measures ought to be taken to prevent squatting on the Crown lands.

10354. Have they squatted on the Crown lands?—They have to a great extent;

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extent; the governors have occasionally issued proclamations stating the illegality of it, and threatening them; but nothing has really been done to prevent it.

10355. How do you think that squatting can be prevented in Trinidad?—The Government have the power of preventing people taking possession of the Crown lands.

10356. If they did not squat upon the Crown lands, would not they squat upon the abandoned estates of the proprietors?—They would to a certain extent; but then as one estate joins another, they come within the range of civilization; they come within reach of the estates, at all events.

10357. Then your objection is, that the Crown lands are at a distance from the estates, and that by squatting at a distance from the estates, they are out of reach of giving their labour?—Yes; but more than that, where there are abandoned estates, the proprietors of which are not known, the Government ought to take charge of those estates, and prevent the people squatting there.

10358. How are they to prevent those labourers, who have most of them some money, from purchasing, at the low price at which ruined planters are willing to sell their lands, an acre, or two or three acres, or four or five acres, as a plot to squat upon?—I do not see any objection to that, because they must do that in the neighbourhood of existing estates, and probably the estates would then benefit by their labour.

10359. Then do you think that if those labourers obtained land at a low rate, and became freeholders with two or three acres of land upon which to grow their provisions, they would continue their work?—They would give occasional labour; they would give more labour than when they are away from estates, and they must labour to a certain point to obtain money to buy the land.

10360. Have you any suggestions to make upon the subject of contracts or industrial laws; you have seen Lord Grey's last ordinance, amended by Lord Harris, and probably you are of opinion that there is not a great deal to find fault with in it; it appears to be in a good spirit for the planter, does not it?—I have not examined the law very particularly, but I am not sure that it is very practical in all respects.

10361. Do you think that Trinidad can compete with the foreign slave colonies?—At present certainly not.

10362. Have you any returns of the cost of cultivation with you?—It varies very much in Trinidad; on my own estate I see that in the year 1845 the cost of production amounted to 47 s.; that was at the time that cultivation was being forced very much.

10363. Can you state what portion of that cost properly belonged to permanent improvements?—It mostly applies to increased cultivation, increased plants; the crop in 1845 probably was not above 200 hogsheads, in 1846 it was 300, and in 1847, 480.

10364. Mr. Miles.] Can you state the cost of production in each year?—In 1845 it was 47 s., in 1846, 41 s., and in 1847, 20 s., but this year the crop will be a great deal larger again, so that it is difficult, when you are increasing the cultivation of an estate, to ascertain the real cost.

10365. What did you anticipate raising your crop to?—The machinery is capable of 600 or 700 hogsheads.

10366. Did you look to an average of 600 hogsheads?—Yes.

10367. Mr. M. Gibson.] And you will get that, probably, at a cost below 20 s.?—I think it is very likely that it may be reduced below that.

10368. How much do you suppose?—It depends upon immigration; if the immigration stops we shall go back again.

10369. Mr. Miles.] Have you sent out any improved machinery for the manufacture, or is yours the common apparatus?—We have tried two or three experiments for improved manufacture, but they have all failed.

10370. Chairman.] You have stated that you have sent out more machinery than you have labourers to work it; have you sent out improved agricultural implements?—We have introduced the plough, but there is great difficulty attending the use of it in Trinidad.

10371. What is the difficulty?—That you only occasionally plant the canes in Trinidad; in the old colonies they plant the canes every one or two years, and then the ground is broken up entirely; in Trinidad the canes ratoon a great many years; the first year or two they do very well, but they shift to a certain degree, and the lines cease to be straight, and you cannot plough between them; besides that,

that, on the estate I refer to, the ground is low, and the want of drainage is a matter of difficulty.

10372. What description of drainage does it require?—Surface drainage is the only drainage which we have ventured upon yet; I believe under-drainage would be very advantageous, but we cannot afford it.

10373. Mr. *Miles*.] Have you not also stumps of trees which very much obstruct the use of the plough?—Yes.

10374. *Chairman*.] Is there great distress in Trinidad now?—Very great.

10375. Do you think that at the present prices the cultivation of sugar will go on?—No, I am satisfied that it cannot go on.

10376. Previously to the passing of the Act of 1846, was the colony decidedly going ahead?—Yes, cultivation was increasing.

10377. Was labour becoming rather cheaper?—Yes.

10378. And some of the estates were giving a profit?—Yes; I believe some of the estates were giving a profit.

10379. They were beginning to be cultivated with less loss?—Yes.

10380. Since 1846 what has been the state of things?—I believe the losses in cultivation must have been very great since 1846.

10381. You mean in the last year, 1847, when the crop of 1846 came into the market?—Yes.

10382. What do you apprehend will be the effect upon the negro population, if the estates should go out of cultivation?—They must relapse into a savage state.

10383. Has the taxation of the colony increased or diminished since emancipation?—It has more than doubled.

10384. Do you think it would be very advantageous to the colony if the cost of the colonial government, and of all the officers under the government, could be diminished?—It would be advantageous to the planters, who have to pay for them.

10385. Is the governor of Trinidad paid by the island?—Yes.

10386. What is the salary of the governor;—I think 3,500*l*.

10387. And of the secretary?—I have a paper showing the comparative expenditure of the colony. This is merely the civil government, for the judicial and ecclesiastical establishments, and education, and police. Those are the four things that have increased so much; in 1833, it was 22,280*l*.; in 1841, it was 35,347*l*.; in 1842, 38,747*l*.; and in 1846, 33,742*l*. The great increase is in the ecclesiastical charges, and education, and police.

10388. What number of tons of sugar do you export?—About 17,000.

10389. The increase in the expenditure upon the civil list is 21,000*l*. a year; that amounts to about 25*s*. a ton upon all the sugar you export?—Yes. The increase in the expenditure generally in the colony since emancipation, has been from 35,120*l*. in 1833, to 85,527*l*. in 1846. But I believe that 85,000*l*. includes about 20,000*l*. for immigration.

10390. Then, exclusively of immigration, it has increased from 35,000*l*. to 65,000*l*.?—Yes.

10391. It appears here that the police have increased from 200*l*. a year, in 1833, to 13,400*l*. a year, in 1846. Can you account for that?—During slavery there was no police; it was a domestic police.

10392. Do not you think that a large diminution could be made in this enormous expenditure?—With regard to the police, I do not know that there could be.

10393. What is the extent of the island?—The island is 90 miles long, by 50 miles wide.

10394. What is the population of the island?—About 80,000.

10395. Do you think that 80,000 people require a police costing 13,400*l*. a year?—I believe so.

10396. You do not think that there could be any great reduction in the expense of the police?—I think not in the present state of things; I do not believe that the police is very efficient as it is. They have a great deal to do, I believe. The population is very much scattered. That sum does not include the whole expense, because the stipendiary magistrates are paid by the mother country.

10396*. Have you any statement of the revenue and expenditure?—Yes, I have.

[The following Paper was delivered in:]

C. Marryat, Esq. ESTIMATED REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Colony of *Trinidad*, for the Year 1848.

17 March 1848.

REVENUE, 1848.

Amount likely to be realized under the following Heads; viz.—

	£.	s.	d.
Import Duties, Port of Spain - - - - -	49,000	-	-
Import Duties, San Fernando - - - - -	1,000	-	-
Export Duties - - - - -	15,000	-	-
Tonnage Duties - - - - -	5,000	-	-
Wharfage Dues - - - - -	500	-	-
Fees of Public Offices - - - - -	4,000	-	-
Duty on Rum manufactured in the Colony - - - - -	15,000	-	-
£.	89,500	-	-

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE for the Year 1848.

FIXED.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Governor - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,500	-	-
ECCLESIASTICAL:									
CHURCH OF ENGLAND:									
Archdeacon - - - - -	500	-	-						
Rector of the Parish of the Holy Trinity	600	-	-						
Assistant Curate of the Parish of the Holy Trinity - - - - -	100	-	-						
Clerk of the Parish of the Holy Trinity	50	-	-						
Sexton of the Parish of the Holy Trinity	20	16	8						
Island Curate of the Parish of St. Michael - - - - -	300	-	-						
Allowance to Island Curate of the Parish of St. Michael to keep in repair Rectory House - - - - -	20	-	-						
Clerk - - - - -	20	16	8						
Rector of the Parish of St. Mary -	350	-	-						
Allowance to Rector of the Parish of St. Mary to keep in repair Rectory House - - - - -	20	-	-						
Clerk - - - - -	20	16	8						
Sexton - - - - -	20	16	8						
Rector of the Parish of St. Paul -	350	-	-						
Allowance to Rector of the Parish of St. Paul to keep in repair Rectory House - - - - -	20	-	-						
Clerk - - - - -	20	16	8						
Sexton - - - - -	20	16	8						
Rector of the Parish of St. Luke -	350	-	-						
Clerk - - - - -	20	16	8						
Sexton - - - - -	20	16	8						
Rector of the Parish of St. Stephen -	350	-	-						
Allowance to Rector of the Parish of St. Stephen to keep in repair Rectory House - - - - -	20	-	-						
Clerk - - - - -	20	16	8						
Sexton - - - - -	20	16	8						
Rector of the United Parishes of St. Andrew and St. Philip - - - - -	350	-	-						
Allowance to Rector of the United Parishes of St. Andrew and St. Philip to keep in repair Rectory House - - - - -	20	-	-						
Clerk and Sexton of the Parish of St. Andrew - - - - -	20	16	8						
Clerk and Sexton of the Parish of St. Philip - - - - -	20	16	8						
Carried forward - - - - -	3,650	-	-	-	-	-	3,500	-	-

C. Marryat, Esq.

17 March 1848.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	3,650	-	-	3,500	-	-
ECCLESIASTICAL—continued.						
Church of England—continued.						
Island Curate of the Parish of St. Thomas	£. 150	-	-			
And whilst officiating as Assistant Curate of the Parish of St. Andrew		50	-			
		200	-			
Clerk of St. Thomas		20	16	8		
Sexton of St. Thomas		20	16	8		
Island Curate of the Parish of St. Matthew	150	-	-			
Allowance to Island Curate of the Parish of St. Matthew for House-rent until provided with a Parsonage House		50	-			
Allowance to Island Curate of the Parish of St. Matthew, for travelling expenses while in charge of the Parish of St. Peter		20	-			
Clerk and Sexton		20	16	8		
Island Curate of the Parish of Christ Church	150	-	-			
Allowance to Island Curate of the Parish of Christ Church for House-rent until provided with a Parsonage House		50	-			
Clerk and Sexton		20	16	8		
Reader and Catechist for the Settlements of Disbanded Soldiers in the Parish of St. Jude	150	-	-			
Allowance to Reader and Catechist for House-rent until provided with a Parsonage House		50	-			
Catechist, Royal Gaol		75	-			
To the Rev. Mr. Eckel, so long as he shall be in the discharge of the duties of a Rector in this Colony	100	-	-			
TOTAL CHURCH OF ENGLAND				4,728	6	8
CHURCH OF ROME:						
Bishop	1,000	-	-			
Curate of Port of Spain	300	-	-			
Four Assistant Curates for Port of Spain, at 130 <i>l.</i>	520	-	-			
Sacristan Mayor	130	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of St. Juan	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of St. Joseph	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Santa Cruz	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Arima	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Mayaro	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Arauca	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Toco	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Diego Martin	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Carenage	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Chaguanas	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Couva	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Point-à-Pierre	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Naparima	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Savanna Grande	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Siparia and Oopouche	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Cedros	150	-	-			
Curate of the Quarter of Erin and La Brea	150	-	-			
Assistant Curate of Naparima	130	-	-			
TOTAL CHURCH OF ROME				4,630	-	-
TOTAL ECCLESIASTICAL				9,358	6	8
Carried forward				12,858	6	8

C. Marryat, Esq.

17 March 1848.

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Amount brought forward		-	-	-	12,858	6	8
CIVIL:							
Colonial Secretary and Auditor of the Public Accounts	-	800	-	-			
Assistant Colonial Secretary, Clerk of Council, and Assistant Auditor of Public Accounts	-	550	-	-			
Colonial Treasurer	-	800	-	-			
Treasury Clerks, 1st	-	300	-	-			
Treasury Clerks, 2d	-	200	-	-			
Registrar General	-	500	-	-			
His Clerk	-	200	-	-			
Harbour Master	-	630	-	-			
Health Officer of Shipping	-	100	-	-			
Public Vaccinator	-	108	6	-			
Inspector of Prisons	-	100	-	-			
Colonial Agent	-	105	-	-			
Messengers at Government House, 1st	-	160	-	-			
Messengers at Government House, 2d	-	120	-	-			
Signal Men, North Post	-	120	-	-			
Signal Men, Fort George	-	100	-	-			
TOTAL CIVIL	-	-	-	-	4,893	6	-
JUDICIAL:							
Chief Justice	-	2,000	-	-			
Two Puisne Judges	-	2,400	-	-			
Registrar	-	600	-	-			
And Allowance for Clerks	-	600	-	-			
Clerk to Judges	-	220	-	-			
Messenger	-	110	-	-			
Attorney-general	-	800	-	-			
Allowance for Clerks	-	300	-	-			
Master of the Supreme Civil Court	-	800	-	-			
Allowance for Clerk	-	150	-	-			
Commissioner of the Petty Civil Court, Port of Spain	-	200	-	-			
His Clerk	-	150	-	-			
Official Assignee	-	250	-	-			
Allowance to the Marshal in lieu of Fees upon Criminal Processes	-	350	-	-			
TOTAL JUDICIAL ESTABLISHMENT	-	-	-	-	8,930	-	-
IMMIGRATION:							
Agent-general of Immigrants	-	100	-	-			
Proportion of Salary to Agent at Sierra Leone	-	100	-	-			
TOTAL IMMIGRATION	-	-	-	-	200	-	-
PENSIONS:							
Late Puisne Judge	-	750	-	-			
Late Colonial Secretary	-	400	-	-			
Late Escribano	-	400	-	-			
Late Registrar of Deeds	-	333	6	8			
Late Alguacil Mayor	-	326	13	4			
Late Marshal	-	310	-	-			
Late Citing Officer to the Complaint Court	-	100	-	-			
Late Colonial Storekeeper	-	58	6	8			
Late Overseer Government Negroes	-	40	-	-			
Late Trumpeter Militia Forces	-	20	-	-			
Late Chief of Police	-	80	-	-			
TOTAL PENSIONS	-	-	-	-	2,818	6	8
STATIONERY ALLOWANCES:							
To the Colonial Secretary	-	130	-	-			
To the Colonial Treasurer	-	50	-	-			
To the Attorney-general	-	30	-	-			
To the Escribano of the Court of Intendant	-	10	-	-			
To the Registrar-general	-	30	-	-			
To the Registrar of the Courts	-	80	-	-			
To the Master	-	10	-	-			
To the Clerk to the Judges	-	20	-	-			
To the Commissioner Petty Civil Court	-	8	-	-			
TOTAL STATIONERY ALLOWANCES	-	-	-	-	368	-	-
Carried forward	-	-	-	-	30,067	19	4

C. Marryat, Esq.
17 March 1848.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Amount brought forward - - -	-	-	-	30,067	19	4
SUNDRY ALLOWANCES :						
To the first Government Messenger for a person to clean the apartments at Government House -	20	-	-			
To idem for the keep of a Horse - - - -	25	-	-			
To the Signal Man at the North Post for a person to supply him with water - - - -	10	8	-			
To the Officer in charge of the Detachment of the 1st West India Regiment stationed in town, for an Office - - - -	36	10	-			
TOTAL SUNDRY ALLOWANCES - - -	-	-	-	91	18	-
BOTANIC GARDEN AT ST. ANN'S :						
Salary of the Botanist - - - -	150	-	-			
Expense of Labour in the Grounds - - - -	100	-	-			
TOTAL BOTANIC GARDEN - - -	-	-	-	250	-	-
ST. ANN'S CANAL :						
Pay of Guard in charge of, which supplies the town with Water - - - -	-	-	-	26	-	-
POLICE :						
Colonial Allowance to Stipendiary Magistrates ; viz.						
To the Stipendiary Magistrate of the Port of Spain and Western Police District - - - -	150	-	-			
To the Stipendiary Magistrate of the St. Joseph's Police District - - - -	150	-	-			
To the Stipendiary Magistrate of the Naparima Police District - - - -	150	-	-			
To the Stipendiary Magistrate of the Southern Police District - - - -	100	-	-			
To the Stipendiary Magistrate of the Toco and Eastern Police District - - - -	450	-	-			
Coolie Stipendiary Magistrate :						
Salary - - - -	£.	500				
For Travelling Expenses - - - -	-	200				
				700	-	-
6 Clerks of the Peace, at 200 <i>l.</i> - - - -	1,200	-	-			
1 Clerk, at - - - -	150	-	-			
1 Clerk of the Police - - - -	109	10	-			
The Inspector of Police - - - -	350	-	-			
2 Sub-Inspectors of Police, at 165 <i>l.</i> each - - - -	330	-	-			
Allowance to Inspector for House Rent - - - -	40	-	-			
Allowance to Sub-Inspectors, at 30 <i>l.</i> each - - - -	60	-	-			
10 Serjeants of Police, at 109 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> - - - -	1,095	-	-			
72 Police Constables, at 82 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> - - - -	5,941	16	-			
Clothing for Police, cost of Staves, &c. - - - -	400	-	-			
Stationery - - - -	50	-	-			
4 Horses, at 25 <i>l.</i> - - - -	100	-	-			
Forage for 9 Horses, at 2 <i>s.</i> per diem - - - -	328	10	-			
Equipments, Bridles, Saddles, &c. - - - -	45	-	-			
Medical Attendance at Inquests - - - -	200	-	-			
Rewards to Assistant Constables - - - -	100	-	-			
Repairs to Police Stations - - - -	200	-	-			
Lighting of Police Stations - - - -	50	-	-			
Office Furniture and Fittings to Stations - - - -	50	-	-			
Rents of Station Houses - - - -	800	-	-			
Extraordinary Expenses - - - -	100	-	-			
TOTAL POLICE - - - -	-	-	-	13,399	16	-
TOTAL FIXED ESTABLISHMENT carried forward - - -	-	-	£.	43,835	13	4

C. Marryat, Esq.

17 March 1848.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Amount brought forward - - -	-	-	-	43,835	13	4
UNFIXED.						
CIVIL:						
Salaries and allowances to the Officers of the Board of Works, not to exceed - - - - -	1,410	-	-			
Salaries and allowances to the Officers of the Customs, for collecting the Colonial Revenue in Port of Spain and in San Fernando, not to exceed -	4,000	-	-			
Pay and allowances to the Officers to be employed in collecting the Duty to be levied on Rum and other Spirits manufactured in the Colony, not to exceed - - - - -	2,000	-	-			
EDUCATION:						
In aid of for the year - - - - -	3,000	-	-			
IMMIGRATION for the year - - - - -						
	25,000	-	-			
COLONIAL HOSPITAL:						
Pay of Officers, Maintenance of Sick, Rent of Premises, Cost of Medicines, &c. - - - - -	4,000	-	-			
LEPER ASYLUM:						
Pay of Officers, Rent of Premises, Maintenance, &c.	1,800	-	-			
ROYAL GAOL:						
Pay of Officers, Maintenance of Prisoners, &c. Cost of Stone supplied the Gaol for the purpose of being broken by Prisoners sentenced to hard labour. The Stone when broken being laid out in repairing the Streets and Wharves of the Town	3,000	-	-			
CRIMINAL JUSTICE:						
Expense of Attendance of Witnesses at Sessions, Interpreter, &c. - - - - -	500	-	-			
PRINTING:						
Amount of Contract for the Public Printing - - - - -	£.	s.	d.			
	280	-	-			
Extra Printing, Advertising in and Subscription to Local Newspaper	100	-	-			
	380	-	-			
POSTAGE - - - - -						
	50	-	-			
PUBLIC OFFICES—Furniture and Fittings to - - -						
	100	-	-			
LAND AND WATER TRANSPORT:						
Including allowance to the Owner of the Steam Boat "Lady Macleod," for conveyance of Public Officers and Stipendiary Magistrates when on duty, Official Letters, Policemen and Prisoners	650	-	-			
ROADS AND BRIDGES:						
For keeping in repair the St. Ann's or short Circular Road, kept in order at the expense of the Colonial Government - - - - -	£.	s.	d.			
	300	-	-			
For cutting Traces and forming new lines of communication with the interior of the Island - - - - -	1,000	-	-			
	1,300	-	-			
SAVINGS BANK, Interest on Deposit in - - - - -						
	300	-	-			
DRAWBACKS of Colonial Revenue for the year - - -						
	2,500	-	-			
Carried forward - - - - -	49,990	-	-	43,835	13	4

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING. 133

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C. Marryat, Esq.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward - - -	49,990	-	-	43,835	13	4
MILITARY DEFENCES:						
Rent of Premises used as Barrack for Detachment of 1st West India Regiment stationed in Port of Spain - - - - -	150	-	-			
REPAIRS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS - - - - -	2,000	-	-			
WHARVES AND QUAYS, Repairs to - - - - -	500	-	-			
MISCELLANEOUS:						
Amount to be applied under the direction of his Excellency the Governor, in extending and promoting Agricultural Science in this colony -	500	-	-			
Pay of Guard of Powder Magazine -	100	-	-			
Grant to the Medical Board to assist in instructing women in Midwifery -	100	-	-			
To meet Votes of Council for extraordinary services - - - - -	3,000	-	-			
	3,700	-	-			
TOTAL UNFIXED EXPENDITURE - - -				56,340	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE for Year 1848 -				100,175	13	4
Amount for which the Colony is liable for monies employed for Immigration purposes - - - - -				46,165	-	7
Voted on former Estimates for Public Buildings not yet commenced; viz.—						
Hospital (1842) - - - - -	7,000	-	-			
Two Police Stations - - - - -	2,000	-	-			
Police Station, San Fernando - - - - -	5,000	-	-			
Police Station, St. Joseph - - - - -	1,200	-	-			
Lunatic Asylum - - - - -	3,000	-	-			
Parsonage House, St. Matthew - - - - -	1,000	-	-			
Parsonage House, Christ Church - - - - -	1,000	-	-			
Repairing School House for a Parsonage House, St. Thomas - - - - -	150	-	-			
Repairing School House for a Parsonage House in St. Bartholomew - - - - -	150	-	-			
				20,500	-	-
Amount required to complete the new Government Buildings; viz.—						
For Court House - - - - -	8,500	-	-			
For Government House - - - - -	8,500	-	-			
For Out Offices to ditto - - - - -	7,000	-	-			
				24,000	-	-

C. Marryat, Esq.

17 March 1848.

10397. How are those various salaries which appear in the return settled?—By the Governor in Council, I believe.

10398. It appears that the total expenditure is 110,175 *l.*?—That was the estimate for the year 1848, including 25,000 *l.* for emigration; that 25,000 *l.* was proposed to be provided for by a loan, to be distributed over a certain number of years.

10399. But the credit of the island was so low that nobody bid for the loan?—No.

10400. Though it was offered at six per cent?—It was offered at any rate that the parties would give; the bonds were to pay six per cent., and parties were invited to tender at any rate they chose.

10401. Do you think it would facilitate the reducing of the expenditure if an example were to be set from the highest quarters of reducing the salaries, beginning with the Governor, and going through all the officers?—I do not think the salaries of the officers are high; they were reduced some years ago. There is no increase in the salaries of the Governors, and the officers generally, since emancipation.

10402. But there has been a great decrease in the means of the planters to pay them?—The great increase of expenditure has been consequent upon emancipation; it has been for the police, and the churches, and schools, and such like.

10403. Do you think that at the present prices the profits of the island will continue to meet its expenditure?—No, it cannot; I believe there will be a great deficiency. The revenue will not meet the expenditure this year, particularly as a good deal of it depends upon an *ad valorem* duty on exports.

10404. Do you think that any benefit would arise from the establishment of central factories for the grinding of sugar canes?—I do not.

10405. Do you think that would be impracticable?—I think there would be great difficulty attending it. I do not think parties would abandon their present works and make themselves dependent upon any factory, which must be at a distance necessarily. It has been tried in several of the French colonies, but I have not been able to ascertain that any of them have succeeded well. It was begun at the time of the earthquake in Guadaloupe, which destroyed all their existing works, and therefore, instead of replacing them, they began a central factory system.

10406. Mr. M. Gibson.] You gave the Committee a statement with regard to sugar imported from the colonies into the United Kingdom, but you did not mean to say that that included the whole produce of the estates, or that portion of the sugar which is consumed by the population on the different islands?—No, I did not.

10407. Speaking of Trinidad, to which your evidence has been principally directed, are you not of opinion that the consumption of sugar in Trinidad itself has very considerably increased amongst the labouring population?—I have no doubt that it has.

10408. Can you give any estimate of the increased quantity of sugar grown upon the Trinidad estates that is bought in the island, and consumed by the population of the island?—No, I have no means of saying that; but it should be observed that those Parliamentary returns, giving only the imports into this country, take no notice of any exports there might have been during slavery to the North American colonies, and I have no means of obtaining that.

10409. You told the Committee that the revenue from imports into Trinidad had materially increased of late years; is it your opinion that that is a proof of the increasing purchasing power of produce imported amongst the population?—I think it is a proof of the increase of power of the labouring population to purchase.

10410. It is a proof that the population, as a whole, are in a better condition than they were?—It is a proof that the labouring population are well off; it is consequent upon the high wages which the planters are compelled to pay them.

10411. It is a proof that the whole population of the island are in a better position than they were formerly?—It is a proof that they are larger consumers.

10412. When you spoke of the distress that prevails in our West India colonies, you do not mean to apply that to the whole population, but merely to certain parties concerned in a particular kind of cultivation?—There is no distress on the part of the labourers, who fix their own wages; there can be no doubt about that.

10413. Can you inform the Committee whether there has been any addition

in Trinidad of late years to the buildings and erections of various kinds in the island, unconnected with sugar growing, which show an increasing capital and increased prosperity?—I believe the foundation of all capital in Trinidad arises from the cultivation of the estates.

10414. But can you inform the Committee whether of late years there has been any increase in the number of houses and various erections, showing that capital is applied in that island to such purposes, and that there is an improving condition generally of the people?—I have no doubt that the buildings have improved and increased, but, as I said before, that must be derived from the sugar estates. For instance, merchants make their living by supplying estates, and they may apply their capital, or anybody else who makes money in the same way, in building houses.

10415. You have no doubt buildings have improved in Trinidad?—I believe they have.

10416. Do you consider that an increased number of fixed investments of that kind year by year is a proof generally of the advancing condition of the population?—It is no proof of general prosperity.

10417. It is a proof of increased prosperity somewhere?—Yes.

10418. You have stated that with regard to sugar growing in Trinidad there are great difficulties to contend with, and that those difficulties now arise from a want of control over the labouring population, and a want of power on the part of the employers of labour to procure continuous labour at such a rate of wages as will render the labour remunerative; that is so, is it not?—Yes.

10419. Do you mean the Committee to infer from that, that the labourer has the power of fixing his own wages and making his own terms under the present circumstances?—At the present moment I do not know that he has, because nobody has money to pay him with; but till this last year he has had the power of fixing his own rate of wages.

10420. Supposing the price of sugar were to rise, and the labourer were afterwards to increase his demand for wages—I am supposing all other circumstances to remain the same—how would your position be improved if the price of sugar went up, and the labourer's demand became higher and his wages greater?—That is the reason why we want immigration, to prevent that.

10421. Under present circumstances, there is no addition to the price of sugar that would render cultivation in Trinidad safe, because there is no security that with an increasing price of sugar the demands of the labourer might not increase also?—There is a limit even to the demands of the labourer.

10422. Can you at all say how far that limit may be off?—The limit is this very much; it is limited now by the means of the planter to pay him.

10423. I infer from that, that the labourer will go on increasing his demands upon the planter so long as the means of the planter permit, and therefore that as the price of sugar rises, and as the means of the planter increase, so the labourer will increase his demands; that I understand to be the just inference from what you have said?—You are inferring that Trinidad is in the same position now as it was some years ago.

10424. I am speaking of present circumstances?—I have already stated that Trinidad is not in the same condition now as it was years ago; the immigration has been carried to that point, that the planters are more independent than they were; they can get more continuous labour, and the rate of wages is reduced.

10425. Under present circumstances, increasing the price of sugar in this market affords no guarantee to you of a profitable cultivation, inasmuch as the labourer having it in his power, as you say, to fix his own rate of wages, will increase his demands as your means of acceding to his demands increase?—I say that the labourer formerly had that power, but he has not now that power to the same extent, because the fact of the planter having been enabled to reduce the rate of wages is a proof to the contrary. We are now just beginning to receive the benefit of immigration; we are getting up to that point; but till every planter could get labour equivalent or in proportion to his works, they were all bidding one against the other; but immigration is going on now till we are coming near to that point that each planter is procuring his supply of labour.

10426. My reason for putting this question is, that Mr. Burnley, a gentleman whom probably you know perfectly well, and who is well acquainted with Trinidad, stated to the Committee of the House of Commons, in 1842, that "it is not

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a high price for sugar which will keep up profitable cultivation; it must rise regularly year after year, because the labourers having the power of fixing their own wages progressively, extort from the planter wages proportionate to the actual price of sugar, so that we require a rise in the ensuing year to make a profit"—That was the case in 1842; the labourer had then the power entirely; there is no doubt about it.

10427. You consider that at that time Mr. Burnley's description was perfectly correct?—I believe it was.

10428. But that since that time immigration has, to a certain degree, increased the power of the planters over the labourers, so as to render it less in the power of the labourers to make their own terms?—Yes; there is less competition among the planters for labour than there was then.

10429. Are you not of opinion that a very greatly increased population must be introduced into Trinidad in order to give you an effectual control over the labourers, and to put you in a better position than formerly in making your bargain with regard to the rate of wages?—Not a very greatly increased population; up to a certain point we required a great number, but now we have got up to that point where the labour is about equal to what it was in slavery, and the crops are equal to what they were in slavery, or even greater than they were then.

10430. Is there not a vast extent of good land in Trinidad, and a vast extent of territory where the labourers may go and reside apart from field labour, and maintain themselves?—That depends upon the government.

10431. But as the matter now stands, is not that the fact?—There is, if I may so express it, a great leakage, and I apprehend that you require some immigration to provide against that tendency to squatting.

10432. Therefore you do say that it is necessary, in order that you may have effectual control over the labourers, that a large number of persons should be added to the population of Trinidad, everything else remaining the same?—I do not know exactly what is meant by "a large number." We see that a gradual immigration of 3,000 a year has restored the cultivation of Trinidad to what it was during slavery, and an immigration of 3,000 now will be much more effective than an immigration of 3,000 formerly, when there was such a great competition for labour among the planters.

10433. With regard to this leakage of immigration that is always going on, will not that carry off constantly a great proportion of those who have immigrated?—It has hitherto done so; you require to import three men, if you want two.

10434. Is not the island of Trinidad capable of supplying all Europe with sugar, supposing you had a population adequate to its cultivation?—If the whole of it was in cultivation, possibly it might.

10435. Supposing Trinidad were supplied abundantly with labour, considering the fertility of its soil, and the advantages that it possesses naturally, do you think that the old colonies could compete with Trinidad?—If Trinidad were as thickly populated as Barbadoes, of course Barbadoes could not compete with it; but that is not possible.

10436. But if I understood you rightly, without this population you will not have an effectual control over labour?—Every year we get a more effectual control by the increase in the number of labourers.

10437. But will you get the complete control over labour that will render sugar cultivation profitable, without a large population?—When you say profitable, that must depend upon the price of the sugar.

10438. I mean under present circumstances?—I believe that a moderate immigration from this time would make many estates in Trinidad profitable; the land varies there, as it does in this country; it is not all alike. Trinidad is by no means the same soil all over.

10439. But speaking generally of the estates, on the average, in the sense in which we have been talking of estates before—I do not ask you about particular estates—will you get that complete control over labour which will make sugar cultivation profitable, without a large population?—It will require a large population to enable us to compete with present prices; but we have no experience in this matter, and therefore it is difficult to express an opinion upon it.

10440. If you had this large population in this extensive and fertile territory, how do you think the old colonies, with a less fertile territory, and less advantages, would

would be able to compete with you?—I do not suppose the old colonies could compete with Trinidad, if Trinidad had sufficient labour.

10441. Then would not the old colonies complain if the British Parliament were to take any steps to supply Trinidad with sufficient labour?—I do not know why they should complain.

10442. Do you think any effectual steps might be taken by the Government, which would induce the labouring population to give their services to the employers, by preventing the squatting upon Crown land?—I think that that would have some effect; it would bring a great many who are now at a distance and out of the way of labour, and it would prevent others from leaving the cultivated districts.

10443. What proportion of the land is Crown land in Trinidad?—The bulk of it; a very small proportion of it is granted.

10444. Was not Dr. Lushington's Act of 1825, of which you complain, intended to prevent the slave trade?—I do not think there was any slave trade in existence at that time in our colonies.

10445. Can you state to the Committee the amount of mortality which attended the importation of liberated Africans by the "Growler"?—The return states that there were 46 who died on their passage to Trinidad.

10446. What was the cause of that mortality?—Dysentery, I believe.

10447. Do you know what that arose from?—I believe they had been recently captured; they were within a very short time transferred from the slaver to the "Growler."

10448. Has there been great mortality among the immigrants imported into Trinidad?—I believe not.

10449. To what extent has that mortality gone; can you give an account of it?—No, I have never seen any return upon the subject. In the transport of the people in the sailing vessels which went from Sierra Leone to Trinidad, there was no mortality; the Emigration Commissioners reported that it had been one per cent., or something like that.

10450. Do you think any number of immigrants could be obtained from the Spanish Main for Trinidad?—No, I think not; there are a few that come occasionally, but labour is wanted there, and there is better employment there than in Trinidad.

10451. Do you think that it is in the power of Parliament to do anything at this time which will make any material improvement in the condition of the sugar planters in Trinidad?—Yes; by increasing the population, Parliament will enable them to produce sugar at a less cost; but I do not think they can produce it at the cost of the slave states.

10452. Is the distress now greater than has prevailed in former times?—Much greater; the facilities which planters had formerly in obtaining advances to enable them to take off their crops are now withheld from them; merchants have no confidence in their being able to carry on their estates profitably, and therefore they will not make advances.

10453. Were advances never withheld before?—I think not to the same extent. In the Trinidad papers, about the autumn generally, a great many houses advertise their willingness to make advances to planters, on their crops being consigned to their correspondents in England; that has been the case for many years past, but I find that this year there is not one advertisement of that kind.

10454. There is a greater want of confidence now than there has been at any former period?—I think so.

10455. Can you positively state that the distress, as far as Trinidad is concerned, is greater than it was in 1841?—Yes, I can.

10456. There was very great distress in 1841, was there not, and a Committee of the House of Commons sat in 1842 to inquire into the state of the affairs of the West Indies?—There was great distress from want of labour.

10457. The price was not a remunerative price in 1841?—Not at the rate we had to pay for labour.

10458. Do you consider that if protection were granted as against the competition of foreign sugars, it would check the progress of any improvements that are now going on in the cultivation or the manufacture of sugar: do you think protection would have a tendency to render persons less active in effecting improvements in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar?—No, I believe that it

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would have the contrary effect; I believe people are now paralyzed by the state of things, and that they will not attempt anything.

10459. Do you think a great deal of the present state of things is owing to the monetary cause which has affected all the commercial interests of the country?—To a certain extent that must have had its effect.

10460. Is it not to be hoped, that when confidence is generally restored in other branches, confidence will likewise find its way back into West India affairs?—No, I think not.

10461. Have you ever known estates abandoned in Trinidad in former times?—Yes, I believe there have been some abandoned in the natural process of things under slavery in Trinidad, by which, under the compulsory manumission of slaves, the number was gradually reduced.

10462. You have then known estates abandoned during the time of slavery?—I think it is very possible that some may have been abandoned from that cause. Some estates were abandoned, and the negroes transferred to larger estates.

10463. Are any estates being abandoned now?—I think at the present moment a great many are in a state of suspense, if I may say so. I may remark that the estates would not be abandoned so soon in Trinidad as elsewhere, because the estates ratoon from year to year, and therefore they will go on longer under discouraging circumstances than they will do where they have to replant.

10464. You have known estates abandoned during the time of slavery; have you known any estates abandoned since freedom was adopted?—Yes, I have heard of more than one.

10465. Have you heard of more being abandoned since the slaves were emancipated than you knew to have taken place during the time of slavery?—I have not heard of many.

10466. Can you state that, at the present time, steps are being taken for the actual abandonment of the cultivation of any estates?—To this extent: I believe that no new canes will be planted this year in the present state of things; they will stop the progress of the cultivation. People will hold what they have got as long as they can, but I believe that they will take no steps to renew the cultivation.

10467. Supposing it should turn out that this Committee, for instance, should recommend that no further assistance in the way of protection should be given, do you mean to state it as your opinion that any considerable number of estates will be actually abandoned?—I think they must be; I do not see where the parties are to find the means of carrying on the estates.

10468. Do you think that no advances will be made by merchants in this country to enable the cultivation to be carried on?—I am satisfied there will not.

10469. Do you think that if the estates change owners, or there is any transference of property, under that state of things, the cultivation will be carried on?—I do not see in what way an estate that will not pay its expense, but which is a losing concern, can continue to be carried on.

10470. Do you mean that the mere cost of the cultivation of sugar, exclusive of interest of capital, is not replaced by the present price of sugar?—Yes, I mean that.

10471. Do you mean to say that there are a great many estates in Trinidad where the mere cost of the cultivation, exclusive of the interest of capital, is not more than replaced by the present price of sugar?—I do not think there are a great many, it is possible that there are some; some estates are more advantageously situated, from being near a town, there is a greater command of labour; there are others where the soil is more fertile; but the other estates I do not think can continue to be carried on.

10472. Then it is the less fertile estates that are likely to be given up?—Of course they will go first.

10473. Since the emancipation of the slaves has any material change taken place in Trinidad, in either the mode of cultivation of sugar or the manufacture of sugar?—There have been a great many experiments made for improving the manufacture, but I have not heard of any which have been successful.

10474. The system of manufacture and the system of cultivation are the same now as they were then?—I think there has been an improvement in the cultivation.

10475. Has there been any improvement in the manufacture?—There has been better machinery, but beyond that I do not think the improvement is very great.

10476. Is it the habit of the employers of labour in Trinidad to pay the wages punctually, and not to allow them to get into arrear?—I believe generally they are well paid.

10477. Are they punctually paid?—I believe at the present moment they are not, but generally they are; I can answer for the wages on our own estate being regularly paid, and if the wages on our neighbours' estates were not well paid, we should have the benefit of their labourers coming to us, I have no doubt.

10478. Is any system going on of making deductions from the wages of a labourer, in respect of his house?—No.

10479. That system has never prevailed in Trinidad?—No, never; the labourers have their houses and their grounds free.

10480. Is it your opinion that the employers do all that in them lies to make the relation between them and the labourers as satisfactory as possible?—I have no doubt that they do, for if they do not they will not retain the labourers; they do all they can to retain the labourers on the estates; and the only way of doing that is to make the relations between the employer and the labourer as satisfactory as possible.

10481. You cannot suggest any steps that the employers of labour might take to place the relations I have alluded to on a more satisfactory footing?—No, I do not think that the employers can do anything more than they now do.

10482. Mr. Miles.] How many estates are you connected with in Trinidad?—Only two at present.

10483. Is that besides your own?—They are both our own.

10484. Has the same reduction in the cost of production taken place on both estates?—No, there has been a difference between the two.

10485. Can you give the reduction on the other estate?—The average cost of the other estate has been 28s. per cwt. for the three last years.

10486. Will you state what it was in 1845?—Thirty-two shillings; in 1846, 29s.; and in 1847, 27s. On that estate there has not been any increase of cultivation going on.

10487. Have you sent out any agricultural implements to Trinidad to assist you in reducing the cost?—Nothing but ploughs.

10488. Have you sent out any cane cultivators?—Yes, we have sent out one, but we have not been able to use it, from the tenacity of the soil.

10489. Not from any unwillingness on the part of the negroes?—No.

10490. Do you know the price that you pay now in Trinidad for labour?—The last accounts were 30 cents.

10491. Was that after the reduction took place, or before the reduction?—After the reduction.

10492. Do you know what the reduction was?—Last year they were 50 cents.

10493. Did it come down from 50 to 30?—It came down gradually.

10494. It came down from 40 to 30?—Yes.

10495. Do you know at all what return you get from your estate in Trinidad per acre?—I think the estimate was a hogshead and three quarters.

10496. When you were increasing your cultivation so much, did it increase the cost of the labour; had you to pay a higher price by task?—No, I think not.

10497. You effected that without raising the rate of wages?—Yes.

10498. Do you know whether it had the effect of drawing labour from other estates, or did you effect that increase in the cultivation with the labour you had already upon the estate?—As the number of the labourers have increased, the cultivation has been increased.

10499. Do you know what was the additional number you put on the estate?—I do not.

10500. Did you employ coolies?—No.

10501. It was all done by negroes?—Yes.

10502. Are your estates particularly favourably situated?—They are on the sea shore; as far as cartage is concerned, they are favourably situated.

10503. You have no cartage?—No.

10504. Do you know whether the island suffers from want of roads?—Yes, in some parts the roads are very bad; they are very soon cut up after the rain.

10505. In fact there are no roads?—No.

10506. They call the sun the road-maker?—The sun is the best road-maker.

10507. There is a tax for the formation of roads, is there not?—Yes.

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10508. Is it spent upon the roads?—I believe it is.
10509. Do you know whether this tax is sufficient to make good roads?—I do not think it goes beyond keeping the drains open, and making the small bridges that are required over the gullies, and keeping down the grass.
10510. Have you any means of ascertaining whether this money is efficiently spent upon the roads?—I have not.
10511. Have you ever had any complaints from your attornies upon that point?—No.
10512. Have you plenty of labour in Trinidad at present?—No, there is not plenty of labour.
10513. Have you ever formed any idea of what quantity of labour you think would be sufficient to be introduced annually into the colony?—I do not think it would require any great number now in addition to the present population.
10514. About what number do you think would be required; do you imagine that 5,000 a year or 2,000 a year, would be sufficient?—Five thousand a year would have a very great effect.
10515. You think that that would have the effect of keeping down the price, or of materially reducing the price of labour?—I think 5,000 would.
10516. What orders have you sent out to your estates about the continuance of the cultivation; have you told them to plant any more canes, or have you told them to cease planting?—Our estates now are come to the point where there is no order required; the cultivation will not be extended.
10517. Do you imagine that many more estates in Trinidad will be carried on now?—At the present price, I believe, a great many will be unable to be carried on.
10518. What will be the effect of that; will the planters be obliged to leave the canes at present on the ground, or will they be able to borrow money enough to enable them to take them off?—I do not believe the whole of the present crop will be taken off, for want of means.
10519. Have you heard that merchants have, generally speaking, refused to advance money upon the produce of this year?—They have generally.
10520. Do you know whether many bills have gone back protested?—I believe a great many have.
10521. Have you heard what the effect of that has been?—The last accounts represent the colony as being in a prostrate state.
10522. You were asked with respect to the mortality that took place in the voyages of the "Growler;" are you aware whether that mortality was as large as the mortality which existed in the emigration which took place from this country to New York and Canada in the last year?—I believe that the mortality in the emigration to Canada was much greater, from the accounts I have read.
10523. It is not to be wondered at that in a warm climate the mortality was as much as seven per cent. ?—No, I think not, under the circumstances.
10524. Mr. Moffatt.] Will you state to the Committee what the general rate of wages in Trinidad for efficient labour is?—It has been reduced to 30 cents, the labourer having his cottage and provision ground.
10525. What is the price per diem that he gets for his labour?—Fifteen-pence.
10526. What is the highest rate which has obtained in the last three years in Trinidad?—Fifty cents, or 2s.
10527. How long is it since this reduction has been made?—It has been gradually reduced.
10528. Can you get as much labour in Trinidad as you want at this reduced price?—No; even now there is a difficulty in obtaining labour.
10529. You state, on the authority of Lord Harris's report, that there are at the present time about 17,000 efficient labourers on the sugar estates in Trinidad?—That is stated in a letter from the special magistrate.
10530. Does your own experience confirm the accuracy of that report?—I think it is very likely to be correct.
10531. At the time of emancipation there were 22,000 slaves liberated in Trinidad?—Yes.
10532. And since that there has been immigration to the extent of about 18,000?—Yes, but all those 18,000 have not remained in the colony; included in those 18,000, are 10,000 from the adjoining islands, many of whom have gone back again.

10533. What proportion of those 18,000 have remained in the colony?—I have no means of knowing, but I know that a good many have gone back.

10534. Have you made any estimate of the number of labourers who have addicted themselves to squatting, or abandoned field labour?—I believe that not more than 8,000 efficient people were employed upon sugar estates during slavery.

10535. And you estimate that 18,000 are now employed upon the sugar estates?—Yes.

10536. Consequently you have more than doubled your population employed upon the estates?—Yes, *quoad* the number.

10537. How many hours per diem do these men work at their present pay?—They can do their task if they please, I believe, in four hours.

10538. But how many hours do they usually work per diem?—I think in the field they seldom do above one task; that I understand is about four or five hours' work.

10539. The estimate of the task work, I apprehend, was made during the time of apprenticeship?—It was what was considered the average produce of a slave per diem.

10540. That is what you mean by "a task." "A task" represents what was estimated at the time of emancipation as the fair day's work of a slave?—Yes.

10541. And they do that task at the present time?—Yes.

10542. Consequently, if the task be the same as that which was obtained during the period of slavery, you have at the present time double the amount of labour that you had during slavery?—The slave gave his task every day, but the freeman does not work every day in the week.

10543. But you do not pay him if he does not work?—No.

10544. They work more than half the days in the week, do they not?—I should think not, because the production of the colony is about the same as it was in slavery, therefore I presume there is about the same quantity of work done.

10545. You were proprietor of an estate in Trinidad during the time of slavery?—Yes.

10546. Have you any information as to what was the cost per ton during slavery, when it was the produce of slave labour?—I have not; the estate came to our hands just about the time of emancipation. I know that in apprenticeship the estate produced a revenue of 1,700*l.* a year.

10547. What has been the cost of sugar per ton on an average during the last three years?—It varies very much; in 1845 it was as much as 47*s.* a cwt., in 1846 it was 31*s.*, and in 1847, 20*s.*

10548. What were the quantities produced on the estate?—In 1846 there were 310 hogsheads; in 1847, 484; it has been an increasing cultivation.

10549. In the last year it cost you 20*s.* per cwt., or 20*l.* per ton; that was by reason of the large increase in the production?—Yes.

10550. Will you be good enough to state the detail of that 20*s.* a cwt.; what portion of that is caused by labour?—About half of it, I think.

10551. Ten shillings for labour and 10*s.* for other contingencies?—Yes.

10552. Are you acquainted with Mr. Robert Neilson?—I know him by name.

10553. He has stated here, that in the year 1830 the cost of sugar in the island of Trinidad could not be reckoned at less than 20*s.* a cwt., inclusive of all contingent expenditure; consequently, if his statement is accurate, it appears that you have managed to economise very much the cost of production of sugar under free labour?—I doubt the correctness of that statement. I see Lord Harris, in his despatch, gives an example of sugar that was made at 2*s.* a cwt. during slavery, and adds that it now costs 20*s.* 10*d.* per cwt.

10554. Does it not appear that the production of the island has very much increased under free labour, inasmuch as you have exported as much to this country as you did in slavery, and it is admitted that you consume a great deal more in the colony than you consumed formerly?—I doubt whether the consumption in the colony is more than was exported during slavery to the North American provinces.

10555. Have you any account of the quantity that was exported to the North American colonies?—No.

10556. But under slavery you sent a good deal of sugar from Trinidad to the North American colonies?—Yes.

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10557. To any considerable extent?—Yes.

10558. But the North American colonies had the privilege of getting their sugar from Cuba and Brazil?—No, there was a protecting duty in favour of British plantation sugar.

10559. You stated, in a previous part of your evidence, that there had been a very trifling mortality, as far as your knowledge went, among the immigrants brought into Trinidad?—Yes, with the exception of those brought from Madeira.

10560. I have before me an official statement sent by Lord Harris, in which he says, that out of 200 Portuguese immigrants, 97 had died in seven months?—I made an exception of the Madeira immigrants; among those who came from Madeira there was a good deal of mortality; they arrived at a bad season of the year, and they were not labourers.

10561. What measures are taken by this very costly and expensive Government in Trinidad to protect the immigrants, and to take care of their health when they arrive?—There is a public hospital for them to go to.

10562. Have you any system of poor law, or any home for them when they come there?—They are provided for by Government till they get work.

10563. To what do you attribute this large mortality among the Portuguese immigrants?—To the climate not agreeing with them; they arrived at a very bad time of the year; in May; just before the commencement of the rainy season. I do not know how they were employed, but they were not agricultural labourers; they were a number of Dr. Kalley's party, who left Madeira from religious motives entirely; they were people who belonged to the town, and I imagine they were not adapted for agriculture, but there was no other employment for them.

10564. You stated that the planters are principally suffering, at the present time, from a want of advances made to them to enable them to cultivate their estates?—Yes, that is the case.

10565. How do you propose to remedy that inconvenience, which, in common with a great number of the commercial classes, the planters feel at the present moment?—If the merchants here saw that the price of sugar would repay the cost of cultivation, I do not think there would be that difficulty; it is only a temporary advance that is required.

10566. Are you not aware that a great many producers at the present time are suffering from the same difficulty of getting advances?—I am not aware of any suffering to the same extent as the West Indians.

10567. You believe that it would restore confidence in the minds of planters in Trinidad if this country were to impose a protecting duty of 10s. per cwt.?—I believe the result would be, that it would retain many estates in cultivation which will be left to take their course otherwise.

10568. That is the policy which you recommend to be adopted to raise Trinidad from its present condition?—I do not say Trinidad in particular; it applies to all the colonies.

10569. A guaranteed protecting duty of 10s. per cwt.?—I do not think that a less protection, or compensating duty rather, will prevent the bulk of the estates in the West Indies from being thrown out of cultivation.

10570. Then it appears that the protecting duty which you claim from Government will just precisely give you your labour for nothing?—My answer was with regard to the colonies generally; I do not speak in reference to Trinidad, but I said that the whole of the estates in the West India colonies could not be maintained without such a protecting duty.

10571. You stated that the cost of the production of sugar came last year to 20*l.* a ton, and that 10*l.* a ton was caused by labour?—Yes.

10572. You claim a protection of 10*l.* a ton, which will just give you your sugar without any cost for labour; is it your opinion that under that protection you could successfully compete with slave-grown sugar?—A 10*s.* protecting duty would not give us 10*s.* really, or anything like it; it is nominally 6*s.* now, but it is not that really.

10573. A 10*s.* duty would come much nearer to a real 10*s.* than a 6*s.* duty comes to a real 6*s.*?—I do not know that.

10574. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] But if you had a real 10*s.*, it would be as *Mr. Moffatt* puts it?—It would be in my case last year; I do not give you the average cost, but the cost last year, which was a very good year; in the last year it would be that, but not on the average; and a part of the remaining 10*s.* is occasioned by the insufficiency of labour.

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10575. Mr. *Moffatt*.] If confidence were restored, and money flowed again into the colony, which it would do if merchants here were of opinion that they would get a good return for their advance, your production would be stimulated beyond what it was last year?—I do not think there would be the power of stimulating it further. The planters stimulate the cultivation to the point which will employ their works, and when they get to that point they will stop.

10576. But if the production of sugar were profitable, would not the cultivation be increased?—If it were profitable, new estates would be formed, or the present estates would be enlarged; but it must be very profitable to lead to that.

10577. What is the acreage of Trinidad?—1,300,000 acres.

10578. What extent of acreage is under sugar cultivation?—I should say not more than 20,000 acres.

10579. How many acres are there under sugar-cane cultivation on your estate?—Four hundred, I think, was the return this year.

10580. Last year you sent home 484 hogsheads of sugar?—Yes.

10581. That is something above a ton per acre?—Yes.

10582. How many able-bodied labourers did you employ in the cultivation of those 484 hogsheads of sugar?—I cannot answer that question.

Patrick Cruikshank, Esq., called in; and Examined.

10583. *Chairman*.] HOW long have you been in the West India trade?—Upwards of 22 years.

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10584. You have been in the West Indies?—I have, a good many years ago.

10585. Have you given some consideration to the subject of cane-juice in a concentrated and concrete state?—Yes, I have.

10586. What is your opinion upon that?—That if equitable rates of duty were fixed, the planters importing them would have a much greater advantage than in making sugar in the West Indies.

10587. What is your reason for thinking so?—Because all the waste would be saved, and much labour.

10588. Amounting to 27 per cent.?—Yes, that is the calculation that has been made.

10589. Would there not be danger of fermentation?—Not if it were properly prepared; that is, if in the first instance the juice were properly defecated by means of Mr. Archibald's patent ingredients, or any other means equally efficacious.

10590. Are you interested in Mr. Archibald's patent?—No; I was, but I am not now.

10591. You prepared a petition to the Board of Trade, on the subject of admitting the concentrated cane-juice at a fixed rate of duty?—I did.

10592. It was not very numerously signed, was it?—Yes, it was, by most of the leading houses in London; by the greater portion of them.

10593. Had you some difficulty in getting them to sign it?—Yes; I had, in many instances, to use a good deal of persuasion, and in some instances signatures were refused.

10594. Was that because they doubted the value of the proposed process?—No, I believe not; it was principally on account of one paragraph in the petition, which they supposed might at some future period be used in argument against the parties signing the petition.

10595. What was that paragraph?—It was the following: "That the preceding advantages combined might enable the West India planters, notwithstanding the recent alteration in the sugar duties, to compete successfully with the foreign sugar growers."

10596. How much higher were prices then than now?—Sugar was about 35 per cent. above the present price.

10597. In what year was that?—In October 1846. That is upon the short price. As to molasses, the price was 75 per cent. dearer than now.

10598. Do you think that anything that Mr. Archibald's patent would do would now enable the planters in our West India colonies to compete with foreign sugar at present prices?—Not in itself; no doubt it would be an advantage, but it is totally inadequate to the exigencies of the present crisis.

10599. Do you think, as regards the importation of concentrated and concrete cane-juice, it would be sufficient to permit them to be refined in bond?—No, I do

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not. I think it would prove of no avail; it would be a dead letter, inasmuch as the party refining out of bond would have an advantage over the party refining in bond, taking sugar against sugar, and the concrete being a new article, would be at a still further disadvantage in all probability; that is according to the existing duties. If the duties were revised, possibly the result might be different. I am prepared to show what those duties are. The refiner in bond would have to pay upon his product 16*s.* 0½*d.* per cwt., according to the average result, in place of 14*s.*; that is to say, the products he would get out of a cwt. of sugar according to the existing rates of duty would have to pay 16*s.* 0½*d.* as against 14*s.* A cwt. of Muscovado sugar would produce, on an average, 80 lbs. of lump sugar, 6 lbs. of pieces, 12 lbs. of bastards, 10 lbs. of treacle, and 4 lbs. of waste; the duty of course, out of bond, is 14*s.* upon 1 cwt. But with the same quantity refined in bond, the duty upon the products would be as follows: upon 80 lbs. of lump, at 18*s.* 8*d.* a cwt., 13*s.* 4*d.*; upon 6 lbs. of pieces at 14*s.*, 9*d.*; upon 12 lbs. of bastards at 14*s.*, 18*d.*; and upon 10 lbs. of treacle at 5*s.* 3*d.*, 5½*d.*; making altogether 16*s.* 0½*d.*; deducting the limited duty of 14*s.* establishes a difference of 2*s.* 0½*d.* against refining in bond. The amount of products that I have given was obtained from one of the most respectable refining houses in London; it is stated as an average; there are many that get a greater result, there can be no doubt.

10600. You have stated that you do not think that any improvement that could be carried out by this new process would suffice to enable the West India colonies to compete with Havannah and Brazil sugar at the present differential duty; what in your opinion would afford relief to the British West Indies?—I think a reduction of the duty to a penny a pound would afford that relief.

10601. You mean maintaining the duty upon slave-grown sugar at what it is now?—Yes.

10602. That would be 9*s.* 4*d.*?—Yes; there ought, I think, to be a reduction of duties to that extent, and also an extensive system of immigration, so as to enable us to get labour, not only continuously, but at a moderate rate; that would enable us to compete with slave-grown sugar, and by and by this protection might be removed; but till we have labour upon a par with foreign sugar-growing countries, the encouraging duties should be continued.

10603. Do you think if the Navigation Laws were repealed, that would be any benefit to the planters in the British West Indies?—None whatever; the ready answer in the first instance is, that it would tend to reduction; possibly there might in the first scramble be some reduction. I gave that opinion some time ago when I was first spoken to upon the subject, but on looking into it, I feel strongly convinced that it would be no real benefit to the planter.

10604. You have been a shipowner, I believe?—I have been a shipowner for upwards of 20 years.

10605. And are still?—I am not now.

10606. What is your reason for entertaining that opinion?—I have looked at circumstances bearing pretty much upon the subject, or in some degree resembling what would be the state of things supposing the Navigation Laws were repealed; and I would instance Trinidad within the last few years.

10607. Is it then because you think, that if the present regulations were done away with, it would break up the system of regular traders that now is in vogue with the West Indies?—I think the regular traders would be withdrawn in the first instance when a very fierce competition existed, as in the case last year at Trinidad; all the regular traders, with the exception of one ship, were forced to withdraw in consequence of the shippers of produce patronizing chance or transient ships.

10608. Those are called seeking ships?—Yes; and the consequence was, that the regular traders did not go out again.

10609. Was the result of that, that freights in Trinidad were higher?—They were uncertain.

10610. And higher upon the average than in the other colonies?—Certainly, in proportion to the other rates of freight, where the regular traders continued to go to the other colonies.

10611. Did you hear of one ship being freighted for Bristol as high as 6*l.* 10*s.* a ton from Trinidad?—I did not; I was not aware that any had been higher than 6*l.*; we had the advantage of getting 5*l.* 10*s.*, ours being a chance ship; she was induced to go there in consequence of a high offer of outward freight, there being

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being no regular traders, a state of things that acts very disadvantageously to the planter, who trusts to get his supplies regularly.

10612. The ships had all been withdrawn, and had gone to New York for corn?—Certainly; they had such difficulty in loading, in consequence of chance ships being preferred at low rates of freight.

10613. Do you think, if the system of regular traders to the British West Indies was broken up, the planters would find the same facilities for getting their stores carried out gratis, or for next to nothing?—They would not. I would again instance Trinidad; for the present year's crop, the same parties have contracted with brokers at a given rate to bring home their sugar, so that which would be the case, according to my view of the subject, if the Navigation Laws were repealed, has been abandoned, and they have gone back to the old system of encouraging the regular traders.

10614. I believe all ships are not calculated to carry sugar cargoes?—No; they require to be strong, and where hogsheads are the packages in which the sugar is brought home, they require to have certain dimensions to bring home the cargo properly.

10615. You require very strong ships, and you do not care very much about dispatch?—No; you cannot have large carrying ships and dispatch at the same time.

10616. We heard a good deal in the House of Commons, from a great political economist, about the improvements in the Cuba ships; that they were constructed with iron tanks, so that the molasses might be brought home without waste; do you think, however good in theory, that that practice could be successfully carried out?—I think not, unless the molasses were properly prepared; the fermentation would be very great if prepared in the usual way; but if the molasses were properly prepared and properly defecated in the first instance, I think it would answer very well.

10617. You do not think the tanks would become corroded?—No.

10618. Do you think that it would in the end be economical to build ships that should be confined exclusively to the sugar trade; I apprehend that those ships with their fixed tanks could not be employed in any other trade than the sugar trade?—Possibly not; not without removing the tanks, at all events.

10619. But if a ship brought sugar home in these tanks, and she were not then to take out her tanks, and she went to discharge a cargo in the Mediterranean or at Gibraltar, and then went on to the West Indies with her tanks left behind, that plan would rather break down?—It would completely knock it up, I should say.

10620. If it was desirable to send out machinery in sugar ships to the colonies, or supplies of various kinds, these ships, with their tanks set up, would not be capable of carrying machinery or supplies?—That would depend upon the disposition of the tanks, and whether they were removable or not;

10621-2. But if a ship had removed her tanks, she would not be in a position to bring home sugar?—It might be possible to have tanks of various sizes, so that one might fit into the other, in order to make room for the outward cargo, but it would be attended with great expense.

10623. The object is economy, not expense; do you think it would be practicable, consistently with greater economy, to fit out sugar ships with iron tanks?—Certainly not; the freights are so low that there is no inducement to do it.

10624. If a ship were about to carry out a cargo of coals, either free, or at 10s. a ton, those tanks would be rather in the way of such an arrangement as that?—They would be in the way very much, and it would be troublesome to clean them.

10625. With respect to the saving upon sugar, you think that there would be a saving of 27 per cent. in the cost of manufacturing the sugar up to that state in which it is now exported from the West Indies?—It would be a saving and gain of 27 per cent. on the amount of the produce, not in the cost of manufacturing. I mean that you would deliver 27 per cent. more produce, which at present is wasted in molasses about the works and drainage of the sugar on the voyage, and also in the skimming.

10626. How do you arrive at that saving of 27 per cent.?—After boiling to a certain point, you bring home the whole of the contents of what is in the last copper, and you would deliver that without waste in this country.

10627. When did you make experiments giving that result?—They have been tested by Mr. Archibald, who is at present in New Orleans: it was intended that he should proceed to the British West Indies, in order to follow this up, but

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unfortunately I was not in a position to carry out what I intended, and he was induced by parties in New Orleans to proceed there.

10628. Do you understand that they are carrying out the plan successfully in New Orleans?—Very much so. The accounts that have been received are highly satisfactory. I understand that he has been offered 25,000 dollars and an interest in a refinery there, to induce him to remain there for one year, in order to introduce his improvements.

10629. Do you reckon that there will be any saving in the cost of the manufacture of sugar out there?—Certainly, in labour. You go to the usual point of striking, and there is no further labour required after that; you dispense with the labour of four men in the boiling house, and as to distillation there need be none.

10630. Would there be neither boiling nor distillation?—There would be boiling, but no skimming; no distillation.

10631. The ingredient which you put in is Mr. Archibald's invention?—Yes, it is a purifying ingredient, which is used in the first instance.

10632. Which must be put into the juice out there, in order to make it keep?—Yes, it must be put into the cane juice as it comes from the mill.

10633. At what do you reckon the cost of that ingredient?—About 14 s. or 15 s. per ton of produce; it would depend upon the quantity of the ingredient that they use; the more of the ingredient there is used, the finer is the quality of the sugar.

10634. *Mr. Miles.*] What is Mr. Archibald going to make in New Orleans?—He is at present going to make refined sugar from low descriptions of sugar.

10635. Direct from the sugar cane?—Yes; but they prepare it in a certain way, in order to keep; their season is very short, it is only for two months that they make sugar.

10636. Is he going to make the same concrete that you recommend the West India planters to make?—No, not altogether; it is unnecessary; but at the incomplete stage, when it is very thick syrup, he uses this ingredient to prevent fermentation, and the syrup is at leisure made into refined sugar.

10637. Have you instituted experiments with regard to this concrete, during the last year?—Yes, with both concrete and cane juice.

10638. In London?—Yes.

10639. Have you had much cane juice imported from the colonies, to make experiments with?—Yes, we have had a good many parcels; there were five puncheons imported from Antigua by desire of Mr. Archibald, but that was the only parcel partially prepared; that was before the patent was specified, consequently he could not send out the proper ingredients, for fear of its being discovered what they were.

10640. What duty were those five puncheons imported at; were they refined in bond?—No; they had to pay the sugar duty.

10641. Is this ingredient which you propose to send out to the colonies, in the form of a liquid?—No, it is not; it is more like a powder; it goes out in two or three different packages.

10642. Are they to be mixed when they get to the colonies?—Yes, there are proper directions to accompany them.

10643. Do you imagine that if your plan succeeds, the whole of the refining will be done in this country, or that the colonists will do it themselves?—I think it will require to be done in this country.

10644. Have you sufficiently tested the ingredients, to say that the climate of the West Indies will have no effect upon them?—It will have no effect.

10645. What you propose to do is, to make this concrete with the plant now in use in the colonies?—Yes.

10646. Is it the simple process of mixing this powder with the cane juice, which will enable the planters to make this concrete?—Yes; that is to say, in the cleansing process, which enables us to bring it to a higher degree of condensation; but it requires a low temperature to make concrete in perfection.

10647. What temperature does it require?—About 180 or 190; the vacuum pan is no doubt the best, but there are other modes by which it can be made at a low temperature, by introducing air to cool down the liquor.

10648. Can you make the concrete at a temperature of 180°, with the simple apparatus now in use in the colonies?—Not without some little addition.

10649. Can you state what the cost would be of that addition to the apparatus now in use?—Possibly between 200 l. and 300 l.

10650. On each set of pans?—On each set of pans.

10651. That

10651. That would enable the planter to boil his sugar at a low temperature ?
—It would.

10652. When it is brought to this country, do you imagine that it would be proper that it should be brought to be refined in bond, or whether it should be liable to the same duty as sugar, as being equivalent to sugar ?—I think an equitable rate of duty should be fixed, unless all refiners were prohibited from refining out of bond ; that is to say, if it were only allowed to a party to use concrete in bond for the purpose of refining, he could not compete with the party refining sugar out of bond, unless the product duties were revised.

10653. What proportion of duty do you think it fair that the concrete which you propose to make should pay, in proportion to the lowest duty upon sugar ?—I think concrete ought not to pay within 3 s. a cwt. of the lowest sugar duty.

10654. Have you ever ascertained what amount of refined sugar you can get from a cwt. of concrete ?—Not, I think, by merely working it by itself.

10655. Have you ever tried the experiment ?—I think not.

10656. Do you apprehend that you can refine concrete by itself ?—No doubt, we can.

10657. Are you likely soon to be able to inform the Committee how much can be extracted from a cwt. of concrete ?—I have no doubt Mr. Richardson has the information ; I do not remember seeing any experiments of that sort myself, of concrete refined by itself ; the return would be large, and in favour of bringing home the produce in that form.

10658. Has any concrete ever been imported from the colonies ?—No, it has been made from cane juice which has been imported.

10659. Have you ever made concrete from sugar in this country by mixing it with water, and turning it into syrup ?—No ; it has been made from cane juice, and also from molasses and very inferior sugar mixed.

10660. You never tried it from sugar ?—No, it has not been tried, to my knowledge.

10661. According to the specimen brought here the other day, the concrete was a hard substance ; has there been any difficulty experienced by refiners in mixing this concrete, that is, in melting it down ?—There would be no difficulty in that ; sometimes we have had a little difficulty, because we had not proper utensils for chopping it up, but grinding mills would reduce it to any size required.

10662. You apprehend that if this mode came into practice, all refiners might grind this concrete before they used it ?—Yes ; or it would only take a little more time in melting in the blowing-up pan.

10663. What time would it take in the blowing-up pan ?—I do not feel myself competent to answer the question, but the concrete never would be in very large packages.

10664. What size packages ?—I should imagine they would come over in cwt. packages.

10665. And they would be brought in a sort of mould of a square form ?—Yes, or whatever form they might think best.

10666. Do you imagine that if this concrete were placed in the hold of a ship, which would be of a higher temperature than the concrete, there would be any drainage from it ?—None, whatever.

10667. Have you ever tried it with heat in this country ?—Yes ; we have had it lying about in different states of the atmosphere, sometimes in a warm room, and sometimes in a damp room.

10668. What heat have you exposed it to ?—About 80° to 85°.

10669. Have you ever placed it under the action of the sun ?—I am not aware that it was ever exposed to the action of the sun.

10670. Can you state what influence damp has upon it ?—Apparently none.

10671. What quantities have you made it in to test it ; have you ever made a ton ?—Not at one time.

10672. What is the largest quantity that you have made at one time ?—Four or five cwt.

10673. Has it ever failed in producing a thick substance ?—Not to my knowledge.

10674. Do you apprehend that it would be difficult to teach the men employed in the boiling-houses in the West Indies to make this ?—No, not at all. It would require a person, in the first instance, to instruct them how to use the ingredients.

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10675. Would it do away with the lime used in the clarifying process?—In a great measure; lime is one of the ingredients in combination with others.

10676. Do you propose to put any lime into the clarifiers?—I imagine it would not be required, it being used in combination with other ingredients.

10677. Then, supposing this concrete were introduced here, you think that the duty levied upon it should be 3 s. lower than upon the common muscovado sugar?—About that; I think that would be an equitable rate of duty, and an encouraging rate of duty. I think the planters would then make it freely, and I think it ought to be an encouraging duty, for this reason, it cannot be brought into use in this country till it is manufactured; it is bringing the produce over in a rougher state than at present, but in a state which would be much more profitable for the planters.

10678. We have had it in evidence that cane juice is liable to acidity; do you think any acidity would take place in the carriage of the concrete to this country?—Certainly not; there is no acidity in any stage of the manufacture.

10679. Have you had any proof of that?—Mr. Archibald has.

10680. Where?—In Porto Rico; on his brother's estate there.

10681. Do you know what quantity he has brought over?—I do not know what quantity he sent here; he sent some here, but a good deal went to the American market.

10682. Do you know what became of it in the American market?—It sold at a high price; all foreign sugars in America pay 30 per cent. *ad valorem* duty, so that it is immaterial in what way you send it.

10683. It was not sent for immediate consumption, it was sent for refining?—That was sold as raw sugar; it was concentrated cane juice, cured or drained in America.

10684. Do you know whether it went into consumption direct?—The concentrated cane juice would go into consumption direct, after being drained or cured.

10685. Concentrated cane juice is not the same as concrete?—No, concrete is the same thing, only carried to a further stage of concentration; you boil it nearly to dryness.

10686. My questions have hitherto related to concrete, and your answers have related to concrete?—They have.

10687. Which substance do you recommend the West Indian planters to send to this country, concentrated cane juice or concrete?—Concrete, as being the best and the most economical; sugar hogsheads you would save.

10688. How would concentrated cane juice come?—In puncheons.

10689. That is in a liquid state?—Yes, but in a very thick state; it is brought to the usual striking point; you leave the molasses to be separated in this country; you bring all the contents of the cane. In the case of concrete, you would boil it two or three degrees further; nearly to dryness.

10690. You stated that Mr. Archibald's brother had been in the habit of making this concrete in Porto Rico; do you know whether he made the whole of his cane juice into concrete?—I do not.

10691. You do not know how long he has made it?—No; his was concentrated cane juice; concrete is rather a new invention.

10692. Is this patent now in operation; is it open to the public to use it?—Quite so; it was specified six or seven months ago.

10693. Have any parties applied for permission to use it?—There were partial applications to use the ingredients, but we considered that at that period it would not be judicious to allow any one to use it partially, unless Mr. Archibald proceeded to give instructions to show its full effect.

10694. Is it in readiness now for any planter to try experiments with it?—Yes, I should say it was; whether Mr. Archibald can get away from New Orleans now I do not know.

10695. Can anybody in the country show any merchant or any planter the process who wishes to send out orders to try this concrete?—Yes, there would be no difficulty.

10696. What is the expense of using the patent; is it anything beyond the price of the powder?—I believe they expect 6 d. a cwt. royalty; that was what was looked for when I had an interest in it. I have no interest in it now.

10697. It is Mr. Richardson who has an interest in it?—Yes.

10698. Are there any parties here who are prepared to show the apparatus necessary

necessary to be sent out?—Yes, I imagine there are, but Mr. Richardson can give full information about that.

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10699. You stated that there was a premium upon the refiner refining, not in bond, but for consumption, over the refiner who could refine in bond according to the present duties of 2s. 0½d. per cwt.?—Yes.

10700. Can you state what alteration should be made in the duties to put them upon an equality; supposing permission were granted to the colonies to refine in bond, where should it take place?—As far as the planter is concerned, if it were prohibited to refine out of bond, he could not complain, but then the refiner would complain, inasmuch as levying the duty on the products is, in point of fact, taxing labour, science and skill; one refiner has greater skill than another, and gets three or four pounds of refined sugar more out of a hundred-weight of sugar than another refiner.

10701. That you consider the art of the trade?—Entirely so; so that if the duty were to be payable upon the products, the refiner of course would be up in arms.

10702. You say that there ought to be no refining in bond?—As far as the planter is concerned, it would answer his purpose if that were the law; I mean to say that if it were allowable for parties to refine in bond, and out of bond, and that they might choose which they liked, no one would refine in bond according to the existing rate of duty.

10703. Then what alteration in the existing rates of duty would you propose, on purpose to place them on an equality?—It is a very difficult question to answer. I think there would be required to be a distinction made between the import duties and the duties payable upon the products got out of sugar refined in bond.

10704. You would still adhere to the principle of taxing the products?—No. I think the better course would be to fix an equitable rate of duty upon the two articles of concentrated cane juice and concrete cane juice; but we have been trying in vain for some time to get that done; there have been numerous experiments made for the Customs; to satisfy them, I believe almost every chemist in London has given his opinion to the Board of Trade upon it, but still they have not been able to arrive at a satisfactory result.

10705. You appear to have turned your attention very much to the manufacture of sugar; have you ever been engaged in a refinery?—No.

10706. In the West Indies were you engaged in planting?—I was in the West Indies for one year, and I devoted the whole of the year to acquiring a knowledge of the process of sugar making.

10707. Your knowledge related to the manufacture, and not to the cultivation of sugar?—Yes, quite as much to the cultivation as to the manufacture.

10708. Have you seen Mr. Crosley's experiment?—Yes.

10709. Do you think it a fair test?—I think it is; it shows in a very fair way the distinction between the Cuba and the Brazilian clayed sugars, and the sugars of the British plantations.

10710. You would be prepared to recommend, from your knowledge of the subject, that Mr. Crosley's test should be adopted in the classification duties which are now imposed?—I think it is equitable.

10711. Have you any suggestion to make in reference to the classification duties?—No, I have not turned my attention sufficiently to the subject to give an opinion.

10712. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You have spoken of concentrated cane juice, and you have described it to the Committee as sugar with the treacle retained?—Exactly. It is the whole produce of the cane brought to a certain point in the last boiler or teache.

10713. It goes through all the processes, up to the granulating process?—The granulating process takes place after taking it out of the teache; after the striking.

10714. Then to make concentrated cane juice into concrete, you subject it to a still further process of heat?—You keep it a little longer in the pan.

10715. When do you mix those ingredients?—The ingredients are mixed in the first instance as it comes from the mill, to prevent fermentation, and for the purpose of defecation.

10716. Those ingredients are put into the cane juice and concrete?—Yes, into the cane juice in its thin state.

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10717. And you state that that concrete should be brought into this country at a duty of 3 s. per cwt. less than muscovado sugar?—I think it should.

10718. Is the treacle retained in the concrete?—Yes, you have the whole mass there.

10719. It is upon the ground of it having all the inferior parts of the sugar that you think it ought to pay a duty of 3 s. less?—Yes, for that reason; and also that it must undergo a further process of manufacture before it can be brought into consumption.

10720. Do you think it fair that khaur sugar should also pay 3 s. less duty than muscovado sugar?—I think that khaur should pay an *ad valorem* duty; I think the present duty is unfair upon khaur.

10721. Are you aware that khaur sugar varies in value at the present time from 14 s. to 20 s. per cwt.?—I am not aware of it; I have not made the inquiry; I have no doubt that it is the case.

10722. Is it upon the same principle on which you think an *ad valorem* duty upon khaur would be a just duty, that you recommend a duty of 3 s. less per cwt. upon cane juice?—Yes, containing all the molasses as it does, and having to undergo a further process of manufacture, it ought to pay a less duty; whereas with muscovado sugar the planter has the option of bringing it into consumption at once, without its undergoing any further process.

10723. But there is a large loss by reason of wastage?—Yes, there is a loss to the planter, which this process is to save.

10724. Would it not pay to introduce this concrete at the same duty as muscovado sugar?—I almost doubt it; it might pay. It has not been brought at all, but I do not think it would be a wise policy to do it, for this reason, it is a new article, and every new trade has to be encouraged in some way or other. If it were found that it could bear that duty, it could be put upon it; when it was sent to this country the market value would very soon test whether it could bear a higher duty or not.

10725. I thought you stated that the advantage to the planter would be that it would save 27 per cent.?—Yes.

10726. Then you need scarcely seek a protective duty of 3 s. a hundred-weight when you were importing it into this country?—The expenses are heavy; you have a much greater bulk to bring over.

10727. In concrete you have a larger quantity?—Yes, and also in concentrated cane juice.

10728. How is that?—You get so much more produce.

10729. But you get so much more value in money if you bring so many more hundred-weight of sugar?—No, for you have a heavier amount for freight and charges to pay upon the increased quantity; you would have the same duty with an increased amount for charges and freight.

10730. The only increased quantity is that which is drained away in the shape of molasses, and you do not pay freight upon that; but otherwise there is no greater charge for concrete over muscovado sugar?—I take it in this way; supposing you produce 400 hogsheads of sugar by the new process, you produce equal to 550 in a state of concrete; you do not get the same price per cwt. for the 550 hogsheads of concrete that you do for your 400 hogsheads of sugar, but you have to pay the same rate of freight and charges upon the increased quantity.

10731. But you do not bring your concrete home in hogsheads?—No, but I state that by way of comparison; you may take tons.

10732. Forty tons of muscovado sugar then are equivalent to 55 tons of concrete?—I mention that to show that you would have to pay the same charges and freight for that larger quantity, whereas it would not command the same price as sugar per cwt.

10733. Then you do not estimate that your concrete would be as valuable as the muscovado sugar in this country?—It would depend upon how the refiners found it to work. I have stated I do not think it would be so valuable as sugar.

10734. You stated that in Porto Rico this had been tried?—The concentrated cane juice, not the concrete.

10735. In answer to a question from the Chairman, you stated that you thought the British colonies could not afford to produce sugar unless the duty were reduced to 9 s. 4 d., and the duty maintained upon slave-grown sugar?—I do not think they could.

10736. Have

10736. Have you had any practical experience of the sugar produced in the West Indies?—I have.

10737. Will you favour the Committee with your reasons for thinking that it is necessary to have 10 s. 8d. protective duty?—I can give some general results; I cannot go into the minute details of calculations, such as you have had here; but I may remark that three estates which I have been connected with in Demerara, in the years 1844, 1845 and 1846, the result of the cultivation was that they sunk about 15,000 l. in those years.

10738. What did your sugar cost you a hundred-weight?—That I cannot state; I can only state the general result; that was a statement that had to be prepared not long ago; that was without interest for capital or the mortgage debt.

10739. Then your reason for thinking that there ought to be this large differential duty maintained is, that you have unfortunately lost money in estates in Demerara under a differential rate of duty?—Yes; and for the year 1847 the loss upon the three estates is estimated at about 10,000 l. in addition.

10740. Although, in the years you have named, the bonded price of your sugar when brought to this market was about 35 s. a cwt.?—I do not know as to that, but those estates made small returns; two of them were large estates, and they had been a good deal mismanaged, I believe, in consequence of the proprietor going to take charge himself; he was in the colony superintending them himself.

10741. Have you been much in the West Indies yourself?—Only for one year, and that was 20 years ago.

10742. Have you been in the Island of Jamaica?—Never.

10743. You have stated that you believe the repeal of the Navigation Laws would not be of the slightest benefit to our sugar producing colonies, inasmuch as there would be no reduction of freights accruing therefrom?—In the long run I think there would not be on the average, and that they would be forced to support the regular traders for their own convenience.

10744. You think that American ships, though they take food and lumber to our sugar producing colonies in the West Indies, would be content to go back empty, instead of bringing sugar to this country at low freights?—They would go back empty, as at present, for part of their homeward voyage; they would take hard dollars from us, and go to the cheapest market and purchase produce for America or elsewhere.

10745. Though they now carry food and lumber to the British West Indies, you think that they would not be likely to become carriers of sugar to this country, at lower rates than are now charged?—I doubt it.

10746. You think they would go somewhere else to seek freight, rather than bring sugars that were lying in the different markets of the West Indies to this country?—Sometimes they might do it, but it would lead to some inconvenience to the planters in getting stores, for our regular ships then would be uncertain.

10747. Then you apprehend that any alteration of the Navigation Laws would not, as regards our colonies, be in the slightest degree prejudicial to British shipping?—I think it would be in no degree an advantage to the colonies.

10748. Consequently it could not be prejudicial to British shipping?—I think it would be extremely prejudicial to British shipping in other quarters.

10749. Not in the colonies?—Not as far as my knowledge goes, beyond the inconvenience.

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APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

COPY of the REPORT of Professors *Brande* and *Cooper*, on a new kind of SACCHAROMETER, by *Dr. Jennings*.

Appendix, No. 1.

Report on
Dr. Jennings' Sac-
charometer.

London, 21 January 1847.

Sir,
IN obedience to the desire of the Commissioners of Customs, expressed in your letter of the 5th of November last, that we should test the correctness of *Dr. Jennings'* saccharometer, we have now the honour of transmitting to you, for the information of the Commissioners, the general results of our experiments relating to it, and a statement of the grounds upon which our opinions respecting it are founded.

According to *Dr. Jennings*, the instrument is calculated to indicate the quantity of crystallizable and of uncrystallizable sugar contained in the various denominations of raw or unrefined sugar usually imported into this country; it being presumed that all such sugars are essentially mixtures of the two varieties just mentioned, one of which is represented by white sugar-candy or double-refined loaf sugar, and the other by the purest colonial molasses.

Now it appears that the quantity of molasses or uncrystallizable sugar contained in the lowest or worst samples of raw sugar never exceeds 30 per cent.; so that the scale of *Dr. Jennings'* instrument may be said to commence its indications at that point, and to terminate at pure sugar; the former point being marked 70°, as indicating that the sample under examination contains 70 per cent. of pure or crystallizable sugar; and the latter 100°, implying that it is entirely pure sugar. The intermediate degrees show the centesimal parts of pure sugar contained in any given sample between the above extremes.

In using the instrument, one part, by weight, of the sugar to be examined is dissolved in two parts, by weight, of water, and the solution, when perfect, is transferred into a tall cylindrical glass vessel; the instrument is then immersed into it, at the temperature of 60°, and the result carefully read off upon the graduated stem.

The quantity of sugar required for each examination is, as the instrument is now constructed, 10 ounces, which is dissolved in 20 ounces of water, to form the required solution.

On the back of the scale of *Dr. Jennings'* instrument, and corresponding to the 93d division, is the mark Q. S.: it represents the Queen's Standard Sugar, "as taken from the cellars, and simply air-dried," and is, of course, assumed as consisting of 93 per cent. of crystallizable sugar, and 7 per cent. of uncrystallizable sugar, of molasses.

The 0°, or zero of *Dr. Jennings'* scale, represents a solution of one part of the best colonial molasses, of the specific gravity of 1.3326, and two parts of water; the specific gravity of such a solution being assumed as = 1.0994 at 60°; and the mark 100° on *Dr. Jennings'* scale represents a solution of one part of double-refined, or pure crystallized sugar, in two parts of water, which solution has a specific gravity = 1.1468 at 60°.

In proceeding to examine into the theoretical and practical correctness of this saccharometer, it occurred to us that it would, in the first place, be necessary that we should be provided with a standard instrument, acknowledged as such both by *Dr. Jennings* and by the proper officers of the Customs. Secondly, that we should receive, through the hands of the officers of the Customs, samples of molasses and of pure sugar, and of the several denominations of colonial and other raw or unrefined sugars usually occurring in commerce, with the understanding that the duplicate samples of these sugars should be retained at the Custom-house as standards of reference, in the event of any necessity arising of repeating our experiments, or otherwise verifying our results. Such an instrument was accordingly furnished us, together with the following samples of molasses, and of the several denominations of sugar above adverted to; namely,

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Havannah, fine white. 2. Ditto, good white. 3. Ditto, fine yellow. 4. Ditto, good yellow. 5. Bengal, fine crystallized white, 6. Ditto, fine crystallized yellow, 7. Ditto, fine white. 8. Ditto, low white. 9. Demerara (vacuum pan). 10. Jamaica, fine white. 11. Antigua, fair average quality. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Trinidad, low muscovado. 13. Manilla, white. 14. Ditto, brown. 15. China, white. 16. Bahia, fine white. 17. Ditto, good white. 18. Ditto, brown. 19. Java sugar, standard sample. 20. Good Antigua molasses. 21. Double refined white sugar, 22. Single refined white sugar. |
|---|--|

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Report on
Dr. Jennings' Sac-
charometer.

The first point to which we directed our attention was the experimental verification of the data upon which the construction and graduation of Dr. Jennings' instrument are ostensibly founded; namely, on the one hand, the specific gravity of molasses, and of the same so diluted with water as to furnish the 0, or zero of Dr. Jennings' scale; and, on the other, the specific gravity of the solution of pure sugar indicating 100° upon the said scale; and, lastly, the specific gravities of such mixtures of these two solutions as should give us the intermediate degrees between 70 and 100 upon this scale, that portion of it being, in fact, all that is required for practical or commercial purposes.

We next turned our attention to the actual composition of the different samples of commercial sugars above enumerated, as indicated by the mode of analysis which we shall advert to, in order to determine the relative proportions between the crystallizable and the uncrystallizable sugars in such samples, so as to arrive at independent data by which we might test the accuracy of the indications of Dr. Jennings' instrument when applied to the determination of the quality of the said sugars.

Thirdly, we determined a number of other incidental points arising out of these inquiries, and having reference principally to the specific gravities of a variety of saccharine solutions, more especially those of the strengths referred to by Dr. Jennings, to the composition of different denominations of sugars determined by other means; to the influence of dry and of humid atmospheres upon the varieties of sugar; together with other investigations, to which however we shall only advert in this report where they have immediate bearings upon the questions directly before us.

1. The specific gravity of the best colonial molasses is assumed by Dr. Jennings as = 1.3326; and he represents the specific gravity of a solution of such molasses in twice its weight of water as = 1.0994, which he adopts as the 0, or zero of his saccharometer.

The specific gravity of the sample of colonial molasses sent to us from the Customs, was 1.373, at the temperature of 60°, and the solution of one part of this molasses in two parts of water had the specific gravity of 1.1042 at the same temperature. Assuming, therefore, that the specific gravities given by Dr. Jennings have also reference to the temperature of 60°, we reduced our standard molasses to the specific gravity of 1.33, so as to bring down the specific gravity of the solution of it in twice its weight of water from 1.1042 to 1.0994.

2. The specific gravity of a syrup obtained by dissolving one part of pure crystallized sugar in two parts of water, is stated by Dr. Jennings to be = 1.1468, and this density is, as we have already remarked, represented by 100° on the scale of his saccharometer. In two experiments, in which we used the samples of refined sugar sent us by the Customs, we found the specific gravity of a solution constituted as above, to be = 1.145 and 1.1476, at 60°. These numbers give a mean so closely agreeing with the specific gravity assigned to this syrup by Dr. Jennings, that we did not think it necessary to go into any further examination of this point; and they sanction our conclusion that the densities represented upon his saccharometer, have reference to the temperature of 60° Fahrenheit.

3. We next proceeded to the verification of the point upon Dr. Jennings' instrument marked Q. S. (Queen's Standard). To this end, we first dissolved one pound of the standard sample of the Java sugar, marked No. 19 in our Custom-house list, in two pounds of distilled water, and when the solution was perfect we found its specific gravity at 60°, to be 1.1434; but on testing this syrup by our saccharometer, it indicated 95.5, instead of 93. The cause of this and some similar discrepancies we shall afterwards have occasion to advert to.

4. We proceeded to determine the specific gravities of the solutions or syrups obtained by dissolving one pound of each of the other sugars sent us by the Customs, and enumerated in the preceding list, in two pounds of distilled water, and to ascertain the corresponding indications upon the scale of the saccharometer. All the solutions were examined at a temperature of 60° to 62°; they were made by carefully weighing the sugar and the water, and when the solution was complete, it was poured off from any insoluble residue, small quantities of which, consisting chiefly of sand and of small fragments of wood, were occasionally present. We may further observe, in reference to these experiments, that the sugars which we used were taken in their ordinary state of dryness, having been placed in our laboratory upon receiving them from the Custom-house in their brown paper packages, and, consequently, subject to the influence of the changes in the humidity of the air. The influence of these changes we shall again have occasion to mention.

The following are the samples which we thus examined. The numbers in the first column being those attached to them in the Custom-house list; the second, showing the denomination of the sugar; the third, the specific gravity of the syrup, composed of one part by weight of the sugar and two of distilled water (at 60°); and the fourth column gives the corresponding degree upon Dr. Jennings' saccharometer, at the same temperature.

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No.	Denomination of Sugar.	Specific Gravity of Syrup.	Crystallized Sugar.	Appendix, No. 1.
				Report on Dr. Jennings' Saccharometer.
			Per cent.	
1	Havannah, fine white - - - - -	1·1458	97·90	
2	Ditto - good white - - - - -	1·1461	98·00	
3	Ditto - fine yellow - - - - -	1·1436	95·00	
4	Ditto - good yellow - - - - -	1·1441	93·75	
5	Bengal, fine crystallized white - - - - -	1·1431	92·75	
6	Ditto - ditto - yellow - - - - -	1·1435	93·00	
7	Ditto, fine white - - - - -	1·1424	91·50	
8	Ditto, low white - - - - -	1·1428	92·00	
9	Demerara (vacuum pan) - - - - -	1·1441	92·75	
10	Jamaica, fine white - - - - -	1·1428	93·25	
11	Antigua, average quality - - - - -	1·1423	89·75	
12	Trinidad low muscovado - - - - -	1·1405	89·50	
13	Manilla, white - - - - -	1·1441	94·75	
14	Ditto - brown - - - - -	1·1417	89·50	
15	China, white - - - - -	1·1412	89·00	
16	Bahia, fine white - - - - -	1·1441	94·50	
17	Ditto, good white - - - - -	1·1423	92·00	
18	Ditto, brown - - - - -	1·1457	97·50	
19	Java sugar, standard sample - - - - -	1·1434	95·50	
20	Loaf Sugar, single refined - - - - -	1·1471	100·00	
21	Ditto - double refined - - - - -	1·1472	100·00	
22	Antigua, molasses - - - - -	1·1042	0·	

5. Our next object was, to submit the several samples of sugar to some independent mode of analysis by which we might determine, with sufficient accuracy for the purposes of this inquiry, the relative quantity of pure sugar corresponding to crystallized white candy, and of uncrystallizable sugar or molasses contained in each of them.

These experiments were required for the purpose of furnishing data which might enable us to ascertain how far the specific gravity of a solution of raw sugar can be depended upon as a just criterion of the proportion of crystallizable sugar which it contains.

There are several metallic salts, the oxides of which are speedily reduced to the metallic state, or to that of a suboxide, by the action of certain kinds of uncrystallizable sugar or molasses, or sugars corresponding to these, while they are not similarly acted upon or decomposed by pure crystallizable cane sugar; and in some instances we have availed ourselves of their indications; but we were never able so to apply these tests as to satisfy ourselves of their adequate quantitative accuracy in the cases before us, or to agree sufficiently with a variety of synthetic trials and experiments which we resorted to as counter-proofs, and to some of which we shall afterwards have occasion to advert.

Under these circumstances, we tried the action of several solvents upon the varieties of sugar, and at length devised a means, upon which we found we could rely, of separating the uncrystallizable from the crystallizable portion. We therefore adopted this method in the examination of the samples in our possession, and it has enabled us to draw up the following table, which shows the relative quantities of crystallizable and of uncrystallizable sugar contained in 100 parts of the respective samples, the sugars having been taken in their ordinary states of moisture; but the weight of crystalline sugar which is given has reference to that substance after having dried at a temperature of 212°.

No.	Denomination of Sugar.	Crystallizable. Uncrystallizable.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.
1	Havannah, fine white - - - - -	97·0	3·0
2	Ditto - good white - - - - -	97·8	2·2
3	Ditto - fine yellow - - - - -	95·5	4·5
4	Ditto - good yellow - - - - -	94·5	5·5
5	Bengal, fine crystallized white - - - - -	93·2	6·8
6	Ditto - ditto - yellow - - - - -	90·0	10·0
7	Ditto - fine white - - - - -	90·8	9·2
8	Ditto - low white - - - - -	89·5	10·5
9	Demarara (vacuum pan) - - - - -	93·5	6·5
10	Jamaica, fine white - - - - -	92·0	8·0
11	Antigua, average quality - - - - -	89·5	10·5
12	Trinidad, low muscovado - - - - -	85·5	14·5
13	Manilla, white - - - - -	94·0	6·0
14	Ditto - brown - - - - -	90·2	9·8
15	China, white - - - - -	87·0	13·0
16	Bahia, fine white - - - - -	94·0	6·0
17	Ditto, good white - - - - -	91·5	8·5
18	Ditto, brown - - - - -	93·0	7·0
19	Standard sample Java sugar - - - - -	95·0	5·0

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charometer.

6. We formed certain mixtures of standard molasses, of the specific gravity of 1.3325 of pure sugar, and of water, with a view of ascertaining the specific gravities of these mixtures of known composition, and of comparing them with the indications of the saccharometer.

The principal mixtures upon which we operated were composed as follows;

1. Pure sugar, 7 ounces.
Standard molasses, 3 ounces.
Distilled water, 20 ounces.

The specific gravity of this solution, at the temperature of 60°, was 1.1299. It indicated 70.25 upon the scale of the saccharometer. It ought to have indicated 70.00.

2. Pure sugar, 8 ounces.
Standard molasses, 2 ounces.
Distilled water, 20 ounces.

The specific gravity of this solution, at the temperature of 60°, was 1.1366. It indicated 80.9 upon the scale of the saccharometer. It ought to have indicated 80.0.

3. Pure sugar, 9 ounces.
Standard molasses, 1 ounce.
Distilled water, 20 ounces.

The specific gravity of this solution, at the temperature of 60°, was 1.1409. It indicated 89.9 upon the scale of the saccharometer. It ought to have indicated 90.0.

We then mixed these three solutions, containing respectively 7, 8, and 9 of pure sugar, and on examining the mixture by the saccharometer, we found that it indicated 80.3, at the temperature of 60°, instead of the real mean of 80.0.

We also mixed two other solutions, the one containing 70 parts of pure sugar, 30 of molasses, and 200 of water, and the other 90 of pure sugar, 10 of molasses, and 200 of water, and obtained the indication of 80.5 upon the scale of the saccharometer instead of the real mean of 80°. The calculated specific gravity of this mixture was 1.1359; its actual specific gravity proved to be 1.1357.

7. Lastly, we examined the several samples of sugar, in reference to their hygrometric qualities, ascertaining in the first place the loss of weight sustained by each variety, by drying it at 212°, and then determining the quantity of water absorbed by each of them in a given time from a humid atmosphere, so as to ascertain their relative weights in the extreme state of dryness on the one hand and of dampness on the other.

In the following table the first column of figures shows the loss sustained by drying 100 parts of the specified sample (in its ordinary state of humidity) at a temperature of 212°, till it ceased to lose weight. The second column shows the increase of weight sustained by the dried sample after exposure to a humid atmosphere, at the temperature of 50°.

No.		Loss by Drying at 212°.	Gain by Moisture.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
1	Havannah, fine white - - - - -	1.5	1.75
2	Ditto - good white - - - - -	1.0	1.0
3	Ditto - fine yellow - - - - -	1.25	2.25
4	Ditto - good yellow - - - - -	2.5	0.75
5	Bengal, fine crystallized white - - - - -	2.0	1.5
6	Ditto - ditto - yellow - - - - -	3.0	4.0
7	Ditto - fine white - - - - -	3.0	4.0
8	Ditto - low white - - - - -	1.0	3.0
9	Demerara (vacuum pan) - - - - -	1.5	2.0
10	Jamaica, fine white - - - - -	3.5	3.7
11	Antigua, average quality - - - - -	2.5	3.2
12	Trinidad, low muscovado - - - - -	4.5	5.7
13	Manilla, white - - - - -	3.2	3.7
14	Ditto - brown - - - - -	4.0	4.0
15	China, white - - - - -	4.0	4.5
16	Bahia, fine white - - - - -	2.5	2.7
17	Ditto, good white - - - - -	3.0	3.5
18	Ditto, brown - - - - -	4.5	4.5
19	Standard sample Java sugar - - - - -	1.5	1.7

Having now stated some of the principal results of the experiments which we thought it necessary to institute in reference to the important subject submitted for our consideration, we annex a general tabular view of such of them as furnish the chief grounds of the conclusions at which we have arrived respecting the main point in question; namely, to what extent the relative proportion of crystallizable and of uncrystallizable sugar, in any given sample of unrefined or raw sugar, can be deduced from the density of a solution of such sugar in any given quantity of water.

		Crystallizable Sugar per Cent. as indicated by the Saccharometer.	Uncrystallizable Sugar per Cent. as indicated by the Saccharometer.	Crystallizable Sugar per Cent. as indicated by Analysis	Uncrystallizable Sugar per Cent. as indicated by Analysis.	Differences per Cent. in the proportion of Crystallizable Sugar, as indicated by the Saccharometer.
1	Havannah, fine white - - -	97.90	2.10	97.0	3.0	+ 0.90
2	Ditto - good white - - -	98.00	2.00	97.8	2.2	+ 0.20
× 3	Ditto - fine yellow - - -	95.00	5.00	95.5	4.5	- 0.50
4	Ditto - good yellow - - -	93.75	6.25	94.5	5.5	- 0.75
5	Bengal, fine crystallized white	92.75	7.25	93.2	6.8	- 0.45
6	Ditto - ditto - yellow	93.00	7.00	90.0	10.0	+ 3.00
7	Ditto - fine white - - -	91.50	8.50	90.8	9.2	+ 0.70
8	Ditto - low white - - -	92.00	8.00	89.5	10.5	+ 2.50
9	Demerara (vacuum pan) - - -	92.75	7.25	93.5	6.5	- 0.75
× 10	Jamaica, fine white - - -	93.25	6.75	92.0	8.0	+ 1.25
11	Antigua, average quality - - -	89.75	10.25	89.5	10.5	+ 0.25
12	Trinidad, low muscovado - - -	89.50	10.50	85.5	14.5	+ 0.40
× 13	Manilla, white - - -	94.75	5.25	94.0	6.0	+ 0.75
14	Manilla, brown - - -	89.50	10.50	90.2	9.8	- 0.70
× 15	China, white - - -	89.00	11.00	87.0	13.0	+ 2.00
× 16	Bahia, fine white - - -	94.50	5.50	94.0	6.0	+ 0.50
× 17	Ditto, good white - - -	92.00	8.00	91.5	8.5	+ 0.50
× 18	Ditto, brown - - -	97.50	2.50	93.0	7.0	+ 4.50
× 19	Standard sample Java sugar - - -	95.50	4.50	95.0	5.0	+ 0.50
20	Loaf sugar, single refined - - -	100.00	0	100.0	0	
21	Ditto - double refined - - -	100.00	0	100.0	0	
22	West India molasses - - -	0	100.00	0	100	

The samples marked × gave syrups which became ropy and mucilaginous within 48 hours; the solution of the other samples required a much longer time for the production of the same change.

From the preceding abstract of the general results of our experiments in reference to the questions submitted by our decision, we think ourselves justified in drawing the following conclusions:

1. That the composition of the different samples of raw sugar, as respects the relative quantities of crystallizable and uncrystallizable sugar which they contain, may be inferred from the specific gravities of their syrups or solutions, in given quantities of water; and that those specific gravities are conveniently shown by Dr. Jennings' saccharometer, which, instead of denoting the actual specific gravities in reference to distilled water as unity, indicates at once the quantity of crystallizable and of uncrystallizable sugar in 100 parts of any sample under examination.

2. That the temperature to which the instrument is graduated should be accurately observed, inasmuch as comparatively small variations in the temperature of the syrup materially affect its indications. The examination of the syrup, therefore, should always be made at that particular temperature to which the divisions upon its scale refer; or, if this be found inconvenient, tables should be constructed applicable to the indications of the saccharometer, within a certain range of temperature.

3. That the occasional discrepancies between the indications of the saccharometer and the results of our actual analysis (and which are evident, especially in five of the cases given in the preceding table, when they are seen to amount to more than one per cent.), probably arise principally from two causes; the first, and perhaps the chief cause, being the comparative state of the sugar as to its degree of humidity, and the other, the occasional presence of some foreign matter in it, as announced by the rapid tendency of the syrup to become ropy or mucilaginous.

There is a further peculiarity in several descriptions of unrefined sugar, which is shown by their tendency to become tenacious and gummy when retained at a temperature of 212°, till they no longer lose weight, instead of drying, as is the case in the greater number of instances, into a friable crystalline powder.

We therefore think, that in reference to the first source of error in the announcements of the saccharometer, the samples of sugar, the commercial values or denominations of which are to be determined by this instrument, should in all cases be examined in a given and definite state of dryness, and that this might be adequately attained by retaining them in a dry and warm place for some hours previous to their examination; or, if the samples requiring to be tested are very numerous and of various qualities, it might be desirable to construct a small stove for the purpose of reducing the whole of them to a uniform and definite state of dryness.

4. We would suggest that, in construction of these saccharometers for general practical use, great attention should be paid to the method of graduation in reference to the effect of the immersion of variable portions of the stem of the instrument in the liquor, and that the stem should be as small as is consistent with safety from accident and the legibility of the figures upon it; and we think that these instruments, instead of being made of glass, which is fragile, or of platinum, which is very expensive and difficult to work, and liable, from its softness to be bruised, might conveniently be constructed of brass, gilt by the electro-chemical process now in common use.

5. Having found that there is often some difficulty, in regard to certain denominations of raw sugar, of obtaining a fair average sample, in consequence of the variable quantity of the bulk and of the lumps which are diffused through it, and having ascertained that these differ in composition from the more pulverulent or granular portion, we are of opinion that, in drawing samples for examination, these inequalities should be attended to, and that no pains should be spared to insure the drawing of an uniform sample, so as to obtain a fair average of the bulk.

C. Scovell, Esq.

We have, &c.
(signed) *William Thomas Brande.*
John Thomas Cooper.

Appendix, No. 2.

Appendix, No. 2.
Letter to Lord
Goderich.

COPY of a LETTER from the Deputation of the Standing Committee of *West India* Planters and Merchants to Lord *Goderich*, dated 27 February 1833, and of the Two Papers referred to therein.

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
8 March 1848. }

HERMAN MERIVALE.

At a Meeting of the Deputation, held 27th February 1833, is was resolved: That the following Letter be forthwith transmitted to Lord Goderich.

My Lord,

Richmond Terrace, 27 February 1833.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday afternoon, of two printed Papers upon the subject of colonial slavery, to which your Lordship alluded in the conversation which we had the honour of holding with your Lordship, as a deputation from the Standing Committee of the Planters and Merchants connected with the West Indies.

The respect which is due to His Majesty's Government, and to your Lordship as Secretary of State for the Colonies, as well as the great importance of the subject, make it incumbent upon us to bestow a dispassionate and deliberate examination upon the principles and details contained in those Papers, the result of which we will communicate to your Lordship at the earliest possible period.

We feel constrained, however, to state that our first impression is, that the plan will be found to be impracticable and detrimental to the well-being of the negroes themselves; that it will destroy the colonies as useful possessions of the Crown; and that it contemplates a violation of the right of property, unless the blank contained in the second "Act" be filled up with a sum equal to the value of the whole of the capital invested.

We have, &c.
(signed) *William Murray.*
John Irving.
A. Colville.
Hugh Hyndman.
William H. Burnley.

To the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Goderich,
&c. &c. &c.

PAPER, No. 1.

Papers referred to
in Letter to Lord
Goderich.

HEADS of a PLAN for the Abolition of Negro Slavery, and for the securing the continued Cultivation of the Estates by the Manumitted Slaves.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE following pages contain only a general outline of the measures which it is proposed to adopt for the settlement of the question of negro slavery. Many subordinate details are omitted for the sake of brevity, but will be supplied should it be thought necessary to produce them.

The plan is exhibited in the form of an epitome of two Acts of Parliament, and of six colonial ordinances. Although the Acts are supposed to apply generally to all the slave colonies, the following ordinances refer to the single colony of British Guiana. The motive for adopting this style is, that it relieves this document from many passages which must have been introduced had the ordinances been supposed to have been of more general application. The principle is as clearly shown in this mode as in any other, and with greater conciseness.

The scheme proceeds on the supposition that the ordinances would be enacted by the authority of the Governor and Court of Policy, constituting the local legislature of British Guiana, and that similar laws in other colonies would be passed by the governors, councils, and assemblies.

It may not be unimportant to notice that this paper is accompanied by a distinct paper, containing a short compendium of the arguments by which the plan is explained and justified.

Appendix, No. 2.

Papers referred to in Letter to Lord Goderich.

Without further preface, the plan will now be exhibited under the eight following heads:—

- I. An Act for the extinction of negro slavery.
- II. An Act for the relief of the owners of the slaves to be manumitted by the preceding Act.
- III. An Ordinance for the relief of the owners of the slaves to be manumitted by the preceding Act of Parliament, No. 1.
- IV. An Ordinance for promoting the industry of the manumitted slaves by a tax on all provision grounds in British Guiana, and upon all provisions imported into the colony.
- V. An Ordinance for the establishment of a rural magistracy and police, and for the division of British Guiana into districts for that purpose.
- VI. An Ordinance regulating the labour to be performed by the rural population of British Guiana, and the wages or other remuneration to be received by them in return for such labour.
- VII. An Ordinance for the prevention of vagrancy, neglect of work, the illicit occupation of waste lands, and other offences of the rural population of British Guiana.
- VIII. An Ordinance for promoting education and religious instruction throughout the colonies of British Guiana.

I.—An Act for the Extinction of Slavery throughout the British Dominions.

Sect. 1. From and after the 1st day of January 1833, slavery shall be and is hereby abolished and declared unlawful throughout every part of His Majesty's dominions; and all persons who shall at that time be resident therein, or who shall after that time be born therein, shall be and are hereby declared free; any law, statute, custom or usage in force in any British colony, plantation or settlement abroad to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

2. Provided that if the local legislature of any colony wherein slavery hath heretofore existed, shall by any Act to be therein passed before the said 1st day of January 1833, and assented to by His Majesty before that time, abolish slavery therein, upon and after the said 1st day of January 1833, or any earlier period, in the terms hereinbefore contained, then this present Act shall not take effect or come into operation in any such colony.

3. Provided nevertheless, that the abolition of slavery by force of this Act, or by force of any such colonial Act as aforesaid, shall not extend to prevent the enactment within any colony, with His Majesty's approbation and consent, of any Act which it may be expedient to make for the promotion of industry and the prevention of vagrancy and indolence amongst the manumitted slaves in any such colony, or to repeal or abrogate any law now in force in any such colony whereby persons of free condition are compelled to labour for their own subsistence.

II.—An Act for the Relief of the Owners of the Slaves to be manumitted in the British Colonies by virtue of the preceding Act.

Sect. 1. The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury shall be authorized to borrow, on the security of the Consolidated Fund, any sum not exceeding millions of pounds sterling.

2. The money so to be raised shall be advanced to the several colonies in which slavery hath hitherto existed by way of loan, on the security of the public faith of such colonies respectively, or on the security of any specific taxes which may be appropriated in any colony to that purpose, to the satisfaction of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

3. In the distribution of the said sum of amongst the colonies aforesaid, the sum to be appropriated to each shall be regulated by and be in proportion to the amount and value of the produce imported, on an average of the last seven years, from each of the said colonies, into the United Kingdom.

4. No colony to which any such advance shall be made shall be required in respect thereof to pay interest at a higher rate than four per cent. per annum; but in order to create a sinking fund for the redemption of such debts, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury may further stipulate for the payment by any such colony of a further sum amounting to one per cent. per annum on any such loan.

5. The money advanced to any such colony out of the funds aforesaid shall be distributed amongst the individual proprietors of the slaves to be manumitted. Such distribution shall be made in such manner and according to such rules as shall for that purpose be prescribed by Acts to be passed in the said colonies respectively, and confirmed and allowed by His Majesty, provided that so much of such money as shall be advanced to any such individual proprietor, by way of loan, shall not bear an interest of more than four per cent. per annum.

6. In cases where any land and slaves were heretofore subject to any mortgages jointly affecting the same, the loan to be made to the proprietor of such land and slaves shall be applied, as far as it will extend, in redeeming such mortgages in the order of their respective priorities, and the mortgagee who may be so paid off shall convey to His Majesty all his right and interest to or in any such mortgaged land or buildings, in trust for the public service and benefit of any such colony.

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7. It shall be lawful for the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to appropriate towards the support of the administration of justice, or of the police in any colony, or of schools and religious worship therein, any part of the interest annually accruing due in such colony in respect of the loan aforesaid, not exceeding in the whole one-half of such annual interest.

8. No person to whom any part of the said loan may be so advanced as aforesaid shall on that account incur or be subject to the general liabilities of an accountant to the Crown.

III.—An Ordinance of the Governor and Court of Policy of British Guiana for the Relief of the former Proprietors of the Slaves to be Manumitted therein by virtue of the before-mentioned Act of Parliament, No. I.

Sect. 1. It is declared and enacted, that all dwellings and lands which were occupied by any person during his or her slavery on the estate of his or her former owner, and by the permission and sufferance of that owner, are not the property of the manumitted slave, and cannot continue to be occupied by him or her, except by virtue of any contract which he or she may make with the owner thereof.

2. It is declared and enacted, that every adult person within the colony who is capable of labour shall be and is responsible for the maintenance of his or her infant children, and infirm or superannuated parents.

3. For the creation of a fund for the support of destitute persons incapable of labour, a poor-rate shall be from time to time assessed by the authority of the custos and justices of the peace (hereinafter mentioned), in each of the parishes into which the said colony shall be divided (as after-mentioned), on all lands within any such parish cultivated for the growth of provisions.

4. The lands employed in the growth of exportable produce, and the buildings on such lands, shall be exempt from the payment of any poor-rate.

5. All the direct taxes heretofore raised in the colony by capitation or otherwise shall be abolished, and the deficiency supplied by a tax on provision-grounds, as provided in the Ordinance No. 4.

6. All charges heretofore borne by the colonial revenue for the protectors of slaves, for indemnifying the proprietors of slaves injured in the public service, or sentenced to death or transportation, or otherwise incident to and arising out of the servile condition of the labouring classes, shall be abolished.

IV.—An Ordinance for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves, by a Tax on all Provision Grounds in British Guiana, and by an equivalent Duty on all Provisions imported into the Colony.

Sect. 1. No waste lands belonging to His Majesty in British Guiana shall henceforth be granted to any person gratuitously, except in case of grants made for public purposes of general utility, to any body corporate or person in trust for the public in

2. No waste lands belonging to His Majesty in the colony shall ever be sold except by public auction, and to the highest bidder, who shall not receive possession of the land until the actual payment of the purchase-money.

3. No such lands shall be put up to sale at any such auction except at an upset price, to be from time to time determined by the Governor and the Court of Policy.

4. Such upset price shall always be of such amount as to afford to the proprietors of land, already held as private property, an effectual security that the sales of such their lands shall not be prejudiced by the competition of such Crown lands in the market so long as any lands held by private persons, and available for cultivation, shall remain uncultivated.

5. At the office of the custos of each parish shall be preserved a registry of all the lands within the parish which shall at any time be brought into cultivation for the growth of provisions, in which registry shall be entered the extent and locality of every such parcel of ground, with the name of the occupier, and of the owner or reputed owner.

6. It shall be the duty of the officers of police mentioned in the Ordinance, No. 5, to make an actual inspection and admeasurement of all such grounds, and to report the same to the custos for the purpose of such registration.

7. On every acre of ground occupied for the growth of provisions, an annual tax of 40 s. shall be payable by four quarterly payments, and a proportionate amount of tax for every smaller quantity. On every acre of ground occupied as pasturage such annual tax shall amount to 10 s. an acre only.

8. In cases in which the occupier of any such provision-ground shall be a labourer earning wages, the employer of such labourer shall, on receiving a notice for that purpose from the custos of the parish, deduct and pay over to such custos, from the wages of such labourer, the amount of the tax accruing due in respect of such labourer's provision-ground.

9. On default of payment of the tax by other means, the custos shall distrain upon all crops and moveable property upon such provision-ground.

10. If necessary, the ground in respect of which any tax may be in arrear shall be entered upon by the police, under an order from the custos, and the owner, on paying the tax in arrear, shall resume the possession thereof.

11. Failing the payment of the tax by any other means, the occupier of the ground shall be liable to imprisonment and hard labour in the penal gang subsequently mentioned, on account and for the benefit of the public, for one day, in respect of every shilling of such tax which shall be in arrear and unpaid.

12. The custos of each parish shall account, once in each quarter, to the colonial treasury, for the provision-ground tax of his parish, and shall in such accounts be charged with any arrears of such parochial taxes of which he shall not have endeavoured to enforce the payment by the methods aforesaid.

13. There shall be levied upon all articles of food imported into the colony, being of the like nature with any indigenous produce, the following duties, viz. [Here a table of import duties of such amount as shall secure to indigenous produce a full protection in the internal markets of the colony against imported food of the like nature.]

14. The proceeds of the provision-ground tax and of the duty on imported provisions shall, if required by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, be pledged for the repayment of the interest and principal of the loan mentioned in the Act of Parliament No. 2, and the surplus of such proceeds shall be applied to the public service of the colony by the Governor and Court of Policy.

V.—An Ordinance for the Establishment of a Rural Magistracy and Police, and for the Division of British Guiana into Parishes for that purpose.

Sect. 1. The colony of British Guiana shall be divided into eight parishes.

2. The following shall be the boundaries of such parishes, viz.—[Here insert the boundaries.]

3. In each parish there shall be appointed by the Governor, on His Majesty's behalf, five justices of the peace, of whom the senior or chief shall bear the title of custos of the parish.

4. The custos and justices shall hold their offices during pleasure.

5. Each custos shall receive a salary of 400*l.* per annum.

6. The custos, by virtue of his office, shall be the commandant of the militia of the parish, with the rank and title of major.

7. The other justices of peace in the parish shall obey all such lawful instructions as they shall from time to time receive from the custos.

8. The custos shall regularly correspond with the Governor respecting the rural affairs and the police of the parish, and shall obey all such lawful instructions respecting those affairs as he shall receive from the Governor.

9. The custos shall have the chief command and direction of the police of the parish.

10. In each parish shall be set apart a convenient tract of land, containing not less than 50 acres of ground, capable of raising provisions, which land, with the buildings thereon, shall be called the "Police Settlement," and shall be subdivided amongst and appropriated to the various members of each settlement.

11. The lands within the police settlement shall be taken from the waste lands of the Crown, when any such wastes are available for that purpose; failing such wastes, the necessary lands shall be purchased or rented at the public expense.

12. The "police settlement" shall be fixed in some central situation, in the vicinity of as large a proportion as may be of the population of the parish.

13. At each "police settlement" shall be erected cheap temporary buildings for the occupation of the police, to be superseded hereafter by more permanent dwellings, to be erected by their own labour.

14. At each police settlement shall be established a house of correction.

15. At each police settlement shall also be established a penal gang, to be composed of such offenders as shall from time to time be condemned to labour therein.

16. The members of each police settlement shall be, 1st, a superintendent of police; 2d, a serjeant; and 3d, at least 10 privates; all being able-bodied men, between the ages of 20 and 50 years.

17. The members of the police settlements shall be appointed by the Governor, in communication with the custos of each parish.

18. The officers and privates of police, being husbands or fathers, may have their wives or children resident with them at the police settlement.

19. The police provision-grounds shall be exempt from the provision-ground tax.

20. The superintendent of each police settlement shall, with the concurrence of the custos, establish rules for the regular rotation of duties amongst the members of his settlement, assigning to each in turn the active duties of a policeman, and the duty of cultivating his provision-ground.

21. The members of the police settlement, not being on actual service as policemen, shall, according to such rotation, cultivate their respective provision-grounds.

22. Such of the wives and children of the serjeants and privates as may be capable of labour shall, according to their respective capacities, assist in cultivating the provision-grounds of their respective husbands and fathers.

23. The penal gang, when not otherwise employed in public works, shall, under the direction of the superintendent of the police settlement, be hired out to labour on the public account, in the service of any person who may be willing to hire such labour.

24. The custos shall, once in each month, inspect the settlements, the buildings, and provision-grounds, and shall also ascertain the effective state and condition of the officers and privates of the establishment.

25. The custos shall make a monthly report to the Governor of the state of every such settlement, in such form as the Governor shall prescribe.

26. The officers and privates of each police settlement shall be annually provided with an uniform, and shall be equipped with such weapons and accoutrements as shall be best adapted for the service in which they are to be engaged.

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27. The privates in each settlement shall receive pay at the rate of one shilling per diem, for every day on which they may be actually engaged in service as policemen; and the serjeant, at the rate of two shillings; and the superintendent, at the rate of four shillings, for each day in the year.

28. Privates in the service shall, for good conduct, be promoted, as vacancies may occur, to be serjeants, and serjeants to be superintendents.

29. Any officer or private shall be liable to be suspended for misconduct by the custos, and to be removed by the Governor at his pleasure.

30. The Governor and Court of Policy shall establish general rules for the maintenance of discipline, order, sobriety and good conduct at the different police settlements, and for the punishment of offences against such rules. It shall be the duty of the superintendent, under the inspection of the custos, to enforce obedience to such rules.

31. The officers and privates of the police shall obey and carry into execution all such orders as they shall receive from the custos or justices of the parish, for the prevention or repression of crimes, and for the general observance of the law.

VI.—An Ordinance regulating the Labour to be performed by the Population rural of British Guiana, and the Remuneration to be received by them in return for such Labour.

Sect. 1. From the registries heretofore kept of the slave population of the colony shall be compiled a registry of the emancipated slaves in each parish.

2. The parochial registry shall be deposited with the custos of each parish, and shall be kept in his custody.

3. The superintendent and serjeant of police in each parish shall, by a personal inspection, verify or correct the parochial registry under the superintendence of the justice of the peace.

4. There shall be inserted in the parochial registry the name of every inhabitant of the parish, on the day immediately preceding the general emancipation, including persons theretofore of free condition.

5. Such persons as had theretofore borne only one name, shall assume a second or surname, by which he or she shall be registered in the parochial registry.

6. The surname assumed by a father shall also be borne by his sons and unmarried daughters, or reputed sons and daughters, and by his wife or reputed wife. Women, on contracting marriages, shall assume the surnames of their husbands. Persons having no parents alive when the parochial registry shall be made, and not being themselves parents, shall also assume surnames at their pleasure, and shall be registered thereby.

7. No two families in the same parish shall be permitted to assume the same surname.

8. All births and deaths shall be reported to the custos, and shall be registered by him within one month after they shall occur.

9. The Governor and Court of Policy shall establish all necessary rules for the maintenance of method, order and uniformity in the various parochial registries.

10. Once in each three years the parochial registry shall be wholly revised, in order to ascertain the number, names and descriptions of all the persons then inhabiting each parish.

11. All persons inscribed on the parochial registry shall be considered as having their settlement in the parish within which they are registered.

12. In each parochial registry the population shall be divided with reference to their occupations into three distinct classes; viz. 1st, Unskilled labourers. 2d, Skilled labourers. 3d, All other persons.

13. In the class of unskilled labourers shall be inserted all persons who have not been trained to any other employment but that of labour in the fields or in the manufactories.

14. In the class of skilled labourers shall be inserted all persons who have been trained to labour, as smiths, wheelwrights, carpenters or otherwise as mechanics and artisans; and all persons who have been accustomed to the occupation of headmen or drivers in superintending the labour of slaves.

15. In the third class shall be inserted the names of all persons not falling within the descriptions aforesaid of unskilled or of skilled labourers.

16. The children of the members of each class shall be inserted in the class to which their father or reputed father may belong.

17. At each triennial registration, persons who shall then appear not properly to belong to the class in which they had been inserted, shall be transferred to any other class to which they may more properly belong.

18. All persons belonging to the classes of unskilled or skilled labourers, and being of such ages as after mentioned, and not being disqualified from labour by any bodily or mental infirmity, shall be bound, for such wages as after mentioned, to perform such work as is after mentioned.

19. All the registered unskilled male labourers in each parish, being above the age of 12 years, and not above the age of 70 years, and all the registered unskilled female labourers in each parish, being above the age of 12 years, and not above the age of 60 years, shall in the parochial registry be entered in three separate divisions. The first division shall contain all males capable of labour between the ages of 16 and 50. The second division shall contain all males capable of labour between the ages of 50 and 60, and all women capable of labour between the ages of 16 and 45. The third division shall contain all males capable of labour between the ages of 60 and 70, and between the ages of 12 and 16, and all women capable of labour between the ages of 45 and 60, and between the ages of 12 and 16.

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20. Once in each six months a general sessions shall be holden of the custodes of the various parishes in the colony, and of one justice of the peace from each parish (nominated for that purpose by the other justices of such parish, or the majority of them), to determine, subject to the rules after mentioned, the amount of the labour which ought to be daily performed during the next succeeding six months, by each of the three before mentioned divisions of unskilled labourers, and the amount of remuneration which ought to be given in return for such labour.

21. Tables shall be prepared at every such sessions, showing both the amount of the labour to be done, and the amount of the remuneration to be received by unskilled labourers of each of the three divisions aforesaid.

22. In compiling such tables, the custodes and justices shall inquire and determine what is the task which an unskilled labourer of each of the said three divisions could properly perform by assiduous and steady industry in eight hours, in each of the different descriptions of agricultural labour in use within the parish; and the amount of such tasks respectively shall be considered as a day's labour for the respective members of the said three respective divisions.

23. In compiling such tables, the custodes and justices shall also inquire and determine what is the just remuneration to be granted to a member of each of the said three divisions for the performance of a day's labour.

25. The daily amount of labour to be performed by unskilled labourers of the first division, and of the wages to be paid to them, shall be one-third greater than the labour to be performed by and the wages to be paid to unskilled labourers of the second division; and in like manner the daily amount of labour to be performed by unskilled labourers of the second division, and of the wages to be paid to them, shall be one-third greater than the labour to be performed by, and the wages to be paid to, unskilled labourers of the third division.

26. The tables of the amount of labour and wages so to be established by the custodes and justices, shall by the custodes be transmitted to the Governor, and, being sanctioned and approved by him, and not until then, shall be in force for the regulation of labour and wages throughout the parish for the next ensuing six months.

27. Every person who shall have been registered within any parish as an unskilled labourer shall, during five days in each week, be bound to perform the daily amount of task-work prescribed by the table so published as aforesaid, in return for the daily amount of wages assigned by such table, if any person within the parish shall offer to employ him or her in the performance of such work for such wages.

28. If any person within the parish shall offer to employ any such unskilled labourer for the performance of the prescribed amount of daily labour at a higher rate of daily wages than that assigned by the table, or shall offer to employ any such unskilled labourer to perform a greater amount of daily labour for a greater amount of daily wages, or shall offer to employ such unskilled labourer to perform the prescribed or any greater amount of daily labour for less than the prescribed amount of wages, it shall be lawful for the labourer to accept or to refuse any such proposal; but every special agreement of that nature shall be entered into in the presence of a magistrate, and shall by him be reduced into writing, and signed in attestation of the free concurrence of the parties therein, and shall be transmitted to the custos to be by him preserved.

29. Skilled labourers shall be bound to perform the same amount of daily labour as the first division of unskilled labourers, or to labour during the day for eight hours, in cases where it may be impracticable to determine beforehand the amount of such labour, and shall receive the same daily wages as unskilled labourers of such first division, unless any such skilled labourer shall be able to make any contract for his hiring and service on more advantageous terms.

30. Except by virtue of such special contracts as aforesaid, no unskilled or skilled labourer shall be bound to labour, except to the amount and upon the terms prescribed by the before-mentioned tables.

31. No unskilled or skilled labourer shall be competent to make any contract for service to endure for more than seven years from the date thereof. And it shall be competent to the custos and any one justice of the peace, upon sufficient cause to them appearing, to cancel any such contract, or to abridge the duration thereof.

32. Provided that if any such employer and labourers as aforesaid, shall voluntarily enter into a contract for hiring and service for any period exceeding twelve months, or into any contract of which the condition shall be the apportionment between them, in any proportions which they may think right, of the produce to be raised on the lands whereon any such labour shall be performed, such contracts shall be examined and reported to the Governor by the custos, and shall be expressly sanctioned by the Governor before the same shall take effect, or be binding on the parties thereto. And it shall be the duty of the custos to require the introduction into every such contract, of such conditions as shall render the labourer's share of the produce secure, and as shall enable him (the custos), if necessary, to attach such share in satisfaction of any provision-ground tax which may be owing by such labourer.

33. It shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to bind out any unskilled or skilled labourer between the ages of twelve and eighteen years, with the consent of his or her parents, if living, as an apprentice to any employer, so that such apprenticeship shall not be made to endure after the apprentice shall have attained his or her age of 21 years.

34. Every such contract of apprenticeship shall be signed by a justice of the peace, and approved by the custos, and the employer shall be bound thereby to feed, lodge, and clothe the apprentice during the term, the apprentice being bound to render to the employer,

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during the six working days of the week, such amount of service only as shall be prescribed by the table, so to be published and approved as aforesaid.

35. No unskilled or skilled labourer shall be required to engage in agricultural labour before the hour of six in the morning, or after the hour of six in the evening.

36. In manufacturing labour, the employer shall be at liberty to fix the hours, not exceeding the number of eight as aforesaid, during which each person in his service shall perform his allotted daily task, provided that no person be required to work more than one night in four in the performance of any such manufacturing labour.

37. In the event of the wages for which the employer shall have contracted being unpaid, or in arrear, or if any other part of the contract shall be unfulfilled on the part of the employer, it shall be lawful for any one or more of the labourers, not exceeding three, on behalf of themselves and the other aggrieved parties, to complain to the custos, or any justice of the peace within the parish, of such breach of contract. The custos shall once in each fortnight, or oftener if need be, hold a petty sessions, in which he, associated with two other justices, shall preside, for the determination of all such complaints.

38. If at any such sessions the complaint shall be made good, it shall be lawful for the custos and magistrates to adjudge the employer to the payment of the wages in arrear, with costs; and, if necessary, to direct a levy to be made on the stock and chattels on the estate, for the satisfaction of such wages, and to discharge the labourer from his contract.

VII.—An Ordinance for the prevention of Indolence, Vagrancy, the neglect of Work, and such other Offences as may be committed by the rural Population of British Guiana.

Sect. 1. It shall not be lawful for the employer of any labourer to whip, strike, beat, imprison, or otherwise punish such labourer for any offence by him or her committed; but all such offences shall be taken cognizance of, and punished in the manner hereinafter mentioned, and not otherwise.

2. Any labourer who shall absent himself from his employment, even with reasonable cause, shall forfeit, for the benefit of his employer, the wages accruing due in respect of the time of such his or her absence.

3. Any labourer absenting himself from his employment with reasonable cause, and not giving to his or her employer the earliest possible intimation of such intended absence, and of the cause thereof, shall in like manner forfeit twice the amount of the wages accruing due in respect of such period of absence.

4. Any labourer absenting himself from his employment without reasonable cause, for half or any smaller proportion of a day, shall forfeit a whole day's wages.

5. Any labourer absenting himself from his employment without reasonable cause for more than half a day, shall forfeit three days' wages.

6. Any labourer absenting himself from his employment without reasonable cause for two successive days, or on two distinct days within the same fortnight, shall, on conviction before a justice of the peace, be adjudged a deserter.

7. Any labourer absenting himself from his employment without a reasonable cause for three or more successive days, or for three days during any one fortnight, shall, on conviction before any justice of the peace, be adjudged a vagabond.

8. Any labourer convicted of being a deserter shall be adjudged to hard labour for one week in the House of Correction, or in the penal gang of the parish; or if adjudged a vagabond, to twice that length of imprisonment and hard labour.

9. Any labourer absenting himself from his employment without reasonable cause for one entire week, or any longer time, shall, in addition to such punishment aforesaid, be further adjudged to receive at the House of Correction, in the presence of the serjeant of police, any number of stripes not exceeding 20, on the bare back.

10. Any labourer who shall be found wandering about as a beggar or vagrant, and who shall not be able to give a satisfactory account of himself, shall be adjudged a vagabond, and shall be punished by imprisonment for any term not exceeding two months, and whipping not exceeding 20 stripes.

11. Any registered labourer who shall refuse to labour for wages on the terms already mentioned, shall be liable to imprisonment and hard labour in the penal gang until he shall consent to labour, and shall actually commence labouring on the conditions aforesaid.

12. Any labourer who shall neglect to perform any labour for which he shall have so engaged himself, or who shall perform the same in a negligent and improper manner, or who shall by wilful negligence damage the property of his employer, shall, on conviction, for the first offence forfeit for the benefit of his employer any number of days' wages not exceeding six, and for the second offence shall be subject to confinement in the stocks during any number of hours not exceeding twelve, or to imprisonment and hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; and for the third and any future offence, to three times that amount of punishment.

13. Any labourer who shall be guilty of insolence or insubordination to his employer, shall be liable to imprisonment and hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks.

14. Any labourer who shall, by the careless use of fire, endanger the property of his employer or of any other person, or who shall be convicted of drunkenness, or who shall ill-use any cattle or other stock, or who shall wantonly destroy or injure the property of his employer intrusted to his charge, or who shall fail to provide according to his ability for his or her infant child or infirm or superannuated parent, shall, for any such offences, at the discretion of the justice of the peace before whom he may be convicted, be adjudged to confinement in the stocks during the day-time, for any number of successive days not exceeding

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exceeding six, or to whipping not exceeding 20 stripes, or to imprisonment and hard labour in the penal gang for any term not exceeding three months.

15. During the imprisonment of any labourer, all wages which, according to his contract, would have accrued to him, shall be forfeited.

16. In case of any riot or combined resistance to the laws on the part of any three or more labourers, the police of the parish, or of any adjoining parish, shall, on a requisition for that purpose, immediately repair to the spot, and act as they shall be directed by any justice of the peace, for the repression of any such riot or lawless proceedings.

17. All persons engaged in any such riot shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment or labour in the penal gang, for any term not exceeding six months, or to whipping not exceeding 39 lashes.

18. Any justice of the peace resorting to or present at any such riotous assemblage shall cause a flag, or some other appropriate signal, to be exhibited as a warning to all persons there present to separate and quietly disperse.

19. All persons who, at the expiration of ten minutes next after the exhibition of such flag or signal, shall continue present at any such riotous assemblage, shall, on conviction, be liable to transportation, or to imprisonment, or to labour in the penal gang, for any term not exceeding 12 months.

20. If it shall be made to appear to any justice of the peace that any registered labourers have, without lawful authority, established themselves in the interior of the colony as a distinct community, declining to engage in labour for wages, such justice shall authorize the police to repair to any such place, and to dislodge any such community, and to bring the members thereof before him to be dealt with according to law.

21. If any unskilled labourer shall be found beyond the limits of the parish to which he belongs (except in his way to or from market, or to or from some place of divine worship, or at such market or place), and shall not have with him a pass for that purpose from his employer or from some justice of the peace of the parish, he shall be liable to be apprehended, and shall, on conviction, be adjudged a vagabond, and punished accordingly.

22. No labourer shall change the place of his settlement or take up his residence beyond the limits thereof, except with the written consent of the custodes of the parish from which, and of the parish to which, such removal shall be made.

23. Every custos refusing such assent shall report such refusal, with the grounds thereof, to the Governor, who shall be authorized to sanction or to overrule such refusal as he may see fit.

24. Every labourer changing the place of his settlement shall thereupon be expunged from the registry of the parish he may leave, and introduced upon the registry of the parish to which he may resort.

25. No registered labourer shall quit the colony except by virtue of a passport from the Governor.

26. For every such passport a duty of 5*l.* shall be paid.

27. Any labourer attempting to quit the colony without such a passport, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment and hard labour for any term not exceeding six months.

28. All persons whose ordinary occupation is on the sea, or on any navigable stream, as fishermen or mariners, shall be registered as such in the parochial registry; and persons engaging in any such occupation, without being first so registered, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment and hard labour for any term not exceeding three months.

29. All vessels and boats not registered under the Navigation Acts shall be registered at the office of the custos of the parish, with whom shall be entered the description of the vessel or boat, the name of the owner, and the place at which the same is usually moored.

30. No person shall keep a vessel or boat not registered under the Navigation Acts, except by a license from the Governor.

31. All licensed owners of boats or vessels shall be bound to moor them, when not actually afloat, at the place or places mentioned in such license.

32. All unlicensed vessels and boats shall be liable to seizure and confiscation; and all licensed vessels and boats, moored at any place not mentioned in the license, shall be liable to detention, until the owner thereof shall have paid a fine of not less than 20*s.*, nor more than 5*l.*

33. All persons removing or assisting to remove any registered labourer from the colony, in any boat or vessel, without a passport from the Governor, shall be liable to a penalty of 50*l.*, or imprisonment for any time not exceeding one month.

VIII.—An Ordinance for promoting Education and Religious Instruction throughout the Colony of British Guiana.

Sect. 1. A school shall be established in each parish for the education of the children therein in reading and writing, and for their instruction in the Christian religion.

2. All children between the ages of five and twelve years, whose places of abode shall not be more than two miles from such school, shall be compelled to attend thereat daily.

3. A board of education, consisting of _____, shall be established to superintend the management of such schools, to appoint the teachers therein, to erect school-houses, to purchase books and other necessary articles, and to frame regulations to be observed in such schools.

4. The parent of every child educated in any such school shall be bound to contribute the wages of one week in each year towards the fund for the maintenance thereof; but no such parent shall contribute a greater sum, however many may be his or her children instructed in any such school.

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5. The employer of every such labourer shall deduct the amount of any such contribution from the wages of such labourer, and shall pay the same to the treasurer of the said Board of Education.
6. The British statute, 52 Geo. 3, cap. 155, for the freedom of religious worship, shall be in force in the colony of British Guiana.

PAPER, No. 2.

In the accompanying Paper will be found a general epitome of the measures which His Majesty's Government have in their contemplation for the abolition of negro slavery, and for promoting industry amongst the manumitted slaves. The object of the present Paper is to give a compendious explanation of the principal motives by which those measures have been suggested. There are many topics of the highest importance intimately connected with the general subject, the discussion of which is purposely declined on the present occasion; because it is anxiously desired that the attention of those for whose perusal the following pages are intended, may be for the moment withdrawn from all questions, excepting those to which it is necessary to advert in estimating the practicability and the probable effects of the plan to be brought under their notice.

With a view to perspicuity and precision, the contemplated measures are exhibited in the form of a series of laws. But with a view to brevity and to the exclusion of questions not strictly essential to the main object, those supposed laws are designedly left incomplete in many of the subordinate details. This general remark will be borne in mind as explanatory of various omissions and defects, which the most cursory view of the accompanying documents will suggest to every one familiar with the subject. Such deficiencies, however, may be easily supplied, if the general basis be admitted.

The projected laws are eight in number. The two first would be passed by Parliament, the remaining six by the different colonial legislatures. The motives for referring the execution of so large a part of the design of those bodies are, first, that it is not fit that the interference of the legislature of the United Kingdom should go beyond the limits which the necessity of the case prescribes; and, secondly, that the various regulations comprised in the six last laws would be best adapted to the local peculiarities of the different colonies by persons resident there. Without further preface a general outline of the measures in contemplation will now be given in the order observed in the successive enactments to which reference has already been made.

I. The first law purports to be an Act of Parliament for the extinction of slavery in the British Colonies from the 1st of January 183 . It is, however, provided that the Act shall not come into operation if, before that period, laws to the same effect shall be passed by the several colonial legislatures.

It is not within the design of the present Paper to discuss or even to explain the various reasons which are thought to demand the adoption of a measure thus decisive. A more appropriate opportunity will not be wanting for that purpose. For the present it may be sufficient to say that an early and complete emancipation of the slaves is not a matter of choice but of strict necessity. By the operation of causes which it is no longer possible to control, the existing relations of society in the colonies, between the proprietary and the labouring classes, are on the eve of a total change. The choice is now to be made between a prolonged and hopeless contest on the one hand, and a deliberate transition from slavery to freedom on the other. Even if all arguments derived from considerations of expediency, humanity and justice were laid aside, and the question were regarded in the isolated view of what is now practicable, the Government would feel it to be their duty to interpose, to the utmost extent of their power, between the contending parties, by bringing to a decisive termination a controversy which could not otherwise be closed, and which could not be prolonged without results the most disastrous to the interests of this kingdom, and to all classes of persons inhabiting the sugar colonies.

It is earnestly hoped that, on a deliberate view of the position in which they stand, the West India legislatures will perceive how real and how urgent is the exigency of their affairs; and that, availing themselves of the opportunity which the proposed Act would afford them, they will themselves originate the measure of emancipation, and secure, while it may yet be obtained, the confidence and gratitude of those on whom the boon of freedom will be bestowed.

II. The second of the projected laws is an Act of Parliament authorizing the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to apply the sum of _____ pounds sterling towards the relief of the owners of the slaves to be manumitted. The design is, that this sum should be advanced as loans to the different colonies, and that the sums appropriated to each should be in proportion to the amount and value of the produce which, on an average of the last seven years, they have respectively exported to this kingdom. The British Treasury would accept the public faith of the several colonial legislatures as the security for the repayment of the loan, the principal of which would be discharged at the expiration of _____ years, and would bear, during that interval, an annual interest of four per cent., with an additional one per cent. as a sinking fund. The sum assigned to each colony would be advanced in loans, or otherwise, to individual proprietors, under such regulations as may hereafter be framed by the colonial legislatures, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

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Such is a summary of the effect of the intended enactment. The extent of the relief which it would afford is much more considerable than might appear at the first statement of such a proposal.

The proprietary body in the British West Indies may, for the present purpose, be considered as forming three distinct classes. These are—first, the owners of estates with slaves attached to them, who hold the land and the slaves subject to mortgages or other charges by which they are jointly bound; secondly, the owners of estates with slaves attached to them, who are exempt from any such debts; and thirdly, the owners of unattached slaves.

Of all the slaves at present inhabiting the British colonies, a very large majority are prædial, and are the property of the owners of the land on which they habitually labour. Of such properties, the proportion which is held subject to mortgages or other pecuniary liabilities is exceedingly great. It probably involves no material inaccuracy to suppose that not more than one-tenth in value are unencumbered. The interest on such debts, or the annual charges to which the borrower is subject on account of them, have been variously stated as amounting on an average from 10 to 15 per cent. To avoid exaggeration, it may be taken at 10 per cent., which is probably much below the truth. A loan of money at four per cent. would therefore relieve nine-tenths of the estates in the West Indies from three-fifths of the most burthensome annual charge to which they are at present liable. This, however, would be a part only of the advantage which the proprietors would derive from the transaction. They would be at liberty to resort to the best markets, both for the purchase of supplies and for the sale of their produce. The length of the credit would enable them to engage in the cultivation of their estates without the dread of foreclosures of ejectments; unless, indeed, they should fail to pay the light annual charge due for interest on the loan; and even that demand could only be enforced by the colonial treasury, which would not be found a severe or harsh creditor.

It is to be anticipated that the prospects thus held out may be regarded as the less cheering, on account of the very heavy load of debt by which many West India estates are burthened. It is probably true, in various instances, that the mortgages and judgments affecting such properties materially exceed the entire value of the pledge; and the extinction of those debts which are entitled to a legal priority, would, it may be alleged, have little other effect than that of reviving dormant claims. Now, in cases of this nature, it cannot, with any reason, be said that the owner of the equity of redemption has any real interest in the subject. A man who has borrowed on the security of his estate more than its value, is the proprietor only in name. Still it must be obvious that the redemption of the first mortgage must, even in the least favourable cases, be a great benefit to the mortgagor. Without entering into technical explanations, with which, however, almost all West India proprietors are familiar, it may readily be perceived how, by the application of the loan to extinguish the debt due to the first creditor, the mortgagor may enjoy the undisturbed possession of the land, with the freedom of resort to the markets he may prefer; unless the subsequent mortgagees should consider the estate of sufficient value to pay off at once the debt due to the public. In cases in which that course should be taken, the most conclusive evidence would be given, that the change from servile to free labour had not much deteriorated the value of the property; or, in other words, that the proprietor had no peculiar claim to the assistance of the State.

To the second class of owners already mentioned, whose plantations are unencumbered, the proposed loan would afford a different, but scarcely a less important advantage. It cannot be doubted that the necessity of constantly maintaining, throughout the year, a body of labourers adequate to perform the work of the most arduous season, has greatly tended to check the use of those means by which, in other countries, human labour is economised. The proposed change would absolve the planters from this necessity, and would forcibly recommend a far more extensive employment of cattle, ploughs, and other machinery on the estates. A proprietor who was not compelled to apply the money he might borrow, towards the extinction of debts, would use it as a capital for the purchase of stock and implements of husbandry, by which he might greatly diminish his dependence on the emancipated slaves, for the cultivation of his land, and carry on the business of agriculture at a large reduction of his former expenses.

With regard to the third class of owners, whose slaves are either not engaged in husbandry, or are not attached to any particular estate, it must be admitted that the general manumission would operate with peculiar hardship on them. The proposed Act would, therefore, enable the colonial legislatures, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, to afford to such persons relief in such a form as the exigency of any particular cases might require.

III. The third of the proposed laws would be passed by the colonial legislatures, and would have in view the more direct relief of the proprietary body. It would ascertain their title to those lands and buildings which their slaves had formerly occupied by sufferance. It would discharge them from the responsibility of providing for the food, clothing, and medical treatment of the labouring population, whether in active life, in infancy, or in old age. It would cast upon the manumitted negroes the burthen of maintaining the destitute members of their own body. It would abolish all those offices and public establishments which the servile condition of the great mass of the people has hitherto rendered necessary. Finally, it would repeal every internal tax which has hitherto been raised in the colonies at the expense of the capitalists. The magnitude of this relief will be readily admitted; but

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the objection may as readily be foreseen, that such a remission of the public burthens would be impracticable. In the provisions contained in the next law in the service, the answer to that objection is to be found.

IV. The fourth law would be passed by the colonial legislatures, and would impose a tax of not less than 40 s. per annum on provision-grounds, with an equivalent duty on imported provisions. From this measure two principal results are anticipated. First, it would indirectly but inevitably induce the emancipated slaves to labour for wages. Secondly, it would yield a revenue at the expense of the same class of persons, adequate not only to supply the deficiency resulting from the repeal of other taxes, but to repay the principal and interest of the loans made by Great Britain to the different colonies. That such expectations should at first sight appear exaggerated or groundless, would not excite surprise; because they are founded on principles which, however just and important, have not usually attracted the notice of those who are not conversant with the history of the settlement of new countries. It is necessary, therefore, to suspend the consideration of the practical measure, which it is the object of this paper to unfold, in order shortly to refer to those principles. This apparent digression will, however, be found not only relevant, but even essential to a correct understanding of the immediate questions under consideration.

Between the condition of the poorer classes of society in old and densely peopled countries, and their state in territories recently acquired and partially occupied, there exists a distinction which affects the whole system of social life. In the greater part of Europe, the soil is either appropriated to private owners, or reserved in very small quantities to the state for some specific purposes. It is all either brought into cultivation, or devoted to some ends of public convenience. The mass of the population are wholly unable to draw an independent subsistence from the land. If occupied at all by the poor, as in Ireland, it is on condition of paying rents, high in proportion to the extreme competition which prevails for that which has there become a necessary of life. If occupied by capitalists, as in England, the poor depend for their maintenance altogether on the wages which they can earn in the service of their wealthy neighbours. An inexorable necessity compels the English cottager to labour in the field for wages with which to purchase food. The same necessity urges the Irish peasant to labour for wages with which to pay the rent of the land on which his food is grown.

In countries recently settled, on the other hand, where the soil capable of cultivation would support a number of persons far more numerous than the actual inhabitants, large tracts of good land are either unappropriated, or are permitted by the proprietors to remain in their natural wild state. The means of obtaining food are therefore within the reach of every man. By cultivating a sufficient quantity of ground on his own account, he can maintain himself and his family; and ground fit for that purpose is so redundant and cheap, that in many situations the price is little more than nominal. Even those who are totally destitute of capital may purchase on very easy terms, and at a long credit, as many acres as will yield provisions for the consumption of a numerous household. The natural tendency and the invariable result of this state of things is, to raise the wages of manual labour far beyond what may be termed the proper level. Men who can obtain an abundant, though rude maintenance, by working on their own account, will either not work in the service of another at all, or not without a very high remuneration. To descend into the class of hired servants, in husbandry or in manufactures, is to sacrifice the independence which, valuable as it is everywhere, is peculiarly esteemed in countries where great inequalities of fortune are unknown. The excitement and adventure of a rural life, in which the settler has the government of his own time and pursuits, must also be surrendered. He further renounces the indulgence of that desire by which mankind are so generally actuated, of being ranked amongst the class of landholders, and of exercising the various civil franchises incident to that character. Accordingly it is invariably found that, in such countries, men are content to forego the use of many articles which, in a more refined state of society, habit or example have rendered indispensable, even to the most indigent. The sacrifice is voluntarily made, to enable them to assert their own personal independence, and to gratify the tastes already mentioned. They are content to live in rude dwellings and to wear coarse clothing, assured at least of an abundance of food and fuel, and satisfied that the same resources will in their turn be enjoyed by their children. Thus, in the Western States of America, in the British North American Provinces, in the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, and in the Australian settlements, the facility of procuring land has invariably created a proportionate difficulty in obtaining hired labourers. Those countries all illustrate the preference with which men always regard the condition of detached agriculturists, although accompanied by numerous privations, to that of workmen living upon wages amidst great comparative indulgence.

The emancipation of the slaves in Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana, if unqualified by any corrective provisions, would at once bring them into the state already described as characteristic of the inhabitants of countries imperfectly settled. If at liberty to follow their own inclination, it may be confidently predicted that they would not be allured from the occupation of the land, to engage in the steady cultivation and manufacture of sugar, for any wages which the planter could offer them. A controversy has been long and warmly agitated as to the disposition of the negroes to labour for wages in the field. On the one side, their reluctance to this mode of living has been ascribed to some generic distinction between the African and the European races; on the other hand, expectations have been cherished which would seem to proceed on the assumption that the negroes are gifted with a forethought and habits of self-control, of which it would be impossible to cite any other example.

example. The simple truth, however, would seem to be sufficiently obvious. Free negroes are found to act differently from other free men; not because they differ from others in character, but because their circumstances are different; and just in proportion as they are brought within the reach of those motives by which Europeans are governed, will their conduct resemble that of the natives of Europe.

Why is the Irish peasant thankful to perform any labour, however severe, for any wages, however trifling, while the Jamaica free negro refuses very large wages for services comparatively light? Is it because the wants of the one are few and simple, and those of the other numerous and artificial? Assuredly not; for the potatoes of the Irishman are, it is to be feared, less abundant and nutritious than the provisions of the negro, and his cabin is a less commodious residence than the hut of the other. Both alike, then, limit their desires to the first necessities of life. Is the difference attributable to the industry of the peasant, and to the indolence of the manumitted slave? That supposition is unfortunately at variance with well-established facts. The same love of repose distinguishes the Irishman and the negro, or, more properly speaking, is characteristic of all men who are not living under the constant excitement of some habitual stimulus to exertion. The real cause of the anxiety of the one to earn wages, and of the indifference of the other on that subject, is, that the first will lose the potato-ground, which is his sole dependence, if he cannot procure the means of paying his landlord's rent; while the other is free from every such anxiety. In the vast tracts of fertile and unoccupied ground amidst which he lives, the African or Creole freed-man perceives an unfailing resource for the subsistence of his family and himself. The free negro, if transferred into a population as dense as that of Ireland, or the Irishman, if migrating to a country as thinly peopled as Jamaica, would each be found to reverse his present habits in this respect; the one anxiously seeking for the wages which he had previously refused, the other despising the hired service which he had formerly solicited.

Assuming that it is desirable that the emancipated slaves should betake themselves to the earning of wages for labour on the plantations, the mode of effecting that result is therefore to bring them within the reach of those inducements which are daily seen to triumph over the love of ease of the Irish peasant. Such an increase of the population as would reduce all the poorer classes to a precarious and scanty subsistence, would infallibly work out this effect in the colonies, as it has in Ireland. But that is an extreme remedy, which it is earnestly to be hoped will never be practically brought to stimulate the activity of the inhabitants of the West Indies; and if, unhappily, such a change should take place, it could not arrive for some generations. Is it then impracticable, by foresight and provident legislation, to create in Jamaica that disposition to labour for wages which exists in Ireland? If the Irishman is found to work steadily for the means of paying the rent of his cabin and potato-ground, may it not be believed that the emancipated slave will work with equal assiduity, to enable himself to pay the tax on his hut and provision-grounds? For the moment the possibility of enforcing payment is, for the sake of argument, assumed. On that assumption (which will be subsequently vindicated), it may be asked, in what essential respect would the two cases differ? The peasant and the negro are equally attached to their homes; equally devoted to the welfare of their families; equally simple in their habits of life; and equally solicitous of ease. They would be alike dependent on the land for support; alike holding their land subject to an annually recurring charge, which, again, they would be alike unable to defray, except by devoting some of their leisure time to the earning of wages. Why then should it be doubted that the motives to exertion being the same, those motives would produce the same results in each?

The inability of the emancipated negro to pay the proposed land-tax, except by earning wages, may be disputed. It will be said that he may sell the surplus produce of his ground for that purpose, and thus render himself wholly independent of earnings. That occasionally, and in peculiarly favourable situations, this might be the case, is not denied; nor would any one desire that the entire body of the people should be compelled to seek their maintenance by hired service. But it is not less evident that this is a resource which would fail in proportion to the enlargement of the numbers of those who had no other reliance. If all the labouring class, or any large proportion of them, should resort to the market as sellers of provisions, they would very speedily be unable to find purchasers at all, or to sell at a remunerating price. The supposition implies the abandonment of the culture of exportable produce, and, with it, the extinction or rapid decline of the great commercial marts to which it is apprehended that the negroes would carry their redundant produce for sale. Such a practice, if generally adopted, would therefore rapidly counteract the design in which it might originate. The demands of the revenue officer could be met by the sale of surplus provisions, so long only as a large demand for them prevailed; that is, so long as they were not produced in excess, and as the export trade, on which the great provision markets depend, should continue to flourish.

It will be further objected, that the land not being worth the amount of the tax, and the occupier having no property by which it could be defrayed, it would be impracticable really to levy such an impost.

When it is stated that land is not worth 40 s. per acre, if the statement be made with reference to the value in exchange, or the price for which the land might be sold or let, the truth of the assertion will be at once conceded. But if the worth or value of the land in reference to its use to the occupier, be meant, then it may, in that sense, be justly pronounced inestimable. It is the first, or rather the one indispensable necessary of life. It presents the only practicable means of procuring food. A law which should dispossess every occu-

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pier of his land, on his making default in the annual payment of the land-tax, would urge such occupiers, by the most irresistible of all motives, to raise the means of averting such a loss. Would those means, then, be within the reach of the manumitted negroes?

In answer to that question, it must be observed that, though destitute of all other property, there is one commodity, if so it may be termed, in which the manumitted slaves would abound. It is leisure time. The fact has been placed beyond all dispute, that a family consisting of parents capable of labour, with any number of children, can, in Jamaica, by the labour of about 70 days in each year, raise as much provisions as will maintain them in abundance for 365 days. There being 313 annual working days, a free negro and his family, after providing for their own food, would therefore have 243 days yearly at his disposal. Suppose the value of a day's labour to be only 6*d.*, he might, by hiring himself to service, earn 6*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per annum, a sum which would pay the tax upon more than three acres of land. It is evident, however, that three acres are very much more than would be required for the support of any single family; therefore, at the lowest conceivable value of hired labour, the negro would in his leisure time have an unfailing resource with which to meet the demand of the colonial treasury upon him.

It will, however, be alleged that the whole revenue derivable from this source, even if capable of being levied, would not be adequate to supply the deficiency arising from the repeal of taxes. A specific illustration will afford a better answer to this objection than any mere abstract reasoning.

The entire revenue annually raised in Trinidad by duties of customs and internal taxes on slaves and houses, annually amounts to the sum of 25,944*l.* In that island it appears that there are at present in cultivation 14,328 acres of provision-grounds, and 11,110 acres of pasture land; a tax of 40*s.* per annum on provision-grounds would yield an annual income of 28,656*l.*; a tax of 10*s.* per acre on pasture land would yield 5,555*l.*; making together an annual revenue of 34,211*l.* Thus the proposed tax would replace all the existing duties of customs, poll-taxes, and taxes on houses, and leave a surplus of 8,267*l.* applicable to the repayment of the loan which would be advanced by the British Treasury to the island. To meet the latter demand the colonial treasury would further be entitled to receive from the individual borrowers an annual interest equal to the entire annual charge, and from the same source the capital would be ultimately replaced.

There is no reason to suppose that the condition of Trinidad materially varies in these respects from that of any other colony in which the manual labourers are supported by indigenous food. Thus, then, it appears that the revenue which might be raised from the proposed tax on provision-grounds, would render the extinction of other taxes at present affecting the capitalist, not only practicable, but easy.

Hitherto, as has been more than once acknowledged, the argument has proceeded on the assumption of a principle which will of course be disputed; namely, that it would be possible to enforce the payment of the tax from the labouring population. To justify that assumption, it will next be convenient to advert to the law which follows next in the series, as well as to some of the proposed subsequent enactments.

V. The fifth of the projected laws would be passed by the colonial legislatures. The object of it would be to divide the colonies into districts of convenient size, described in the draft as parishes; to establish in each parish a stipendiary magistrate, invested with authority over the other parochial justices of the peace, who is designated as the *custos*; and to create in each parish what is termed a "police settlement," or, in other words, a military colony, consisting of privates and proper officers, of whom a part would be always engaged in active service as policemen, and another part, by a settled rotation, in cultivating land for the subsistence of the supposed colony. The wives and children of the privates would cooperate in the business of cultivation; and, by establishing at each settlement a penal gang, to which offenders would be committed to hard labour, an additional assistance would be obtained towards effecting any works required for the support or comfort of the establishment. The officers and privates would be clothed, and would receive pay at the public expense, and a system of promotion would be established as a reward for good conduct.

It would for the present purpose be superfluous to enlarge upon the details of this part of the scheme. It will, however, be recommended by the consideration that it is a plan, not of English but of colonial origin, and is almost entirely borrowed from an Act passed by the Legislature of Jamaica, in their session of 1831-32.

Thus, then, one most important step would be taken, not only for the general maintenance of order, but for enforcing the punctual payment of the tax on provision-grounds, by constituting a police force, distributed throughout every part of the colonies, and capable of being called into action at any point, at a short notice. Still further securities it is, however, admitted are necessary, and to them it is next proposed to refer.

VI. The sixth law in the projected series of enactments is intended to regulate the labour which the manumitted slaves would be required to perform, and the wages which they would be entitled to receive.

As there at present exists in each colony a registry of the slaves, it is proposed that there should henceforth be in each parish a parochial registry of the entire population. It would be divided into three classes: first, unskilled labourers; secondly, skilled labourers; thirdly, all other persons. A triennial revision of these registries would enable the *custos* under whose charge they would be placed, to transfer any individual from one class to another. The class of unskilled labourers would again be subdivided into three distinct divisions: the first consisting of all adult males capable of labour; the second, of boys and adult females capable

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capable of labour; the third, of the aged and the young of both sexes fit only for light work.

All persons being considered as settled in the parishes in which they might thus be registered, the labourers, whether skilled or unskilled, would be required to work for any person who might employ them, leaving it, of course, to the labourers to avail themselves of the most advantageous offers which they might receive; but in each half-year tables would be furnished assessing the daily amount of work to be done in each description of manufactures and agriculture, and the daily amount of wages to be paid for each; a distinct provision being made in respect of each mode of employment for each of the three distinct classes of unskilled labourers. No person would be permitted to remain inactive to whom the wages prescribed in the tables should be tendered, in return for the labour which those tables would require.

Such being the general outline of the plan, the great principle of personal freedom as contradistinguished from domestic slavery, would be established. Every man would receive the fair value of his own labour, and no one would be required to labour beyond his ability. On the other hand, the great principle of civil liberty would not be infringed. The State is entitled to demand of all its members, that on receiving a fair equivalent they shall perform such duties for the common good of society as they may be best qualified to discharge. Emancipation, properly understood, does not imply the right to be indolent when profitable labour is to be had, but only the right to labour moderately in obedience to a general law for a fair compensation, subject to such penalties for disobedience as the law may have prescribed, and as the magistrate alone shall inflict.

There seems no good reason to doubt that with the aid of the proposed police the labouring classes might be compelled steadily to perform the prescribed tasks.

To revert to the question already noticed of the practicability of enforcing payment of the tax on provision-grounds, it should here be mentioned that the proposed law would authorize the employer to deduct the amount of that tax from the wages of the occupier, and that it would also authorize the revenue officer to call upon him to make that deduction.

With a view to brevity, a general reference is made to the accompanying draft for an explanation of the means by which accuracy would be insured in assessing periodically the amount of wages. It should, however, be distinctly noticed, that all employers and labourers would be left free to enter into any other arrangements which their mutual convenience might dictate.

Still, however, it will be urged that no adequate provision is made for preventing encroachments on lands to which the negroes would have no legal title, nor for the prevention or punishment of the offences to which such a rural population would be most addicted. It therefore becomes necessary to advert to the next general subject of legislation.

VII. The next of the proposed laws is intended to maintain order and discipline, and to prevent or punish vagrancy and the other offences of the free rural labourers.

All labourers of the unskilled class found beyond the precincts of their parishes, would be liable to be seized by the police as vagrants. Persons wandering at large, and unable to give a satisfactory account of themselves, would be liable to conviction as vagabonds. No person would be permitted to change his settlement, except by the license of the custos. Persons quitting the plantations on which they had engaged to labour, would forfeit twice the amount of the wages accruing during the time of absence. Labourers absenting themselves for 48 hours, or upwards, would be liable to be convicted as deserters. For each of these offenders, whether vagrants, vagabonds or deserters, appropriate penalties would be provided.

The illicit occupation of land would be denounced as a specific offence, to be visited with severe punishment.

It would be declared highly criminal to attempt to quit the colony, except with a passport, on which a large duty would be payable.

Penalties would be denounced against indolence; the negligent performance of labour; insubordination or insolence to an employer; the neglect of children or parents; drunkenness; the ill-usage of cattle or stock; the neglect or misuse of the employer's property; and the careless use of fire.

In case of riots, provision would be made for the immediate collection of the police, or if necessary of the militia; and rioters, not dispersing after the exhibition by the magistrate of a signal for that purpose, would be declared guilty of felony, and made punishable accordingly.

By regulations of this nature, it is believed that all offences most dangerous to the public peace, or most injurious to the employers of the free negroes, might be effectually prevented.

VIII. The last of the proposed laws would make provision for the education of the emancipated slaves, and for the free enjoyment of religious toleration in the colonies. On the indispensable necessity for such regulations, there will be no difference of opinion. So far as relates to toleration, nothing more is required than to declare the British Statute, 52 Geo. 3, c. 155, to be in force in the colonies. On the subject of education it has not been attempted to advance beyond a few general and elementary rules; it being proposed to establish a Board for that purpose in each colony, by which all the details of the measure would be filled up.

Appendix, No. 2.

Papers referred to
in Letter to Lord
Goderich.

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The preceding very general outline of the plan which it is proposed to recommend to Parliament and to the colonial legislatures, has been compressed into a space too narrow for the complete exposition either of the details or the general principles of the measure. The immediate object, however, being chiefly to invite discussion, enough may probably have been said for that purpose, if, as it is earnestly hoped, the discussion be conducted in the same spirit of earnest solicitude to discover a safe and satisfactory solution of this arduous question in which the proposal is made.

Appendix, No. 3.

PAPERS delivered in by Mr. G. H. Loxdale, 15 March 1848.

BRITISH GUIANA. 1841.

Appendix, No. 3. AN ORDINANCE for granting to Her Majesty the Queen a fixed Revenue for the Support of the Civil Government of *British Guiana*, for a period of Seven Years.

ORDINANCE ENACTED by his Excellency Sir *Henry George Macleod*, K.H. and K.S.W., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of *British Guiana*, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said Colony.

To all to whom these presents shall or may come, greeting; be it known:—

Preamble.

WHEREAS the honourable the Court of Policy and Financial Representatives of the inhabitants in Combined Court assembled, have placed at the disposal of Her Majesty, during a period of seven years, commencing from the 1st day of January 1841, an annual sum of 39,072 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.* sterling, equivalent to 187,549 dollars 33 cents, for the support of the civil list establishment of this colony:

And whereas it is expedient that such provision should be confirmed and made permanent during the said period by an ordinance of this court, and that the ordinance made and passed on the 5th and 6th days of May last past should be repealed and annulled;

And whereas Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to authorize the surrender during the continuance of this ordinance, and no longer, of all and singular the proceeds of the revenue heretofore, to wit, prior to the 1st day of January 1836, accruing to and payable into the chest, commonly called the King's Chests of Demerara and Berbice, and has directed the same to be paid into the colony chest, in aid of the general ways and means of British Guiana;

Ordinances of
5th & 6th May
last repealed.

1. Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency Colonel Sir Henry George Macleod, K.H. and K.S.W., Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the colony of British Guiana, vice-admiral, and ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the honourable the Court of Policy of said colony, that a certain ordinance made and passed on the 5th day of May, of this present year 1840, entitled "An Ordinance for the Support of the Civil Government of British Guiana;" and a certain other ordinance made and passed on the 6th day of May of the year 1840, entitled "An Ordinance to apply the Surplus Duties of Her Majesty's Customs, in aid of the Civil List Establishment of British Guiana, on and after the 1st day of January 1841," shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be repealed, cancelled, annulled, and made void.

Civil List fixed.

2. And be it further enacted, that there shall be, and there is hereby granted to Her Majesty the Queen, her heirs and successors, for and during the term and space of seven years, commencing on and from the 1st day of January 1841, and ending on the 31st day of December 1847, an annual sum of 39,072 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.* sterling, equivalent, at the rate of 4 *s.* 2 *d.* sterling to the dollar, to \$ 187,549. 33., to be paid and applied to the following annual objects and purposes; viz.

	£.	s.	d.
To the Governor (the colony providing his Excellency with a residence)	5,000	—	—
To the Chief Justice	2,500	—	—
To the two Puisné Judges	3,000	—	—
To Secretary to the Chief Justice	630	—	—
To Government Secretary, 800 <i>l.</i> ; Secretary to the Court of Policy, 700 <i>l.</i>	1,500	—	—
To Assistant Government Secretary	600	—	—
To the Clerks, stationery for the Government Secretary's office and the Court of Policy, and contingencies for the Government Secretary's office	450	—	—
To Attorney-general	1,100	—	—
To Solicitor-general	300	—	—

	£.	s.	d.
To High Sheriff - - - - -	1,250	-	-
To Clerk to High Sheriff - - - - -	300	-	-
To Sheriff of Berbice - - - - -	900	-	-
To Sheriff of Essequibo - - - - -	700	-	-
To 10 stipendiary Magistrates, each 700 l. - - - - -	7,000	-	-
To Contingencies - - - - -	2,400	-	-
£.	27,630	-	-

3. Pensions or retiring allowances to the under-mentioned persons; viz.—

Retiring Pensions,

	£.	s.	d.
J. Sullivan - - - - -	595	10	8
W. D. Parr - - - - -	595	10	8
Col. Hallam - - - - -	416	17	5
Col. Innes - - - - -	404	19	3
£.	2,012	18	-

4. Provided always, that on the death of any of the said persons, or the grant to any of them by Her Majesty of any situation or place of emolument, the amount payable to such person shall lapse, and the saving thereby accruing shall enure to the benefit of the colony, in deduction of the aforesaid permanent civil list establishment.

to lapse on death or employment.

5. Ecclesiastical establishment of the Churches of England and Scotland, and of the Dutch Reformed Church; viz.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

	£.	s.	d.
The Venerable the Archdeacon of British Guiana - - - - -	500	-	-
Stipends of Rectors and Ministers of 15 country parishes - - - - -	6,250	-	-
Stipend of the Rector of St. George - - - - -	569	4	10
Ditto - Minister of St. Andrew - - - - -	569	4	10
Ditto - ditto - Dutch Reformed Church, Demerara, and Essequibo - - - - -	569	4	10
The Rector of the Church of England, New Amsterdam - - - - -	486	2	5
The Minister of the Church of Scotland, New Amsterdam - - - - -	486	2	5
£.	9,429	19	4

6. And be it further enacted, that the said annual civil list establishment shall be the same is hereby declared to be charged upon and made payable from and out of the colonial revenues of British Guiana, and shall be taken to begin and to commence on and immediately after the 1st day of January 1841, and shall be paid annually to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, up to and until the 31st day of December 1847, with preference over and above all other payments which have therefore been, or which shall, or may hereafter be charged or chargeable, or payable to, from, or out of the said colonial revenues; and that the said annual sum of 39,072l. 17s. 4d., or 187,549 dollars, 33 cents, shall grow due and become payable to Her Majesty quarterly; that is to say, on the 1st day of April, the 1st day of July, the 1st day of October, and the 1st day of January in each year, by even and equal portions, out of the monies of the said colonial revenues of British Guiana; the first quarterly payment thereof to be made upon the 1st day of April next ensuing the date of this Ordinance: and the receiver-general of British Guiana, and the assistant receiver-general of Berbice for the time being, are, and each of them is hereby authorized and required, from time to time, upon the warrant or order of the governor or officer administering the government for the time being, to pay such yearly revenues out of the monies arisen or to arise from and out of the said colonial revenues, without any further or other order or formality: provided always, that the amount so from time to time to be paid as aforesaid, for or in respect of each quarter, shall not exceed one-fourth part of such yearly civil list.

Civil List preferent charge upon Colonial Revenues, and payable quarterly.

7. And be it further enacted, that the chests of Demerara and Berbice, commonly called the King's Chests, and heretofore abolished by Ordinance of the 8th day of February 1836 until the 31st day of December 1840, and which Ordinance expired on the said 31st day of December 1840, shall continue to be abolished from the 1st day of January 1841 until the 31st day of December 1847; and that the entire proceeds of the revenue, of whatever nature or description the same may be, whether arising from the sale or grant of Crown lands, or otherwise, which of right or by custom have hitherto, that is to say, prior to the 1st day of January 1836, been payable to Her Majesty's predecessors, and which shall have accrued, and shall hereafter accrue, to Her present Majesty, Her heirs and successors, shall, during the continuance of this present Ordinance, and no longer, be paid and payable into the colonial chest of British Guiana.

King's Chests abolished until 31st Dec. 1847, and Queen's Revenues payable into Colony Chest.

8. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of this Ordinance, the registrar's offices, the marshal's office, and the sheriff's offices of British Guiana, shall be subject to the regulation and control (by Ordinance) of the Governor and Court of Policy, and that the fees and revenues of the said last-recited offices, together with the fees and revenues of the government secretary's office, and of the secretary of the chief justice, shall also be subject to

Registrar's, Marshal's, and Sheriff's Offices subject to regulation and control of Court of Policy.

Appendix, No. 3.

to the like regulation and control by Ordinance: Provided always, that the salaries of such of the officers of the respective departments as are not, by this present Ordinance, placed on the civil list, shall be defrayed and paid out of the proceeds of the respective offices to which the officers may respectively belong; provided also, that any such Ordinance for the regulation of the offices and of the fees thereof respectively, as aforesaid, shall not remain in force beyond seven years.

Office of Secretary to Chief Justice to cease on, and when.

9. And be it further enacted, that the office of the secretary to the chief justice, when and so soon as the office of chief justice shall be vacated by the present chief justice, shall cease and determine, and the saving thereby accruing upon the salary of such secretary shall enure to the benefit of the colony, in deduction of the amount of such civil list.

Proportion of salaries to Stipendiary Justices.

10. And be it further enacted, that so long as Her Majesty's Government shall continue to provide for and shall pay to the stipendiary magistrates of any other colony in Her Majesty's possessions the salaries and emoluments hitherto received and enjoyed by them, the governor for the time being shall not be at liberty to grant warrants upon the colonial chests, for the salaries of the stipendiary magistrates of this colony, to a larger amount than will make up the difference between the said salaries and emoluments and the sum of 700*l.* hereby fixed as the salary of each stipendiary magistrate, and the saving thereby accruing shall enure to the benefit of this colony.

Contingencies not to pay salaries. Account annually to be laid before Court of Policy.

11. And be it further enacted, that no part or portion of the sum of 2,400*l.* granted by this Ordinance for contingencies shall be paid or applied to the increase of any salary upon the civil list establishment fixed by the present Ordinance, and that an account of the expenditure of the contingencies, and of the retiring allowances hereby granted and provided, and of the application and disposition thereof, shall be laid before the Court of Policy at its first session in each year; and that all such sums of money which shall, at the end of each year, remain after payment of all such contingencies as are now, or which hereafter, during the said term of seven years shall be charged upon or granted, or payable therefrom or thereout, shall be paid into the colonial chest, and shall become part or parcel of the ways and means of British Guiana: Provided always, and it is hereby expressly declared, that the rendering of any such account or accounts of the contingencies as aforesaid shall not extend or be construed to extend to authorize or permit the Court of Policy, or involve any right on the part of the Court of Policy, to dispute or question the propriety of any charge or payment which shall have been made for any of the purposes for which the civil list may have been granted; and moreover, that the warrant of the governor or officer administering the government, with the receipt of the person to whom the money shall be issued, shall be conclusive vouchers of any such charge or payment.

No power to dispute items.

And that no ignorance may be pleaded of the several orders contained in this Ordinance, these presents shall be published as customary.

Thus done and enacted at our Extraordinary Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, in Georgetown, Demerara, this 6th day of January 1841, and published on the 7th following.

(signed) *H. G. MacLeod,*

(By command of the Court.)

(signed) *H. E. F. Young, Secretary.*

Copy of a LETTER from *J. Hadfield, Esq.,* Crown Surveyor and Commissary of Population, to the Honourable *H. E. F. Young,* Government Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

Sir, Georgetown, Demerara, 17 December 1844.

In obedience to his Excellency's commands, I beg leave to submit herewith a List of the villages and settlements established, or commenced by the agricultural labourers, on lands purchased by them since the emancipation, being a copy of that furnished in October last, corrected, however, as regards the number of cottages, and the population of some of the places, for which an enumeration thereof was then assumed, in consequence of a deficiency of correct information respecting them, as alluded to in my concluding remarks; but which defect I have, in a great measure, been since enabled to supply, by personally visiting those places for the purpose; from which I have ascertained that the enumeration so assumed was, in many instances, much under-rated. And as the cottages then under erection, and uninhabited, were not taken into account, and as many have since been erected, I think I may with confidence estimate the number of the emancipated peasantry inhabiting their own dwellings at at least 19,000.

With regard to the two columns of enumeration of plots of land purchased, distinguishing those for which titles have been received by them, and those for which they have not, the first has been extracted from the returns thereof made by the respective registrars, by order of the Honourable Court; those of Demerara and Essequibo to the 2d September, and those of Berbice to the 9th September last, the former being 1,485 in number, and the latter 398; but it is to be observed, as those are only enumerated as single ones where entire plantations have been purchased by a number of labourers in community, those cases would have to be multiplied by the number of purchasers in each, in order to show the actual number of persons of this class who have become proprietors of land, holding indisputable titles thereto, by which the whole would amount to 2,904; and adding to that the number of transports that have been passed since those dates, would make the total about 2,940.

The

The column of plots purchased, for which the parties have not obtained transports, has been abstracted from the returns of the stipendiary magistrates also, by order of the Court, I believe to July last, amounting, in the three counties, to 2,168; which, however, has been diminished, by the number of transports since passed, to about 2,086.

In the concluding remarks appended to my former return, I alluded to the difficulties and evils that must necessarily result from the nature of the titles conveyed to the purchasers of land in community, to the number, in some instances, of nearly 200 individuals, by a general transport, contained in one judicial act or instrument of a joint, unspecified, and undivided interest in the land so purchased, putting it out of the power of each of them to convey his interest to another, or subdivide it, unless with the unanimous consent of the whole, acknowledged in Court; and how that is to be obtained it is difficult to conceive, saying nothing of the expense. In one case the difficulty is considerably increased, through the existence of a mortgage in favour of the seller, passed *simul et semel* with the transport, for a balance of the purchase money, and yet many have, notwithstanding, disposed of portions of their interests to others, and probably received payment for them.

In the next place, the evil may be greatly augmented by such a contingency as the demise of any of the parties so circumstanced, rendering necessary, perhaps, the intervention of the Orphan Chamber or Administrator-general, who might, by virtue of his office, have to become a party to the original compact; and who would, in all probability, meet with considerable obstacles in his endeavours to discover the rightful heirs to the property he would be required to administer, from the extent to which illicit sexual intercourse is known still to exist, and manifested by the returns and records of births and baptisms coming into my hands officially; and from the unsuccessful working of the Ordinance enacted for the maintenance of a registry of births and deaths, which may be said to have proved almost totally abortive, especially as regards the rural settlements alluded to.

It may be observed, that these evils have not had their origin in the source from which my notice of them here has emanated; but I trust they will not be considered as impertinent or entirely unconnected with the subject of the accompanying returns. I may at the same time remark, that the evils themselves are neither hypothetical nor imaginary, for cases actually exist to which these representations are perfectly applicable. I do not, however, pretend to possess sufficient knowledge, either in a legislative or legal point of view, to enable me to suggest any expedient by which these difficulties might be overcome; but I am aware that the advocate, Mr. Christiani, has given the subject much consideration, originating, I believe, from a desire to assist one of the parties in that predicament; and I have no doubt he would willingly communicate the result thereof, if requested to do so. He proposes, I believe, the authorization by the whole body, of some person in whom they could confide, to act as their agent, for the special purpose of passing to each a transport of his individual share or interest in the property; presuming, at the same time, that by a joint petition to the authorities, respectfully representing the hardships of their case, and praying for a remission of a portion of the fees, such a boon might be extended to them. But I am respectfully of opinion, that if such authority as is frequently given by his honour the Chief Justice to sworn clerks to pass transports, under certain circumstances, could be extended to cases like those under consideration, that would be the easiest mode of obviating the difficulty.

I hope I shall not be accused of presumption in taking the opportunity also of briefly advertent to another subject that has occurred to me (and been strengthened by my occasional intercourse with them), having general reference to these settlements, whether labouring under the disadvantages alluded to or not, in respect of which I feel convinced legislative interposition would be productive of lasting benefits to the proprietary bodies of this class; and especially with regard to the more extensive of them, by the establishment of an appropriate code of municipal regulations, by which each of the proprietors should be bound to perform certain duties, and otherwise contribute to the general good, and placing them under some magisterial authority and control.

I think it cannot but be admitted that such communities as those, numbering 800 to 1,000 individuals, should not be left entirely to their own impulses, and without some salutary restraint being imposed on them (however unpalatable it may be to themselves, in the first instance), if it be considered desirable to provide for the preservation of their properties to themselves, as well as to their posterity, and to direct them in the way of averting calamities that might otherwise befall them, by falling into the hands of either the commissaries of roads, the courts of justice, or the marshals, or perhaps all of them; and the consequent sacrifice of their possessions, contingencies to be apprehended as long as they are permitted to indulge anarchial dispositions, and mistaken notions of independence.

I must crave indulgence for thus intruding on your valuable time, and what may be considered travelling out of the record; but as my suggestions are dictated by a desire to promote the welfare of those to whom they relate, by securing to them the benefits of their labours, and the establishment of wholesome institutions amongst them (the importance of which they may not yet be enabled to appreciate), and cannot be said to be entirely foreign to the subject of the accompanying return, I hope I may submit them without incurring the charge of presumption, and that they may not be found altogether unworthy of consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Hadfield,
Crown Surveyor and Commissary of
Population.

LIST of the ESTATES and ABANDONED ESTATES in the Colony of *British Guiana*, the whole or parts of which have been Purchased by AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, and upon which Villages or Hamlets have been or are being Established; with the Designations of such as have already received any, with reference locally to the Map of Major *Von Bouchenroeder*; together with a Statement of the actual or computed Population of each, and of the Extents of the Lands, and Numbers of Plots purchased, and the respective Tenures by which they are held;—Showing also, the relative Positions of the contiguous Places of Worship.

COUNTY OF BERBICE.

DISTRICT.	Name of Plantation.	Number on Map.	Name given to Village, &c.	Number of Plots Purchased.		Cottages Erected.	Population.	GENERAL REMARKS regarding the Nature and Extent of the Purchases, the relative Positions of Places of Worship, &c.		
				Transported.	Not Transported.					
Courantyne River and Coast.	Skeldon	80	- - -	-	-	-	-	- - - - -	- - Episcopal chapel of St. Margaret, on estate.	
	Mary's Hope	50	- - -	-	-	33	124	- - - - -	- - Episcopal chapel of St. Mary, on estate.	
	Liverpool	19	Liverpool	1	2	24	90	- - 166 acres, purchased by 20 labourers in community, for 2,000 dollars.	- - Parish church of St. Saviour's on Achlyne, (No. 17.)	
	Williamsburgh	9	Rosehall	-	-	58	224	- - Acres purchased by 57 ditto.		
	Hampshire	7	- - -	-	-	5	242	- - An obstacle against the transport of the other undivided half.	- - A London missionary chapel on the place.	
	Fyrish	3	Douglas Town	undivided half of 27.	-	49	30	- - 500 acres, purchased from government by John Adams, in behalf of a community of labourers, for 500 L., of whom 37 have paid up their quotas, and received transports.		
East Coast of Berbice.	2	Courland (grant).	-	37	-	-	204	- - 500 acres, purchased by 20 labourers in community, for 4,383 dollars.	- - Episcopal chapel of — on Smithson's (No. 8).	
	Gibraltar	39	Gibraltar	-	-	50	204	- - 500 acres, purchased by 20 labourers in community, for 4,383 dollars.	- - Episcopal chapel of — on Smithson's (No. 8).	
Right Bank, Canje Creek.	-	-	William's Town	-	-	14	44	- - - - -		
	Sheet Anchor	1	Bone's Town	6	3	16	61	- - - - -	A Wesleyan chapel on the land.	
	Cumberland	2	Cumberland	23	-	31	112	- - - - -	- - Parish church of St. Patrick, on Rose Hall (No. 5).	
	Enterprize and Toevlugt	13	- - -	-	-	11	30	- - - - -	Letters of decree.	
	Speculation	14	E. W.	3	-	13	36	- - - - -		
	-	-	-	18	-	21	58	- - 250 acres purchased by William Wood.		
	Good Land	15	- - -	-	-	5	20	51	250 acres purchased per transport, of which he has transported 18 plots.	
	Werk and Rust, Bachelor's, Adventure	16	- - -	-	-	7	4	20		
	New Forest and Voedster	17	- - -	-	-	10	4	15		
	20	- - -	10	4	-	18	58	- - - - -	- - Episcopal chapel of St. John, on estate.	
Vrede and Vriendschap.	21	- - -	-	-	-	5	18			
Enterprize	22	Harmony	-	3	5	17	- - 100 acres, in the Upper Canje purchased from Government by Fry & Co. for 100 L., sold by two labourers.	- - Episcopal chapel —, on Lochaber (No. 3); London missionary chapel, Orange, on Bleyendaal (5).		
Bara Cara	-	- - -	-	1	-	20	- - - - -			
Left Bank, Canje Creek.	Sandvoort	4	(grant) - - -	-	70	-	30	- - - - -		
	Prins. Willem'sth.	8	- - -	-	-	-	92	- - - - -		
	L'est Coffee Land.	9	- - -	-	-	-	31	- - - - -		
	Land of Canaan	-	- - -	-	-	-	6	- - 83 1/2 acres, purchased by Sante Primo, and transported.		
Right Bank, River Berbice.	Overweening	3	Islington	-	41	13	39	- - - - -	- - A London missionary chapel in the village.	
	Edinburgh	6	Edinburgh	-	35	6	17	- - - - -	- - A ditto - ditto - on Eveson (No. 7).	
	Sisters	12	- - -	-	9	57	177	- - - - -	- - A ditto - ditto - on Lonadale (No. 10).	
	Friends	13	- - -	1	-	1	5	- - - - -	- - Parish church of St. Clement, on the estate.	
	Enfield	14	- - -	13	-	20	64	- - - - -	- - Episcopal chapel, All Souls, on Kort Berad (15).	
	Highbury	20	- - -	-	-	-	-	- - - - -	- - Ditto - St. Augustine's, on Highbury.	
	Crown Land, above ditto.	21	(grants)	3	-	66	169	- - 337 acres, purchased from Government by three labourers for 337 l.	- - A London missionary chapel, on ditto.	

COUNTY OF BERBICE—continued.

DISTRICT.	Name of Plantation.	Number on Map.	Name given to Village, &c.	Number of Plots Purchased.		Cottages Erected.	Population.	GENERAL REMARKS	
				Transported.	Not Transported.			regarding the Nature and Extent of the Purchases, the relative Positions of Places of Worship, &c.	
Right Bank, River Berbice.	Plegt Anker -	24	- - -	-	-	31	91	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Zorg-en-Vlyt -	25	- - -	12	1	21	65	- - - - -	- - - - -
	N. Welgelegen	30	- - -	-	9	10	34	- - - - -	- - London missionary chapel "Brunswick," in the Enterprize Village.
	Enterprize -	38	- - -	18	65	89	248	- - - - -	- - 500 acres, purchased by a community of labourers for 5,833 dollars, 56 cents.
	Vryburg -	40	- - -	-	13	10	35	- - - - -	- - A Presbyterian chapel on Pin. Mara (No. 41).
Left Bank of River Berbice.	Germania -	42	- - -	16	20	12	28	- - - - -	- - - - -
	L'Esperance -	44	- - -	20	11	25	75	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Zorg-en-Hoop -	4	- - -	-	29	27	82	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Ithaca (S. ½) -	5	- - -	-	-	-	-	- - - - -	- - 500 acres, purchased by two parties of labourers (in community), in number 164, for 10,000 dollars transported to them, April 1844.
	Ditto (N. ½) -	-	Islington	13	183	182	781	- - - - -	- - A Lutheran chapel on Augsburg (No. 9).
	Cruysburg -	10	- - -	-	16	6	20	- - - - -	- - - - -
	N. Zuidwyk -	13	- - -	20	-	14	35	- - - - -	- - - - -
	New Scotland -	-	- - -	-	18	15	37	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Three Sisters -	14	- - -	2	-	14	59	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Broer's Lust -	-	- - -	1	-	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Cabourer.	-	- - -	-	-	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Lands -	-	(grants)	3	-	36	89	- - - - -	- - 3 plots of 100 acres each, purchased from Government by 3 labourers, at 17. sterling per acre.
	Nomen Nescio -	21	- - -	40	24	35	105	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Bestendigheid -	22	- - -	29	1	20	70	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Fearn -	25	- - -	3	-	3	9	- - - - -	- - A London missionary chapel on the estate.
Rossfield -	26	- - -	-	18	6	17	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Zuyd Holland -	28	- - -	39	31	66	250	- - - - -	- - - - -	
D'Edward -	2	Grove -	-	-	7	25	- - - - -	- - - - -	
West Coast of Berbice.	-	St. James' Town	-	66	55	275	- - - - -	- - London missionary chapel, "Hanover," in the village.	
" (E. ½)	8	- - -	-	25	10	40	- - - - -	- - - - -	
" (E. ½)	-	Inverness -	-	11	9	36	- - - - -	- - - - -	
" (W. ½)	9	Lee -	-	29	32	170	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Woodlands, W. ½	10	Woodley -	-	10	13	46	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Perseverance -	21	Broomfield (by Letters Decree). Hope Town	1	5	12	54	- - - - -	- - 131 acres, purchased by a community of labourers for 1,967 dollars, per letters of decree.	
and W ½ St. John	-	- - -	1	-	170	765	- - - - -	- - 470 acres, purchased by 63 labourers in community for 5,000 dollars.	
Lovely Lass -	25	Golden Grove -	1	38	49	194	- - - - -	- - ditto - by 109 for 2,000 dol.	
Albert Town -	28	Albert Town -	1	-	49	173	- - - - -	- - ditto - by 14 for 1,715 "	
Trafalgar, E. ½	29	Trafalgar -	1	23	29	110	- - - - -	- - ditto - by 10 for 3,666 "	
Union -	30	- - -	19	61	12	42	- - - - -	- - ditto - by 5 for 1,334 "	
Tempe -	31	- - -	-	22	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Litchfield -	38	- - -	1	43	80	246	- - - - -	- - ditto - by 12 for 3,000 "	
Golden Fleece (E. ½).	47	Blessed Queen	-	9	11	51	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Paradise (½) -	48	Blessed Victoria	-	20	20	82	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Bellarum -	49	Free and Easy	-	54	-	87	- - - - -	- - cottages being removed on account of the purchasers not obtaining titles.	
Ditto -	-	Cuning's Lodge	-	11	-	-	- - - - -	- - A Presbyterian chapel on Pin. Foulis (No. 52).	

COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

Recess -	1	- - -	-	12	11	42	- - - - -	- - Acres, purchased by two labourers for dollars, of which they have sold plots to 10 others; no transport.	- - A Presbyterian chapel in Mahaicony village.
Sea-coast, from Abery to Mahaicony.	Maria's Lodge -	9	- - -	-	5	4	15	- - - - -	A Wesleyan ditto.
Right Bank of Mahaicony Creek.	Relief -	1	- - -	-	16	-	-	- - - - -	- - Acres, purchased by one labourer for dollars, of which he has sold plots to 15 others; transport.
Left Bank of Mahaicony Creek -	Perth -	7	- - -	1	23	29	90	- - - - -	- - - - -
	Broomlands -	-	- - -	1	1	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -

COUNTY OF DEMERARA—continued.

DISTRICT.	Name of Plantation.	Number on Map.	Name given to Village, &c.	Number of Plots Purchased.		Cottages Erected.	Population.	GENERAL REMARKS regarding the Nature and Extent of the Purchases, the relative Positions of Places of Worship, &c.	
				Transported.	Not Transported.				
Sea coast, from Mahaicony to Mahaica.	Rebecca's Rest Cottage -	21	- - -	-	9	1	10	- - - acres, purchased by two labourers for dollars, of which they have sold plots to 7 others.	- - A Presbyterian chapel on plantation, Broom Hall (No. 18).
	Yorkshire Hall	12	- - -	3	-	-	-	- - - acres, purchased by one labourer for dollars, of which he has sold plots to six others.	
		5	- - -	-	7	-	-		
Right Bank of Mahaica.	Vevay -	12	- - -	1	1	1	4		
	Neufchatel -	-	- - -	-	5	-	-		
Left Bank of Mahaica Creek.	Virginia -	21	- - -	11	45	18	52		
	Strathaven -	17	- - -	-	10	4	14		
	Supply -	14	- - -	1	20	4	15		
	Voorzigtigheid Spring Hall -	6	Jones Town -	73	149	56	240		
		5	- - -	2	1	5	25		- - Parish church, St. Mary, Mahaica village.
	Mosquito Hall Grove (front) -	2	Randell Town -	-	15	16	65		- A Wesleyan chapel in ditto.
	Do. now Newton	3	Grove Place -	15	-	12	58		- - An Episcopal chapel on Greenfield (No. 5).
Sea coast, from Mahaica to Demerara.	New Bee Hive	6	- - -	8	13	3	13		- - A Presbyterian chapel on Clonbrook (No. 7).
	Dochfour -	10	- - -	7	13	18	63	- - plots averaging about one acre each.	
	Belfield -	16	- - -	-	7	-	-		- - An Episcopal chapel in Victoria village.
	North Brook -	17	Victoria -	1	-	187	827	- - 500 acres, purchased by 84 labourers in community, for 10,000 dollars.	A Presbyterian ditto.
	John and Cove Paradise -	19	- - -	-	2	-	-		A London missionary ditto.
	Friendship -	27	- - -	2	19	5	18		A Plymouth Brethren ditto.
		35	- - -	1	-	170	595	- - 500 acres, purchased by 168 labourers in community, for 80,000 dollars, transported, but mortgaged for a balance of the purchase-money.	- - An Episcopal chapel in the village.
	New Orange Nassau.	36	Buxton -	1	-	197	381	- - 500 acres, purchased by 128 labourers, for 50,000 dollars.	- - A London missionary chapel in the village.
	Annandale -	38	Newton Stewart	-	4	-	-		- - A London missionary chapel on Lusignan (No. 39).
	Beter Verwagting.	46	- - -	1	17	113	565	- - 400 acres, purchased by 145 labourers, for 22,000 dollars.	- - An Episcopal chapel in the village.
Plaisance -	47	- - -	-	-	15	84	- - 300 acres, purchased by 88 labourers, for 39,000 dollars.	- - Parish church of St. Paul, in the village.	
Plaisance (front)	-	- - -	7	-	14	47		- - A London missionary chapel on Montrose (No. 54).	
Ogle -	63	- - -	1	1	2	7		- - A Presbyterian chapel on Turkeyen (No. 68).	
Leliendaal - {	69	} Liot Ville -	1	-	16	53		- - A Congregational Dissenter's chapel on Bel Air (No. 72).	
70									
Kitty -	74	- - Prince Edward's Town.	6	10	3	10		- - Episcopal chapel of St. James-the-Less, on estate.	
Thomas -	2	Albert Town -	136	1	120	540		- - A Congregational Dissenter's chapel in the village.	
Right Bank of River Demerara.	Stabrook -	4	- - -	2	-	2	10	- - metropolis: population about 20,000.	- - St. George's and St. Andrew's churches, and numerous chapels.
	Werk-en-Rust	5	Lodge -	55	-	143	572	Plots of one acre each	- - A Congregational Dissenter's chapel in the village.
	La Penitence -	7	Albroy Town -	7	2	4	11		
	Rome -	11	Agricola	10	38	27	60		
	Peter's Hall -	12	- - -	-	29	30	90		
Utrecht -	4	- - -	1	-	1	5		- - Parish church of St. Matthew, on Providence (No. 15).	
South Bank of Canal No. 3.	Woerden -	3	Wattville -	1	-	1	3		
				14	-	13	45	Plots, ½ to 1 acre each.	
Right Bank of River Demerara.	Mocha -	2	- - -	62	52	72	252		
	Golden Grove	24	- - -	-	-	5	18		
	Succes -	25	- - -	40	-	-	183	640	An Episcopal chapel in the village.
	Craig -	26	- - -	26	-	-	33		
	Friendship -	32	- - -	1	8	6	21		Ditto - - - ditto.
	Brickery -	33	- - -	-	-	8	33		
	Supply, Relief, } and Support }	34	- - -	-	-	-	-		
	Land of Canaan	35	- - -	30	5	148	518		
	Coeverden and } Den Huevel }	41, 2, 3 & 4	- - -	26	-	20	55	Plots, 7½ to 25 acres each.	
	Hyde Park -	46	- - -	19	-	24	145	Plots, various, from ½ to 25 acres.	
New St. Eustatia.	50	- - -	-	6	2	5	Ditto - ditto - 7 to 10 ditto.		
Susanna's Rest	56	- - -	4	16	7	33			

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

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COUNTY OF DEMERARA—continued.

DISTRICT.	Name of Plantation.	Number on Map.	Name given to Villages, &c.	Number of Plots Purchased.		Cottages Erected.	Population.	GENERAL REMARKS	
				Transported.	Not Transported.			regarding the Nature and Extent of the Purchases, the relative Positions of Places of Worship, &c.	
Right Bank of River Demerara.	Loo - - -	61	- - -	1	-	4	10		
	Dulgin - -	67	- - -	-	17	3	38		
	Nerva - - -	72	- - -	-	7	4	13		-- A Presbyterian chapel, "Christianburg" (No. 76).
Left Bank of River Demerara.	Richmond -	-	- - -	-	2	1	5		
	La Resource and Sawary.	65	- - -	-	-	8	33		
	Tweed Side -	59	- - -	-	15	14	53		
Left Bank of River Demerara.	Princess Carolina.	53	- - -	-	2	26	137	-- Plots leased for 21 years, 1 to 2½ acres each.	-- A Congregational Dissenter's chapel, in Glasgow (No. 52).
	Zorg Ylicet -	46	- - -	4	1	3	9		
	Georgia - - -	45	- - -	4	-	14	63		
	Two Brothers -	40	- - -	1	-	10	35		-- A Congregational Dissenter's chapel on the land.
	Strick-en-Huevel and Pottery.	39	- - -	14	2	10	31		
	Caradora - -	38	- - -	6	-	-	-		
	Sarah's Hope -	"	- - -	17	1	30	101		
	Catharina - -	37	- - -	7	-	10	39		
	Kilmarnoek -	"	- - -	-	-	4	11		
	Concordia - -	36	- - -	16	16	2	7	-- 175 acres sold to 15 labourers, per transport. Plots of each.	
	L'Harmonic -	35	- - -	1	-	-	-		
	Ditto, Front	Reynestein -	29	- - -	1	-	9	30	
Free and Easy		27	Millmount	11	16	25	120		-- A Congregational Dissenter's chapel in the village.
Patentia - - -		22	- - -	33	1	26	130	-- 24 cottages being removed for want of a title.	Ditto - - - ditto.
Beausjour - -	- - -	9	- - -	14	24	72			
	- - -	12	- - -	-	-	-	-		
South Bank of Canal No. 2.	La Resource -	3	- - -	2	-	10	40	-- 300 acres purchased by two labourers, who have subdivided it amongst others.	
North Bank of Canal No. 2.	Middlesex -	1	- - -	6	10	13	43	-- 250 acres purchased by two labourers for 11,000 dollars, who are disposing of it to others in plots from ¼ to 2 acres each.	
Left Bank of River Demerara.	La Retraite -	16	Stanley Town	44	91	70	350	Plots from ¼ to 1¼ acres - -	-- Parish church of St. Mark, on the estate.
	Toevlugt - -	15	- - -	8	7	8	45	Ditto - - ditto - - -	-- A Congregational Dissenter's chapel in the village.
	Mindenburg -	13	- - -	129	24	39	77	Ditto ½ to 1½ acres.	
	Sans Souci -	11	- - -	9	1	10	35	Ditto 1½ to 3 acres.	
South Bank Canal No. 1.	Studley Park -	12	Free Town	16	-	18	67	Ditto - - ditto.	
North Bank Canal No. 1.	Vrede en Vriend-schapf.	11	- - -	-	-	3	11		
	Mon Bijou - -	9	- - -	-	5	-	-	-- Three cottages removed, no title being to be obtained.	-- A London Missionary chapel in Lust and Rust (No. 5).
Left Bank of River Demerara.	Klein Poudero-yen.	6	- - -	2	-	2	7		-- Parish church of St. Swithin, on Vrede-en-Hoop (No. 4).
West Coast of Demerara.	Nouvelle Flandres.	2	- - -	1	-	21	77		-- A London Missionary chapel on the estate.
	La Jalousie -	10	- - -	-	-	4	15		
	Blankenburg -	12	- - -	3	-	6	22		ditto.
	Den Amstel -	13	- - -	-	67	64	281	Plots half acre each, no transport.	
	Fellowship -	15	- - -	1	-	-	-	-- 125 acres purchased by four labourers for 6,000 dollars.	
	Hague - - -	16	- - -	7	-	2	9		
	Anna Catharina	18	Catherin	13	-	9	33	Plots, half acre each.	
	Vrees-en-Hoop	22	Stewart-Ville	22	-	36	160	Ditto - ditto.	
	Met en Meer-Zorg.	26	- - -	-	-	2	8		
	Kinderen - -	27	- - -	-	-	-	-	Ditto - ditto, leased.	
East Bank of Essequibo.	Good Hope -	8	Greshcim-Ville	14	-	-	-	Ditto - - ditto - - -	-- Episcopal chapel of St. Stephen on the land.
	Ruby - - -	9	- - -	16	-	35	120	{ Ditto, half to one acre each.	
	Bushy Park -	13	- - -	4	-	-	-	{ Ditto, one acre each.	
	Hidronic - -	14	- - -	-	-	70	250	{ Ditto - - ditto.	
	Parika - - -	15	- - -	-	-	-	-	{ Ditto - - ditto.	

COUNTY OF ESSEQUEBO.

DISTRICT.	Name of Plantation.	Number on Map.	Name given to Village, &c.	Number of Plots Purchased.		Cottages Erected.	Population.	GENERAL REMARKS		
				Transported.	Not Transported.			regarding the Name and Extent of the Purchases, the relative Positions of Places of Worship, &c.		
Island of Leguan	Elizabeth Ann	2	- - -	2	2	1	5			
	* Endeavour	6	Campbell Town	29	-	35	127	Plots various - - - -	- - A London missionary chapel in the village.	
	Blenheim	7	- - -	-	4	-	-	- - - - -	- - Parish church of St. Peter on the land.	
	Enterprise	-	- - -	1	-	1	4	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Bagatelle	8	- - -	-	2	3	11	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Maryville	-	- - -	-	-	1	5	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Waterloo	-	- - -	-	-	2	8	- - - - -	- - An Episcopal chapel on the estate.	
	Phoenix	10	- - -	14	15	17	60	- - - - -	- - A congregational Dissenter's chapel in the village.	
	Vrouw Anna	12	- - -	-	28	4	8	Plots half acre each, no transport.	- - - - -	
	Anna Maria and White Swan.	15	- - -	-	11	5	19	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Vertrouwen	19	- - -	2	1	1	4	- - - - -	- - An Episcopal chapel on the estate.	
	Claremont	27	- - -	2	1	3	11	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	* Amsterdam	5	- - -	21	2	8	30	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Uniform	29	- - -	-	-	1	4	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Pleasing Hope	-	- - -	1	2	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Domburg	7	- - -	-	-	2	7	- - - - -	- - An Episcopal chapel on the estate.		
Island of Wake-naam.	Maria Johanna	-	- - -	-	-	2	5	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Fredericksburg	8	- - -	-	-	18	70	Plots 1/2 acre each, leased.	- - - - -	
	Nooit Gedagt	-	- - -	3	-	4	13	Ditto - - ditto.	- - - - -	
	Concordia	16	- - -	5	-	7	27	Ditto 1 acre.	- - - - -	
	Triangle and Point.	17	Free Town	38	-	79	310	Ditto chiefly of 1 acre each	- - An Episcopal chapel on plantation Friendship.	
Tiger Island - Carabara Island	Reserve	19	- - -	1	-	1	3	- - - - -	- - A chapel being erected on Maria's Pleasure.	
	Zelandia	28	- - -	38	6	-	-	Plots about 1/2 acre - - -	- - An Episcopal chapel on plantation Zelandia.	
	Hamburg	-	- - -	1	-	1	4	Plots various.	- - - - -	
West Bank and Coast of Essequibo.	Prosperity	-	- - -	15	-	10	41	Plots 1 acre each - - -	- - A Presbyterian chapel on the island. A ditto, Indian mission, up Supenaam Creek.	
	Aurora	4	Waroesi	26	-	24	84	Plots 1/2 to 1 acre each - - -	- - A ditto on the Land of Good Hope (No. 47).	
	Dry Shore and Three Friends	42	- - -	13	4	7	30	Ditto chiefly 1/2 an acre.	- - - - -	
	Fairfield	39	- - -	1	-	5	18	Ditto - - ditto.	- - - - -	
	Velvoorden	37	- - -	9	-	13	44	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Middlesex	38	- - -	7	-	8	28	Ditto - - ditto.	- - - - -	
	Huis to Deiren	36	- - -	-	-	1	4	- - - - -	- - - - -	
				River's Town, &c.	-	-	10	36	Plots 1 acre each.	- - - - -
	Adventure	33	Elizabeth Town	9	20	17	60	Ditto, various, 1/2 to 4 acres.	- - - - -	
	Onderneeming	32	- - -	1	6	3	13	Ditto 1/2 acre each.	- - - - -	
	Belfield	31	Suddie	-	3	3	14	Plots 1/2 to 1 acre each.	- - - - -	
	Maria's Lodge	30	- - -	13	19	35	140	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Batseba's Lust	26	- - -	9	10	15	25	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Zorg	25	- - -	-	-	2	7	Plots (leased) - - - -	- A Wesleyan chapel on the estate.	
	Golden Fleece	23	Crofton	-	-	15	49	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Cullen	21	- - -	2	9	3	11	Plots 1/2 acre each.	- - - - -		
Abrams Zuill	20	Catherineburg	1	3	4	18	Plots, various, 1 to 4 acres	- A Wesleyan chapel on the estate.		
West Coast of Essequibo.	Annandale and Zorg and Vyt	-	- - -	7	2	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Hoff van Aurich	-	- - -	1	-	1	4	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Dageraad and Mocha, and Westfield	-	- - -	148	-	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Affiance	-	Queen's Town	23	17	-	146	472	Plots 1/2 acre each.	
	Aberdeen	-	- - -	-	5	4	11	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Three Friends	-	- - -	1	1	7	27	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Main Stay	-	William's Town	-	-	-	-	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Ditto Bush Lot	-	- - -	-	16	12	39	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Henrietta	-	- - -	4	3	2	9	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Anna Regina	-	- - -	-	-	4	12	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Richmond	-	- - -	-	-	3	12	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	La Belle Alliance.	-	- - -	-	4	1	5	- - - - -	- - Parish church of the Trinity on the estate.	
	Fear Not	-	Daniel's Town	28	10	40	133	- - - - -	- - A chapel on Hampton Coast (No. 4).	
	Sparta	-	- - -	-	-	2	7	- - - - -	- - An Episcopal chapel on Essequibo (No. 18).	
	Pomeroon River	Paradise	10	- - -	-	-	6	19	- - - - -	- - - - -
Dartmouth		16	- - -	-	-	10	31	- - - - -	- - - - -	
Bounty Hall		19	- - -	-	8	5	21	- - - - -	- - - - -	
	Hackney	82	- - -	-	-	6	21	- - - - -	- - - - -	
		85	Free Town	grt. 1	-	11	64	- - 100 acres of one of the un-granted lots purchased from Government for 100 L. by one labourer, and subdivided by him amongst others.	- - Episcopal chapel at the confluence of the Arapiaco Creek with the Pomeroon.	
				1,883	2,168	4,831	18,511			

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NOTE appended to the original Statement.

As it has not been practicable to ascertain with accuracy the population of the whole of the villages and small settlements, the number has been assumed from data upon which much dependence can be placed in cases where that information was wanting. The incorrectness, therefore, on the aggregate cannot be very great. On this presumption it will, therefore, appear that upwards of 17,000* labourers, including their families, who were heretofore accommodated with habitations on the plantations have left them, and provided themselves with dwellings on their own lands, by which, of course, accommodation for a like number remains unoccupied on the estates, exclusive of the numerous cottages that have recently been erected thereon.

It will be noticed that in several of the cases in which entire plantations have been purchased by communities of labourers, to whom a joint conveyance has been passed, some plots appear in the column of untransported plots, which is to be accounted for from some of the joint proprietors having been induced to subdivide their portions, and dispose of parts thereof to other labourers; the conveyance of which cannot be accomplished without much difficulty and expense. Indeed this mode of conveyance to 100 or 200 individuals of an undivided interest in one property, must inevitably lead to deplorable consequences in the course of time, unless some remedy intervene to avert them.

I declare the foregoing list and statement to have been made up according to the best of my knowledge, and the official records relative to the subject thereof, up to the 30th September last.

(signed) J. Hadfield,
 Crown Surveyor, and Commissary of Population.

Georgetown, Demerara, 16 October 1844.

* The discrepancy here arises from the correction of the original list with respect to the population, as explained in my letter accompanying the present one.

Georgetown, 17 December 1844.

J. Hadfield.

Appendix, No. 4.

PAPER delivered in by Mr. Shand, after his Evidence of 9 March 1848.

DEMERARA.

PRICES of LUMBER, &c. during Years 1829 to 1840.

YEARS.	Fish, per Lb.	Pork, Barrel.	Lumber, 1,000 Feet.	White Pine Lumber, 1,000 Feet.	Red Oak Staves, 1,000 Feet.	Planks, 1,000 Feet.
	<i>Stivers.</i>	<i>Guilders.</i>				
1829 - -	2 ½	cf. 66	cf. 80	cf. 88 a' 100	cf. 132	cf. 99
1830 - -	2 ½	50	77 a' 99	77 a' 80	110 a' 150	77 a' 89
1831 - -	2 ½ a' 4	"	80	88	110 a' 121	88 a' 99
1832 - -	2 ½	"	88 a' 90	121	110 a' 154	100 a' 110
1833 - -	2 ½	"	60 a' 110	88	110 a' 154	99 a' 132
1834 - -	2 ½	44	61 ½ a' 88	- - -	143 a' 154	88
1835 - -	2 ½ a' 2 ⅝	"	95 a' 110	99 a' 132	99 a' 132	88 a' 132
1836 - -	2 ½	66 a' 70	88 a' 99	110	" "	110
1837 - -	2 ¼	" "	100	121	" "	132
1838 - -	2 ¼ a' 2 ½	70	86 a' 90	86 a' 100	88 a' 132	"
1839 - -	2 ¼	" "	" "	100 a' 105	" "	84
1840 - -	2 ½	" "	84	" "	" "	"
Average -	2 ½ ⅓	cf. 58 ½	cf. 86 ⅓	cf. 100 ⅓	cf. 111 ⅓	cf. 101 ½

F. Shand.

F I F T H

R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
27 March 1848.

REPORT
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE
APPENDIX

Veneris, 4^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Present Condition and Prospects of the Interests connected with, and dependent on, SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief.

Lunæ, 7^o die Februarii, 1848.

Committee nominated :

Lord George Bentinck.	Mr. Philip Miles.
Mr. Labouchere.	Mr. James Wilson.
Mr. Goulburn.	Lord George Manners.
Mr. Milner Gibson.	Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Cardwell.	Sir John Pakington.
Sir Thomas Birch.	Mr. James Matheson.
Mr. Henry Hope.	Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Charles Villiers.	

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.

Martis, 15^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Ewart be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Moffatt be added thereto.

Jovis, 24^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to Report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, from time to time, to The House.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - -	p. 1
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F I F T H R E P O R T .

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the present Condition and Prospects of the Interests connected with and dependent on SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief, and who were empowered to Report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, from time to time, to The House ;

HAVE made a farther Progress in the Matter referred to them.

27 March 1848.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

Sabbati, 18° die Martii, 1848.

H. Barkly, Esq., M.P. - - - - - p. 1

Lunæ, 20° die Martii, 1848.

Mr. C. Richardson - - - - - p. 45
 G. Carrington, Esq. - - - - - p. 50
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 Dr. N. Shaw - - - - - p. 75

Mercurii, 22° die Martii, 1848.

Dr. N. Shaw - - - - - p. 82
 Mr. E. St. Martin - - - - - p. 105
 Mr. C. M. Woodhouse - - - - - p. 116

Jovis, 23° die Martii, 1848.

Commander W. K. Hall, R.N. - - - - - p. 124
 Dr. W. Ranken - - - - - p. 126
 Mr. H. N. Browne - - - - - p. 145

Sabbati, 25° die Martii, 1848.

P. Borthwick, Esq. - - - - - p. 159
 J. Crawford, Esq. - - - - - p. 196
 Mr. R. M'Crae - - - - - p. 204

Lunæ, 27° die Martii, 1848.

J. Innis, Esq. - - - - - p. 215
 Mr. A. R. Scott - - - - - p. 225
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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Sabbati, 18^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Hope.
Mr. Matheson.

Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Barkly, Esq., a Member of The House, Examined.

10750. *Chairman.*] YOU are a West India Proprietor?—I am a proprietor at present of two estates in the colony of British Guiana, in the county of Berbice.

H. Barkly, Esq.
M. P.

18 March 1848.

10751. You have very lately paid a visit to your estates, have not you?—I returned last month from a visit to the colony.

10752. Have you a statement showing the working of your estates since emancipation?—I have a statement with reference to the working of one of my estates, Highbury, since emancipation, in continuation of the statement which I put in before the West India Committee in 1842, with regard to the same estate. I put that statement in before the Select Committee of 1842, with reference to three years of slavery, showing the average crop and the average cost of production; I also put it in for the three years of apprenticeship in the same way, and during three years of freedom, up to 1841. Since that time there have been six years. I have now averaged the two periods of three years which have occurred, and I find as the result, that whereas the average crop during the three years of apprenticeship was 505 hogsheads of sugar, and the cost of production during those three years on an average was 6 s. 1 d. per cwt., the average crop during the three first years of this period, 1842, 1843, and 1844, was only 250 hogsheads; that was less than half what it had been during apprenticeship; the average cost of producing that was 30 s. 7 d. per cwt., instead of 6 s. 1 d., exclusive of any interest on the capital invested in both cases. The average cost during the last three years has been reduced to 25 s. 10 d. per cwt., upon the average of the three years 1845, 1846, and 1847, there being a slight increase on the average crop to 269 hogsheads in those three years. I ought in fairness to state that the year 1846, was a year of severe drought in British Guiana, and that the crop shipped from the colony was rather less than half the usual amount.

[*Mr. Barkly delivered in the following Statement:*]

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE

	Years.			Cost of Production.	Interest on Capital, at Six per Cent. on 60,000 <i>l.</i>	Price at which Sugar was Grown, exclusive of Charges in Great Britain.
Average crop, three years slavery - -	{ 1831 1832 1833	Hogsheads. 457	Cwt. 7,000	6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> per cwt.	10 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	17 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> per cwt.
Year of transition - - - - -	1834	616	—	—	—	—
					Interest on Capital, less Compensation :	
Average crop, three years apprenticeship -	{ 1835 1836 1837	505	8,122	6 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> per cwt.	6 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>	12 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> per cwt.
Year of transition - - - - -	{ 1838 1839	301	—	—	—	—
Average crop, three years freedom - - -	{ 1840 1841 1842	238	3,454	40 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> per cwt.	14 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i>	54 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> per cwt.
Average cost, three years after immigration	{ 1843 1844 1845	250	3,750	30 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> per cwt.	13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	43 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> per cwt.
Average cost last three years, including year of drought, 1846 - - - - -	{ 1846 1847	269	4,055	25 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> per cwt.	12 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	38 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> per cwt.

H. Barkly, Esq.
M. P.

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10753. Was not the crop of the last three years something over an average crop?—Yes.

10754. Then it is to the increase of the crop that is to be attributed the reduction in the cost of production?—To that cause partly, and to a better supply of labour.

10755. The same number of labourers produced a larger crop?—I think there were, perhaps, more labourers employed, on account of the immigration which was taking place, which gave greater command of labour to the planters.

10756. Did you get any reduction in the cost of labour in the last three years, as compared with the former three years; or was it the greater produce which had to be set against the same cost of labour which apparently reduced the cost of each hogshead of sugar?—The cost of labour, I think, was practically reduced during the last three years by the immigration, though the nominal rate of wages was not lowered. I think the planters got more continuous labour, and labour of a better quality, and therefore, practically, the cost of labour was somewhat reduced in those years, though the rate of wages remained the same.

10757. Though the expenditure upon labour remained the same, the amount of labour performed was increased?—It was; and the labour was better performed, which is a point of great importance. In many kinds of work upon a West Indian estate, such as weeding canes, and turning the soil, it depends upon whether the work is done faithfully and well; and in the former period the planter was not in a position to insist upon that being done. In consequence, however, of immigration and a better supply of labour he was in the position of having the work more faithfully executed during the last period.

10758. Not only in weeding canes, but even in cutting canes, much depends upon whether the cane is cut clean and close to the ground, or whether it is cut three or four inches higher than necessary?—I believe it makes a great difference whether the canes are cut properly. The cost of production during the last year, upon the estate, was 19*s.* 11*d.* per cwt. During the year of drought, which was the preceding year, the year 1846, it was as high as 1*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*; but that arose from the crop made being 160 hogsheads instead of 360 last year. The cost of producing sugar upon my other estate, Reliance, was exactly the same; it was 20*s.* per cwt. last year.

10759. The crop of last year was one of the largest crops you have had since emancipation, was not it?—It was quite the largest since emancipation, the crop of the colony and also the crop of both my estates; I made 700 hogsheads on my two estates.

10760. The fertility of the season of 1847 made up for the drought of 1845?—It is fair to take these things upon the average for that reason; the drought of 1845 occasioned the increased yielding of last year, because the effect of drought in a country like British Guiana is to open the pores of the soil and to carry off the surplus water; in consequence of that the cane grows much better

better and yields more sugar in the succeeding year, when the drought is once removed.

10761. It facilitates the cleaning out of the drains?—Yes; it makes it much less expensive to throw out the drains. During the year of drought almost all the drainage was renovated; they had very little sugar to make, and therefore they applied all the labour to throwing out the canals and drains.

10762. Your canes ratoon in British Guiana, do not they?—They are cultivated entirely upon the ratoon system; it is very seldom that any fields are planted. They ratoon for any number of years, provided, after being cut, they are supplied; but that is very slight work compared with planting. It is merely the planting up vacant places in the rows where the stools have died off.

10763. Do the ratooning canes produce a finer crop after a year of drought in the same way that fruit trees in this country produce a larger crop of fruit in the year succeeding to the year in which the growth of wood has been prevented by a hot summer and autumn?—I think the cases are precisely parallel. There is no doubt that the effect of dry weather is to increase the produce of the next year.

10764. It would appear that in a season such as last year, of immense produce, and when the cost of production was reduced 20 per cent. in consequence of the greater produce, you could afford to bring the sugar to the British market, allowing 8*s.* for the freight, and charges, and insurance, and so on, making 28*s.*, without leaving any profit to the planter?—Yes, that would be the case if the cost of production remained exactly as it did last year, and the crop remained the same.

10765. Then, in point of fact, at the cost of production of last year you must have unusually fine seasons to enable you to bring the sugar to the British market at 28*s.*, without allowing any interest for capital, or any profit to the planter?—We must have good seasons. I do not know that our crop would be reduced again, because I think we made many permanent improvements during the year of drought when we had very little to do; I think we put our crop upon a footing upon which it will continue to be larger for some time to come; therefore, even with a worse season than last year, we may make a larger crop still. It is a point of great importance in a country like Guiana, where sugar is made all the year round, or may be made every month in the year, to get the canes to come in at their right time. After emancipation the planters were always behind their work, and they were cutting canes sometimes at a much greater age than was desirable. In the year of drought most of the planters turned their attention to bringing their crops into proper rotation, and this year, if we had had labour and encouragement to go on, would have been the first year since emancipation in which sugar would have been made, as it used to be of old, in every month of the year. All those things I think would tend to continue the increase of the crop irrespectively of fine seasons.

10766. According to this statement it would appear that even with rather more than the average seasons, nothing short of a price of about 31*s.* would make it worth while for the planters to go on in British Guiana?—That is to say if the planter has no means of reducing the cost of production in his own power, either by means of obtaining immigration or insisting upon the reduction of wages and other expenses.

10767. Were you in possession of the estates at the time of emancipation?—I was in possession of the first estate, Highbury, respecting which I put in the statement before the Select Committee of 1842, during emancipation. I have had possession of it since my father's death, which was during the period of apprenticeship. The other estate I did not put in the same details about, because I have come into possession of it more recently. It was upon retiring from business as a West India merchant that I took that estate in lieu of shares in several other estates which I held jointly with my partners in Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent, Trinidad, and British Guiana; therefore I have not the same details as to that. I did not receive compensation money for Reliance; I did for Highbury estate.

10768. Has the amount of compensation you received for that estate compensated you for your loss?—Decidedly it has not. I find that the average income from Highbury for the 12 years preceding total emancipation was 5,080*l.* a year; during those years it never ceased to give some income, but

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the average was 5,080*l.*; and during the nine years since emancipation I have gained, in four of those years, the amount of 4,288*l.*, and made a loss during five of those years, amounting to 10,456*l.*; therefore the balance of loss is 6,170*l.* upon the cultivation of nine years, against which I have to set the interest upon the compensation money, 18,850*l.*; that is, at four per cent., 750*l.* a year; that would be 7,500*l.* to set against a loss of 6,170*l.*, and the loss of an income of 5,080*l.* for nine years, which is 45,720*l.*; so that I estimate that my loss by the emancipation of the negroes, after giving credit for the interest upon the compensation money, amounts to 44,390*l.* upon that one estate; and I ought to hold the 18,850*l.* of compensation money as an investment against the depreciated value of the estate; and as the estate at that time would have sold readily for 60,000*l.*, it is easy for the Committee to form an opinion of what the loss must be. At the present moment it would be quite impossible to sell that or any other estate in the West Indies.

10769. When you say you received 18,000*l.* compensation, what were your slaves valued at?—They were valued in classes. The head people were valued at 87*l.* 8*s.*; the tradesmen were valued at 68*l.*; the inferior tradesmen at 38*l.*, and the field labourers at 64*l.* The total valuation amounted to 48,450*l.*; of that I received 18,850*l.*

10770. This was the valuation made by the government appraiser in which there was no empire upon the side of the planter?—No; the planter had nothing to do but to produce the evidence.

10771. The country made its own valuation of your property when it took it from you?—They did so.

10772. They paid you 18,000*l.* upon that, which they themselves valued at 48,450*l.*?—Precisely so.

10773. You are aware that by the Treaty of Ghent, when the slaves of Louisiana which had been captured during the war were compensated for under arbitration, 120*l.* a head was the value set upon the loss of a slave?—I was not aware of that fact; but the slaves upon this very estate, Highbury, were somewhat in a similar position; for those estates were the property of the Dutch West India Company, and they were seized by the government of this country upon taking possession of the colony of British Guiana, under the supposition that they were the property of the Dutch Crown, and they were carried on by agents of the government for many years, till my father and another gentleman purchased the whole of those estates. There was an article in the Treaty of Vienna which had reference to those estates, which insisted upon their being given up to the Dutch West India Company who made the sale to those parties. The slaves, I believe, at that time were valued at upwards of 100*l.* a head. In the year 1817, therefore, they were valued at upwards of 100*l.*; and in 1833, 16 years afterwards, which was the period of emancipation, I received for them at the rate of about 48*l.*

10774. You are prepared, are you not, to show to the Committee the proportion that the cost of labour bears to the total cost of production?—I am prepared with an estimate as regards the estate of which I have been speaking. Of course the proportion which the cost of labour bears to the other charges depends in some degree upon the size and produce of the estate, because on a large estate the fixed charges for salaries, and other expenses of that kind, are not increased in proportion, therefore the expenditure for labour would bear a much larger proportion to those charges. Taking estates of the usual size in British Guiana, the labour, I should say, exceeded one half of the total cost of production. Upon my own estate it is exactly one half; the labour amounts to 10*s.* per cwt. after giving credit for the proportion of the value of the rum. I have taken that off each item, the gross amount of the labour is 11*s.* 1*d.* per cwt.; but after deducting 10 per cent., which is the proportion which the rum sold here bears to the whole expenditure, it is 10*s.* The labour amounted to 3,000*l.*; salaries to 900*l.*, or 3*s.* a cwt.; the supplies, including coals and hogsheads, and things of that kind, amounted to 1,280*l.*, or 4*s.* 3*d.* a cwt.; the repairs to buildings and wages to tradesmen amounted to 450*l.*, or 1*s.* 6*d.* a cwt.; and taxes and sundries, such as medical attendance for the negroes, and a schoolmaster employed at a salary of 60*l.*, amounted to 340*l.*, or 1*s.* 2*d.* a cwt.; making a total expenditure of 5,970*l.*, the total cost per cwt. being 19*s.* 11*d.*, after deducting the value of the rum.

10775. Fifteen shillings and eightpence a cwt. appears to be all that admits of

of any reduction, being the reduction of salaries, wages to labourers, payment for medical attendance, for schools and for artisans?—That is all that admits of direct reduction, but every item is enhanced by the increased cost of labour since emancipation. With reference, for instance, to the article of Supplies, which is not a thing which I can directly reduce, because a certain quantity of fuel is required, and a certain number of hogsheads, and a quantity of oil and paint; during slavery, instead of sending coals from this country, all the fuel used in making sugar was cut on the estate by the negroes of the estate, which is a very important consideration in taking the enhanced cost of production now. To make a hogshead of sugar now requires very nearly a hogshead of coals, which costs upwards of 1 *l.* when it is landed in the colony. Formerly it used to cost the proprietor nothing, because he has abundance of woodland, and his slaves used to cut the wood, both for fuel and to make hogsheads for the sugar; and if labour were again cheap, no doubt the planters would revert to their old system of carrying on things, and reduce their other items to as great an extent as they could reduce salaries and wages; but that would be a work of time, and it would be entirely the effect of a plentiful supply of labour. Again, in such things as the repair of buildings, the cost is enhanced by the higher wages of the tradesmen; if the tradesmen were receiving lower wages those repairs would not be so costly. It is a fact that the other charges besides labour only averaged, on Highbury, in the last year of slavery 2 *s.* 2 *d.* per cwt. on the crop instead of 10 *s.* per cwt. as now, showing, as the total cost of production was only 6 *s.* 8 *d.*, a total aggravation of the present cost, owing solely to dearer labour, of 13 *s.* 4 *d.* per cwt.

10776. Supposing you were able to reduce all those people from the top to the bottom, including medical attendants, the schoolmaster, and the wages of the labourers 25 per cent., it would make something short of 4 *s.* a cwt. ?—Yes. I think it would admit even of a greater reduction than that, because I do not know that you would apply the rule of three proportion of 25 per cent. from every salary. There are some people that might be dispensed with, perhaps. I framed an estimate when I was out there of the cost at which I hoped to grow my sugar during the present year, provided that all things had gone on right. At that time I looked for better prices than we are now getting; my hope was that if wages could be reduced 25 per cent., and other things brought to as low a point as possible, it might be possible, provided the crop were increased to 450 hogsheads, which is my estimate for the present year, to grow sugar at 12 *s.* 10 *d.* per cwt. And I thought that at that price I might continue the cultivation of my estates without anything like a profit, perhaps, but at the same time that I should be justified in continuing to support them. I must say now that that expectation is altogether defeated by what has since occurred. I have put down the labour in the estimate at 2,800 *l.*; that would be the increased quantity of labour required to make the larger crop taken at a reduction of 25 per cent. in the cost of the labour. The salaries, I found, I could only reduce to the extent of 100 *l.*, that is to 800 *l.* The supplies were reduced, according to the estimate, about 250 *l.* I put them down at 1,000 *l.*; tradesmen at 150 *l.*, and taxes and miscellaneous items at 250 *l.* I calculated therefore upon making a crop of 450 hogsheads for 5,000 *l.* Could I have done so the sugar might have stood me in only 12 *s.* 10 *d.* a cwt.

10777. That is supposing you made 450 hogsheads?—Yes.

10778. The crop of 1847 was the largest crop which has been grown upon the estate for the last nine years, and you are calculating upon an increase of something more than 25 per cent. upon that increase, nearly 90 hogsheads upon 360?—I had better explain, perhaps, that I should not make that calculation now, but when I was in the colony my object was to see if it was possible to support the cultivation of my estates. I expected then that the value of sugar would have risen 5 *s.* or 6 *s.* a cwt. above what it was in November last. I have been disappointed in that expectation. I thought upon going over the various items of expenditure with my attorney and the manager of the estates, it would be possible to take off the crop of Highbury, supposing it amounted to what it was estimated at by the manager, which was an increase of 25 per cent., for 5,000 *l.*, provided I could effect a reduction of wages 25 per cent. and cut down everything else to the lowest possible charge. Now I certainly do not expect 450 hogsheads, and I have no expectation that the wages will be reduced 25 per cent. from recent accounts.

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10779. Do you think you will get 360 hogsheads?—I think I shall get 400 hogsheads. Of course every one makes such a calculation with reference to the quality of his own sugar. When I went away my sugars were valued at 32*s.* including the duty of 14*s.*, that is, at 18*s.* per cwt. I left a considerable quantity on hand because I was not willing to accept those prices.

10780. When you went out, was the value of your sugar *ex* duty 18*s.*?—Yes; the value of brown Berbice sugars at that time was 32*s.* as sold in the market, with 14*s.* duty paid upon them. My sugars were afterwards sold at 19*s.* I thought that half the depreciation was in all probability owing to the commercial distress of the time and to the quantity of sugar which was forced for sale upon the market in consequence of the failures, and my expectation at that time was, that as soon as the pressure upon the money market, which I did not expect then to last so long, ceased, sugar would recover a certain portion of the decline; I thought I might get 24*s.* for my sugars, that is about 38*s.* duty paid; that was the price I was getting in June of last year. I expected, in fact, that the price of brown sugar now would be 24*s.*, which is about the value of the average of all qualities, including the very finest.

10781. What is the average price of your sugar?—I had some sugar valued yesterday by my broker, in Mincing-lane, at 35*s.* and 36*s.*, duty paid; that would be 21*s.* and 22*s.*

10782. Sugar has rather a downward look, has not it, at this time?—I believe so. I have a paragraph, which was taken out of a newspaper here, being a portion of the city article of the Times of to-day, which is certainly not very flattering. It says, "In the colonial markets during the week there has not been the slightest improvement. The importers of several kinds of produce have been again compelled to submit to lower prices in order to effect sales, which cannot now be accomplished in any case without a material reduction on the ruling prices. The importers of sugar have had to give way 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt., and there has been little inclination shown on the part of the grocers and refiners to purchase beyond their immediate wants." That contrasts very strongly with another part of the city article, which states, "Mercantile accounts from the Havannah to the 13th of February state that the sugar market was not in an active condition, owing to the high pretensions of the holders; only in a few cases, therefore, had transactions taken place, and the exports from the beginning of the month had been exceedingly limited. Most of the purchases had been for Spain, and the article selected being the finest quality, full prices were supported."

10783. It is not on account of the high pretensions of the British colonists that you are unable to effect sales in Mincing-lane just now, is it?—We should be quite willing to accept lower prices than we have ever done before if we could run our sugars off and get the money, which, I believe, we all of us want to be able to carry on our estates.

10784. Do you apprehend that any reduction of wages would now make it cheaper for you to cut wood in the colony to supply your furnaces, than to import coals at 1*l.* a hogshead?—I think if we could cut wages down 25 per cent., a proportion of wood would be used with the coal. I believe it is better to use a certain quantity of wood with the coal; it does not then clog the grating bars of the furnace. It is considered by planters, that if they could use one-third part of wood it would be for their advantage, but they have lately not been able to procure that small proportion, though there are a great many negroes who are settled on woodlands up the river, to whom they have offered a very high price for the wood.

10785. What is the weight of a hogshead of coal?—It is about three-quarters of a ton, I think.

10786. Are coals as heavy for their bulk as sugar?—I think quite as heavy.

10787. The freight out of coals is only 10*s.*, is it?—We have been paying latterly as high as 14*s.* last year; 12*s.* is the usual freight, I think, to British Guiana for coals.

10788. Per ton measurement?—No, per ton weight of coals. Altogether coals and hogsheads stand us in about 45*s.*; the hogshead is worth about 18*s.* out of the 45*s.*

10789. You have endeavoured to reduce your wages in British Guiana?—Yes. My opinion was, when I considered the state of things in British Guiana, that the only chance that the planters had was to reduce their wages to a considerable

siderable extent, and upon talking the matter over with most of the leading gentlemen out there, I found that 25 per cent. was quite as far as they thought it would be prudent to go. I used every exertion in my power to get a resolution to make an attempt to that extent generally adopted. I left the colony too soon to judge what the effect would be. I took the greatest pains to explain the reduction of wages to the negroes on both my estates, and to state to them the reason of it, and I thought I had succeeded. I believed that they would have returned to their work after the holidays at Christmas, but from what I have learned since they have not done so; that is, not the native labourers of the colonies, though the immigrant labourers have turned out and have continued the cultivation of the estate for the present. I have here letters by the last mail since my departure from the colony, giving me an account of the attempt to reduce the wages since I left; they are certainly much less favourable than I expected; a considerable amount of ill-feeling appears to have been excited among the labourers by the attempt, and numerous incendiary fires have occurred. The first letter was sent me with a petition from the planters of Berbice generally. It was written by Mr. Laig, who is one of the largest resident proprietors in the West Indies. He says, "since you left this, things have gradually become worse, and they at this moment wear a most alarming aspect. There is no money in the place to pay wages, and on no estate is there any regular labour going on; with the exception of a few Coolies and Portuguese, there are hardly any labourers who have taken the reduced scale of wages, and every day adds to the number of what, I fear, we must admit to be incendiary fires. Provisions are becoming scarce; very few of the merchants possess the means of importing from America; and unless the banks resume business, and make money more easy for mercantile purposes, there is no saying how soon we may find ourselves in a state of famine. So long as the people have enough to eat, they may remain idle, without coming to open acts of insubordination; but if they (Africans, Coolies, Portuguese, and Creoles,) begin to feel the pinch of hunger, there is no saying to what extent of violence they may proceed. I have heard of many threatening speeches made by the people, but as yet there has been no evidence to prove any one of the many cases of incendiarism. No one can conceive the state of anxiety in which we are now placed; the loss we must all suffer is fearful to contemplate; but the danger we are physically placed in is the most appalling." That is a letter from one of the leading planters in the colony, dated the 25th of January 1848. The accounts from my own attorney, who is a gentleman of great respectability, are quite confirmatory of that account. He states, "The immigrants are at work contentedly at the reduction you made; viz., of a bit off each task, and consider the matter quite settled; and until I see more certainty of success elsewhere, I do not think it would be wise to disturb them. It is a most anxious time. I am inclined to think we must assume a more imperative tone; they are beginning to take it for granted that the country is to be their own, in which notion they have been confirmed by emissaries from Demerara urging them to hold out; and, consequently, on the West coast they now give out that they will not work at all, even if a guilder is offered them; that they will go to their own grounds. I fear the movements of the missionaries rather tend towards the same end, in their advocacy of the renting system." He says, "I think the safety of the whites depends very much upon the want of union in the different races of labourers, and I should be glad to see some more Madeiranese, and, if possible, Chinese coming in; the Coolies too would always hold by the whites. This is Monday, and we hoped the week would have commenced by a return to work; but De Vry informs me, there is no work doing at Providence, and none at Everton, though at the latter place they have been paid their arrears and offered a guilder for increased task." That letter is dated the 17th of January 1848. Writing on the 2d of February, he says, "I wish I could send you a report of any improvement in affairs here, but there is none, unless the fact of the strike being more general and the dearth of money more complete can be considered such. We are still holding out for a reduction, and the negroes more obstinate than ever. Even on estates where they had been working at the guilder rates (as at Canefield and Lochaber), they have struck, and are making common cause of it. It is more than a question of wages with them; there is a bad spirit abroad amongst them; they seem resolved to have possession of the estates themselves,

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themselves, and are combining together to effect this object." "You will perceive by the Governor's proclamations, how extensive the fires have been in Demerara. We have been greatly alarmed in town by the burning of a store in the front dam, by which Mr. Hart and his family were within an ace of being burnt to death. The fire was put both in front and behind the house, and the destruction was most complete; nothing whatever saved, not even a suit of clothes. Two other attempts were made, but the fire was discovered in time; viz., at O'Donaghue's and Ferguson's store. I can hardly suppose this fine country is to be given over to the negroes. I am interrupted by the entrance of a negro offering to rent Waterloo," which is an estate belonging to a friend of mine. I have also one other letter from the manager of my estate, which I should wish to read, as it shows the actual progress made in the reduction of wages. He says, "I cannot give you any information as regards other properties, except that little or nothing has been done on any of them. The symptoms of a turn-out which were visible on your last visit were fully confirmed in the ensuing week by a general muster of the Africans and Kroomen, at the reduction of 4*d.* They evinced a good feeling at the same time, and commenced to plant provisions at once; thus showing that they were satisfied at the change, and endeavouring to make the best of it by their industry in their spare time. This continued until last week, when, unfortunately, the money was exhausted; and as no new credit has been opened a total stoppage would have taken place had Mr. Winter not sent me up a supply of provisions, which I hope will enable me to proceed. On mature consideration, I think it was a pity your proposal to the people was not 8*d.* instead of 4*d.*, as I think that it might have been carried. In cane cutting I am attempting to get 16 feet for 1*s.* 5*d.* (instead of 2*s.* 1*d.* as formerly) with partial success. If funds were available to pay them regularly I could effect anything in reason with the immigrants. This will be a reduction of 34 per cent. in cane cutting. In every other department 4*d.* has been faithfully deducted, and you may depend on seeing the result in the pay list. I have not, however, had one creole at work yet, nor do I see the least disposition evinced to accept of the reduced rate. Without them we shall soon be in a bad enough state; for though I may manage to make sugar without them, it is only by stopping every other description of field work that I can do so. This will soon tell on this year's crop. The people seem to me to have an idea that by standing out they will soon get the estates into their own hands; and with this in view it is probable their opposition may be protracted. The numerous incendiary fires, and the disposition to intimidate the Africans which they have evinced, show that a large amount of ill feeling accompanies it. A cargo or two of people would do more to turn the scale in our favour than anything else. My canes, you are aware, are sprouting, and consequently losing sugar daily. I am going to try to grind." This is the resident manager upon my estate. The former letter was from the attorney, who resides in the town.

10790. The expression that it was a pity you had not attempted to reduce the wages by 8*d.* instead of 4*d.* must have been written in melancholy irony, inasmuch as one was as hopeless as the other:—I believe it would be as easy to do one as the other. I am still sanguine that if the planters are firm, and true to their own interests, the reduction will be effected, especially if we get a small supply of immigrants at the moment. There is a great deal said in these letters about the ill feeling of the negroes. Had not I been there so recently myself I should have been alarmed much more by them; and as I wish to give the Committee the real statement of my own opinion, I am in candour bound to say that I do not believe that there is any ill feeling among the negroes generally; there may be some bad characters, and a few bad characters may give rise to incendiary fires. I think if you could make an example or two that would be checked. My own megass houses were burnt down just before I arrived in the colony, and I suffered a loss of 1,000*l.* by that; but I think that is the work of individuals, and I think the feeling of the negroes generally is not at all disposed to insubordination of any kind. When I went out there the negroes on my estate sent me an address, which is written in a very curious style, but their expressions in it show a very good disposition upon their part; and while I remained among them, though they knew I was a leader in setting about a reduction of wages, I never saw anything like an ill feeling on their parts, though I was constantly associating with them and making every inquiry,

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inquiry, and doing everything in my power to reduce the wages. Upon one occasion I spent nearly three hours in talking to the gang and persuading them of the necessity of it, and hearing their objections, which were certainly very much to the purpose; they spoke of the high price of provisions, which they attributed to the colonial duty. I explained to them that last year the prices had been high in consequence of the scarcity of provisions at home, which had diverted the American supplies to this country instead of the West Indies; at the same time I stated that I did not approve of high duties being imposed. Some of them said they considered it was very hard that the people of Great Britain should use anything but freedom sugar; they did not understand that at all; and some of them even urged that it was quite impossible they could support themselves for the same sum as a slave could maintain himself for. Their arguments were all those of reasonable beings, and with the exception of one or two youngsters, who said that "if money was slack work would be slack;" there was a good deal of good feeling evinced. They say in their letter to me "We beg leave to submit into your hands these humble expression of ours. We congratulate you on your safe arrival again in Berbice after so long a course of separation, and that we are permitted to see you in the enjoyment of health and strength, and at the same time express to you our regret that since we granted the land from Government (alluding to a grant made to them of Crown lands) it was our intention to have laboured on your estate, Highbury, but not having been quite in a settled state is the cause why we did not work so regular as we ought to have done; but notwithstanding all this we are still willing to obviate the evil effects of such tendency; we are still willing to live in peace with our attorneys, and all our manager. If you could be so kind, during your stay in Berbice, to adopt any measures as would be conducive of good, we would be willing to assist you in all your undertaking and proposal, as we are of those few who have the interest of our proprietors and managers at heart, and we firmly hope before you leave Berbice you would try to propose such measures as would be beneficial to employer and those employed."

10791. Are you at all sanguine now that the time will soon come when the creoles in Demerara will think that it is beneficial to their interests to reduce their wages?—I do not think they will see it exactly in that light, but I think it will prove to be so by the result, supposing the reduction can be carried into effect, which I think will depend mainly upon whether we get a supply of immigrants. I have Kroomen upon my estate, and liberated Africans, and a few coolies, therefore I had to address each of them separately through their headmen. Our immigrants have shown the best disposition towards the colony; they have not been, like the negroes, spoiled by the course of prosperity and the high wages of the last few years, and they were perfectly reasonable. The negroes were themselves quite aware of the reduction in the value of sugar; some of them have been working upon the metairie system, but still they thought that other remedies might be found than a reduction of wages.

10792. Those who were working upon the metairie system were bound to take half the proceeds of the produce, were not they?—That is the general arrangement; sometimes it is not so much.

10793. Whatever was the value of that produce in the English market, they only got that proportion?—No.

10794. Did they strike work?—They did not strike work, but it was doubtful when I left whether they would be willing to continue upon that system. I do not mean to say that they have in any case thrown up their engagements, but I am afraid if the price of sugar continued very low, unless money wages were reduced in the same proportion also, they would throw up their contracts.

10795. The presence of a few Africans, coolies, and Portuguese, have on this occasion proved the salvation of the colony?—I think entirely; the planters themselves attribute the preservation of their lives to it. From one of the letters it is clear that the different races in the colony is one great cause of the confidence they feel in their personal safety. They look upon the Portuguese and coolies as their friends in any struggle which might take place.

10796. That appears to be a practical security against combination and conspiracy against the planters?—I think so; that is one of the great advantages, and an advantage which was not looked for in getting immigration.



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10797. So that, in point of fact, the value of immigration of various races is far beyond that of the absolute labour which would be derived from their work?—I have always treated the moral effects of immigration as being far greater than the actual effects of the addition to the labour.

10798. It appears by the latest intelligence that not one creole had returned to his work?—That is the unanimous account of all the planters.

10799. How long was that after the first notice of a reduction of wages?—The notice of a reduction of wages was given before the Christmas holidays; the negroes generally cease work about a week before Christmas; the crop is concluded, and they always take to themselves a holiday for a week or 10 days; notice was given that the wages would be reduced; the latest accounts, I think, are at the beginning of February, a period of about six weeks, from about the 20th of December to the 2d of February.

10800. How should you estimate the loss of produce in those six weeks?—I should only estimate the loss of the month, because during a fortnight there would have been very little work done in any case, and the planters prepare themselves for it to a considerable extent.

10801. The loss would be for a month?—Yes.

10802-3. That is a critical month with you?—Yes; not so critical as it would be in Jamaica; but on both my estates, during the month of January, there ought to have been made from 80 to 90 hogsheads of sugar; that was not made; and as they have not sufficient labour to overtake their work at any time, I am afraid you may say that is almost lost. The canes are still upon the ground, but they will not be taken off within the year 1848; they will come into next year, and that will make next year's crop later. It is once more beginning the evil system of getting out of the regular rotation of crop, which was one of the worst effects of emancipation and the want of labour.

10804. That would be a loss to you of about 1,400 *l.*?—My sugar is not worth above 11 *l.* a hogshead at the present time; and then I save the cost of manufacturing it, which would be about 14 dollars or 3 *l.* a hogshead; and then there is also the saving of coals and hogsheads. I should save 5 *l.* certainly out of the 11 *l.*

10805. Then the loss would be between 400 *l.* and 500 *l.*?—Yes, in that point of view it would be about that. My argument is, that it is much better to put up with such a loss than incur a greater loss in the general cultivation of the estate at a higher rate of wages.

10806. In speaking of those estates you said that labour was about half?—Yes, about 10 *s.* a cwt.; that would be 10 *l.* a ton, making 4,000 *l.*; if I could reduce that 25 per cent. it would be a reduction of 1,000 *l.* My loss in the month of January, in attempting to reduce it, may be 500 *l.*; if wages are reduced during the present year to the extent of 25 per cent. the planter therefore will be in a very little better condition for it for the first year.

10807. Is the planting not going on at the same time with the crop at Demerara?—In Demerara there is no planting. When the canes are cut they are supplied with a few fresh plants where there are any deficiencies; there is no planting, except with a view to the permanent increase of the crop.

10808. That permanent increase is not going on?—No. I do not think in any case it will be likely to go on with the present prospects.

10809. It is not only for the 400 *l.* or 500 *l.* you are losing this year, but there will be another loss of 400 *l.* or 500 *l.* when those canes which should have been put in ought to come into fruit?—That would be the effect in the islands, but I do not think that would be the effect in Guiana. In the islands the planting is done in the spring and in the autumn.

10810. As far as supplying, that is, filling up the interstices in the plantation which arise from the old canes dying off, your feeling is that it will not be done?—It is unnecessary to do it unless the canes are cut; it is only done after the canes are cut off; then if there are any of the stools or roots of the canes which are deficient or dying the supplying takes place, but if there is no cane cutting there will be no supplying required.

10811. Does not it come pretty nearly to the same thing; you lose the crop which you do not take off now, and you delay the new sprouting of the canes for the future?—Yes; the canes will not be fit again to be made into sugar the second time for some time later than they would have been.

10812. So that it is a double loss?—Yes.

10813. Do you think, upon consideration of all those matters, that if wages could be reduced 25 per cent. sugar could be grown in competition with the slave-labour sugar of Cuba?—Not with other things remaining the same; not with the present want of continuous labour and the high charges to which we are consequently exposed.

10814. You have given your attention to the cost of producing sugar in Cuba, Porto Rico, and Brazil, have not you?—I cannot say that I have given much attention to it; I stopped six weeks in Cuba when I was in the West Indies the first time, and having been for a year and a half previously in the British West Indies, I was anxious to get any information I could as to the cost of production, though I did not give the same pains to it then that I should do now, because I had not the slightest expectation that the Cuba sugar would ever come into competition with the sugar of our own colonies. I made some inquiries, however, and I have since got all the information in my power as to the cost of production. It is very difficult to estimate the cost of production in any particular colony, because one generally gets the information upon one or two estates, and one can hardly generalize upon so few facts as that. I think the result of the inquiries which I have made would show that muscovado sugar can be grown for about 4 *l.* a ton to 6 *l.* 10 *s.* in the island of Cuba at the present time; and I am confirmed in that view of the case, because in 1842, 1843, and 1844, which was before the market for foreign sugar was disturbed by any alteration of our duties, the average price of those three years of sugar of the quality of our muscovado sugar in the island of Cuba was about five reals per arroba, or about 8 *s.* a cwt.; and during those three years the prices must have been profitable to the planter, because the supply went on increasing without any increase in the demand from this country or any disturbing cause. Therefore if 8 *s.* a cwt. was a price that was profitable, the bare cost of production was probably something like about 6 *l.* 10 *s.* a ton. I have information respecting the very best estate, I should think, in Cuba during last year; it is an estate on the south side of the island of Cuba, which produces upwards of 3,000 hogsheads. From that the cost of production would only appear to be, according to the statement of expenditure upon that estate, 3 *l.* 15 *s.* per ton; but I think there is no deduction made for the wear and tear of the slaves, or anything of that kind, which of course must be taken into account.

10815. The fairest criterion appears to be that which you have set forth?—I think so; 8 *l.* a ton was certainly a remunerating price in Cuba before the demand was disturbed by the change of duties here.

10816. £. 8 was sufficient to stimulate an increased production?—Yes, and to induce them to carry on the slave trade to some extent.

10817. Now it is from 12 *l.* to 13 *l.* in Cuba?—The price of sugar of that quality, I think, would hardly be as high as that now. In the extract from the "Times," it states that the planters are holding out for higher prices. The prices offered in Porto Rico, when I was there on my way home, were 2½ dollars, or about 11 *s.* a cwt.

10818. Here you reckon that the price of sugar has fallen about 12 *s.* since the passing of the Act of 1846?—Yes, I believe that is the case.

10819. Do you ascribe that to the inundation of foreign sugar?—No doubt, to the very large importation of sugar of all kinds, and especially to the large importation of foreign sugar; partly also to the commercial distress which existed in this and other countries. I think a part of it may be ascribed to that, but not the greater part.

10820. Mr. Villiers.] 1847 was a very extraordinary crop, was not it?—In our colony it was a larger crop than had been made since slavery, and the production of the colonies generally last year increased over the production in former years. But I do not think it is fair to attribute the reduction of price to that cause, because the amount of sugar imported from the British possessions was not quite equal to the sugar consumed in the country during the year. Therefore if we had not had a large importation of foreign sugar the price would not have been reduced, it would have been sustained. The supply was about equal to the demand. In 1847 we imported nearly 100,000 tons of slave sugar and 25,000 tons of free-labour sugar from foreign countries, which of course had the effect of reducing the prices in our market, independently of any other cause.

10821. Chairman.] So long as the supply did not reach the consumption
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you had a good right to presume that the prices would not have fallen?—Supposing such a state of things had existed, that we had still had the monopoly of the supply of our markets, the prices would have been sustained last year. The importation of our colonial possessions was 290,000 tons in 1847; I think the consumption was about 294,000 tons, a little in excess of the importation from our own colonies.

10822. You are not induced by Lord Grey's despatch of the 22d of December 1847 to ascribe the fall in the price of sugar to the same causes that have reduced the prices of other things?—I have already ascribed part of the decline to those causes; but I think more than half of the decline certainly was attributable to the excessive importation of foreign sugar last year. I have seen a speech of Sir Charles Wood, in which I observe he insists, as well as Lord Grey, upon the fall in the prices of other articles which he adduces as being equal to the fall in sugar. That struck me as not quite a candid line of argument, because neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer nor Lord Grey can imagine that the fall in those articles was produced by the same permanent causes which produced the decline in sugar, and if not it does not bear upon the question at all. Neither of them can really suppose that sugar will recover its price; they must be aware that one of the objects of the admission of slave sugar was to reduce the price. I think Sir Charles Wood mentioned sago, rice, and indigo; the two first, as every one will see, formed part of the food question. There was a scarcity and a high price of corn in 1846, and an over-importation of rice, and such an insignificant article as sago followed; afterwards we had a lower price of corn, and the price of those articles fell very rapidly. Then, with respect to indigo, at first sight that does not appear so easy to understand, but as Lord Grey has again insisted upon that fall in the price of indigo, I have been rather led to look into the circumstances of the case, and I find that last year the importation of indigo was more than in previous years; there was an increase, I think, of 2,000 or 3,000 cwt. over the importation of previous years.

10823. On an importation of about 71,000 cwt.?—Yes, there was an increase of 2,849 cwt. on an importation of 71,000 cwt., and at the same time there were causes in operation which reduced the consumption of indigo, especially the falling-off in our cotton manufacture. Owing to the general distress of the country, and the high price of cotton, the consumption of cotton last year was very much less, and therefore the consumption of indigo for dyeing cotton would fall off; cotton fell off from 30,000 bags a week to 22,000 bags per week last year. There is also this remarkable fact in connexion with indigo, that the fall is nearly made up at the present time, and the price is expected to be quite as high as it was at the next quarterly sale.

10824. The price of indigo, it appears, only fell five per cent. including the losses on both sides of the water?—There was some evidence to that effect, I believe, given by a gentleman who understood the question, Mr. Alexander. It is expected that at the next quarterly sale the price will be as high again as it was previous to the reduction; that certainly is not the case with sugar.

10825. That is in the face of an increased supply and a reduced demand?—Yes.

10826. Whereas the case of sugar is just the converse of that?—Yes; the supply was not quite equal to the demand.

10827. Which demand has been very much increased in the year 1847?—Yes.

10828. That is to say, the supply of British sugar has not been equal to the demand; but the market has been inundated by a supply of foreign sugar, under the Bill of 1846?—I think so, certainly; under that Bill, and also under the operation of other causes which I fear will still continue. One of the effects of that Bill was to send a large part of the sugar trade of the world to this country. Last year, unfortunately, from the state of money matters on the Continent, there were not the same facilities for getting rid of that extra supply; there was no credit, and no means of buying sugar for exportation, therefore it had a worse effect than it otherwise would have had upon the prices here. I am afraid that will be repeated this year, in consequence of the disturbances which have recently occurred in Europe. Want of confidence will induce the planters of Cuba to send almost all their sugars here; both those which are bought by agents in Europe, and those shipped by planters, will almost all
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come here; and there will be no vent for them, on account of the decline of credit on the continent of Europe; and we shall be again inundated by an immense supply of sugar.

10829. Is not there a still more self-evident proof that it is the Act of 1846 which has reduced the price of British colonial sugar, in the circumstance that foreign sugar has maintained its price while British sugar has fallen 12*l.* a ton?—Yes; I think that is quite a conclusive argument upon the subject, because the price of foreign sugar, before the alteration in the duties by the Bill in 1846 was known, was almost the same as it is now, while our prices have been reduced about 12*l.* a ton. I think it is only fair that every party should admit that the fall in price has been produced by the Act of 1846, and that it was really intended that the price should be so reduced.

10830. In Lord Grey's despatch of December 1847, he sets forth that Parliament has gone far in doing all that can be done by well-considered measures to mitigate the distress of the colony, and that with this view Parliament has already relieved the West India planters and merchants of a charge which was set forth by them to be equivalent to 5*s.* a cwt. upon the production of sugar, by removing the restrictions on the colonial trade with the United States; do you apprehend that by that free trade in lumber and provisions you have derived a benefit in cheapening your supplies equal to 5*s.* a cwt.?—No, nothing like it; I think the effect of opening the trade and rendering it a perfectly free trade with the United States will not be very sensibly felt till we are in a position to produce sugar and molasses as cheaply as other countries; in that case it would be a very great advantage to us, because all our specie now finds its way to the United States, whereas if our produce were selling as low, the owners of American vessels would buy it as readily as they do the produce of Porto Rico and Cuba, and they would not take away our silver as they do now. They go away now in ballast, and take nothing but hard cash for the supplies which they have sold us.

10831. Then as far as it has gone, the result has been that you have to pay the United States of America in hard dollars instead of paying for a portion of their supplies in your own produce?—Yes; I think that is one of the evils of the partial application of free-trade measures.

10832. The United States of America have not reciprocated free trade with you?—No.

10833. They still put 30 per cent. *ad valorem* upon your sugar and 180 per cent. upon your rum?—Yes.

10834. Which effectually excludes you from that market?—I do not expect it will more effectually exclude us than it does Cuba; it would have a tendency to exclude our produce and encourage the production of the United States, but it would equally exclude Cuba, whereas they buy the produce of Cuba.

10835. With respect to this 5*s.* a cwt., by which amount your supplies were to be cheapened, I understand you to say that in the last year the entire cost of all your supplies of every description did not amount to more than 4*s.* 4*d.* a cwt.?—I do not think it does, and those are not all American supplies, of course; they are supplies of every description.

10836. Including coals, machinery, and manufactures of every description?—Yes; I am not aware of the grounds upon which the 5*s.* was calculated; it must evidently have been an exaggerated calculation, whenever it was made. Since we have been free to import our American supplies without differential duties we have not had an opportunity of testing the advantage at all, because a scarcity of shipping and other causes have increased the prices which we have been paying for lumber and supplies from America instead of diminishing it, but in no case could it be of any very great importance to us. No doubt that estimate of 5*s.* was originally a calculation made by the West Indians themselves, but when it is put forward by a minister of the Crown in 1847 as a ground of consolation and hope to the West Indians, it acquires a certain official character; it certainly ought not to be used as an argument unless it is a well-grounded one.

10837. Can you show that, previous to emancipation, the British colonies were able to grow sugar as cheaply as any other slave colonies?—Yes, I showed from the evidence that had been given before the Committee in 1842 by myself, that on my estate, sugar was grown at 6*s.* a cwt. up to the end of the apprenticeship,

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ship, and taking the average of foreign countries I think they cannot produce it cheaper than that.

10838. The sugar cultivation of Cuba and Brazil never was able to rise at all till the British cultivation was driven out of the market by the emancipation of the British slaves?—It went on, I believe, gradually increasing, and I have no doubt that it would have increased as the demand on the continent of Europe increased; we were not in a condition to increase our supplies, because though we had slavery we had no means of getting more labourers; the slave population of our colonies was gradually diminishing; therefore we could not have increased our supplies, and we were obliged to use every means in the way of machinery, to keep up our supply.

10839. Looking to the historical fact, was it not this, that you were every year by energy, by the investment of capital, and by improved machinery, and improved science, increasing your supplies from the British West Indies, while the countries of the Mauritius and of Bengal were also increasing their supplies; so that the result was, that you were annually sending 50,000 tons of sugar into the continental market, to compete and keep out, to a certain extent, the Cuban and Brazilian sugars?—No doubt we produced more than this country was able to consume, and we sent the surplus in the shape of refined sugar to the Continent, and there it had the effect of keeping out the same quantity of slave-grown sugar.

10840. Both refined sugar and raw sugar?—Yes, I think the export was principally refined sugar, on account of the drawback.

10841. Consequently we have a right to presume that if you had fair play you could do as much now?—We could do far more now, because we could have an addition to our labourers, which we were not in a condition to get during the time of slavery. I think there is no limit to the power of production of the British West Indies.

10842. The soil and climate of those colonies with which you are connected, British Guiana and Trinidad, are as favourable as those of any other sugar growing countries in the world, are not they?—I think they are more so. I think no country in the world has the same advantages as British Guiana in producing sugar cheaply, from the level nature of the country, the universal facility of communication by water, and the great average fertility of the soil, and also from the climate. They have two rainy seasons in Guiana, which is a great advantage; it is the want of that, I think, which raises the cost of production so much in India. Trinidad has a more fertile soil in some places I think, than any part of the world. South Naparima in Trinidad, I should think is the finest country in the world for sugar cultivation; there is a depth of about 18 feet of alluvial soil, and decayed vegetable matter; but the average fertility of Trinidad, however, is not greater than that of Guiana; at the same time there is some very fine soil in many parts of Cuba.

10843. As far as your observation goes, do the British planters readily adopt all improvements in machinery and agricultural implements which present themselves?—I think they have been doing so for years past; they have seen that their only chance of safety under the competition to which they have been gradually exposed, first with India, then with free-labour countries, and latterly with the slave colonies, consisted in improving the process of manufacture and diminishing the quantity of manual labour required for producing sugar. I have always seen even too great a disposition in the managers of estates to go to expense in introducing improvements of that kind before they have been fairly tested. I think the quantity of machinery and the number of patents and inventions which have been tried in the West Indies is quite extraordinary.

10844. You have told the Committee that your plant is equal to a far larger production than you are able to find labour to meet it?—It was producing between 600 and 700 hogshheads up to the period of emancipation, therefore it would take off double the crop it is doing at present.

10845. We hear a good deal said about the non-residence of proprietors; as far as your observation goes, do you think that the estates of residents in England are much worse cultivated, and have less energy, and less capital applied to them than the estates of those who are resident?—I should say that certainly they are not. Under existing circumstances the estates of absentees, I think, are better cultivated, because, generally speaking, they are possessed of

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of more capital, and the great question during the last few years has been the expenditure of capital; the estates have not supported themselves, and therefore the resident proprietors have not been in a position to keep up the cultivation so high as many absentees. I do not think that absenteeism is one of the causes which can be brought forward for the distress in the West Indies. First of all, I find that even during slavery the estates of the resident proprietors were not more productive or remunerative than the estates of absentees; and then I do not see myself exactly, what use a proprietor like myself would be if he were resident. There is a twofold operation on a sugar estate. There is the agricultural operation, which I should not be competent to superintend, because I know nothing of cane planting, and it would take several years' study to make myself master of it; then there is the manufacturing operation, as to which also it requires that a man should be brought up to it to understand it, so that I do not think the presence of a proprietor like myself would be of any use to the colonies. Then the next question is, whether a class of proprietors who have been brought up to the business could not be found to carry on the cultivation; but then the difficulty with such men would be that they would not have capital, or if they had capital they would not go and reside out there. In all cases where sugar cultivation has been extended, it has been by the capital of absentees. When it was attempted by this country to push the cultivation of India, it was entirely by means of absentees; in Java, I believe, it is the same thing. In Cuba a great deal of the capital comes from the United States, though in that country, having made large profits lately, there are some resident proprietors who are possessed of considerable capital. You cannot have proprietors with sufficient capital to carry on estates, unless the cultivation is made profitable; and till the cultivation is profitable, the resident proprietor is in a worse position than the absentee proprietor. With respect to the colony of Berbice, where my own estates are, at the time of emancipation the absenteeism was not to so great an extent as is generally supposed. There were about 33 sugar estates in that colony, producing about 12,000 hhd. of sugar; 20 of those estates had resident proprietors more or less interested in them. The effect of the losses which have been sustained since emancipation, has been to diminish the number of resident proprietors and to cause the abandonment of their estates in some instances, while the absentees have been able to make arrangements for carrying on their properties.

1846. You would recommend that a differential duty should be maintained for a certain number of years to enable the British planters to carry on the cultivation of their estates, and you have other remedies in respect to immigration, which you suggest to the Committee; what amount of differential duty would you suggest, and for what period would you think it necessary that that differential duty should be guaranteed, and also what would you propose in respect to immigration?—It is very difficult and rather invidious for me to name any amount of differential duty. I think, first of all, decidedly, that there must be a differential duty to some amount, adopted for a certain period. It is quite impossible that the sugar cultivation of the colonies can be continued without one. I think Parliament itself has conceded that principle, inasmuch as it has given a differential duty for a certain period. The amount of that, I think, was lower than it was really wise to give. I think it was impossible for the planters to bring their cultivation into a state to compete with slave countries with so small a protection. With respect to the amount of protection that it would be desirable to reimpose, the opinion of my friends both at home and abroad is, that the sugar cultivation will not be maintained generally in the colonies, unless at least a protection of 10s. a cwt., to continue for a period of something like 10 years, were conceded. That is what they consider, both in London and in the colonies, as their minimum. That opinion of course has great weight with me, as coming from men who are more extensively connected with the West Indies than myself; but I am not quite sure that such an amount of protection, for so long a period, would be for the real advantage of the West Indies, if it were imposed with the view of bringing them into competition with slave labour at the end of that period. I do not think that it would put us in a better position at the end of that time than we are in now. Even in the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, where there is abundant fertility, and plenty of virgin soil, I think there would

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be much danger in such an inducement to extend the sugar cultivation as that protection would afford. At the present moment, in those colonies, we are engaged in a struggle to reduce the wages, which is the only effectual means of putting the cost of production of sugar on a sound and satisfactory basis. I think the effect of a differential duty to that extent, for so long a period, would be at once to decide that struggle in favour of the negro. I think he would get his own way, and get it probably to the amount of the increased price of produce; there would be an increase of wages tantamount to the increase in the price of produce, and therefore the benefit would go into the labourer's pocket. For though it were coupled with unrestricted intercourse with Africa, it would be so me time before that came into play; the inducement to extend cultivation would keep up the wages beyond the effect which the importation of fresh labourers would have. The fresh labourers would be put to increase the cultivation, and not to bring down the rate of wages upon the old cultivation. With respect to the other colonies, I think its effects would be still more disastrous in the end. I have not now been in Jamaica for more than eight years, and the accounts given to me of the state of the island represent it to be in a much worse condition, not only than it was then, but than the rest of the West Indies; almost in a hopeless state; therefore I do not wish to damage their chance of obtaining additional protection by anything I may say. I believe that it would be of assistance to the present proprietors of Jamaica if they got such a protection as that, but if it had the effect of increasing the production very largely and bringing a large quantity of produce from India, the Mauritius, and other colonies, it would not permanently benefit even the island of Jamaica; it might benefit the present proprietors, who might perhaps get out of their properties with a sacrifice. My own feeling is that there must be a protection, and for the next two years at least nothing less than the amount named would be sufficient to restore confidence, and to induce capitalists here to support the cultivation of the West Indies; it would be quite two years before any reduction in the cost of growing our sugar could be made by the importation of fresh labour. If sugar were raised 4*s.* a cwt. more, by bringing the duty up to 10*s.*, many estates would be carried on; but I think it would be unwise to give that protection for any extended period to the colonies if it be intended ultimately that they should compete with slave labour.

10847. The effect of giving 10*s.* protection would be to give you a better price for your sugar?—It would raise the price of sugar 4*s.* a cwt. in this market.

10848. The effect of giving you a better price for your sugar, you think, would be that the labourers in the colonies would demand an increase of wages up to that point?—Not only would they demand it, but the planters themselves would be disposed to give it; the planters are not free agents exactly, they are men with encumbrances which they have to provide the means of diminishing if they can, therefore their great object is to make sugar at any cost, and that has been one of the great causes of the high wages. If all the proprietors had been on the spot, wages would not have been so high. But if the protection were to continue for a very limited period, I do not think that would have the effect of impeding a reduction of wages.

10849. If I understand you rightly, you think if a 10*s.* protection were given now, with the certainty that it was to cease at the end of two years, the cultivation of the canes now upon the ground would go on and the crops would be reaped, but no one would invest any fresh capital?—They would not invest fresh capital in increasing the extent of cane cultivation on their estates.

10850. They would not invest any capital in the importation of any fresh labourers, would they?—I am desirous of limiting my answers to British Guiana, which is the colony with which I am best acquainted; there I think they would gradually get more labourers.

10851. I understand you to say that 10*s.* protection for two years would be very salutary, but you think that 10*s.* protection for ten years would be mischievous, because it would induce the planters to extend their cultivation and get more labourers, and also satisfy the existing labourers that they would be able to secure higher wages. I am at a loss to understand how it is that you come to the conclusion that if you were to have an immediate protection of 10*s.* a cwt., so as to secure for the next two years a high price in the market, the labourers in the colonies would not be influenced by the same reasoning which you

you think they would be influenced by if the protection were for ten years?— I am not so much afraid of the labourers' demands as of the planters' predisposition to grant them in the event of prices being permanently raised. The desire to "push estates," as it is called, would increase in a ratio corresponding with the length of time for which protection was accorded. If the period were only two years the competition for labour would be less intense than if it were ten. A reduction of wages might be effected in both cases by the increased supply of labour to which I look.

10852. Do you think if protection were to cease in two years the planters would be so mad as to embark so much fresh capital as would be requisite to import fresh labourers?—I do not recommend that protection should absolutely cease in two years, but I think the present declining scale should be suspended for a period of two years. A protection to the amount of 10*s.* should be given for two years, and at the end of that time we should revert to the present sliding scale of protection. I do not think we could drop suddenly from 10*s.* in two years to absolute equality; I think that would be impossible; but I do think that in colonies possessing virgin soil and having every means of importing labourers, it would be a sufficient inducement to them to import labourers from Africa at a moderate expense if that protection were fixed for two years at 10*s.*, and then to continue as at present. I do not know that that is the best plan or the best rate of duty that could be suggested, but it strikes me, from what I know of British Guiana, it would give them hopes that they would be able to struggle on under a protection of that kind; at the same time I am aware that there are dangers even in that protection of keeping up the rate of wages and extending cultivation, but it is a choice of evils.

10853. The object of giving the protection is to keep up and encourage cultivation?—Yes, not to produce fresh cultivation.

10854. Of course the less the protection the less encouragement there will be to maintain cultivation?—Yes, of course.

10855. You appear to think that if the protection is extended for ten years, the immigration would take place with a view to the extension of the cultivation of the estates; but you think if it were restricted to two years, the immigration would be entered on simply with a view of reducing wages?—Precisely so.

10856. How do you come to the conclusion, that if immigration were to be carried out upon the faith of a protection of 10*s.* for two years, and wages should be thereby reduced for those two years, that reduction of wages would not continue for other coming years?—I think, if the protection of 10*s.* lasted for two years, no man would employ the immigrants who were imported to put in fresh canes, because those canes could not become available in the shape of sugar in this country within the period to which the protection would be confined. The increased production of sugar would come too late to benefit by the rise in prices occasioned by the 10*s.* duty. If the protection were 10*s.* for ten years, it would come in ample time; and though I do not think, after the great discouragement that capitalists here have received with respect to sugar cultivation, they would be over-anxious to embark in fresh ventures in the British colonies, yet there are many of them so deeply in at the present moment, having mortgaged estates largely indebted to them, that I think they would be inclined to make a push, and to say "Let us get our money out of the thing during those ten years by making a very large production of sugar, and then we will give it up at the end of that time as a bad job;" so that at the end of ten years the colonies would be probably paying higher wages, and making larger crops to meet the reduced prices. I think there is that difference between two years and ten years; two years would be no encouragement to any man to carry on the cultivation of sugar on an increased scale; ten years would be such an inducement.

10857. I understood you to say that the plant upon all the estates, or the greater part of the estates, in British Guiana, was equal to produce something like half as much more sugar than it does now, and that all that was necessary to increase their production was a larger amount of human labour?—I do not apply that remark to all the estates. I said, that upon my own the plant was equal to taking off twice the crop which it had done during slavery. On many estates the crop has, by a very large expenditure of money, been brought up

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to what it was during slavery, and the loss of the proprietor in such a year as last year has consequently been far greater than my own, just as in the case of the Mauritius, where they were led to push their cultivation. I do not mean to say that the effect of immigration, if it continues for any number of years, will not be to increase the crop of British Guiana. I think it will be gradually brought up again, but it will be a very gradual increase if the planters are left to their own means, without any great increase of protection here to import labourers. They would import them very slowly and gradually, and the increase of crop would be very gradual, therefore I do not think the same danger would arise as has done in the Mauritius, from the Government taking the supply of labour into its own hands. If the planters were left to import their own labourers, they would regulate the supply of labourers according to the demand there was for their produce in the sugar market.

10858. If the planter is to invest the capital that is necessary for the immigration of labourers for two years only, would that make the labour upon his estate, if it is to be restricted to the same number of hogsheads as are now grown, cheaper than it is now?—If, producing the same crop of sugar they get more labourers, it will certainly reduce the price of labour.

10859. They will reduce the price of wages of each individual labourer; but if they double the number of their labourers they will be paying the same amount for labour?—If they double the number of labourers employed they will certainly increase the crops by so doing; but I think they would have greater command of labour if they had immigration, and therefore that they might get labour cheaper without employing a larger number of people; at any rate without paying more wages to those people.

10860. You would have to divide the capital that would be laid out upon your immigration over two years?—We should go on producing sugar with the assistance of those immigrants after the expiration of the two years.

10861. Not more than you would if you had ten years' protection?—Less than if we had the protection for ten years instead of two; but then the immigration would be less also.

10862. Your argument is that if the price of sugar were raised 10s. a cwt. by a protection of 10s. for ten years, the labourers would put the difference in their pockets?—They would get the greater part of the difference.

10863. But if a protection of 10s. is not given for two years, the estates will go altogether out of cultivation?—Yes.

10864. But if it is given for two years, and for no longer period than two years, then the labourers would submit to a reduction of wages, and the planters gain all the difference?—Suppose we had that assistance, in the way of labour upon which I have calculated.

10865. What you complain of is the want of sufficient cultivation?—The want of sufficient attention to the cultivation that we have.

10866. No matter whether it is an extended cultivation or an improved cultivation upon the same spot, the result of more labour is a greater produce, whether it is applied to a greater extent of plantation, or whether it is applied to a greater extent of cultivation?—But it would be a moderate increase in the one case and an enormous increase in the other case. If we had protection for two years, I, as a proprietor of an estate, should not think of adding anything to my cultivation. I should wait at any rate till labour was actually reduced in price in the colony before I thought of increasing my cultivation. On the contrary, if Parliament were to give us a protection of 10s. for ten years, I would send out orders to increase my cultivation to a very great extent; I would put in 100 acres of canes, enter into the labour market, and compete, even at higher wages than I have been paying, because my chance of safety would be in growing a great quantity of sugar during those years; in the one case, I should have an inducement to go into an extended cultivation, in the other case I should look for an increased profit from my estate from better cultivation.

10867. If you had 10s. protection for two years and no more, would you embark 5,000*l.* in bringing over 500 labourers?—If I were allowed to retain the services of those labourers for a certain period; and it were arranged, not that protection should cease at the end of two years, but should diminish gradually for a further period of four years. It would depend entirely upon the Government assisting me during the next two years to diminish the losses which

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which must necessarily arise during those two years from continuing the cultivation. If I had that inducement, and could get labourers indentured to me for five years, I think I should be inclined to get a considerable number. I should never require so many as 500.

10868. If you had labourers indentured to you for five years, and you were obliged to employ them for five years, you must carry on the cultivation for five years?—I should look to carrying it on permanently under those circumstances, or I should not get them at all; I should hope that at the end of the period of the protection, I should have so far reduced the cost of production as to be able to compete with slave sugar; and I should also look in some degree to the misfortunes of my neighbours for enabling me to do that; not my neighbours in British Guiana; but in British India and other countries, I think the production of sugar will fall off.

10869. If you look to building up your fortunes upon the ruins of your neighbours, would not the most secure method of obtaining that object be that you should have no protection at all, because in that case greater part of the plantations would be thrown out of cultivation, and you would have those labourers from other estates without any importation of new labourers to cultivate yours?—That has not hitherto been the result of the abandonment of cultivation, to send any great part of the labourers to other estates; they have mostly located themselves upon land that they have bought; perhaps upon the land of the estate which has been abandoned, and done very little labour elsewhere. What I mean is, that the diminution of sugar production in other British possessions, will in a year or two raise prices, and give us a better chance of profit in British Guiana.

10870. You have stated that the feeling of the creoles is, that the estates will go out of cultivation, and the country will become their own?—That was the tenor of the letters which I read to the Committee from the colony.

10871. You have given evidence that last year you cultivated sugar at the rate of 20 s. a cwt., that you could lay it down in the London market at 28 s. without any profit to the planter; and that you sold it at 24 s.; you said that you could meet that loss of 4 s. a cwt. by a reduction of 25 per cent. in the wages; but that as yet that experiment of reducing wages had gone on for six weeks, and not one creole had submitted to it?—That is the case.

10872. That is with 6 s. protection?—It is.

10873. To compensate you for the loss of that 4 s., to make you even in the market at the present time, you must have instead of 6 s. protection, 10 s. protection?—That is what I found my proposition on.

10874. If you should afterwards be able to reduce the wages of all your labourers, and all your persons receiving salaries, 25 per cent., you would have a margin of 4 s., with an additional price of 4 s. to repay the interest of your capital, and give you some profit?—Yes; I think that shows that that would be just a fair inducement to continue the struggle, if we got 10 s. during the present year and the succeeding year.

10875. You have also told the Committee that your reliance for a reduction of wages is upon the expectation that you think you will be allowed to import immigrants; you say that the Africans, and Kroomen, and Portuguese, and Coolies already in the colony have been its salvation; that they alone have not combined with the natives; and you look to a further immigration of those labourers to enable you to carry out this plan of the reduction of wages, which, as yet, has been perfectly unsuccessful?—I do, and I think also that the negroes, after a time, if the planters are firm, will come round. I think that if Government give their aid in suppressing any tendency to riot or insubordination if it should appear, which it has not yet openly done; if Government are prepared to act temperately and firmly, and the planters are inclined to adhere to the engagement which they have entered into, of reducing wages 25 per cent., the planters I think will succeed.

10876. When you speak of the Government acting firmly, do you mean that they are to send the British guards to Guiana?—No, we do not want any troops at all there more than we have, which is something quite inconsiderable; up to the present moment there has been no necessity for showing a single soldier, as far as I know of; the only outbreaks there have been have gone to the

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extent of threats, as stated in the letter I have read, and the ill-feeling shown in incendiary fires. The Governor issued his proclamation at once, and showed every disposition to support the planters in their reasonable designs.

10877. At present it has only gone to the extent of burning the megass houses, and the passive resistance, which appears to have cost you at the rate of about 500 *l.* a month?—It cost me, according to the calculation I made just now, 500 *l.* in the month of January; but in reducing wages in any country, even in this country in the manufacturing districts, you might have expected to meet with the same degree of opposition which we have as yet met with, and I think that a little firmness may answer the purpose of repressing it. I do not deny that the accounts of the state of things in British Guiana by last mail were very alarming, but I am rather more afraid that the planters will think of their personal danger, and will give way to the negroes, which will be the greater evil of the two. Your Lordship asked me whether there were other remedies which the West Indians were desirous to introduce. Those remedies were brought prominently under the attention of the Government in November last, but they have not yet met with any attention in a practical form. First of all as to the duties on rum; the West India Committee, in November last, claimed that they should be reduced to a perfect equality with the duty on home-made spirits; they also asked to be allowed to have the Act permitting the distillation of sugar amended, so as to render the drawback of duty sufficient. I believe that is to be partially amended by a Bill which is now before The House for allowing the distillation of molasses. They also asked that the use of sugar along with grain as well as separately should be permitted. That is still withheld from them, and, as I think, upon very insufficient grounds; they are to be allowed to mix molasses and grain, but not sugar and grain. There is a difficulty with regard to mixing sugar and grain, that it would interfere with one of the checks which the Excise officers at present have in ascertaining the quantity of spirit distilled; but various means of obviating that have been suggested, and, as the Excise themselves have admitted, those means would be quite sufficient to enable them to estimate the duty on spirits distilled from a mixture of sugar and grain, and there would be no loss to the revenue. They also ask to be permitted to bring the produce of the colonies to market in any form they may find most convenient, and to refine it in bond before entering it for home consumption; that would include the introduction of concrete and cane juice at fair fixed duties, and also the permission to refine in bond in the same way as foreign sugar is allowed to be refined in bond for exportation. I have yet to learn that there is any real objection to that. Those measures the West India Committee considered were perfectly consistent with the policy which has been recently adopted in Parliament with regard to free trade, and they are only surprised they have not been given to them in their distressed condition. There are others which have been also brought before the Committee, as, for instance, the alteration in the discriminating duties so as to levy a higher duty upon the clayed sugars from Cuba and other countries, which come into competition, as they contend, upon very unequal terms, with their muscovado sugar.

10878. You do not mean that all sugars should be refined in bond?—No; only that permission should be given to do it as in the case of foreign sugar.

10879. If I understand you rightly, you wish that the British planter should be at liberty to import his sugar, if he thinks fit, in a state of cane-juice or concrete, paying a fixed duty upon its arrival in this country; or, if he thinks fit to import it in a clayed state, paying a fixed duty upon the sugar in a clayed state, or to import it in the rudest state on entering it to be refined in bond, paying a fixed duty upon the fine sugar?—I wish him to have the option of introducing his sugar here, and either entering it for consumption, after payment of the duty, or selling it to the refiner in bond and having it moved from the bonded warehouse in the dock to the bonded refinery, and the duty to be paid upon the product. There should be in all cases the option. Of course there is a large quantity of sugar which would not be refined, because grocers purchase a large quantity of raw sugar in an unrefined state.

10880. The effect of that would be that goor sugar of Bengal would be entered in bond and only pay the duty upon the product of refined sugar. Supposing two cwt. of raw sugar made one cwt. of refined sugar, it would pay

21 s. instead of 28 s. ?—I do not wish for any reduction of the duty, nor would it occasion a reduction in the aggregate, if the present rate of duty on refined sugar be fairly proportioned to the average product obtained from raw sugar.

10881. At present the average muscovado sugar and a large portion of the sugars of Brazil and Havannah come in at one rate of duty, except the differential duty, though the quality of one is nearly twice as good as the other; under your proposition they would both pay an equal *ad valorem* duty ?—There would be a power to the importer to pay an *ad valorem* duty if he chose, by having them refined in bond.

10882. Practically, your proposition would be this, that sugar of the quality of goor sugar instead of paying 14 s. a cwt. would pay 10 s. 6 d. ?—I never proposed to extend the reduced scale of fixed duty to goor sugar, or to anything else than uncrystallized saccharine matter; my proposition was confined to concrete; certainly however what the West India committee claimed was for all sugar from the British colonies a right to be admitted here in bond, and to have the duty paid either upon its going from the docks into consumption or to have it paid upon its coming out from the refinery in the state of refined sugar, and that the duty should be paid upon the produce of the sugar admitted, according to the present scale of duty. If that proposition were adopted, it would be especially desirable to extend it to concrete and cane-juice.

10883. In the quality of sugar brought from the West Indies, how would that help you at all ?—It would help us in this respect, that our sugar merchants would require a less amount of capital to carry on their business, and therefore they would be able to do it cheaper, and the refiners would give us a better price, because they also would have less capital invested. It would assist us in that way, and it would also be a protection to us upon the inferior qualities of our sugar. I think that it would come in in our favour likewise in economizing labour; that is of the greatest importance to us at the present time, because we are in the greatest difficulty as to procuring skilled labour, and we cannot improve the quality of our produce in the same way as has been done in slave countries. With respect to the vacuum pan, I was very anxious to have introduced it if I thought it would have paid; but upon looking into the subject, and going upon the estates in Demerara where it had been put up, I became convinced it was a very rash thing to attempt, in the present state of the supply of labour in the West Indies. I am quite sure that the skilled labour must be applied at home. It is to our interest now to bring home the raw material in the crudest state from the colonies; that crudest state I believe to be concrete, if the concrete turns out to be successful; at any rate the cane syrups, and the brownest kind of sugar; it is very important that we should not, with respect to this sugar, be brought into competition by paying the same duty that fine white Cuba sugar does. If we were allowed to pay in bond we should be paying the duty upon the proper proportion of saccharine matter.

10884. It is a reduction of duty upon the inferior qualities of sugar ?—Yes, it is.

10885. Which would benefit not so much the West Indies as the East Indies ?—I am afraid we grow a good deal of inferior sugar, so that it would effect a very great saving of labour there, and the sort of labour which is most difficult to obtain, namely, continuous and skilled labour.

10886. Have you seen any experiments tried upon concrete ?—No; there was an experiment in London, but I did not go to it, though I was anxious to do so. It struck me that it would be quite inconclusive, because it was not tried with cane-juice recently expressed in the colony, but some kind of molasses and syrup which had been brought home here, which had been preserved in some kind of way. All the gentlemen saw was that this juice was put into a pan, and some kind of ingredient mixed with it; they were told it would become concrete, but I do not know that any one saw the concrete thus produced. I went out to the West Indies lately with Mr. Archbold, the inventor. It appeared that he was connected with sugar property in Porto Rico; his brother had a large estate there. I put the question to him whether his brother had sent home part of his crop in the shape of concrete, and he stated he had not, which makes me somewhat doubtful of its practicability on a large scale.

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10887. Are there any restrictions or any charges of export duty upon rum in Demerara?—The only thing that could be called export duty is the tax of one per cent. upon the produce of estates, which is levied of course upon the value of rum as well as of sugar; it is not to any great extent. Then we have certain restrictions by the Navigation Laws and other laws as to the size of packages, the tonnage of vessels, and bonded warehouses, which I suppose ought to be reckoned if we are to reckon all the restrictions imposed by legislation, as the English distillers have done.

10888. Are you of opinion that the measure of emancipation was well advised in its conditions?—I think the result is the best proof that it was not; I think the apprenticeship was originally imposed for too short a period, and that it would have been wise if part of the compensation money had been reserved for the purpose of introducing labour into our colonies, to supply the deficiency which was quite sure to occur; something upon the principle which was proposed for the French colonies.

10889. Which was a 15 years' apprenticeship and a compensation of 55 *l.* for each negro, of which 40 *l.* was to be paid down, and 15 *l.* reserved to pay the expenses of immigration?—I think that would have been a much more prudent course; I do not mean to say that the 15 years' apprenticeship should have been continued with the same restrictions upon the labourers as were imposed during the seven years of apprenticeship; it would have been better during the last portion of apprenticeship to have adopted the plan of Sir Carmichael Smyth, which was to restrict the negro for a certain time to the parish, but to allow him to choose his own master.

10890. The result of emancipation has been that the relative position of master and slave has been reversed, and the master now is the slave of the negro?—I think that was the case till the immigration began to tell; I think that had produced an effect up to the change of duties in 1846, and had restored profit to most of the estates in British Guiana. With respect to my own estate, three years previous to 1846, I derived an income from it, perhaps not above 1½ per cent. upon the capital invested, but there was an income, and that was entirely attributable to immigration. The income in 1839, which was the first year after emancipation, had fallen off about three-fifths, but still it was more than 2,000 *l.*; the next year, 1840, the want of labourers began to tell upon the production of the estates, and in that year I lost 529 *l.*; in 1841 I lost 2,947 *l.* 16 *s.* 6 *d.*; during all those years we were crying out for immigration, passing immigration ordinances, and Acts for raising immigration loans, which were never consented to by the Home Government.

10891. Can you furnish the Committee with any of those Acts which you passed, and which were disallowed by various colonial governments?—I can do so. The first Immigration Ordinance was passed by the Court of Policy on the 20th of June 1839, a few months after emancipation, and disallowed by Lord Normanby in a most peremptory style. Fresh Ordinances on the subject were annually sent home, but though concessions as to emigration from Africa were made by Lord John Russell in 1841, it was not until the 5th of December 1843, or more than five years after the end of the apprenticeship, that Lord Stanley signified for the first time the assent of the Crown to an Immigration Ordinance. Even then it was years before the colony was allowed to borrow money for the purpose of carrying on immigration on an extensive scale; indeed it was only at the beginning of last year that an amended Loan Ordinance was finally settled with Lord Grey, too late to render the permission of much advantage in the state of the money market. In 1842 our entreaties having been thus disregarded, the loss upon my estate amounted to 4,639 *l.* 8 *s.* 7 *d.* That was the year of the Parliamentary Committee, in which we showed that our distress was so very urgent and proved that the cause of that distress was solely attributable to the want of labour. We began to get labour in 1841 and 1842; we got a few labourers. In 1843 I got an income from my estate of 610 *l.* 10 *s.* 9 *d.*; that would be one per cent. upon the value put upon the estate, for which it could have been sold during apprenticeship. In 1844 the income was increased to 999 *l.* 19 *s.* 5 *d.*, or as nearly as possible 1,000 *l.*, rather more than 1½ per cent. In 1845, which probably was owing to the moderate competition to which we were exposed with free-grown sugar, it was reduced to 483 *l.* 17 *s.* In 1846, not owing to the fall in the price of sugar, so much as to the bad crop, I had a loss of 1,070 *l.*, and in 1847, last year,

year, I calculate I shall lose 1,270*l.*; but all my sugars are not yet arrived and sold, therefore I cannot speak with any certainty. The result of the whole is, that in four years out of the nine, I made a profit of 4,289*l.*, and in five years a loss of 10,456*l.*; leaving a total loss of 6,170*l.* on the cultivation of my estate since freedom. I may add that, with respect to my other estate, I have lost still more, except the last year.

10892. Can you state what were your losses upon that estate?—I can. I have kept back the facts of the other estate, because it came into my possession only in 1843, and it came into my possession not in a high state of cultivation.

10893. Had you advanced money upon it?—The house of which I was a member up to 1843, had advanced upwards of 30,000*l.*, and the proprietor died. After his death the house declined to support it, and for some time the cultivation was neglected, and had retrograded very considerably. It had been brought up again to a great extent when I took the estate, but not to an extent which prevented my laying out a good deal of money upon it in the first year of my having it. The loss upon that estate has been continuous throughout the whole of that period.

10894. What did you pay for the estate?—It came into our possession in consequence of the foreclosure of the mortgage. We made arrangements to give the widow of the former proprietor 3,000*l.*, and we took the estate with a debt of 32,000*l.* upon it.

10895. So that it was virtually reckoned at 35,000*l.*?—Yes. I became possessed of the estate in consequence of arrangements with my partners on leaving the business. I took the estate instead of a share in 12 or 14 estates in different islands and colonies. I thought the colony of British Guiana at that time would be successful in its efforts to renovate its cultivation.

10896. Was it rated at the value of 35,000*l.*?—I should think that it was considered to be fully worth that sum. In 1843, I lost 2,077*l.* 18*s.*; in 1844, I lost 2,301*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* by it; in 1845, I lost 1,389*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; in 1846, I lost 2,667*l.* 1*s.*; and in 1847, I calculate I shall lose 617*l.*, making a total loss, for the five years it has been in my possession, of 9,062*l.*

10897. To what extent have you increased the produce of that estate?—I think the produce had fallen off to about 150 hogsheads; last year it produced 340.

10898. You increased the produce 190 hogsheads?—Yes. I should have got a very good income from the estate last year, if the prices of the previous year had continued.

10899. An increase of 10*l.* a ton would have worked practically very well for you?—Yes.

10900. You propose, as one of the remedies, immigration; from what countries would you propose to obtain that immigration?—I think the right of getting immigrants from any country ought to be allowed to the planters; but at the same time, I do not think it would be wise in them, under present circumstances, to attempt to get immigrants from any country but the coast of Africa. They are much better suited to the climate, and are better workmen, and also the cost of introducing them (the distance being short to British Guiana) is very small. They might be introduced at an expense of 6*l.* or 7*l.* a head, I think.

10901. Do you reckon in that sum all the cost of the necessary establishments in Africa to procure them?—I believe the cost has been a good deal enhanced by Government taking it into their own hands. I think if individual planters were allowed, under proper restrictions, to enter into contracts with the labourers, none of those expenses would be necessary. The expense hitherto has been about 7*l.* in Guiana. At that rate we have introduced a great many African labourers, as many as we could get, and we do not complain of the expense of it. It was much smaller than the expense of introducing Coolies and labourers who were much less effective.

10902. When you got them, did you pay them the same wages that the other labourers had?—We paid them the same wages; we were obliged to do so, because they were perfectly free to go and work for anybody else.

10903. If you lowered the rate of wages, do you think you would be able to induce the Africans to come over and work for you?—I do not contemplate reducing the nominal money rate of wages below 1*s.* a day; I do not think,

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with any probable acquisition of labourers for the colony, we should get them much below that, but I expect to get a much better day's work for that money than we are now doing for more money, and I think those wages would be a sufficient inducement to lead them to come over. All those who have come have worked cheerfully at that rate since the reduction was decided on, and I have been assured by the most intelligent immigrants themselves that plenty more would come if they could continue to get those advantages; confidence being once established they would come for even less than 1 s. a day. I think negroes from the Kroo coast would be especially valuable to us, and I think there is less difficulty in carrying out arrangements as to them than any other portion of the coast of Africa.

10904. The evidence of Captain Denman and Captain Matson conspired to give the Committee reason to think that there could not be obtained from the Kroo coast more than 1,200 Kroomen a year?—I have the evidence of Captain Denman himself, given before the African Committee of 1842 to oppose to that view. Hearing he had lately given evidence to the effect that very few could be obtained from the Kroo coast, I looked at it; it is contained in one of the reports of the West India body at the time. He says as to the Kroo coast, "I have not the least doubt that the West Indies might get thousands of Kroomen to engage as labourers." That would rather lead one to expect a larger immigration than 1,200 a year. I think also we ought not to rely too much upon the opinion of naval officers on a question of population on a part of the coast where their duties in repressing the slave trade never lead them; they have not had the same opportunities of seeing the Kroo coast and ascertaining the extent of the population that other people have had who have been expressly delegated for the purpose from British Guiana. We have sent over two gentlemen on different occasions, first of all, to see if Kroomen were free agents; we sent a gentleman of the name of Butts, who has been long a member of the financial representatives of Guiana; he went over as a delegate to the Kroo coast, and he made a most favourable report as to the probable extent of emigration, and as to the desire of the Kroomen to emigrate, and he brought over 80 or 90 people as delegates, who were people of consideration, sons of the kings and chiefs; we were not allowed, however, to go there again at that time, and therefore we could not take advantage of the benefit which would have accrued to us from having those people. Some of them went back last year in the "Growler," but the difficulty is that when they once get to the colony they prefer remaining where they are, and working, to going back, and, in fact, sacrificing themselves for the good of their countrymen by recommending them to come. Subsequently, as it was still denied or questioned by the Colonial Office, that free labourers could be got from the Kroo coast, the colony sent another gentleman, Mr. Bagot, who also made a most favourable report, and I believe also brought back a number of delegates. Both those gentlemen, whom I have seen in British Guiana, assured me that there was ample population, and that many thousand emigrants might be got from among the tribes of Kroomen and Fishmen, who inhabit those coasts, and who are somewhat similar in race; and that was also confirmed by the fact which occurred of a vessel which went there last year without any license, the "Prince Regent"; the captain, having been disappointed in getting liberated Africans at St. Helena, thought he would just take a run to the Kroo coast to see if he could pick up a few immigrants; he immediately got 108, though he was rather in a hurry, knowing that he was acting without leave. Part of those people were located on my estates, and I must say a more industrious or a more active set of men I never saw. They were located there in the month of July. All the canes on the estate, making 360 hogsheads, as they did last year, were cut exclusively by 16 Kroomen from the day of their arrival, an extent of work which never had been done by any number of slaves, and I think will never be done in Cuba, even if they work 16 hours a day. The head man had served on board English vessels; he had been at Liverpool and other places, and had a fair knowledge of English. I used to converse with him, and he always said that plenty of people would be willing to come. It is very difficult to get semi-barbarous people to form any idea of numbers, but after having pressed him a good deal as to the number that would be likely to come, he wound up with this declaration, that as many people would come as would cut all the canes in the colony. He had seen a good deal of the colony,
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and the extent of the estates, and in his idea as many would come as would cut all the canes of the colony. This man earned the ordinary rate of wages in the colony. I dare say he could earn 4 s. a day.

10905. Did he work by task?—Yes; they cut canes by the cord, which is the work they prefer.

10906. Did he perform three tasks a day?—I do not think any man could do three tasks a day in such work as cane-cutting. I do not think any freeman would, and I do not think any slave could, without being deteriorated by it.

10907. Under what sort of engagement do you propose that the immigrants should be imported?—I think where they are willing to come for five years the planter should be allowed to contract with them for five years at a minimum rate of wages, which he should be bound to secure to them. At the same time I do not think it would do to have a number of labourers working at a lower rate than the current rate of the colony; and therefore I think the governor of each colony should have the power of saying what the current rate of wages was, and of seeing that all the immigrants got that, whatever rate was stipulated for in their contracts. That appears the fairest way of dealing with the immigrants. At the same time I think it would be fair that if they had that advantage, the planters should be allowed to deduct a certain portion of the wages of the labourers, in order to repay them for the expense of introducing them. Under that system the labourer might be made to pay for the cost of his introduction in five years.

10908. Do you think he should be obliged to earn his passage-money back?—Yes. The only difficulty would be with regard to the Kroomen. One of their stipulations at first was, that they should have a free passage back; but I think now confidence is so far established between the two countries, that they would be quite willing to come without any stipulation of that kind, if they knew there was a constant line of vessels sailing between the one country and the other.

10909. Might not a contract be made with the immigrant, that he should not have a free passage back till he had worked out a certain amount of wages?—I think if you gave the planter the power of reserving a certain portion of his wages, that would be quite sufficient to ensure his earning his passage back.

10910. Do you know what the amount of the creole population in the colony is?—The last census was in 1842; I believe the creole population then of all kinds amounted to 98,000.

10911. How many immigrants have been introduced?—Forty-one thousand seven hundred and forty-one are shown to have been introduced into the colony since the commencement of immigration.

10912. How many are employed in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar?—The only authority upon that point is the report forwarded by the governor with the annual Blue Book for 1846, which would seem to show a fearful extent of indolence, but I should say most of the people were employed upon the production of sugar; there is very little absolute idleness, almost all the people there do more or less work. Some work for two days in the week, and some for three, but there are very few who do not do some work upon the sugar estates. The stipendiary magistrates, however, say in that report, that the labourers who work for hire in the colony are only 32,701. If the Committee, however, were under the impression that the number of immigrants of which I have spoken has been added to the effective labouring population of British Guiana during the last few years, they would be under a great mistake. We must look to the race of which those labourers were, to where they came from, and to whether they have remained in the colony: 7,582 out of that number came from the British West India islands, from Barbados, and the fully peopled islands in the neighbourhood; the greater part of those have gone back; perhaps some of them may come back again, but they are constantly fluctuating. From the foreign West Indies we have also got 2,490; most of those would remain, because they have been slaves in their own country. Of Africans, which after all are the real effective addition to the labouring population, we have only got 7,197. We had an immense addition of people from Madeira, to the extent of 15,672, during that period. Of Coolies we had 8,800, and in the present year I believe we shall have about 4,000 more, bringing the number up to 12,000; but those people we are under engagement to return in five years to India. I endeavoured to make

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an estimate of the number permanently settled, and it certainly would not be more than half of the total number who have been introduced. From the British West Indies it would be fair to assume about one-third of the people introduced are permanently settled there. From the foreign West Indies I put down the whole as staying; of the Africans I also put down the whole as staying, except 300 or 400 Kroomen we have had who may return. The people from Madeira I put down at nearly half the number. I think nearly half the number will stay, because though they come with the object of making money and then going home again, a great many of them will be induced to remain, no doubt; they are quite voluntary immigrants. The people themselves have taken up vessels, and have come of their own accord.

10913. Are they come at the cheapest cost?—They come upon this principle, that some of their own countrymen have taken up vessels and charged them a certain amount of passage money; those men came into the colony and offered themselves as labourers to any one who would pay their passage money for them. I took some of them upon those terms; the understanding was, that they were to work out the money so advanced, but it generally ended in the planter paying it, because they walked away and went to work elsewhere.

10914. That was from the want of contracts?—Yes. Some years ago we took a great deal of trouble to get Chinese, and I think we should have got them, but it was thought necessary by the Colonial Office to draw up a series of regulations which amounted to a positive prohibition, one of them being, that no money advanced to the labourers in Singapore should be recoverable by the importers of the labourers in British Guiana, therefore throwing the whole cost of introducing the labourers upon the importer. That was also coupled with a stipulation that though the Chinaman was to have the option of the highest rate of wages current in the colony, the planter should not be entitled to any contract for his services, if he chose to apply to the colony to release him on paying a proportionate bounty. I had written out to Singapore, thinking they would be a very valuable class of labourers; but the answer was that it was impossible to import them upon those terms; that an advance was necessary to the Chinaman; and that he insisted upon having a longer contract, because he would not leave his own country without some security that he should have a contract for a certain period of labour.

10915. Mr. *Wilson*.] Were there any Chinamen came at all?—No; in Trinidad, many years ago, there were some.

10916. *Chairman*.] In 1844 there were some impediments thrown in the way of the importation of immigrants, were not there?—The great impediment to the importation of immigrants has always been the Order in Council of the 7th of September 1838, which was passed simultaneously with the declaration of perfect freedom. It prohibited contracts being made with any labourers beyond the limits of the colony. It has been relaxed in various ways: first of all by an Order in Council abrogating so much of it as related to contracts of service made in Great Britain. That relaxation was passed three years after emancipation, but during those three years it was not even lawful for the planter who wanted a ploughman to go and teach the negroes how to plough, to have such a person indentured to him out of the colony. That was only abrogated as far as regarded Great Britain, and at the present moment I could not enter into a contract with a sugar refiner in Bremen to go out to the colony. There was one other relaxation in January 1843, so far as related to contracts of service made in North America, which was intended to apply to the free black population of the United States; but it was rendered ineffectual, because the Colonial Office thought it necessary to make a formal application to the United States government to be allowed to appoint officers in the various towns of the United States, formally to recognize the contracts. The thing itself the American government would have consented to, but they objected to take such a step as that.

10917. What is your opinion as to the general state of the productive industry of the emancipated peasantry?—I should say they were certainly retrograding in industry; they have been placed in unfortunate circumstances during the last few years for developing their industry; there has been no call upon them for anything like exertion; they have been perfectly able to support themselves, having high wages, and therefore, naturally enough, they have ceased to perform regular work. I think there are very few who do not work at all;

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all; but they please themselves in that way; some of them will work two days in the week, and others will be idle the whole week, and work the whole of the next week. I can give a good idea of the way that the people work from an analysis of the pay lists upon my estates last year. I find, taking the average of the year, that the number of names on the pay list, that is, the number of those who were considered as workmen on the estate, and did at least one day's labour during the week, was 315; while the average number working daily was only 115. I find that the average of the days which they were at work during each month was $8\frac{1}{2}$, being little more than two days a week, and that the average earnings which they got for the day's labour which they performed, was 38 cents, which is 1 s. 7 d. I calculate also that they were equal in that way to about 90 efficient labourers working six days in the week; if I had had 90 men who had worked six days in the week they would have made that crop of 360 hogshead as well as the 315 who were professedly my labourers. On Reliance estate I have an average of 269 people on my pay list; that includes the immigrants; a great portion of those were immigrants; the average being brought up by the labour of the immigrants; the average working of the creole population would be much less. Out of 269 people there were 106 on the average working every day, they did $9\frac{3}{4}$ day's work during the month; rather more than on the other estate, and they earned rather less; therefore if they worked two days they worked fewer hours; they earned 1 s. 4 d. as an average, that is equal to about 70 efficient labourers working six days in the week for the usual tariff of labour. In both cases, they might, by moderate exertion, have earned 2 s. 1 d. per day. Again as regards, regularity and continuousness of labour, I find there is still much cause for complaint. Taking a week at random, I see that on the Monday 77 labourers turned out on Highbury, on the Tuesday the gang numbered 115, on Wednesday 143, on Thursday 146, on Friday 133, and on Saturday 90. After holiday times the irregularity was much greater: it was not till the sixteenth day after they had commemorated the anniversary of their freedom, on the 1st August last year, that a gang of 100 could be mustered on either of my estates; though it is probably the most important season of the year, my managers were left with 30 or 40 people only at work. The same occurs at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide.

10918. Have those labourers any other privileges, or perquisites, or advantages, in the way of provision grounds?—Not generally in Guiana; it was the practice formerly on some of the estates to support the negroes on plantains cultivated by the slaves on the estates, but they were not their individual grounds. After slavery all those plantain cultivations were abandoned for want of labour. In some cases the proprietors gave over the plantain walk to the negroes for their own property, and they may have subdivided it and grown what they liked upon it since: on all the estates I think they do grow whatever they like upon the spare lands; but it is not their habit in British Guiana to support themselves by such grounds. The system was different in Jamaica and other islands during slavery, where each negro had a ground, out of which he supported himself; that is not the case in Guiana.

10919. Do they purchase their food?—Yes; or raise it from their own land.

10920. Are they most of them freeholders?—Yes; in the statement of the stipendiary magistrates they give 9,835 as the number of freeholders in 1846. I do not place any great confidence in those statistics; they have not the means of making them; but it is a kind of guess which is nearer than anything else.

10921. How would you compare the relative condition of the negro in British Guiana and the labourer in England?—It does not admit of a comparison; the labourer in British Guiana is so much better off. In Barbados, where there is no spare land, and where they have reduced the wages to 6 d. a day, the labourer is far better off than in the English counties. For example, there is a poor law in British Guiana; in the colony of Berbice, during the last four years, the average amount of money expended in relief to the poor has been 9 l. a year, and last year I think it was 8 l.; that shows that there is nothing like necessity. There is no such thing as poverty in that country, and it is quite impossible that it can exist, because any man can support himself by putting a few plantain roots into the ground. The only hold we have upon the industry of the negro is, his desire for the comforts of civilized life. At the time

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of emancipation that was a strong hold, but I am afraid the effects of the last few years have been rather to diminish his desire for those luxuries; they all of them have to work, because it is their only means of getting those luxuries. There is hardly a man, whatever his property may be, but who wants a coat and certain luxuries in the way of indulgences for Christmas and during holiday times, and therefore he will always work to the extent of 4*l.* or 5*l.* in a year; whenever his wants pinch him, he will go to an estate and do two or three days' work; he receives his wages at the end of the week, and then he will go to the town and furnish himself with those luxuries, and return to his own house and sit down and enjoy life.

10922. Are they better dressed than they were during slavery?—They are better dressed than they were during slavery; I think even that they are more appropriately dressed now than they were immediately after emancipation; but they are not so expensively dressed now as they were then. I think they have become more sensible of the value of money. Immediately after apprenticeship, it was perfectly ludicrous to see the way in which they threw away their money. I have seen a boy cleaning my horse with a musical snuff-box playing in his pocket which he had purchased by spending the wages of a week or 10 days. In the same way as to dress; I recollect there was a woman drowned by accident going to a wedding party when I was there, and the jury, on the coroner's inquest, valued her dress at 50*l.* sterling.

10923. Was she a negress?—She was a negress; an emancipated labourer. So they used to consume champagne and other luxuries at that time; but now that is all changed; you see very few of the smart bonnets which they used to wear, but you see handkerchiefs, which was their former head-dress. It is a proof of the increase of common sense in the negroes, but it diminishes the necessity of their doing work: at first when they found how easily money was to be earned, they spent all that they previously saved, and relied upon being able to get enough by the labour of a day or two for the supply of their wants.

10924. They do not keep many horses, do they, in British Guiana?—No, they scarcely keep any horses at all; the planters keep horses, but the labourers hardly ever do. The roads are very bad indeed. The usual mode of communication in British Guiana is by water; the labourers have a little canoe or "corial" by which they transport themselves from one end of the colony to another, in going about to labour. One of their great deficiencies is their ignorance of the value of time. A man instead of working upon the next estate to the one on which he lives, will put himself in his canoe, and go off 30 miles, and work at the same wages he might have got upon the next estate.

10925. Have the emancipated peasantry remained upon the old estates, or have they abandoned them, and gone into villages?—To a great degree they have ceased to reside upon the estates, except where land was sold them, immediately after emancipation, by the proprietors. The proprietors were averse to selling land in the heart of their estates to the negroes; they thought it would render the negroes too independent of them; they refused therefore to sell, and the negroes bought abandoned estates and land elsewhere, and removed from the estates. The planters then found out they were wrong, and we offered to sell; but it was then too late. About one-third of the peasantry, I should say, have now settled upon their own lands. That was my own estimate, and it nearly agrees with the estimate of the stipendiary magistrates. Those labourers upon their own land do certainly very little for raising the staple produce of the colony.

10926. Those who are renters work best?—Those who are resident upon the estate work much the best. They pay no rent in Guiana; the effect of proposing such a measure would be to drive them off upon their own land: the immigrants pay no rent at all.

10927. Do you not think that something in the way of a house or land tax might be expedient to induce the labourers to remain upon the estates, and not to purchase freeholds?—I think it is almost too late to effect that object now by means of a house or land tax; though I think something of the kind might be useful in preventing other labourers and new immigrants from removing from the estates. I think it will be impossible to levy a land tax, unless it were assessed equally upon all the lands; and then you would be very uncertain to get it from the negroes, while you would be certain to get it from

from the unfortunate planters. I think a house tax or hearth tax would not be an unfair impost at all; and it would enable the government of the colony to reduce the duties on imported articles of food and manufacture. Some of the planters themselves are very much in favour of a *per capita* tax; but I think they would hardly get it.

10928. Do you think that it would be very easy to levy a hearth tax?—I think there would be great difficulty in levying anything like direct taxation from the negro; he wanders about a great deal; his property is not available for seizure, and there is no police to carry out anything of the kind.

10929. Do not you think that indirect taxation is the only means of levying taxes from the labourers there?—I think it is by far the easiest mode. I think it would be very objectionable to raise the price of imported provisions or articles of food by it, as you would thereby increase the inducement to the negro to cultivate his own ground.

10930. You have already said something about the metairie system; do you think that could be tried advantageously?—I have been very anxious to introduce the metairie system, and have made efforts on my own estate to do so. I have about 60 acres on Highbury cultivated upon that plan, giving the labourers half the produce. It has hardly been tried long enough to test the success of the experiment. The proceeds of the produce have not yet been realized in cash, except in one instance. I found, however, that there were objections to it in the way in which it had been established upon my estate, and I changed the plan. I found they had been in the habit of letting cane pieces of 13 acres, which is the usual size, to one or two men, and that those men had employed labourers, and had not worked themselves; the consequence was, that they were actually interfering with the supply of labour for my own canes; and not only so, but they were giving higher wages than I was giving; and accepting less work from their own countrymen. They showed me their accounts, which they were very ready to do, of what they had spent, and it was far beyond anything they could expect to get from the value of their share of the produce, which, I knew, would discourage them very much. That was partly owing to the low prices; but they had, on the other hand, been particularly fortunate in the yielding of the land they had taken. They got as much as three hogsheds an acre, I think, from the metairie lands. Under other circumstances it would have paid them; but they had paid high wages, and taken insufficient work, while they had charged their own time for doing nothing but standing to see two or three men at work. Therefore the experiment was quite certain to fail. I thought it necessary, therefore, to make a change, and I refused to let any other piece of land unless a sufficient number joined in the lease to cultivate it, or unless they would bring a sufficient number of people to cultivate the land, who were not at that time working on my estate. There is no doubt the fall in the value of produce will very much discourage the introduction of the metairie system, because it is perfectly voluntary on the part of the negroes to work for money wages or work upon that plan. Some of the small estates in Berbice have been supported the last year by the metairie system. There is an estate opposite mine belonging to a gentleman at Liverpool. It had been conducted entirely by black men during the last year, and they have made a small crop; but still, compared with what the estate had been doing before, it was an increased crop; they made about 80 hogsheds of sugar. I was afraid they had made it too dear; they had shipped the sugar to Liverpool, and I do not think they will be best satisfied when they hear the result of the year's working. Another estate, of which I know the possessor, was also conducted solely by the labourers themselves, and they produced 100 hogsheds of sugar.

10931. You would make a distinction between contracts with the native population and with the immigrants; should you recommend that there should be power to enter into contracts with the natives?—I do not see that any limitation of that power is necessary by law, but it is hardly worth while to take any trouble in that matter, because they are so independent of us that they will not enter into contracts; they have been always suspicious of entering into contracts in writing. The only contract that we can have is what we have now by law since the middle of last year, that is an implied monthly hiring, but even that is quite inoperative, because we pay the wages weekly, and the labourer walks off directly he gets his wages, and it is perfectly impossible

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impossible to enforce a month's hiring against him. It might appear to be very easy to change the payment of wages to monthly payments, but it would, in fact, be a very difficult thing. Some of the planters told me they thought it much easier to reduce wages 25 per cent. than to change the time of payment from weekly to monthly.

10932. Has not the meddling of the stipendiary magistrates been generally mischievous?—I do not think it is now; I think immediately after emancipation it certainly was. They were appointed as protectors of the people during apprenticeship, and they seem to think that the negroes required the same protection after total freedom had began. They did not seem to be aware of the fact that the relative positions of master and servant were totally changed by the Act of Emancipation, and therefore at first they did a great deal of harm.

10933. You think they might be spared?—I think they might be spared perfectly, except in the towns; I think we must have stipendiary magistrates in the towns, but in the country districts it is quite a farce. I see by the Berbice newspaper that one of the magistrates continually advertises that he will hold a court upon my estate. No doubt any one at home would think there was a great deal of business going on, but the fact is he never goes there; he is only ready to hold a court if there were any business, but at present we are not in a position to quarrel with our labourers, and they have no reason to quarrel with us. I think in the towns you will want them as police magistrates, but in the country the expense might very well be spared. At the same time if planters were to act as magistrates you would want an efficient court of appeal, and some person must be appointed who would be qualified, for instance, to act as chairman of quarter sessions in this country.

10934. Are there not resident magistrates in the country who will be perfectly equal to fulfil the duties of chairmen of quarter sessions?—I think not; I think there would be a difficulty in their acting as chairmen of quarter sessions, because the cases would generally be such as they themselves would feel some interest in. We have at the present time officers who are called sheriffs, who are the chief officers in each division of the colony. Those gentlemen get very high salaries; but though they are very useful, they are not useful in carrying out the duties of those particular offices, because those offices are not much required. They do serve as superior magistrates in any case which requires investigation; but if at their death they were replaced by legal gentlemen, it would be far better. They are not lawyers, either of them.

10935. Can you inform the Committee what the progress of colonial taxation has been in British Guiana?—There has been a great increase of taxation since freedom: I think there is a very full statement upon the subject in the last colonial Blue Book. The expenditure has certainly very much increased indeed. I am not able to give the figures before 1838, which was the first year of perfect freedom; in that year it was 605,298 dollars; that would be about 120,000 *l*. In 1846 it was just double; 1,207,281 dollars, or 240,000 *l*.

10936. Can you inform the Committee what was the gross value of the exports from British Guiana in the same year?—It is stated in a petition presented to a combined court by the inhabitants of the colony, that the whole value of the produce of the colony did not exceed 3,500,000 dollars, being not quite three times the amount of the taxation.

10937. So that the cost of colonial government is one-third of the whole produce of the colony?—Supposing that calculation to be correct and the low prices of last year to continue. It is imperative, in the altered state of the colony, that there should be some reduction in the taxation; and I hope, as the whole power is vested in the Colonial Office, Lord Grey will be induced to listen to the humble request of the colonists to reduce the salaries of the government officers in the colony 25 per cent.

10938. Mr. M. Gibson.] Does that include the expenses of churches?—So far as they are supported out of the colonial revenue.

10939. How many establishments have you?—I believe they support all religions in British Guiana; there are certainly four established religions; Roman Catholic, Scotch Presbyterian, the Church of England, and the Dutch Lutheran; the Wesleyans may get an occasional grant.

10940. Chairman.] Have the Presbyterians a church establishment?—They have

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have several churches. The majority of proprietors resident in the parish decided what the public profession of religion should be, whether it should be a Presbyterian parish or a Church of England parish, and there were many fierce contests while it was being settled which it should be declared. In some cases they went so far as to set up a rival establishment immediately; the Court of Policy, however, pays only one.

10941. The Jews' Synagogue is not one of the established churches?—I do not think there are many Jews in British Guiana; there are in Jamaica a great many.

10942. There are a certain sect of people called Palaverers; who are they?—I never heard the designation Palaverers, unless it applies to the Moravian brethren who used to preach in Negro-English, or as it is called, Talke-talk.

10943. Itinerant preachers?—I do not think they exist in British Guiana. The Moravians I think at one time were there, but I believe there are none now; there are many different sects which have arisen lately; there have been secessions from the Established Church, and there are many congregations of Dissenters there, but they are independent of the state.

10944. Do not you think if there were to be a reduction of 25 or 30 per cent. from the salaries of all civil officers, including judicial and ecclesiastical officers, in British Guiana, that would have a great moral effect in the reduction of the wages of the lower classes?—That certainly was the expectation of the inhabitants of the colony themselves; directly it was resolved by them to reduce the wages to that extent, the Court of Policy, which happened to meet at that time, came to the resolution that the Governor should be requested to petition the Queen to allow that reduction. The matter is in the hands of the Colonial Office, because the civil list of the colony has been voted for a period of seven years beyond the present time. It was continued by one Act up to December of last year, and at the time when the planters were very desirous of obtaining immigrants, it was made a condition by the Colonial Office that they would consent to an Immigration Act and to a Loan Ordinance for effecting immigration, provided the civil list was continued for a further period of seven years beyond the time to which it had been previously continued.

10945. What was the legitimate connexion between the renewal of the civil list and immigration?—There was no connexion at all, further than that both matters were under the despotic sway of the Colonial Office, and they chose to connect the two. I do not mean to say there was anything like a publicly expressed threat that the planters should not have immigrants if they would not vote the civil list, but it was implied and signified in pretty clear terms to the planters that they would not get the one without the other. I believe the one measure was suspended till the other had actually passed.

10946. Does that appear from the despatches which have been laid before Parliament?—I do not think it does, with respect to the continuation of the civil list, but on its original imposition in 1841, I find Sir Henry M'Leod, who was sent down to Demerara in consequence of the quarrel between the colonists and Governor Light on the subject, writing thus to Lord John Russell on the 23d May (Parl. Papers, British Guiana, 1841): "To the enactment of the Immigration Ordinance I gave every facility. It was your Lordship's own promised boon to the colony, so soon as they should have agreed to the civil list question." Notwithstanding this, as already mentioned, the Immigration Ordinance was refused, as soon as the civil list was secured, and it was not till 1844 or 1845, that the Immigration and Loan Ordinances were allowed by Lord Stanley, on the express condition of a new civil list being voted; but I do not know of any published document showing that. There were despatches, because Governor Light read the despatches to the Court of Policy.

10947. Can you produce any record of that communication by Governor Light to the Court of Policy?—No, I am not in a position to do so. I ought to say that the despatch was read to them under an injunction for its being kept quiet, and I do not suppose I should have been aware of the fact if I had not been concerned myself in negotiating the matter for them in Downing-street. The fact remains that the civil list was forced upon them, and however it was done, I do not think the Colonial Office are in a position to deny in this case that it was made a *sine quâ non* to their getting immigrants that they should pass a civil list of 33,750 *l.* for seven years.

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10948. Do you think if the colony had been aware that their protection was to be taken from them in 1846, they would have consented to pass that costly civil list?—I do not think they would have been so desirous to get immigration or raise a loan if they had been aware of it. It was for the purpose principally of the Coolie immigration, which has proved so expensive, as things have turned out; they would not have passed the civil list, certainly.

10949. The condition upon which they voted the civil list was that they were to have a loan advanced to them?—No; they were to be permitted, upon their own credit, to raise a loan in this market.

10950. You do not think if in 1844 they had known that their protection was in two years to begin to be diminished to 7 s., and gradually to be abolished altogether in 1851, they would have speculated in any further immigration?—No, I think not. With respect to the Coolie immigration, which was the object of the loan, I do not think they would have gone into it if they had known that such a change was about to take place in the sugar duties.

10951. Is it now alleged against the colony that it would be a breach of faith to insist upon a reduction of the civil list?—I have had no communication with the Colonial Minister upon the subject, but there I think it was rather held up by the governor that it would be a breach of faith. The inhabitants of the colony were exceedingly anxious to take the law into their own hands, and refuse to devote more than a certain sum of money for the government officers; but the Court of Policy, who had the responsibility upon them, refused to do that, and contented themselves with petitioning the Colonial Office to let them off.

10952. You have stated what might be called the invoice price of sugar is 20*l.* a ton?—That is the cost on my own estate last year.

10953. That is probably the calculation upon which that estimate has been made, that the produce of the colony is worth 3½ millions of dollars?—I do not know the precise data for that estimate, but it is so stated in the petition; the estimate is upon the value of the produce, not the cost of producing it.

10954. The cost of producing it exceeds the value?—It does certainly, under present circumstances.

10955. Do you mean the value of the sugar in the market at the time, or the cost of production?—The value of sugar in the market at the time, which was perhaps lower in the colonial market than it ever has been here.

10956. Then I may call it probably 15*l.* a ton?—If it apply to the value, certainly it would be above 18*l.*

10957. The Committee are to understand that the taxation of the colony amounts to 5*s.* a cwt.?—Assuming those figures to be correct.

10958. Absolutely the taxation for the maintenance of the various institutions of the colony amounts to 5*s.* a cwt., or 5*l.* a ton?—Yes; the production of the colony last year was above 58,000 hogsheads, which would not be much above 40,000 tons, and the expenditure of the colony was 240,000*l.*, or 6*l.* a ton.

10959. Your other produce is reduced to nil, is not it?—I think the rum and molasses would be covered by the additional 1*l.* a ton.

10960. Mr. Wilson.] Do not a large number of people live upon their own property, and pay the indirect taxation of the colony?—Certainly; it would be quite impossible for the proprietors of estates to stand that rate of taxation otherwise. It is the prosperous condition of the labouring classes which has enabled that amount of taxation to be raised; and I am not quite sure that to reduce it very largely in point of religious instruction and education, which are for the benefit of the negro, would be beneficial to the planters. I think the establishment of government might be reduced greatly, but I think there are many of those charges which must be continued, and perhaps increased; and I think they will not fall so heavily upon the estates, on account of the high wages which the labourers are able to earn and the state of comfort in which they live.

10961. Chairman.] The colony was willing to bear taxation as long as they enjoyed high prices and were enabled to pay high wages?—I do not mean to say that the negroes themselves will not be the first cry out against that high taxation; I think it very likely they will. It does not, certainly, fall entirely upon the production of the sugar.

10962. But there is no produce sold but sugar, rum, and molasses; there is

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is nothing else out of which the taxes can be paid; the labourer earns his wages, and he pays the duties upon the imports, but those duties which he pays upon the imports are to be deducted out of the wages which are earned from sugar and rum?—I have no doubt that it comes mainly out of those products of the soil which are exported. At the same time there is a certain quantity of provisions raised by the negroes; those that they consume I do not think can be included, but those which they raise for sale do bear some proportion of the taxation of the colony, and lighten the load to the sugar producer.

10963. Do not the white inhabitants of the colony obtain their means of paying for those same provisions out of profits which directly or indirectly they derive from the sugar cultivation?—They do. I think it falls mainly upon the sugar. I do not mean to say that the white inhabitants have any means of getting their money to pay taxes, except from the sugar crop. I think if the colony ceased to export sugar, rum, and molasses, which are its staples, it would not be possible to raise any taxation at all in it; because there would be no circulation of money, as far as I can see; therefore it does come really upon the sugar crop.

10964. Supposing such a measure were to be passed, as that you were to be restored to a guaranteed protection of 10s. a cwt. for ten years, and left at liberty to go without restriction to the coast of Africa to obtain Africans, do you think there would be any objection on the part of the planters to guarantee that for every man they brought they should bring a woman too?—I think the planters have always been most desirous to obtain as large a proportion of females as of males. It is their own interest to do so; the population will not be so valuable to them, unless they were accompanied by women. At the same time they have thought it was better to get men without women than not to get the men at all.

10965. In some of the colonies the Committee have had evidence that the women are the best labourers of the two; do you find that to be the case in Demerara?—I do not think the creole women give much labour upon the estates; the women who have come with the immigrants are quite as good labourers as the men, but that arises from their being sent to work by their husbands a good deal; the husband sits down idle and sends his wife to work very often. I think there would be no objection on the part of the planters to take as many women as men; at the same time I think they would consider it was hard upon them to say, You shall not take those men in such a ship, if they are pleased to go, unless you can get so many women. And it would lead to bad results; it did so in the case of the Coolies; it led to the streets of Calcutta being swept of all the prostitutes to send to the West Indies on account of that law.

10966. Having regard to the fact that by the law of the land it is now felony for any British subject to deal in slaves, and that the evidence of blacks is good against white offenders, and in all respects equal to the evidence of whites, do you think it is possible to contemplate that any West India planter, if he were wicked enough, would be rash enough to venture upon slave dealing and slave trading, if he had access to the coast of Africa?—I do not think there is the slightest danger that in the present state of education and of feeling in our colonies, you would find any men who were desirous of carrying on anything like the slave trade. The scruples of successive Secretaries of State upon this subject have always appeared to me most chimerical. I think it would have been much easier to carry on covert slave trade while slavery existed in the colonies, than it would be now to carry on anything of the kind, when everybody must be free the moment he lands.

10967. During slavery the evidence of blacks was not good against a white man till the year 1830?—In Jamaica I think it was later than in other colonies. In the other colonies it was enforced by the Order in Council before that date.

10968. Mr. M. Gibson.] The Kroo women will not come, will they?—They have not come yet, but I believe there would be no great difficulty in inducing them to come. They say that the custom in that country is, that the women are possessed as common property by the men of a family; they are not slaves exactly, but they are the property of father, and sons, and uncles; the whole male members of a family possess a certain number of women among them. Jack Freeman, the Krooman of whom I have already spoken, and upon whose

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testimony I especially rely, told me that he thought there was no real difficulty in the way; that if you could get anything like a family party to emigrate, the women would come; that there was no further difficulty on the part of the chiefs to women leaving the country than might be removed by a slight fee. He said: "If I wanted to bring away women I should have to give a piece of cloth to King George; I have plenty of pieces now, and I could do that, though when I first came it was quite impossible, not having the means of making the presents to the king."

10969. Did you ever hear that the whole population of the Kroo coast does not exceed 30,000?—I have heard so. I have also heard that it exceeds 300,000; and I would rather believe the authority upon which I heard the latter than the former statement.

10970. What is that authority?—That of the gentlemen who on two several occasions went as delegates from the colony to the Kroo coast.

10971. Are the labourers' carts taxed in Guiana?—I believe they are not at present; I am not quite sure whether the tax has been repealed or not, but everything of that kind was taxed by recent laws.

10972. Are their canoes taxed?—Yes, all the boats are taxed, whether they belong to the estates or to individual labourers.

10973. Are the labourers in Guiana obliged to take out licences to sell provisions?—They are; a good deal of the revenue of the colony is derived from licences to hucksters and retail dealers, but that is not a tax which falls upon the freehold population of the colony; it falls almost entirely upon the Madeira people, who have by their superior industry acquired practically the monopoly of the whole trade of the colony, and pay in that way a part of the expense of their introduction.

10974. Are labourers compelled to take out licences in order to act as porters?—That is the law, which is much the same as it is at home; I believe licences are required here.

10975. Are they obliged to pay a tax?—Yes.

10976. Can you give the Committee the amount which is extracted from the labourers by those different taxes?—It is difficult to say what the produce of the canoe tax was; it included taxation upon the vessels belonging to the estates employed in carrying produce; that tax has been remitted. All I can find is 10,000 dollars, or 2,000 *l.*, levied in direct taxation in that shape upon the labourers out of the 240,000 *l.*

10977. Do not you think the operation of those direct taxes is as far as you can go in that direction, in order to compel the labourers to work?—The effect of them would be to induce labourers to work to pay those taxes.

10978. Do not you think you have carried the taxation of the labourer as far as it can go?—To say that they are to pay a one-hundred-and-twentieth part of the taxation in a direct form, seems to me not anything like the limit of taxation upon them.

10979. There are the import duties upon imported commodities besides?—There are.

10980. The labourers are in a very independent position, and they can pretty well make their own terms with their employers, cannot they?—I hope they cannot do so any longer.

10981. Is that the case or is it not?—If I thought they could make their own terms with their employers, I should not have counselled efforts for a reduction of wages. I think that by means of immigration we have brought them into that position that they must accept our terms after a certain resistance.

10982. You think there is something like a control over the terms which a labourer may demand?—At present the balance rather wavers between the two scales; it is an expression which is used in one of the letters I read to the Committee, that two cargoes of labourers introduced into Berbice would turn the balance in favour of the planter.

10983. You think that if a permanent protection were held out, so as to extend cultivation, that would increase the demand for labourers, and so enable the labourer again to increase his rate of wages?—I think anything like permanent protection would; but nobody, I apprehend, has proposed a permanent protection.

10984. Supposing the expectation were entertained that protection was to be permanent, that would only defeat any attempt which is now being made to reduce

reduce the rate of wages?—Decidedly, as far as permanent protection went, that would give an inducement to the planter to compete for labour.

10985. Mr. Burnley stated in 1841, that under protection and under the then circumstances, it would require an annual rise in the price in order to make sugar cultivation safe and profitable?—The supply of labour remaining the same.

10986. As the price of sugar kept rising, the labourers' demand would keep rising?—I think it would; the labourers would retire and settle, and there would be an increased rate of wages required by those who remained.

10987. Supposing, on the other hand, that there was such an amount of population forced into Guiana, as to render the labourers unable to make those terms with the rising price of sugar, would not the fertility of that soil, and its extent, enable Guiana to supply all the sugar which was wanted by the United Kingdom?—It would depend, I think, upon what the price of sugar was; the demand for labour would be regulated by the price of the article, which was produced by that labour.

10988. If you had an amount of population corresponding at all to the extent of good and fertile land in the colony for sugar purposes, would not the end of that be that you would supply from that colony alone, all the sugar which the United Kingdom would require?—I must repeat that the increased production would not depend so much upon the supply of labour as upon the demand for the produce of that labour. If we were getting high prices, we should increase our production, but if not, we should take advantage of getting labour cheaply, and should not increase our production. The labourers introduced would support themselves without sugar cultivation, if it again became unprofitable.

10989. Do you think it is practicable that by immigration all the colonies can be put upon anything like the footing that is necessary in order that the planters may have control over the wages of the labourers?—I do not think it is fair or necessary to expect that the planters will have a control over the wages of the labourers. I do not think the employer in this country has anything like such an absolute control; it is a matter of adjustment between the labourer and the master.

10990. Is not your complaint that the labourer is so independent in his position that he does as he likes, and that he works when he pleases. Is not it your opinion that it is totally impracticable, from any known sources, to supply such an amount of labour to the British West Indies, as, in all those different settlements, would put the planters in a different position in reference to their labourers?—It appears to me that there is another cause in operation, which is not taken into account in that question; namely, what the extent of sugar cultivation kept up in the West Indies is to be, and that depends upon prices. No such enormous increase in the labouring population would be required to maintain the existing cultivation.

10991. Could we supply the desired amount of labour by immigration to all the British settlements?—I have no doubt you could supply immigration to all the British colonies; but I do doubt that the effect of that immigration will be that you will put the labourer in the power of his master to fix the rate of his wages.

10992. Taking such an island as Trinidad, could you do it; the Committee heard yesterday that there was the means of growing sugar enough in Trinidad, if they only had population, not only to supply the United Kingdom, but all Europe?—If they had a population, and inducements.

10993. Everybody wants this population, therefore?—If you leave a man to manage his own affairs, he will get just as much labour as the price of sugar makes it profitable for him to engage in the cultivation of the sugar. I do not see why you should interfere between him and the supply of labour as you now do.

10994. It has been represented, repeatedly, that it is necessary to give this protection till such an immigration of labourers has taken place as will enable the planters, in some measure, to make fair terms with their labourers, and exact a continuous return of labour from them?—I think that is desirable.

10995. Do you think it is possible to look forward to any time when we shall be able to supply those extensive tracts of land with that amount of population which would produce the results you so much desire?—That is a

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totally different question, I think. I think that the first question is, whether you can supply your colonies with sufficient labour to enable the planters in those colonies to reduce the cost of their production to such an extent as to compete with slave labour. It is quite another question whether you can supply those islands with such an immense quantity of labour as would be required to put the whole of them into sugar production; that would depend upon the outlay of capital upon the part of capitalists in this country.

10996. The Committee have been told that it is necessary that the population should be dense; and that there should be a necessity on the part of the labourer, in order to procure subsistence, that he should work for wages at this cultivation, or the planters will not get it?—We want a steady, continuous supply of labour, at a more moderate price than we at present pay; and at the present moment a few thousand Africans introduced into British Guiana would secure that for us; a lower rate of wages, if once we are able to establish it, will do more to produce steady and continuous labour than a large immigration and high wages.

10997. The Committee have been told that the black will not give his services to the planter except at a high rate, if he has other means open to him of gaining his subsistence in an easier manner?—No doubt that will always influence him in expecting better wages; but we have the best evidence upon the subject, in the fact, that the moderate amount of immigration we have as yet got, has produced a great effect upon the supply of labour. The nominal rate of wages may have remained the same, but the quantity of labour and the continuousness of the labour are very much improved. The immigration we have already had, does not amount to more than 20,000 labourers permanently settled in the colony; it has had that effect. Those labourers were very inefficient as labourers in raising agricultural produce; a large portion of them were Madeiranese people, who have been exceedingly valuable as filling situations of hucksters and shopkeepers, but they have not been so useful in increasing the supply of labour to the planters upon their estates except by compelling the negroes driven from those trades to work; therefore the supply of labour we have had, though nominally 20,000, in reality is not much more than equal to that which we should have got from about 10,000 or 12,000 effective negroes, yet up to 1846 it had restored profit to cultivation generally.

10998. You say you are not for permanent protection; do you agree in the doctrine which is laid down, that your protection is to last till it is admitted that there is the amount of labour which is required?—I have explained my views as to the protection we require very fully.

10999. The question refers generally to the British West Indies. Is it your opinion that, without saying anything about permanent protection, we ought to give a protection until there is an admission by those gentlemen that they have got sufficient labour?—If it be considered an object of policy in the British Government to support their ancient colony, the island of Jamaica, which is the extreme of the case, it will be necessary to give a moderate protection to the planters, who produce sugar in that island, till they are better supplied with labour.

11000. In Barbadoes there is a dense population, but there they are not satisfied?—I must say that I think the distress in Barbadoes arises from different causes, and that it will be more easily remedied. If it were possible to separate one colony from the other, I should say, whatever consideration was due to the present distressed condition of that island, should not be shown it in the same shape as to other colonies. Even if nothing is done, I think Barbadoes will continue to produce a certain quantity of sugar in competition with slave-labour sugar. At the same time there is no doubt that they are suffering very severe distress now from the commercial failures in this country, which involved some of the largest houses connected with the island as well as the West India Bank; and there being a Committee to investigate the West India distress, it is natural they should attribute their distress to the same causes as are alleged by others. I think in Barbadoes they have more labour than they can profitably employ. I think they are prevented introducing many improvements in agriculture by having so much manual labour at their command.

11001. The population of Barbadoes is 748 to a square mile?—It is fully that.

11002. That

11002. That is as dense a population as you will find in any part of the world?—It is denser even than China.

11003. If we are to wait till that which is proposed takes place in all these extensive territories, we shall have to wait a long time, shall not we?—No one asks you to wait so long. The superior fertility of Guiana and Trinidad will enable them to cope with dearer labour. I must say with regard to Jamaica, which is the most difficult case, my own opinion is, that the same quantity of sugar might eventually be produced in Jamaica if encouragement were given, but it would be produced under rather different circumstances. I think the cultivation of many of the present estates would be abandoned, and that the labour would be thrown upon the more level and better lands which they have in the colony; I think they might produce as much sugar upon the level lands of the colony where they could introduce ploughs and agricultural implements, as they formerly did, provided they have encouragement to go on for a certain time, and are supplied with labour to do it.

11004. Do you think it has been good policy in this country to bring new colonies in competition with old ones?—I can hardly say I have formed any opinion on that subject. During the war it was a war of sugar colonies; we took as many colonies as we could from France, and France tried to take them from us. I think while slavery lasted it proved a wise policy, because we secured a cheap supply of sugar in exchange for our manufactures.

11005. Do you think, having islands very thinly peopled and half cultivated, suffering under great depression, it is worth while to go after any more in order to bring those new ones into competition with the present ones?—As a proprietor in one of the existing colonies, I should be very sorry to see any other sugar colonies brought into competition with me; at the same time I do not mean to say they might not be valuable accessions to the British Crown.

11006. Supposing the energies of this country in reference to the supply of labour and capital had been concentrated upon a smaller surface, perhaps by this time, if we had not extended our operations over so wide a field, more light would have been shed upon the question as to whether free labour could compete with slave labour?—I am inclined to doubt that; I think you have tried the experiment under more favourable circumstances, in consequence of the acquisition of new colonies, because those colonies include British Guiana and Trinidad, which have as fertile soils as any country in the world, or more fertile than any countries, except perhaps Cuba.

11007. Do you think it has been any benefit to the West India colonies bringing the Mauritius into competition with them?—No; but it has been a great benefit to the proprietors of the Mauritius up to a recent period.

11008. The Mauritius could grow enough sugar for us all, could not it?—The Mauritius is a very small island; the greater part of it is hilly. I think it has done its best; it has had an unlimited supply of labour for some years past, and it did increase its crops very much.

11009. Many of those other sugar-growing colonies, if you were well supplied with labour in Guiana, would have very great difficulty in competing with you, would not they?—I have already explained that the only objection I think there is to the proposition of a 10*s.* protection for ten years is, that it would bring the colonies which had abundance of virgin soil into play against the old ones, and leave them in a worse position at the end of ten years than they are now; therefore I say that the protection of 10*s.*, which I think will be required to induce capitalists to uphold the colonies for the present year and next year, should be limited to two years, because no one then would put in any fresh canes, in consequence of the impossibility of the sugar being ready to come in at that rate of protection.

11010. Do not the creoles marry and increase?—No doubt; the increase in the West Indies you would naturally expect would be larger than it is in any country in the world. The population ought to have doubled in 12 years according to Malthus's estimate, but it has not been so large as might have been expected; it is the fact that the increase of the population is not very rapid. In the first place, the increase of population depends upon morality to a certain extent; I do not mean to say that they are not as moral as their neighbours, but the women of a warmer climate are not so protected as the more chaste women of a colder country. Another great thing is their inattention to the children after they are first born; they are very unwilling to lay out money

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money upon medical attendance; they have always been accustomed to have medical attendance provided them, and they seldom call in a doctor till it is too late. The African children are liable also to a great many diseases which the children of this country are exempted from.

11011. Giving up the idea of extending cultivation, do not you think that the natural increase of the creole population would be sufficient to keep up the present amount of cultivation, without going to all this expense of immigration?—It is quite evident that their natural increase has not done so hitherto, because the planters have been very badly off for labour while they were going on increasing.

11012. It would be an improving state of things?—That is one of the great causes to which I look for ultimate improvement in the present state of things, and one of the reasons which induce me to think that immigration is only necessary for a time till that natural increase becomes available, but that will be some years hence.

11013. The revenue from imports into Guiana has considerably increased, has not it?—I believe it has increased considerably; it has increased from 1838, when it was 135,000 dollars, or 27,000 *l.*, to 337,000 dollars, or about 66,000 *l.*, in 1846.

11014. There has been a gradual increase for many years past?—There has been a gradual increase during the whole of that period, and during that period the duties have, generally speaking, been reduced. The duties on the import of food have been reduced, but I rather think lately they have put a duty upon supplies for estates, which I do not think it was very wise for them to impose.

11015. That affords a strong proof of the increasing prosperity among the labouring class, does not it?—The increase of prosperity among the labouring class in British Guiana is most extraordinary. Not having been in the colony for eight years, I could not have believed that such a change could have taken place in any country as had taken place in the aspect of that country. The building of bridges, better roads, a greater number of vehicles, a greater number of churches, new villages, and everything which is evidence of the prosperity of a country. The first visit I paid to the governor upon arriving out there, he begged I would not hastily conclude that the colony was ruined. I assured him, I never saw a country which, to a man landing there, presented such an astonishing appearance of prosperity; nothing like poverty was seen. But all we complain of is, that that rests upon a rotten foundation; that the proprietors are the class who are losing money, while the labourers hitherto have been gaining it. That has been the case since emancipation. Immense progress has been made in the colony there is no doubt.

11016. Do you mean that all this improvement which has manifested itself has been made by a sort of process of exhaustion of the capital and the means of the proprietors and merchants in this country?—A great part of it has been, I think. I think naturally the population of the colony would have been in a prosperous state; but that excessive rapidity of progress, which I think was never equalled by any country, must have been in consequence of that exhaustive process of the capital and income of the proprietors. The governor has been there during the whole time, and has shown every anxiety to conduct the experiment of free labour in the safest and best way; but I think he has always taken that one-sided view of the question, that these manifestations of increased prosperity on the part of the labourers only, are proofs of a sound state of things.

11017. You would admit that the improvement in the condition of the labouring classes in their habits is likely to lead to a great increase in their numbers?—I think there has been no great deterioration of their habits, but I was sorry to hear from the clergy of all denominations that they did not think that the people were quite as satisfactorily situated with regard to morality and with regard to religion as they were formerly. I fear the effect of those enormous wages upon the people, and their complete independence of exemption from active industry, has been to injure their character. I was told so by a missionary of the London Missionary Society as I was going to Demerara; he said, "I am the friend and advocate of the labourers, but you will see that there has been a falling off in their social progress since you were there last; they are not so respectful and civil, and not so industrious as they were formerly, and they

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they are not so attentive to their religious duties." Upon further inquiries, I found that was the general impression of the clergy. I was told by one of the most exemplary clergymen in the colony that he had been perfectly disappointed with the negro. I pointed out to him the cause. I think he would have been disappointed in any other class of people who were placed in the same situation of temptation.

11018. This good physical condition of the negro population is in favour of the increase in their number by natural means?—It is clear the population must increase, from natural causes, in the colonies more rapidly than it does here, though not so rapidly as it has done in other countries not so well circumstanced as the West Indies; for instance, in the United States. I think the census which has been taken in most of the colonies has surprised most people that the increase has not been greater.

11019. You have not told the Committee anything about the sale charges in this country when the sugar arrives here; could anything be done in the way in which business is transacted to benefit the colonists?—That is a thing for every party to do for himself; it is between himself and his merchant. I think the charge is a very moderate one, and quite as moderate in the article of sugar as in any other article.

11020. Supposing all sugars were sold at the short price, and commission were not paid upon the duty, that would be a saving to you, would it not?—The merchant would expect a higher commission upon the short price. I think our charges are more moderate than in other trades; for instance, in the Mauritian and East India trade the commissions they pay are very much higher; the West India commission is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the gross price of the produce.

11021. Do you object to being confined to British ships in your bringing produce to the United Kingdom?—I do not see why we should not have permission to bring the produce in any vessels we could get. At the same time, I think it does not make much difference; we should generally bring the produce in British ships. In periods of extraordinary high freights, like last year, it might be an advantage to us to have permission to take up other ships. I paid 5*s.* per cwt. freight last year, the ordinary rate in the colony being 2*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* 9*d.* At the same time, I think we did pay too low freights at one time in Guiana, and that we drove good vessels out of the service.

11022. The Cuban producer can either send his produce to this country in a Spanish ship or a British ship, whereas you are confined to the British ship?—Yes; but we can employ a colonial vessel if we choose. I do not think any tonnage is cheaper than the tonnage of our North American colonies, and we are at liberty to employ that. I do not think practically it would make much difference. At the same time, if the advantage could be accorded to us as colonists, without any extensive change in the Navigation Laws otherwise, it would be very desirable; but if you are to give the same advantage to the Cubans to bring their produce home in the same way in the ships of any country, it would be no advantage to the West Indians.

11023. You think that the West Indian is entitled to hire his ships where he can get them cheapest?—I think it would be desirable. At the same time, if that were afforded at the expense of the whole Navigation Laws, it would be no advantage to the West Indian.

11024. Is there any British spirit consumed in the British West Indies?—Very little, I should think; there must be some gin, to a trifling extent; we have a good many Dutchmen in the colonies; but it is not consumed to any great extent by the labouring population.

11025. Rum is consumed?—Rum is consumed to an enormous extent.

11026. In the colony itself the rum enjoys a protection against the producer of British spirit?—I do not know what the amount of protection is. I think it is probable that there is a duty upon the importation of British spirits, and there is also a duty upon rum consumed in the colony, and a very high one. I should think one was quite equal to the other. The taxation raised from rum was something enormous last year; the rum duty amounted to 137,000 dollars, or as much as the whole of the import duties were in 1838.

11027. What is the rate per gallon?—I do not know what it is now, but a short time ago it was 2*s.* 1*d.* per gallon.

11028. How do rum and British spirits stand in relation to each other?—

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I should say there would be no objection on the part of the colonists to reducing the duty on British spirits to the charges imposed upon rum.

11029. Taking into account the excise duty paid here?—That is perfectly trifling in the case of all spirits except whiskey; it is not much above 1*d.*, though it has been represented at 1½*d.* per gallon.

11030. Do you suppose that gin would be brought into competition with rum there, if this excise duty were thrown off, and they were admitted upon the same terms?—It is not a competition of which the planters would be much afraid, because there would be some difficulty in changing the taste of the population. There is no objection on the part of the colonists to admit British spirits upon reciprocal terms to those upon which their spirits are admitted here; the trade would not be very important as regards the West India colonies, though I believe it would be of very great importance as respects the Australian colonies if a drawback were allowed.

11031. Do you attach much importance to being allowed to send your produce to this market in whatever shape you please, so as to manufacture it here?—I attach great importance to it; it would enable us to economise our labour; it would also be a protection to us in this way, that the sugar producer in Cuba and Java has already gone to great expense in putting up improved apparatus in many cases. We have been unable during the last two or three years to get those advances of capital which would render it generally the case in the West Indies that the manufacture of sugar should be improved; therefore if our refiners at home could take the article in any state in which we could send it to them, it would be an advantage to us which the slave owners would not enjoy in the same degree. I think it would come to this in the end, that very little sugar would be consumed in this country except sugar which had gone through some process of refining.

11032. Do you think it is necessary in order to accomplish this that there should be a fixed duty named for the cane juice and the concrete; would not it be open to fraud if it were said that the article should bear the same duty, without knowing what quantity of saccharine matter it might contain?—You do not go into that question in the case of the present sugar duty on muscovado sugar; you take one average rate of duty; and in the same way you might do so with respect to concrete and cane juice. If you gave permission to refine it in bond I do not think the duty would be very often paid upon it in its raw state, though I think it would be desirable to give the option, because as there might be perhaps only one or two refiners of it in England, it would otherwise give a practical monopoly to those parties.

11033. Mr. Moffatt.] Can you inform the Committee what is the acreage of land under sugar cultivation in British Guiana?—No; I think they are as deficient in agricultural statistics in the colonies as they are at home; it is very easy, however, to form an approximation. I think, generally speaking, throughout the colony last year, about 1½ hogshead was obtained to an acre, and we shipped about 60,000 hogsheads; that would be 48,000 acres under sugar cultivation.

11034. That is not allowing for any consumption in the colony, is it; is not the consumption in the colony very extensive?—The consumption of sugar in the colony is very large; I have no means of estimating it. I think a guess might be formed by comparing the quantity of sugar returned for taxation in the colony, which pays one per cent. duty, and the quantity exported.

11035. What do you estimate to be the number of effective labourers?—It is stated in the Blue Book at 32,000, the labourers working for wages; those, generally speaking, would be efficient labourers, but they work only two-fifths of their time.

11036. Have you made any estimate to what extent the cost of labour enters into the cost of production?—I stated that it formed on most of the estates more than half the cost of production.

11037. You estimate your cost of production at about 20*l.* a ton, do not you?—Under present circumstances; last year it was 20*l.*; we are now endeavouring to reduce the cost of production.

11038. Consequently your cost of labour is 10*l.* a ton?—Yes, that is the statement which I made; but I explained also that every item of the other 10*l.* was aggravated by dear labour.

11039. You stated that the labourers from Barbadoes continually returned there;

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there; how does that arise, seeing that the value of labour is considerably higher in Guiana than Barbadoes?—The wages of labour are higher in England than they are in Ireland, at the same time the Irish labourers continually return to Ireland after having obtained a certain amount of wages in England.

11040. There are certain circumstances, probably, which render Guiana a less desirable place to reside in?—I do not think that that would be the inference with respect to the return of the Irish labourers from England. The natives of every country have a strong attachment to their own country, and that attachment is particularly applicable to negroes.

11041. You attribute the return of the Barbadoes labourer to a love of fatherland?—I think probably so.

11042. You do not attribute any to the various institutions in British Guiana, in regard to the care over them, or the attention to the comforts of the labourers?—If you were to draw a comparison between two colonies under the British Crown, which would be rather invidious, the position of the labourer, I should say, in British Guiana, was such as to make his services of much more value, and therefore to induce the planters to take much more care of him than in Barbadoes; and I think that is actually the case. In British Guiana, I think, the labourer has been petted and spoiled.

11043. Do those remarks apply to your experience of late years, or since emancipation?—I think the whole tendency since emancipation has been to make the labourer of great importance, and the consequence of that has had a natural effect on the planter's mind. The planter has paid him every attention, and consulted his humours and his prejudices; and the Government also has done the same, and introduced regulations for his benefit which do not exist in any country in the world. On my estate, for example, I am obliged to keep up an hospital, and to have so many beds of a certain size, and every other kind of accommodation of that sort; and till I can certify to the authorities and stipendiary magistrates that I have such an hospital, I am not allowed to receive a single immigrant; therefore, one is put to considerable expense upon that account, and a provision is made for the wants of the labourer in sickness, which does not exist in this country or any other that I know of; there are public hospitals also.

11044. Did those regulations arise from the fact that the planters did very seriously neglect the comfort and social condition of their labourers?—No; I think the regulations were founded upon the fears of Government that men who had been accustomed to the management of slaves would not treat their free-labourers very humanely. I do not think, however, there were any proofs of those apprehensions being correct.

11045. Your experience would go to prove that they were not correct?—I put it upon the ordinary principles which regulate human nature: if you are dependent upon a man's labour for the value of your property you would like to treat him with every possible attention.

11046. The regulation by which you are compelled to provide an hospital was in consequence of the supposed great expense of medical advice, was not it?—I do not think that medical advice is at all expensive in Guiana; having been sick myself there, I can say that it was much cheaper than in this country.

11047. It having been enacted by Government that you should be compelled to erect hospitals before you could receive immigrants, one would conclude that medical advice was both scarce and expensive?—The fact is not so.

11048. Medical advice is abundant and cheap, is it?—It is not so abundant as it was, because there has not been such a great employment for them; I employ a doctor upon my estate, and a dollar and a half a head is the charge he makes, which is certainly very reasonable.

11049. How many labourers have you on your estate?—There are 315 labourers employed upon my estate upon an average during the year.

11050. Is the price of provisions dear in Guiana?—The price of provisions varies. The price of native provisions last year was lower than it was ever known. The price of plantains when I arrived out there was exceedingly low; I think plantains might have been bought at that time at 4 *d.* a bunch, which weighed 70 lbs.; 70 lbs. of farinaceous food, or deducting 10 lbs. stalks and husks, 60 lbs., might be obtained for 4 *d.*

11051. Do they grow much corn in Guiana?—No, except a little Indian corn.

11052. Bread is not used, is it?—Yes, but it is made with imported flour.

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11053. Is there any duty upon that?—There is a duty, I think, at present of a dollar and a half a barrel.

11054. So that it makes the price of bread dear to those who desire to consume it?—It has the effect of raising the price of bread.

11055. Are you aware that the price of bread approximates to something like 2*d.* for six ounces?—No, nor do I think that that is the case; but I am not in a position to say what the price of bread is, not having been a house-keeper in the colony.

11056. Is it your impression that the license to sell provisions tends to raise the price of provisions generally?—It does, to a trifling extent; but the whole amount paid upon those licences is too insignificant to produce any important effect at all. I think, in the peculiar state of the West Indies, any tax which will make the negro work is for his own benefit, and for the benefit of the colony at large.

11057. What portion of the expenditure of the colony is for ecclesiastical purposes?—I have not examined into that point, but a considerable part of the civil list is for that purpose, and there are also annual votes.

11058. Are you aware that more than half the people do not avail themselves of the spiritual advantages which they might derive in the State establishments of British Guiana, and that they frequent places of worship of the missionaries?—The number attending the Church of England amounts to about one-third of the labourers; therefore I should think that a larger proportion than would make up a half must attend other State ecclesiastical establishments, though of course a great many do attend the chapels of the missionaries.

11059. In those cases they build their own chapels?—They do so. The negroes have been enabled out of their high wages to build churches and chapels by their own subscriptions to their ministers; very large and very fine buildings indeed.

11060. Has it ever occurred to you that there could be any advantageous change in the constitution of the government of British Guiana; such as the abolition of the Court of Policy?—I think the present form of government is a very absurd one; but there is this difficulty, which I think has deterred the Colonial Office from making a change, that at the present moment to change the constitution of the colony would raise a question with regard to the kind of popular institutions they would give to the black population; otherwise everybody is of opinion that the constitution of British Guiana is not suited to a British colony.

11061. Has the local government power over the Crown lands?—It is exclusively exercised by the governor, who is the representative of the Colonial Office. I believe the governor pleaded, when I raised the question of his consenting to sell those Crown lands, that he had nothing to do with it further than to allow them to be put up when he was asked, under the regulation issued by Lord Glenelg in 1838.

11062. The governor has the power of stopping the system of squatting over the Crown lands, which is a power prejudicial to your supply of labour?—There has been no squatting at all, in the common sense of the word, on the Crown lands or any other lands; no one has settled upon lands which he has not purchased; it is very different to Trinidad. In British Guiana the Crown lands are, generally speaking, not in a state to receive a population; they are not drained nor embanked, which is requisite first of all, and which requires a large expenditure of capital. The only settlement upon the Crown lands has been upon lands lately sold by the governor. Against those sales I protested at the time, because I thought they were very much to the disadvantage of the colony; it brought an immense quantity of land upon the market at a very low price, when abandoned estates were selling at much higher prices. I represented those things to Lord Stanley and to Mr. Gladstone, but without effect. I only ceased to represent them to Lord Grey because I felt quite sure he would be of the same opinion, and would stop the system. I do not think it has gone on lately.

11063. You spoke of the expensive habits of the negroes; you conveyed to the Committee also an impression that that is entirely changed now, that they were becoming a very frugal and economical people?—I cannot go the length of saying they are a very frugal and economical people, but I do not think they have those expensive habits which they had when they were first emancipated;

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pated; they are content during a greater part of the year to live much less comfortably than they could do if they choose, and it is only upon holidays that they spend so much money; they have quite enough of the African in them to be content to go without much clothing, and to work their own grounds to a moderate extent, and live upon the produce of them; but every now and then, upon weddings or christenings, or upon the holidays, which are very numerous with them, they live better and spend their money freely, but at other times, I think, they are more economical. That, however, is a disadvantage to the planters.

11064. Your impression is that they are as prudent and thrifty as labourers in this country?—The position of the two is so totally dissimilar, that it is hardly possible to compare them. For example: I went up by the mail from Barbice to Demerara a day or two before Christmas-day; the driver was a black man, a Barbadian, and at every place where he changed horses he was surrounded by a crowd of labourers begging him to execute their commissions in George Town preparatory to Christmas; the nature of those commissions, which I should not have heard probably at any other time, were totally different from any commissions which labourers here could have given; for instance, one woman would come and beg him to bring her a quantity of rose water; another would ask for a quantity of currants for making puddings, which would be quite out of the question with labourers here.

11065. Are there any restrictions from making rum for home use in the colony?—None at all on the manufacture.

11066. Does it pay duty before it goes into consumption?—Yes; it pays a very high duty.

11067. You do not know how many gallons go into consumption?—No.

11068. You have stated the cost of production of sugar in the island of Cuba to be about 8*l.* a ton; are you aware whether that includes the charge of interest for capital?—I think it includes all charges. Why I deduce that opinion is, that that was a profitable price to the planters, and an inducement to them to go on increasing their production.

11069. It is from information received from some party who bought sugar from the planters at 8*l.* a ton?—I have seen a statement that the average price of sugar, equal to our muscovado sugar, was in 1843, 1844, and 1845, 4½ to 5 reals per aroba; that I have calculated, according to the best information I have, is about 8*s.* per cwt. That was a remunerating price.

11070. The expense of bringing that sugar to this country would be about an additional 6*s.*, would not it?—I do not know that the importer of Cuban sugar can do his business more cheaply than we can, and the charges upon our produce are higher than 6*l.* a ton.

11071. Are you aware that for a series of years the governing price for the description of sugar you have alluded to as imported from Cuba has been 22*l.* and 24*l.* per ton?—I should say that it had not been so for a series of years, taking the description of sugar to which I refer. I think with yellow Havannah sugars it may have been so; but I think that they are better than the average quality of our muscovado. The price was not represented as being so high when its admission into this market was so much advocated.

11072. In point of fact, you have no positive knowledge as to the cost of production in Cuba?—I think my information is as good as any other information.

11073. Can you give the data upon which you have formed this estimate of 8*l.* a ton?—I could put in the accounts of particular estates which I have, but I think an estimate formed in that way on two or three cases, is not so trustworthy as that I have made of 8*s.* per cwt.; that was the selling price of sugar in Cuba of that quality during three years; and as the quantity of sugar produced went on increasing, it was evidently a remunerating price.

11074. That was the general market price paid by agents there who bought for parties on the Continent and in America?—Yes.

11075. *Chairman.*] There was a railway projected in Demerara, was not there?—There was a railway projected, and I was induced to become the deputy chairman of the company; it is the only connexion I ever had with railways, but the object was so important to the colony, that though I had no interest in that part of the colony, the railway being on the east coast of Demerara, yet as we had been so much taunted with our greater slowness in introducing railways than our Cuban rivals, I took some shares in it, and became

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deputy chairman. We proceeded to a certain extent in its construction. I think we made nearly one-third of the railway, but the state of discredit into which the colony has been thrown by the low prices is such that we cannot get the shareholders in this country to pay up their calls, therefore the directors having already expended more money upon their own responsibility than they have collected from the shareholders, the works are at a stand still.

11076. What was the capital of the company?—£. 250,000, but from the estimates of our engineers, we were in hopes of making it at from 160,000 *l.* to 170,000 *l.*; we have laid out nearly 100,000 *l.*, we have made the permanent works, and buildings, and stations, and so on, so that though we have made only one-third of the extent of the line, we have increased our expenditure beyond one-third of the estimated capital.

11077. Will that one-third part of the railway be of any use, or will it be useless in consequence of the line remaining incomplete?—I believe it will be perfectly useless, except to one or two estates situated about two miles from the town. I do not think it could be worked for a longer distance than two miles from the town, and I do not suppose it would ever be worked for so short a distance as that with profit.

11078. Was that railway looked upon as likely to be very advantageous to the sugar plantations?—I think it would have been most advantageous to the sugar plantations, and to the colony generally. I was not half so warm an advocate of the railway before I went out there, but I saw the greatest reason to think that it would produce very large returns, and that it would enable the planters to carry their produce so much more cheaply to the shipping place. They have now to carry it in schooners; each estate has to keep a schooner. During slavery, when they were making very large crops, that might have been a cheap mode of communication; now that the crop is diminished, keeping up a schooner is very expensive, and of course they are subject to all the casualties to which water communication of that kind is liable. When I was out there a schooner of one gentleman was burnt, another sunk in the river, from collision with another vessel, and a third the crew refused to navigate. The railway would have carried their produce much cheaper than water communication.

11079. Had you an interview with Lord Grey and the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the subject of the distress of the colony?—Not with Lord Grey and the Chancellor of the Exchequer together. I had an interview with Lord Grey after I returned, principally upon the subject of the railway; when I came back and found the lamentable position in which the company was there, I thought the best thing I could do would be to go and represent to those gentlemen the importance of this subject to the colony. I knew that the governor had also represented it very strongly, and I thought by supporting that application we might come in for 40,000 *l.* or 50,000 *l.*, by way of loan, which would enable us to carry out the works until our calls were collected; but I found that the railway was not in a state in which it could be formally considered as coming in for assistance from the fund which the Treasury has at its disposal for those purposes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to take it out of the ordinary course.

11080. Were you led to suppose that the Treasury had much money at its disposal?—The Chancellor of the Exchequer pleaded poverty; but I believe there is a certain fund at his disposal, which might have been made applicable for that railway. There is a certain sum at the disposal of the Government for public works, and a very moderate sum would have insured the completion of the railway. Lord Grey expressed himself very warmly in favour of it, and I was in hopes that the Government would have considered the colony as deserving of some encouragement, particularly when we were endeavouring to help ourselves; but he concluded the interview by stating that I had better go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which I knew to be putting an extinguisher upon it, and I stated as much to Lord Grey. He, however, stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer felt very warmly upon the subject. I went to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he received the application as Chancellors of the Exchequer generally do applications for money. He was very courteous, but he told me it was out of the question to assist us.

Luna, 20° die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.	Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Cardwell.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Milner Gibson.	Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Goulburn.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Hope.	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Labouchere.	

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Charles Richardson, called in; and Examined.

11081. Mr. Wilson.] YOU are the patentee of a process for manufacturing concrete?—The patent is in my name. Mr. C. Richardson.

11082. What is concrete made from?—That (*producing a sample*) was made from cane-juice which was purchased from Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. at 28s. when molasses were worth 24s. It had paid a duty of about 6s. 6d., I believe, the molasses duty being 5s. 3d. 20 March 1848.

11083. That would make it 21s. 6d. in bond?—Yes.

11084. In what month was that purchased?—I think it was in the fall of 1846; it was long before the recent depression of prices.

11085. The sample lying before the Committee is a sample of cane-juice, is not it?—Yes.

11086. Will you tell the Committee the proportion of the quantity of concrete you got from a cwt. of cane-juice?—That I cannot tell. The whole of the cane-juice was converted into that concrete.

11087. Did a cwt. produce a cwt.?—Except the water; 20 per cent., I believe, is the quantity which goes off in evaporation in boiling cane-juice of molasses density.

11088. It would depend upon the length of boiling?—If you reduce molasses to dryness it will have lost 20 per cent.

11089. You must boil it till it is dry?—Yes. When you take it from the pan, if you drop a portion of it, it will become dry and hard; and that is the indication of its being boiled to the proper consistency.

11090. Do you believe that this would be a valuable improvement if introduced into the West Indies?—Most assuredly; that is my impression.

11091. Will you describe to the Committee your views of the improvement which you anticipate would result to the sugar planter in the West Indies?—The improvement is effected by means of ingredients which are used as soon as the juice is expressed from the cane. Those ingredients render the juice so pure that no fermentation will afterwards take place.

11092. What are the ingredients?—They are contained in the patent. In consequence of the exceeding purity of the juice you may boil it to this consistency, either in vacuum pans, which is the preferable mode to get it to that perfection, or it may also be done by an open pan of a particular construction.

11093. Does that remove all the feculency?—Yes.

11094. It leaves this concrete pure sugar?—After it is boiled, pure sugar and pure molasses.

11095. Is that concrete in a state to be immediately converted into refined sugar?—I believe so.

11096. Without leaving any residue?—There would be the molasses; if you melt it again you would have molasses and sugar.

11097. What advantage do you anticipate from the application of this process?—In the first place, the sugar is rendered fit for shipping in 24 hours after it is boiled; whereas I believe, according to the present mode of separating the sugar and the molasses, three weeks or a month are taken up, occupying much space and at great inconvenience; that inasmuch as it is perfectly solid, no leakage would take place on board the ship, and no fermentation such as occurs to

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the sugar and molasses (I believe that sometimes leakage and fermentation go on to as great an extent as from 5 to 7½ per cent., if not 10 per cent. I have known sugar after arrival in the West India Docks to lose a cwt. out of 16 cwt., all of which would be saved by this process); and also great facility and diminished expense in the removal from the estate to the place of shipment.

11098. Upon the saving of packages also there would be an advantage?—Any package would be available for it; boxes, which in many of the colonies are valueless, would be applicable to the purpose.

11099. Or matting?—Yes; but where boxes are in abundance this would be the means of rendering them very useful.

11100. Does this concrete contain the whole of the cane-juice?—Entirely, without any separation of any liquid whatever, beyond the evaporation of the water.

11101. Then there would be no necessity to make rum in the colonies?—Assuredly not.

11102. Can you tell the Committee the proportion which this would make of refined sugar afterwards; have you any calculation by which you can show the economy in manufacturing cane-juice into this concrete, and making refined sugar from this concrete, as compared with manufacturing it first into muscovado and then refining it into refined sugar?—This would at once go into refined sugar; you would make the same use of this as you would of muscovado sugar.

11103. Then you would save the process of making it into muscovado sugar?—Entirely. Whether, with all the molasses in it, the refiner would get the same result in the refined sugar, I cannot say.

11104. Has there been any experiment made of refining this concrete?—I have made an experiment in a small factory, not upon a large scale, say five cwt. at a time.

11105. Do you consider it a sufficiently extensive experiment to ascertain the true result?—I think it might be ascertained perfectly.

11106. What is the actual result?—My impression is, that it is very nearly equal to what might be obtained from raw sugar; the impression upon my mind is that it is nearly equal, when made, as the sample was, in the vacuum pan.

11107. Could you test it and give the result in evidence as to the proportion of refined sugar you could make out of a cwt. of this concrete?—Certainly not.

11108. Have you no means of doing that?—No; I have scarcely any more than the quantity of that sample; I have not the means of doing it. If fresh cane-juice could be now got, I should be very happy to have some more made, and to test it.

11109. Would not that form an important element in the value of the process altogether: how have you been able to estimate the value of your discovery or patent without knowing that?—I have no question in my own mind as to the quantity of refined sugar to be obtained from it; it was so stated at Mincing-lane, by refiners who saw the sample, that they had no doubt it would be nearly equal to raw sugar.

11110. You cannot state that as the result of any test or experiments?—No, not positively.

11111. What is the proportion which, as far as you understand, is made in the West Indies from cane-juice and molasses, and muscovado sugar?—I believe when cane-juice is boiled in an open pan, and the molasses separated in the usual way, before the sugar reaches this country from Demerara, Trinidad, and colonies where they make a good deal of sugar of low quality, the planter does not get above 50 per cent. of sugar; but if it is boiled in a vacuum pan, I have no doubt he gets much more.

11112. Is the nature of the machine, which you use for this purpose, such as could be removed from one estate to another, or would you require one for each estate?—It would not be sufficiently expensive to render it necessary or desirable to remove it; it might be removed, but the expense of moving it would be greater than having a fresh machine to each estate.

11113. What do you estimate the cost of furnishing one of those machines complete to an estate, so as to enable them to perform this process?—If the vacuum-pan is on the estate, no further machine is necessary, but if the sugar is made by an open pan in the ordinary process, then I believe about 200*l.* will cover the additional expense to complete the present apparatus on an estate, so as to make concrete.

11114. Where

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11114. Where the vacuum-pan exists they have now sufficient means to do it; where they have no vacuum-pan, an outlay of 200*l.* would be required to enable them to perform this process?—Exactly.

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[*The Witness put in the following Estimate:*]

ESTIMATE FOR DUTY.

Concrete contains the entire product of the cane, viz. :—

	£.	s.	d.
60 per cent. of sugar at 14 <i>s.</i>	-	-	8 5
40 „ of molasses at 5 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	-	-	2 1
			- 10 6
Add for water evaporated from the molasses, 10 per cent.	-	-	1 1
	£.		- 11 7

Equitable duty per cwt. on concrete, in proportion to the sugar and molasses ordinarily obtained by the planter from cane-juice, 11*s.* 7*d.*

11115. Mr. Miles.] Would you object to state what the apparatus is?—I am not practically a sugar-boiler, and therefore I cannot explain it so satisfactorily as Mr. Archbald would, had he been here; it is a way by which you would be enabled to complete the process of sugar-making at a much lower temperature than you do now; any apparatus which would enable you to perfect the sugar-making at a low temperature would answer the purpose. The plan proposed by Mr. Archbald is one of which I shall be happy to give the particulars. It is by means of blowing air into the pan, so as to keep down the temperature. I have not got a drawing of the pan, but I shall be very happy to furnish the Committee with one, a clarifier and filter are also necessary, and are included in the estimate.

11116. You say there is an additional pan required to the apparatus now in use; do you propose to draw the sugar from the tayche into this pan, or substitute this pan for the tayche?—Whether it would be a substitute or an addition I cannot tell.

11117. You are aware that in an open pan, you cannot boil sugar at this low temperature?—Exactly; it would be a substitute for the last pan, I imagine, to finish the process.

11118. Have you ever seen any of the maple sugar?—No.

11119. At what temperature do you propose to boil this sugar?—About 180.

11120. When did you take out this patent?—It was sealed in March 1847.

11121. You had been trying experiments as early as 1846, had not you?—The patent was applied for in the September previously.

11122. You had been previously making experiments, had not you?—I think not.

11123. Did you offer this to any West India gentleman to try it?—Not this concrete; but with reference to concentrated cane-juice, there was a meeting of several gentlemen, and they were all very desirous of taking the ingredients; they were at once satisfied that the ingredients would be a very great advantage to what they had, having at once seen the defecating power of the ingredients upon the juice, which was exhibited to them.

11124. They saw this tried, did they?—Yes.

11125. In making the concrete, you concentrated the juice?—It was merely in the process of defecation.

11126. Has nobody taken this up at all since April 1847?—Nobody. In New Orleans it is now being carried into considerable operation by Mr. Gordon. He was here, and directly he saw it, he said it was the very thing for their country, and he induced Mr. Archbald to go to New Orleans, and there Mr. Oxnard offered Mr. Archbald a share of the profits of his refinery if he would stay there and assist him to introduce this process into the country, as well on plantations as for refining; those profits he showed to be very considerable, for twelve months; that offer was after five weeks' experience of Mr. Archbald in the country.

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11127. What is the precise object of making this concrete in New Orleans?—Mr. Oxnard is using Mr. Archbald's process of sugar refining.

11128. It is not in making concrete?—No; only inasmuch as Mr. Archbald has so succeeded in one thing, I infer that he is equally correct in what he proposes in this.

11129. Then, in fact, Mr. Archbald is not making any concrete in New Orleans?—No; that I attribute to this circumstance: that he got to Louisiana after the canes were frosted, and consequently were not in a condition to make sugar according to their old process at all, though it was readily accomplished by the use of the ingredients; it was, however, with the greatest difficulty that he could get them to attend in any way to his new process. They were so anxious to save time, and to get what sugar they could from the canes, that they would not go into this; otherwise Mr. Archbald begged me, at the request of Mr. Gordon, he having some money to remit, to desire him to remit in concrete.

11130. Would Mr. Archbald send a ton of concrete to this country?—I have not the least doubt about it whatever. When he wrote that he had this offer from Mr. Oxnard, I was taking estimates for the apparatus, for Jamaica, where he wished it to be shipped. It was his intention to go first to Jamaica, then to Trinidad, Antigua, and on to Demerara.

11131. Mr. Archbald has a brother in Porto Rico, has not he?—He has.

11132. Has he been making concrete there?—No, never. Mr. Barkly stated that he was surprised that Mr. Archbald had not done so. If the Committee will permit me, I shall be most happy to read a letter I have received from that Mr. Archbald on this subject, which I think is very interesting:

My dear Sir,

I REJOICE that Government should, at even the eleventh hour, have exhibited some interest in the West Indies. But does it not strike you that there is an evil at work which no quantity of labour can remedy? And indeed I am almost tempted to believe that that evil will be increased by the proposed ameliorations. It seems to me to consist in overproduction and the withdrawal of protection. I think I can make it clear to you that an almost exhausted soil, exacting so much more labour where labour is so expensive, cannot compete with countries where dunging is considered time thrown away. In the foreign islands 60 hands, including old and young, sick and well, will produce 350 casks sugar of 1,000 lbs. each; while, in the very best times (40 years ago) in our islands, the property that yielded a hogshead of sugar of 1,600 lbs. net per hand, was considered as under the best management that could be desired. Another fact must not be lost sight of: such a concern, in the old islands, would probably bring out to actual fieldwork 35 people; and, in the new colonies, 50 of the 60 would be able; and you will readily perceive the vast difference this increase of effective strength, added to the superior fertility of the almost virgin soil, must make to the proprietor. An estate in the Spanish colonies, with 130 slaves, by cutting its canes with free labour, would and does make 700 to 800 hds of 1,000 lbs. each; 250 puncheons of 110 gallons each of molasses; and 100 casks, of 110 gallons also, of rum, ordinary proof. The charges of such a property would not exceed *Dls.* 16,000 (3,200 *l.*). Now, putting the molasses at *Dls.* 16, the rum at *Dls.* 30, and the sugar at only *Dls.* 3 1/4, the amount would stand thus:

	<i>Dollars.</i>
250 puncheons, molasses, at <i>Dls.</i> 16	4,000
100 casks rum, at - - - - 30	3,000
	7,000
Charges - - - - -	16,000
	9,000
To be provided for by the Sugar Crop - - - - <i>Dls.</i>	

These 9,000 dollars, divided over 700,000 lbs. of sugar, would leave the cost of each 100 lbs. of sugar less than *Dls.* 1.50, or not more than 7s. 6d. or 8s., while it is stated that in Jamaica and the other islands, the cost of producing 112 lbs. is seldom less than 18s. What is required is protection; and whether I am personally to be benefited by free trade or not, I wish protection to those who have so severely and so unjustly suffered. The Government should be pressed to allow the undrained sugars to come in on a proportionate duty, and that molasses should be used in the distilleries. With the talent and the improved stills of England, they would make rum of a quality to supply every market in Europe, and drive the Cuba article from German consumption. If the sugars are shipped from the islands in this crude condition, a great saving in labour and time would be the consequence, and the waste by leakage on board ship could be obviated by preventing the screws from being used.

11133. Is that written from Porto Rico?—No, it is from Paris.

11134. Can you make any concrete from muscovado sugar, supposing you mix

mix it?—You may convert sugar and molasses into the same thing, by purifying it by those ingredients.

11135. And you can make that into concrete?—Yes.

11136. Would that be a fair test for the cane-juice; if you can do the one, does it follow that you can do the other?—Yes.

11137. Have you any apparatus by which you could exhibit the process of converting cane-juice into concrete in this country?—Yes; I believe I could make it for the Committee; it would be much more satisfactory if Mr. Archibald had been here; but I believe the party who assisted him in boiling on the first occasion, would also do it here.

11138. When the cane-juice came to this country, was it acid at all?—It had been here six months.

11139. Did that interfere with the process of converting it into concrete?—No, because those ingredients have a most amazing power over any acidity. Mr. Archibald would allow you to throw a bottle of vinegar into the sugar; it would not interfere with his process, except by requiring more of one of the ingredients.

11140. Do you imagine that this cane-juice which arrived in an acid state from the colonies, and lay six months in the warehouses in England, had lost any of its saccharine matter?—Most unquestionably, and with fresh juice you would have a very much better result; this is what he said: “You may be astonished at what we are doing now, but you can have no conception what the effect would be on fresh juice.” Mr. Archibald is a planter, and therefore he speaks with more confidence upon such matters than many here, who have never been in the Tropics, and know nothing of the nature of the sugar-cane.

11141. When you got this concrete, do you suppose the refiners would object to buy it at all?—No; on the contrary, I had a lump of it in Mincing-lane, at Mr. Woodhouse’s, for some time; and many gentlemen who saw it, said, “If you will bring this we shall be very happy to take it.” Mr. Archibald put it at the value of sugar, for refining purposes, within 2s. If I am at all correct in the proportion of molasses and of sugar obtained from the cane-juice, and you can get such a price for your molasses, there can be no question about the advantage to the West Indian parties; where low sugars are made it must be inestimable.

11142. Of which sugar is it within 2s.?—Demerara.

11143. The low sort of Demerara sugar?—Yes, ordinary refining sugar; when Demerara sugar was 38s., he put it at 36s.

11144. What would be the value compared to the average of Trinidad sugar?—I should imagine a difference of 2s. Trinidad sugar is generally low, though there are some finer qualities.

11145. You have never been able, you say, to arrive at any correct estimate of the quantity of refined sugar that can be made from this?—I have no question of it in my own mind, especially when made in the vacuum-pan.

11146. Is there any experiment, or means of proving it, without getting concrete from the West Indies?—I have no question of it. Here is a Jamaica paper which contains a criticism on Mr. Archibald’s pamphlet, and they say that if Mr. Archibald can do anything like what he professes in his pamphlet, there can be no question that it will be a great advantage to the colonies; but the first thing which must be done before any one will stir in it, is to fix the duty. Parties there will not send their produce home to be detained for months till analyzed, as it has been times innumerable, in the docks, to deteriorate, besides having their capital locked up.

11147. You cannot tell whether this would turn sour in the voyage across the water?—You may leave juice which has been prepared by these ingredients in a sugar-house for a week after it has been so purified, and it will not acidify.

11148. Would you recommend that this should be admitted at a duty of 12s., supposing common sugar were at 14s.; or what do you suppose would be a fair value?—Eleven shillings and seven pence, I think, would be the fair duty.

11149. Do you suppose all concrete would be of the same value?—It would be as nearly so as all sugars; and it is quite certain that all sugars which pay 14s. are not of the same value. I have no doubt that concrete made in an open pan would by no means be as perfect an article as that is; 11s. 7d. would be the medium duty.

11150. The vacuum-pan sugar, if it were made into concrete, would still

Mr. C. Richardson. retain the advantage over the common process, supposing each party were to adopt it?—I think so.

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11151. Therefore the capital which is already expended in improved machinery, such as vacuum-pans, would not be entirely thrown away?—Quite the reverse.

11152. Do you suppose such parties would retain the same advantage in making concrete over other parties making it, as they do now?—Assuredly.

11153. Mr. *Wilson*.] The difficulty of charging a duty would be very much got over if they were allowed to refine it in bond, would not it?—If all sugars were to be refined in bond, and this were to be refined in bond likewise, it would be sure to go into use; but if the refiner is allowed to buy sugar duty paid, and by his ingenuity get all the virtue out of it, and you place this in bond and compel him to pay the duty upon the extract, I think you would find it would not be bought by the refiner; but if he were compelled to refine both the sugar and this also in bond, I think this would go into consumption immediately.

11154. Mr. *Miles*.] You do not apprehend it would go into consumption in that state?—No.

11155. Mr. *Wilson*.] Is there any arrangement being made in any of the colonies for trying the process?—No. Mr. Archbald was to have gone to Jamaica to have tried it, but they have so tempted him in New Orleans that he is a fixture there for this season.

George Carrington, Esq., called in; and Examined.

G. Carrington, Esq.

11156. *Chairman*.] YOU are a proprietor in Barbadoes?—I am.

11157. When were you last there?—I left this time twelvemonth.

11158. Till within these twelve months you were a resident proprietor, were not you?—Not constantly; in the course of five years I have been there four times. I have a memorandum here of the dates of my arrivals there, the time I stayed there, and the time of my return. I arrived in Barbadoes the first time I went out after a very long interval, upwards of 30 years in January 1842; I made but a short stay there; I went for the purpose of introducing my son, and came back in May 1842. I went out again to Barbadoes in December 1842, and I stayed there till the 25th of December 1843; I arrived in England in January 1844. I then went out a third time, and arrived in Barbadoes on the 23d of October 1844, and returned on the 5th of May 1845. I went out again, and arrived in Barbadoes in November 1846, and returned to England in March 1847.

11159. You were in Barbadoes in 1812, were you?—I was.

11160. Had you been there for some period before that?—I resided for rather more than four years.

11161. Then you were acquainted with Barbadoes during the time of slavery?—I will not presume to say I was thoroughly acquainted with Barbadoes during the time of slavery. I endeavoured to make myself as much so as I could, but great changes passed during the period your Lordship has mentioned, and those periodical visits I have been making since emancipation.

11162. Can you state to the Committee the condition of the labouring population upon your estates, and generally the condition of the labouring population of the island at the present time, as compared with antecedent periods?—I presume the Committee do not wish to have any opinion as to what it was in a state of positive slavery. When I arrived in 1842, though the time I was there was short, I took every means in my power, from the great transition which had taken place, to ascertain what was going on. I found great complaints had been made of the want of regular continuous labour, but that things were progressing towards an improved state at that time.

11163. At that time what was the rate of wages, the number of hours the labourers were working on each day, and the number of days they worked in the week?—The rate of pay was a quarter of a dollar a day, or 1 s. 0½ generally.

11164. How many hours did they work?—The regulations were that they should work 12 hours, deducting three hours for refreshment, for five days; but at that time, during the short period I was there, undoubtedly there was a considerable difficulty in getting steady labour, for various reasons, which probably your Lordship will call upon me to explain. I mean from having had an opportunity of witnessing the progressive state of improvement since my visit in 1842,

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I had a fair means of judging of the difference of the steady supply of labour, and the manner in which it is performed during the last two periods, as compared with the first in 1842, arising from those circumstances. Emigration had taken place to a considerable extent rather before 1842, but about 1842, and my subsequent visits, that, in a considerable degree, had ceased; the relation between the proprietor and the free man began to be better understood. From the year 1842, when I was there, I consider it certain that a progressive state of improvement in the condition of the people in every respect went on; and according to my notion, in 1846, when I left the island, I cannot conceive a population under better regulations or working more steadily or better than they did in that island. I press that upon the Committee, because I know the vast bearing of that question in reference to many other colonies. Barbadoes is an exception to that; and if I may be allowed to give it as my individual opinion, the state of progressive improvement has arisen from the more general introduction of a salutary renting system than ever had been acted on or contemplated till the years 1845 and 1846.

11165. To what extent was that renting system carried on?—To speak with precision, I must confine myself in that particular to my own estates; the systems are very different in the island of Barbadoes, though the island is but of small extent. A considerable time before emancipation took place, I thought the only chance I saw of securing labour was to encourage a system of tenantry. I acted upon that principle in 1842: I did not find that it was generally received or adopted; I do not mean to say that the system of letting houses to the labourers on lands attached to them, or at some little distance from them, was not partially introduced, but it was by no means generally introduced, nor did I find there was that concurrence of opinion as to the policy of doing it till my later visits. With respect to my own estates, there are three, consisting of between 900 and 1,000 acres of land. All the people who reside upon my property are tenants, not tenants by giving a sort of labour hire, but upon the footing which I early determined to establish of a money rent. The quantity of land, generally speaking (because there are exceptions in reference to unfavourable ground, rocky situations and so on, where an increase is made) but the general average is a quarter of an acre and a house, and the land attached as near to the house as circumstances could admit of; far more so than in any allotments I have in England, or that I have ever yet had an opportunity of witnessing in England. I mention that to show the convenient mode in which it is carried on.

11166. In what part of England do you reside?—In Buckinghamshire.

11167. Are those allotments of land you speak of for the cultivation of the sugar-cane?—They have free liberty to cultivate what they please.

11168. What do they cultivate?—The sugar-cane, and all kind of ground provision. For a considerable time the opinion prevailed that it was hostile to the interests of the proprietors to allow those people to cultivate the staple commodity of the island. I was of a different opinion. I thought I saw the greatest advantage in holding out to them the permission to cultivate what they pleased, and giving them free liberty to work where they pleased, provided they paid me my rent. It cost me a small fortune to establish nearly 200 houses; to put them in a decided state of repair, from the condition in which they were, the people having been formerly obliged to repair their houses themselves. I fixed what I considered a fair rent, and they have regularly paid that rent. I have had no complaints; there have been no disturbances; and during the last crisis of the fate of Barbadoes, they at once cheerfully came forward and agreed to a reduction of their pay without the smallest turbulent movement of any kind whatever. I only mention that to show that that which I thought a good plan has worked in its operation beneficially. I was examined before the Committee in 1842, and I have the satisfaction, in looking back to that date, of seeing that the opinions I then formed, which were in a manner crude and incipient, have been literally carried out, partly by my own periodical visits, and my determination to expend capital for the purpose of the improvement of the estate, and for the improvement of the population.

11169. What was the usual amount of rent?—For a good stone house, well covered with shingles, which the Committee are aware answers the purpose of tiles or slate, and a quarter of an acre of land, you may take the average at 14 dollars a year, equivalent to 3*l.* sterling a year.

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11170. You said those buildings had cost you a small fortune: what do you mean by a fortune; what has been your outlay of capital upon those buildings?—I have, since my first visit, up to last March, in one way or other sunk certainly not less than 10,000 *l.* currency for the purpose of prospective improvements, both in the condition of my estates and the condition of the people.

11171. What does the rental of those houses and allotments amount to in the improvement of which you laid out 10,000 *l.*?—I have expressed myself incorrectly, if I have led the Committee to suppose that this money was laid out entirely on houses and the improvement of the population; I should more correctly have said, in the improvement of the estates generally.

11172. What is the proportion of that 10,000 *l.* that you laid out in building those good stone houses, covered with shingles and slate, and in the improvement of the allotments which you have let to this native tenantry?—I could not undertake to answer what the proportion of it was; but I have built about 200 houses, at the rate of about 35 dollars a house.

11173. You get 14 dollars rent for that which you laid out 40 dollars upon?—For the house and land. It may appear a high rent, 14 dollars, for a house such as I have described it, but it must not be judged of by the standard of a cottage in this country, with a quarter of an acre of land attached. They have free permission to cultivate sugar, and they do most successfully cultivate sugar; and when the season will allow them to have any prosperity, they have it. They have their provisions on the grounds. And I never, during either of my visits to Barbadoes, that I recollect, saw a beggar upon my own estates.

11174. You said you built a good stone house, and covered it with shingles, for 40 dollars?—If I had built them from the ground, the least money I could have put upon them would have been from 80 to 90 dollars. I found the houses in a most dilapidated state; I had to repair them, and to appropriate the repairs, in most instances, according to the wishes of the people; I also built many new ones.

11175. Could you build such a house as you have stated in Barbadoes for 16 *l.*?—I think you could, of limited dimensions. My houses are of different scales; there is no upper storey to them.

11176. How many rooms may there be?—In some cases there are three; I think in general there are three. The houses vary from 24 feet in length to 36; usually they are about the same width, as far as my recollection serves me, from 15 to 16 feet; not in all cases quite so much.

11177. They are built of stone and mortar, I presume; is there any timber in them?—Yes.

11178. Any fire-place or chimney?—They have some little convenience of a kitchen or outhouse in most houses. The least expense of building such a house, I conceive, would be 100 dollars, the first cost. I found the skeletons of the houses, all of them, in a state of dilapidation, and, as I have stated, they cost me between 30 and 40 dollars a-piece to repair them, and that at a very advantageous season for the purchase of lumber.

11179. There is some timber in the houses, is not there?—They are roofed as these are, proportionate to the weight they have to carry, with the best fir timber coming from the United States.

11180. And slates from England?—Shingles, which answer the purpose of slate; shingles are sent from America for the purpose.

11181. Do you mean you could build a good stone house, 36 feet long, with a fire-place, and foreign timber, for 100 dollars?—I could; fire-places are not usual. It so happens that upon my estate, almost upon the spot, I have a quarry of my own, of a stone which is easily sawn, like Bath stone. Where stone is not readily had people prefer building altogether of wood.

11182. Did they make any sugar upon those lands?—They did. On one estate, in the early part of reaping the crop they requested the manager to apply to me for permission to cut their canes first. He did so; he carried the sugar for them to Bridgetown, and he brought back nearly 1,000 dollars to the people for their sugar, of which I was entitled to my proportion, which was one-fourth, for the expense of grinding and manufacturing.

11183. They grew the cane, and you made the sugar?—Yes.

11184. Can you give the Committee any statement of the produce of sugar upon your estate before and after you entered into those arrangements with the renters?—That would embrace a considerable period. I must also go back to the time of apprenticeship. The period of apprenticeship in Barbadoes, I believe, extended

extended over four years; part of that time was a very prosperous time for Barbadoes; the latter part of it and the two next years were very dry years to me, who am in a dry part of the country, and the returns from the estates were very indifferent. In some districts of Barbadoes the seasons may be very prosperous, as was the case in those years which I allude to, while in others they were very adverse; but the expense is much the same, and perhaps greater, in an indifferent than it would be in a heavy crop.

11185. Will you state to the Committee what were the receipts in sugar and in money on the estate during apprenticeship, and what they have been in the last few years, since you adopted this system of renting?—I should think the expense of cultivating the canes altogether was considerably more since final emancipation than during the period of apprenticeship; but from those estates on which I have the opportunity of letting out lands, a fortuitous return, if I may so express it, comes in, which has not exactly anything to do with the cost of the production of sugar. My estate may be rendered, to a certain degree, available to me if sugar were extinct altogether. I should get a skeleton revenue from the rent I receive, a thing which was not thought of, of course, during slavery; otherwise the expense of paying a quarter of a dollar a day for such an inadequate return of labour forces conviction upon the mind of every man that the expenses were very much heavier after apprenticeship, and *à fortiori* after slavery, than they were before.

11186. I understand you to say that if the sugar cultivation were abandoned you are so situated that you would still obtain a skeleton of an income from the ability which you are possessed of of letting out your estate in provision-grounds, as you do now?—Always supposing, which I think is in keeping with the question, that a state of tranquillity remains in the island, which under the extinction of sugar I hold to be impossible. I think the annihilation of the cultivation of sugar would at once annihilate all prosperity, of course as to the whites, and the prosperity of the labouring people, which is so intimately connected and so closely interwoven with the prosperity of the whites. I believe that they would not hold together to work out any advantage beyond a mere narrow subsistence, as is the case in St. Domingo.

11187. What would there be to prevent their continuing to cultivate their provision-grounds, and that limited quantity of cane which those renters now cultivate?—Because they derive their capital from the hire of their labour; they could not cultivate canes without manure, and they could not produce that by growing provisions alone. The provisions they would rear would probably be just sufficient to support their families, and they could have no capital to put into sugar cultivation. When I speak of the cultivation of sugar, I do not mean to deceive the Committee in stating, that it is a practice that has been generally adopted by any means. I would not commit myself so far as to say that it is a practice which is universally approved of by the residents in Barbadoes. I speak only of my own estates, and I wish to confirm what I mentioned just now to your Lordship, that I can see no chance of the population prospering if the sugar estates are not carried on by the present proprietors.

11188. What was your revenue from your estate in the period of apprenticeship, and what has it been in the course of the last two years since you have adopted this system of letting out your estate to renters?—I have a great difficulty, which will be scarcely understood by the Committee. I can hardly give a precise answer for the last two or three, or even four years. I have been investing capital with a view of improving the estates and increasing the produce, so as to lessen the proportion of expense; and, therefore, there are so many extra things that have been brought into the account beyond the ordinary expenses of an estate, that I can hardly say I have made up my mind exactly to that effect; but if there had been no extraordinary expenses at all, I think the difference between the condition of an estate during slavery and afterwards, is at least two-fifths against the returns of the estate in a state of freedom.

11189. What were the net returns of your estate during apprenticeship?—Considerably more than they have been since.

11190. Can you state the sum?—I cannot exactly.

11191. Can you state it to within a few hundreds a year?—I am called upon every year, and have been for many years past, to answer bills to the amount of 2,000 *l.* to 2,500 *l.* sterling a year for charges, which did not, either under a

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11191*. Was your produce greater or less during apprenticeship than within the last few years?—During the two or three years of apprenticeship in that part of the country the produce was very considerable.

11192. Was the produce during apprenticeship more or less than the produce during the last two years?—I think it was pretty much the same; improvements have been going on by the introduction of artificial manure and adventitious circumstances which bear upon the question.

11193. And the 10,000*l.* currency which you have invested?—I do not mean to be precise as to the figures, but in different years that I have been there I have been called on to spend capital of my own fully to the extent of 10,000*l.* currency, in improving my property generally in Barbadoes.

11194. You say your produce, in point of quantity, was pretty much the same in the last two or three years, that it was during apprenticeship and during slavery?—I should say the last two or three years. The two years following the state of apprenticeship, as far as I remember, were exceedingly dry and unprofitable seasons in my part of the country.

11195. Excluding those two dry years from 1840 to 1846, if I understand you rightly, your produce was equal to the produce during apprenticeship or slavery?—1841 and 1842 were very unfavourable seasons.

11196. The last year of apprenticeship was 1838, so that there appear to have been four unfavourable seasons?—There have been.

11197. Are the Committee to understand that 1843, 1844, and 1845 were unfavourable seasons?—1846 and 1847 have been favourable seasons in point of quantity.

11198. Eighteen hundred and forty-seven was the best year of the three, was not it?—Certainly, as to quantity.

11199. You said your produce was about equal to what it was during apprenticeship and during slavery; was not your price much higher then? In proportion as the produce of the other islands diminished, the price of sugar went up in value; did not that compensate you for the increased price of your labour?—In consequence of emancipation, I may say in round numbers, I paid 1,000*l.* where I did not pay 500*l.* before. I had a regular weekly outlay of a quarter a dollar a head per day for all adults, and that only for five days in a week, and for a limited number of hours, instead of six days in the week, from sunrise to sunset.

11200. Mr. *Labouchere*.] What amount of compensation did you get at the period of emancipation; was not it 14*l.*?—I think it was more than that; my account I think was 11,000*l.*

11201. *Chairman*.] How many negroes had you?—Four hundred, or something of that kind.

11202. You have been speaking of wages at 1*s.* a day; have not you reduced them now to 6*d.* a day?—No.

11203. Are not they generally reduced in the island to 6*d.* a day?—Not by such accounts as I have received. I am not prepared to say that any positive or general regulation has been laid down. I can only appeal to my own manager's accounts; by his account they are very considerably reduced; instead of a quarter of a dollar a day he pays them now 15 cents, that is 7½*d.*; but he has made, very properly, a due proportionate reduction in the price of the rent, for almost all the labourers I have upon my properties are tenants of mine.

11204. The fact is, that wages have been reduced from a quarter of a dollar a day to 15 cents, which is from 1*s.* 0½*d.* to 7½*d.*; is there any reason to suppose that that reduction of wages will not be maintained?—It is impossible from any accounts to say whether this abatement of wages is likely to be submitted to permanently, or whether it was considered a temporary measure, in consequence of the very extraordinary circumstances that burst upon the island at the same time under the crisis of the failure of the Liverpool house, which involved nearly half a million, and the stoppage of the West India Bank, which entirely for a time prevented any circulation of specie at all. Those people, without any reference to the proprietors in England, came to an arrangement for a reduction of wages, but whether that will be continued or not remains to be proved.

11205. Will you inform the Committee what is the amount of wages you paid in the course of a year in Barbadoes, when wages were at the rate of 1 s. 0½ d. ?—Not only upon my own estates, but as to all upon which I have had an opportunity of comparing the expenses, I should say that an estate that would produce 100 hogsheads of sugar must be subject to a weekly outlay of between 80 and 100 dollars a week.

11206. If you could reduce your wages from 1 s. 0½ d. to 7½ d. that would be a reduction of something like 400 l. or 450 l. a year?—Yes; but I could not reduce in that proportion unless I made an abatement of rent. I have made very considerable abatement of rent; what proportion that will bear to the reduction of wages I am not prepared to say, because my agent has not analysed it or sent me an account of it; but I think there was a reduction of rent of 50 per cent. at the time this crisis broke out.

11207. As far as your own particular case goes, what you have gained with one hand you may have lost with the other; but other persons have not renters; they pay the wages of their labourers; they are not in the position of being landlords to labourers; they have reduced their wages, therefore, without having any drawback?—They have not, I apprehend, reduced their wages in the proportion that the reduction has taken place upon my estates; because where no renting system took place, they did not pay their labourers a quarter of a dollar a day, but something short of it. In a system where some rent houses, and some are allowed houses to live in rent free, it is difficult to draw out any exact statement or rule of the general rate of wages. I state what my estates are; and where no rent is taken, they do not receive a quarter of a dollar a day, but less than that. Nevertheless, over the whole island a considerable reduction in the rate of wages has been made.

11208. Mr. *Labouchere*.] You sated that upon your estate, the labourers whom you have allowed to rent from you small portions of land, have in some instances grown sugar?—I did.

11209. Has that been a common case among them?—With mine a very common case. When I left the island, and during the last two years I visited it, when they found I not only had no objection as a proprietor to their cultivating canes, since it was that which would give them the greatest return in money, and the greater proportion of comforts in their families, they were all desirous of cultivating canes, and they did do it. The objection to its being more general is this: in the early transition from slavery to freedom (as in slavery they were not allowed to cultivate their own canes, but were fed at the proprietor's expense), great inconveniences were anticipated from giving them permission to cultivate the canes; the canes could not be produced without some sort of capital, or some means of providing manure; and it was thought by well-informed men, though I do not happen to agree with them, that it was an unfavourable thing upon an estate to encourage the cultivation of sugar, and they discouraged it as much as they could. I, on the contrary, have always considered that it was a most favourable thing to give a decided interest in the soil to the labourers, and I think, in all cases where it has been tried, it has succeeded; it has rescued them in a great degree from wandering habits, and has given them a confidence, by having a holding of their own, which was unknown to them before.

11210. You have not found that the circumstance of those small tenants cultivating the little plots of cane ground, has led to any depredation upon your own cane fields?—I can speak with great confidence, myself, because it was a point that I applied myself to. I can safely say, upon my own conviction, and that of my manager, in whom I have full confidence, that it has not led to that effect; but that in every respect which has passed under my eye, both of men, women, and children, it has led to a moral improvement.

11211. Do you believe that in Barbadoes, upon any extensive scale, the cultivation of sugar could be carried on upon small plots of ground, either in the hands of tenants or small proprietors?—I think that, hand in hand with proprietors, it is not impossible; in which opinion, however, I believe I am in a decided minority; but, from having been in the East Indies, my attention was more naturally called to the question, because, in the cultivation of indigo, I had established that system, and it had succeeded.

11212. Supposing that, in the course of time, sugar were cultivated in Barbadoes much more extensively upon that plan than it is now, do you believe that cultivation could be carried on at a cheaper rate than it now is upon large pro-

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perties?—I think it might be carried on at a cheaper rate so far as a hogshead of sugar would go; but I am not prepared to say that, as a successful experiment, on a large scale it could be carried out. There must be the wear and tear of the capital of the proprietors; expensive machinery is required, and the proprietor of the estate must keep up a whole establishment of carts and cattle, and everything of that kind, which I do not see how any concentration of capital on the part of the labouring population could command.

11213. You do not believe it would be possible to have a system by which there should be central factories where the sugar should be made, while it was grown by those small tenants in the island generally?—I have thought a great deal of it; but from the physical nature of Barbadoes I never have been able to bring my mind to believe that any general system of that sort of concentration could take place. I have conversed, in the course of my voyages, with many gentlemen on the subject, among others, with many French gentlemen, with whom the system is a favourite one. At the same time, where three or four estates are advantageously situated in reference to each other, in point of contiguity and convenience of roads, I conceive it might be done.

11214. You think that individual proprietors in Barbadoes could advantageously follow the example which you have set, of letting a portion of their estates to the black population, and allowing them to grow sugar upon the land so let out?—I think it might be carried on; it must depend upon the return; if I am asked, "Could it be done now?" I should say, "Unless a change takes place, no system of cultivation in Barbadoes could last long."

11215. You stated that the French were favourable to this sort of small cultivation of sugar; what do you mean by that?—I mean collecting quantities of sugar at one central factory; three years ago they were very much bent upon it; but subsequently I have understood they found it did not answer.

11216. Do you mean that they have tried it?—In Guadeloupe and Martinique I understand they have tried it; but some sensible gentlemen, upon my last two returns to England, stated it did not answer. Another question is necessarily connected with those central factories, namely, the notions as to the improved manufacture of sugar, which could not very well be carried out there without large outlay of capital.

11217. You have expressed an opinion that the island of Barbadoes could not compete with foreign sugar-growing countries without a protection?—My firm opinion is so; it was so in 1842, and it has been confirmed by every opportunity I have had of gaining information, and I have never neglected any such opportunity; and it is confirmed by information which has been established by the leading statesmen of this country since the period of 1841. I unequivocally declare at once that no part of the West Indies, and I think as favourably of Barbadoes as any part, and no part of the world I am acquainted with, can possibly compete in cheapness with slave cultivation. It is impossible for me to limit the advance that science may make; it already has considerably improved many things connected with Barbadoes; for instance, the introduction of artificial manure; and there are other things which it would be tedious to mention. There is a general spirit of economizing in the island of Barbadoes, which may enable them to contend against those prices which have latterly existed; but without those adventitious aids it will at the present prices be impossible to cultivate sugar. By the last one or two packets account sales have gone out to Barbadoes, by which it appears that hogsheads of 15 cwt. each have netted the proprietors 10 *l.*, and it is impossible, taking the chances of the seasons and putting hurricanes out of the question, to carry on the cultivation two years longer, unless the average price of sugar is higher than they have been procuring for that which has latterly been brought to sale; the cultivation, however, yielding, as I have been informed upon very good authority, a most handsome profit to these who cultivate by slave labour.

11218. Are you able to state what amount of protection you think would be sufficient to enable the island of Barbadoes to continue the cultivation of sugar?—I should say with every economy and every assistance whatever that science could give, by the introduction of new machinery, and so on, and the superior management to which all proprietors are now attending, unless a hogshead of 15 cwt., which is the general average of our hogsheads, nets fully 15 *l.* sterling, the estate will be given up, and I know there are gentlemen connected with Barbadoes who differ with me, and think that I fix the scale much too low; I fix it, taking into consideration the various improvements which have been adopted in Eng-
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land, and as a point which would just enable the planters to live. In addition to the capital I have laid out, I have to a great degree, unfortunately for myself, engaged for a steam-mill; I have recently sent out a horizontal steam-mill for the purpose of grinding the canes. Why did I do that? I did it for this reason, as forming part of a general system I had in view prospectively, that by shortening the crop time, as it is called, being able by increased power to guard myself against the uncertain agency of wind alone, and being able to reap my crop precisely when it came to its maturity, I should get a considerable saving; and I therefore incurred the expense of upwards of a thousand pounds in effecting that which I now feel may be entirely thrown away, and which I would never have done could I have foreseen what has taken place; but I considered it the duty of every proprietor to put forth all the resources he can, not only by endeavours to economize, but to increase his produce by means of machinery and science; and I saw that we were, on every occasion, warranted in doing so by the encouraging declarations that we received from this country.

11219. When you speak of this protection as necessary to enable Barbadoes to continue to be cultivated, do you mean that this protection should be against all foreign sugar, or only against the sugar of those foreign countries which are cultivated by slave labour?—Only against the slave colonies; whether it is in Jamaica, Trinidad, or British Guiana, or even the East Indies, where the manual labour is the cheapest in the known world, I hold it to be impossible that free labour can compete with the compulsory labour of the African slaves.

11220. You would not be afraid of the competition of the East Indies or of Java?—I would not.

11221. Are you aware that more sugar is produced by Java and other foreign countries cultivated by free labour than is necessary for their own consumption, and that the continent of Europe takes a large part of that production?—I do not say that I am accurately informed upon the subject. Asia, including China, will take a very considerable part; Australia must take a considerable part of whatever is produced by the Dutch settlements in those colonies. As an abstract question, if I were a young man I should not hesitate to say I would exercise my energies with confidence in the island of Barbadoes, if I were rescued from a competition which I know opens destruction to me, and that I should not fear competition with all the other parts of the world, provided I were exempt from the competition of Brazil, Cuba, and slave population.

11222. When the Java sugar has supplied the English market and its own market, if any remains to be exported to the Continent, where it meets with Cuba sugar, must not Java sugar and Cuba sugar command the same price?—I suppose so.

11223. As long as that is the case can it make any practical difference to you whether you are swamped by Java sugar or Cuba sugar?—I do not admit that injurious competition can be affected by the introduction of Java sugar.

11224. Mr. Miles.] You have a large population in Barbadoes?—Yes.

11225. Is it sufficient for your wants at present?—Quite so.

11226. Have you any to spare?—None. The experiment of emigration has been tried, and it turned out most unfortunately, both for steady continuous labour, and still more unfortunately for the unhappy individuals who tried it.

11227. Did they stay in the other islands or return?—Many of them perished; some few returned. All I had an opportunity of inquiring about were dissatisfied, and when I left the island there was no such thing heard of as any person wishing to repeat the experiment.

11228. Is the population of Barbadoes very large?—The last census was in 1844. That exhibited an increase of population, as I believe, from the period of the last registration, when a census was taken. I do not think it varies very materially. The whole population of the island is somewhere short of 130,000.

11229. You do not apprehend any evil consequences from a redundancy of population in the next few years?—I do not apprehend there will be any such increase within a short period of years as is likely to affect the island.

11230. Do you apprehend that the other islands contiguous to Barbadoes can in the next 20 years receive any supply of labour from that colony?—They possibly might; certainly nothing adequate to their wants.

11231. You do not know whether any labourers have been to the neighbouring islands for the purpose of taking off the crop, and then returning?—I never heard of any going in that sort of jobbing way. Some instances may have

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taken place; in general they went away with their families sometimes, and sometimes leaving their families behind. In almost all cases I have ever heard of, especially since encouragement has been given to the improvement of the island by the renting system, there is not the smallest desire on the part of any to emigrate from Barbadoes.

11232. Is there a good communication between the islands?—From Barbadoes to the other islands there is; not for coming back again.

11233. There is ample opportunity for the labourers to go if they choose?—Ample.

11234. What charge do you make for the manufacture of the sugar-cane grown by the negroes?—If our mill and our own carts are employed on many parts of the island, they take one-third; with myself they have preferred cutting the cane, and I always have one-fourth.

11235. Do you know what amount of sugar has been made on your estate from the produce of the negroes and tenants generally?—The year before last 30 hogsheads were made.

11236. Has this system been adopted upon other estates?—Upon several estates, and it has become more general than it was; but all the estates have not the same advantage which the estates in my neighbourhood have. The opportunities of putting up houses there are extensive, and the land is worked up by the industry of those people, and made productive in a manner that would surprise most persons who witnessed it.

11237. What is the largest allotment that you have made to the labourers?—I have renters, not labourers, upon my estate, who will be glad to pay me rent for a house and two acres of land.

11238. Do you think on the average the negro produces a greater quantity of sugar from his acre of ground than is produced on the estate?—No; but I have seen as fine canes growing upon their allotments as I have seen growing upon my own property.

11239. You do not think, upon the whole, that they get a larger return?—No.

11240. Have there been any disputes between the manager of the estates and the negroes relating to the quantity of sugar they ought to get?—None upon my property.

11241. Do they generally put the confidence in the manager that they will leave it to him, or do they come and watch the manufacture themselves?—They have the most perfect confidence; many of the people engaged in the mill and the boiling-house are those whose canes are under manufacture. I never heard a complaint breathed while I was there.

11242. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] Is the plough used in Barbadoes upon all the land where its use would be beneficial?—The plough has been introduced as far back as my knowledge of Barbadoes goes; but it has been partially put a stop to at intervals. Five years ago I took out an English ploughman, and upon my estate he was of very considerable use.

11243. Is the plough in use upon those lands where its use would be beneficial?—Very generally.

11244. Are there any considerable number of exceptions?—In hilly ground.

11245. The question refers to those lands where its use would be beneficial?—There are exceptions, but as far as my knowledge of the island goes it is far more generally used, as are other agricultural implements, than it was.

11246. But it is not used to the extent to which it might be used?—No, and there are some people whose judgment is very good, who are of opinion that it is not cheaper, and who from choice do not use it. One of the most prosperous planters, in point of the excellence of his canes, and the quantity of sugar he has made lately, is of that opinion, and does not suffer the plough to go upon his estate; I am not of that opinion.

11247. Mr. *Goulburn*.] They think spade husbandry better than the plough?—Yes.

11248. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] Do you use the plough upon all those parts of your own estate where it can be used?—Constantly; I have had three or four ploughs at work upon one field of my estate.

11249. You say there has been an improvement in the cultivation of late years; are the Committee to understand from that that there is a material progress made in the cultivation of the soil in Barbadoes generally?—More in
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reference to the saving of manual labour, and the outgoings of the estate. If I were to mention one spot which was cultivated more in a state of garden cultivation than another, I should say that Barbadoes presented it in the state of slavery. G. Carrington, Esq.

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11250. In Barbadoes the estates are under very various circumstances of soil and climate, so that in the same year some estates are in prosperity while some are in difficulty?—Certainly.

11251. At all times there are some in difficulty?—Certainly.

11252. You stated that a remunerative price now would be something like 15*l.* a hogshead?—I think I said that with some qualifications; I particularly made use of the expression that you might gain a living at 15*l.* I also stated that others, whose judgment is more to be relied on than mine, as having a more intimate acquaintance with it, consider that that is too low a standard.

11253. In 1842 you said that the remunerating price for a hogshead of sugar was 20*l.*?—I did.

11254. In the interval between 1842 and the present time an improvement has been effected in the cost of producing a hogshead of sugar equal to 5*l.*?—If my former statement was correct, and the present one is correct, the deduction is just; but there are many adventitious circumstances connected with it. I mentioned in particular the introduction upon a great many estates of artificial manure and agricultural implements, which give a facility to throwing out manure, and to the general reduction of labour upon the estate, which is an advantage; and there are many others. I will mention one in particular, the burying of green crops, a thing that appears at first as visionary, though not unknown in England. I there saw that by cultivating certain things with very little labour, and cutting them down and inserting them in the soil, all which could be done with the plough, you could raise fine crops of sugar, and the most expensive and cumbrous part of the whole system is in the raising manure by means of cattle in the island, and carrying it out afterwards.

11255. If your two statements are correct, there has been, since 1842, such an improvement in connexion with the sugar cultivation as to have reduced the cost by the amount of 5*l.* a hogshead?—Taking the various advantages of improved cultivation into consideration. But when I admit that, I could not have been supposed to be speaking in 1842 from a positive analysis.

11256. You stated in 1842, "My opinion is that a remunerating price is 20*l.* sterling for a 15 cwt. hogshead of sugar; I think less than that would not be remunerating"?—That was my opinion at that time; I can no longer live either here or in Barbadoes at all in the same comfortable style of living if sugar falls to 15*l.* a hogshead; if sugar falls much below 15*l.*, fixing at any rate 10*l.* as the minimum, the estates will entirely go out of cultivation.

11257. It amounts to this, that something like a saving of 5*l.* a hogshead has been effected since 1842?—Or what I might have considered remunerating then; and fairly remunerating, upon a calculation of my capital invested. I must now be contented to take less. At the time my calculation was made it was following some years of great prosperity, and a large quantity of sugar selling at 15*l.* a hogshead, would give me a remuneration which the same price upon a small quantity would not do. The expenses are now greater, and the only thing we can do to reduce them is calling in aid science and improvement, particularly in the operation of machinery, so as to increase the quantity, and if possible the improvement of the quality of the sugar.

11258. If since 1842, by the introduction of improvements, and the economy of manual labour, 5*l.* a hogshead, or anything like 5*l.* a hogshead, could have been saved, is not there reason to hope that in a few years more perhaps something more considerable may be saved, and free-labour produce may be able to compete with slave-labour produce?—I cannot conceive it.

11259. What is to stop your going on; you say that your estates are still susceptible of improvement?—I may in this opinion be too sanguine; I have assumed that there are many improvements which are now capable of being introduced; I do not see my way clearly to them, though I have stated how far I think it would be desirable that they should be introduced.

11260. Is not it very encouraging to find that since that period any considerable reduction has been made in the cost?—Yes; and reckoning adventitious circumstances which you may call in aid, such as renting out unprofitable lands, and letting houses, and making improvements in the quality and quantity of the sugar,

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sugar, I should not feel despair, if looking forward to any considerable number of years I could anticipate receiving a net return of 15 *l.* a hogshead.

11261. In the beginning of your examination you mentioned that you thought the system you had adopted had been productive of a good state of feeling between the labourers and their employers?—I did so.

11262. Your system is one which leaves the labourer free to work for whatever master he pleases, and does not mix up the question of rent and wages?—No; if it were found that a person, who rented his house and lands upon the understanding that he was to return to the estate a fair proportion of his labour, systematically, regularly, and perseveringly went and worked at other estates, and not upon mine, there could be nothing whatever contrary to good faith in my saying, “I am master of this house and this cottage, and if it does not suit you to live upon this place, you shall have ample time to look out for another.” All I can say is, that in point of practice I am not aware that such an alternative was ever introduced.

11263. Have other proprietors to any extent adopted a similar system, in order to improve the relations between the employer and the employed?—Very many have in my own immediate neighbourhood. A gentleman now living in London trusted to me to introduce and carry into effect the same improvement of houses at a similar cost, and the same establishment of the allotment system; and as far as I have heard, it has worked exceedingly well. I know the people were satisfied, and that I believe to have been one object, if not the primary object, as insuring labour. No system was ever introduced into the island so satisfactory to the people as the system of renting.

11264. You have no steam-mills in Barbadoes, have you?—There are three or four. It is generally considered that the trade wind blows regularly; it is not so, however, in very many parishes. On the heights it will be more prevalent; but a great deal of valuable time is very frequently lost, sometimes for days and sometimes for weeks together, by trusting to that most uncertain agency, wind. Had steam been known when windmills were erected, I am confident there would never have been anything but steam-mills erected.

11265. When you have spoken about the expenses of your estate, do not the molasses and rum pay a large share of those expenses?—They ought to pay a considerable share. The Committee are aware, that under the old regime it was usually calculated that the rum and molasses would pay the expenses of the estate; but what a wonderful difference there is when the population which fed itself by the labour of its own hands in cultivating corn and provisions, has each man now to receive 1 *s.* a day sterling for his labour at the end of the week. Therefore, admitting the amount of the molasses and rum were as much as it was formerly, which is not the case, I make a liberal calculation in my own mind for all those resources when I say that 15 *l.* would give a living to a West India proprietor, as a moderate remuneration, calculated upon his capital invested in the property.

11266. Is there any duty upon rum when consumed in the colony?—I think none.

11267. Is there much sugar consumed in the colony itself?—A great deal.

11268. In the calculations you have made, do you take into account the returns received for sales made in the island itself?—I do; the calculations are founded upon calling forth all the resources of the estate. I cannot see my way to carrying on my property if the return is to be less than 15 *l.* a hogshead.

11269. When you speak of a hogshead, what is the weight of a hogshead?—Fifteen cwt.; the average hardly comes up to net 15 cwt., but that is sufficient for all practical purposes.

11270. According to this account, the cost is much more now than in 1830?—A great deal more.

11271. Mr. Goulburn.] Your calculation as to a remunerating price, in all the subjects which have been adverted to, applies to the island of Barbadoes only?—Certainly.

11272. And in Barbadoes there is a very large population of negroes, compared to the extent of the island?—I think there must be a population within a fraction of 130,000; by the last census it is 740 to the square mile, I think.

11273. Mr. Hope.] Where is the 15 *l.* a ton to be received?—In England. That is at the present charges of freight and shipping, including, which others may

may not think necessary, insurance and the legitimate precautions which I think a man ought to take. *G. Carrington, Esq.*

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11274. *Chairman.*] Do you mean to say that 15 *l.* a hogshead would remunerate you, freight and charges included?—I do.

11275. *Mr. Goulburn.*] Do you not rather mean that you are to receive 15 *l.* net, after having defrayed the cost of making the sugar, insurance, freight, and other charges?—Certainly, the net proceeds which come into my pocket of 15 *l.* a hogshead.

John Rycroft Best, Esq. called in; and Examined.

11276. *Chairman.*] YOU are President of the Council of Barbadoes?—I am.

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11277. How long have you been resident in Barbadoes?—I was born there; I did not leave it till I was 13 years old. I have been off and on for a considerable time, but upon my last visit I arrived on the 1st of January 1842; I remained five years and a half, and left the country the 10th of July 1847, and I arrived the 17th of August in this country.

11278. Are you possessed of considerable plantations in Barbadoes?—I have three plantations, and I rent one from my son.

11279. What is the extent of the plantations?—Two of them are exactly the same size, being 226 acres each, one is 378 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and the fourth 404 acres.

11280. What is the produce of sugar from the estates?—That I am sorry I cannot inform the Committee; I have no account with me; I left all my accounts in the island, therefore I have no power of stating that.

11281. Can you generally state about the average produce on the estates, measured in hogsheads?—In 1847, the produce was 520 hogsheads.

11282. Can you give the Committee any notion of the comparative cost of production during slavery, during apprenticeship, and since freedom?—I can give the Committee no particulars, but I can express an opinion, which opinion I can fortify by circumstances which increase the cost of labour. I can assert that there is no comparison between the two; it is so much greater under free labour than it was under slave labour.

11283. The produce of your estates has been equal under free labour in point of quantity, to the produce under slavery in Barbadoes, has not it?—Very far from it, for many years; because, being in a state of transition from one condition to another, the working of the estates was very defective; and till I went out myself and did a great deal towards regulating and improving the quantity of labour by an extensive introduction of agricultural implements, there was not sufficient to cultivate them well without ruinous expenditure.

11284. Do you apprehend there is any very great improvement to be made in cultivation in Barbadoes, by a further introduction of agricultural implements or other machinery?—I consider that any introduction of agricultural implements would affect both slave countries and free countries, and if one were benefited so would the other; it would be the same whether they were introduced or not. I have very much benefited by having made up for an insufficient quantity of labour by the use of implements.

11285. Having regard to the enormous population of Barbadoes, how do you account for the labour market being deficient?—We do not consider it enormous; we consider that we have barely sufficient for cultivating the estates, because the cultivation of the cane is a garden cultivation, and takes a vast number of persons.

11286. There is no spot in the world, China not excepted, where the population is so dense as in Barbadoes?—It is by no means so dense now as it was; a great many persons have left the island.

11287. Has not the remaining population multiplied?—I should doubt it having multiplied since the last census. The free people do not take so much care of their children as the planters did when the children were all slaves; for that reason Barbadoes multiplied in a great degree when almost every other colony decreased in population.

11288. Do you believe the population of Barbadoes has decreased since freedom?—I will not venture to say that it has decreased. I am not aware that it has increased, on account of the number of children that die.

11289. What number of persons are engaged in sugar cultivation in Barbadoes?—

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does?—I cannot venture to say, but I think the printed statement there is of the population will show it.

11290. There are not above 30,000 engaged in sugar cultivation, are there?—I really do not know what the number is.

11291. Is the produce of Barbadoes about 30,000 tons a year?—Not so much as that; it was beyond 30,000 hogsheads the last year, but I think if it were stated at about 24,000 or 25,000 hogsheads, it would be quite as much as the average.

11292. What wages do you pay to your labourers?—My labourers are paid a quarter of a dollar a day. When I arrived in that country in 1842, I found that they had the use of their houses, and a small piece of land, a mere garden, rent free, and were paid two bits, or about 9 *d.* per day; but I found that they constantly went away from the estate, because they got half a bitt profit by going away and hiring themselves out to other persons. I said, You must pay me the rent for my houses and my piece of land to a certain extent, and I will pay you half a bitt more for your labour. I considered that the one would be equivalent to the other; my sole object being to induce them to stop and work upon the estate, instead of, whenever they had an opportunity of getting half a bitt more, going and working on the neighbouring estates.

11293. Since that have not you been able to reduce your wages?—My wages have been reduced in a very small degree, not in proportion to the reduction of the country.

11294. Generally there has been a reduction from 1 *s.* 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* or 6 *d.*, has not there, since the suspension of the West India Bank, and the failure of the Liverpool house?—I am not aware that there is any regular system of reduction, but I dare say it is about what your Lordship has expressed; I have not reduced mine in the same way.

11295. Why have not you reduced your wages?—Because I went on this principle: when food was very scarce I gave them something more than the wages; and now that the thing is altered I have tried to keep up a higher price of labour, because I considered it was very desirable that the population should live well, and be satisfied and contented on the place where they were living.

11296. At the present rate of wages which you pay, and at the present price of sugar, are you able to reap any profit from your sugar plantation?—There is such a continued variation as to crops, and as to the profits of the estates, that I should rather give a general opinion as to the proceeds of a hogshead.

11297. The cost of a hogshead of sugar depends very much upon the fertility of the season, and the number of hogsheads that the season permits you to grow, one year as compared with another; whether the season is a fine season, or whether it is a drought, with pretty nearly the same amount of labourers, you grow a very large crop, or a moderate crop; and if it happens to be a fertile season, and by the blessing of Providence you get a large crop, that reduces the cost of the hogshead of sugar to you?—It does; but the difficulty is in getting a standard to judge by, where the crops are so very uncertain.

11298. Taking the average number of hogsheads which you grow one year with another upon your estates, can you carry on your estates to a profit at the present wages, and at the present prices?—I think that considering generally the cultivation of my estates, and the estates in Barbadoes, it cannot be said that the island is doing at all well, unless planters get 17 *l.* 10 *s.*; and I should only say they were doing well if they got 20 *l.* I consider 15 *l.* would continue the cultivation, and only continue the cultivation, of the estates.

11299. When you talk of 15 *l.*, do you mean 15 *l.* upon the beach in Barbadoes, or 15 *l.* here after paying freight and charges?—I mean the net proceeds upon the sale in this country; that would be deducting all expenses of freight, insurance, and every thing.

11300. Ex freight and charges?—Yes.

11301. You think that nothing less than 15 *l.* a hogshead, ex freight and charges, would enable the estates to continue in cultivation?—I do.

11302. What is the average of the freight and charges from Barbadoes to England?—I have no calculation to enable me to answer that question.

11303. What proportion do you reckon that the wages of labour bear to the entire cost of cultivation in Barbadoes?—I have no data to go by in answering that question.

11304. Have you any idea that the condition of a sugar planter in Barbadoes

does could be improved by any unrestricted permission to import immigrants? —We do not require them; we have sufficient labourers, I think, with the use of agricultural implements, to cultivate the country.

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11305. Your position cannot be amended by immigration?—No; and I have some doubts whether any other of the British colonies can be; the markets in England are already clogged, and I think if you increase production by an increased importation, you must of course lower the price, which is already unremunerating.

11306. Do you know what the taxation of the island of Barbadoes amounts to?—It is very uncertain and irregular; the legislature put on taxes according to their wants.

11307. What is the total expenditure of the island this year?—I am not aware what it is; I cannot carry it in my memory, and I have no documents with me; the expenses have multiplied in a very great degree.

11308. Since emancipation?—Yes, in various ways; since emancipation there has been what perhaps the country may have wanted in a great measure before, namely, a judicial establishment; there is a chief justice, with a salary of 2,000 *l.* a year; the attorney-general's salary was increased by 200 *l.* or 300 *l.* a year; there is an assistant court of appeal; and there are three justices residing in the town, and I think their salary is 300 *l.* sterling; that has entirely depended upon the establishment of freedom; the three stipendiary magistrates in Bridgetown are at salaries of 300 *l.* a year; there is one in Speight's Town at 233 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.*; there is one in Hole Town at 166 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*, and six at out stations; and there are nine clerks salaried to those various magistrates. All that has been established since emancipation.

11309. Do you think a considerable reduction might be made in those colonial charges?—I think there may be some reduction made; I cannot understand why there should be three stipendiary magistrates to form the court of appeal, and three magistrates for the town.

11310. What is the population of the town?—Approaching to 40,000; perhaps it might be taken at 35,000.

11311. Are those stipendiary magistrates paid by the colony?—Yes.

11312. Are they appointed by the Colonial-office?—Under the law of the island, by the Governor.

11313. Were they originally residents in the island, or were they sent from England?—They were not sent from England, except in this way. One or two of them were special magistrates; when those were done away with they were made stipendiary magistrates.

11314. Is it felt that those stipendiary magistrates rather make mischief between the planters and the labourers in Barbadoes, or are the planters satisfied with their mode of administration?—I believe their decisions are very fair. I think it is unnecessary to have three in either case; to have three stipendiary magistrates for the Court of Appeal is unnecessary; those are not legal gentlemen, though they are very familiar with the local laws. Then there are three magistrates for the town; I think one would be quite enough, especially having an appeal court.

11315. Are there any other reductions which occur to you?—I am not aware of any others. The freedom of the people has led to converting what was the courthouse and the gaol into a gaol entirely, and the legislature have rented a courthouse; but lately it has been settled that a new gaol is to be built on new principles, and the old courthouse is to be converted into a courthouse again; but all this is done at a considerable expense. There have been five district workhouses built, and barracks for the police. All that has fallen upon the country in consequence of emancipation.

11316. Is the establishment of police necessarily expensive?—There is an inspector-general at 500 *l.* a year sterling, and an inspector; the two together have 830 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling.

11317. How many police have they under them?—I think 185; 50 of them are mounted, and the cost for their horses is very considerable; but I do not mean to say that they are not a very useful body.

11318. Might they be dispensed with?—I think not.

11319. In so small an island as Barbadoes do you require 50 mounted police?—They are employed in various ways. They carry despatches to the Governor, and communicate with the posts where there are stations daily, &c.

11320. What is the length of Barbadoes?—It is 21 miles long and 14 wide.

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11321. Do you mean that for an island 21 miles long and 14 miles wide, it is necessary to have 50 mounted police?—There are 50; they are distributed at six different stations.

11322. What is the charge of each mounted police?—I am not able to answer that question exactly. I happened to hit upon the cost of the police four or five years back, and it was 16,000*l.* a year sterling; that was the cost of the police force, independently of the inspector-general and the inspector.

11323. So that the police cost very nearly 17,000*l.* a year?—£.16,830.

11324. Does that include the horses?—Yes. The ecclesiastical establishment is also a very heavy one; there are 12 rectors now; the town has lately been separated from the parish it was in; and there are 12 rectors who have 500*l.* a year currency.

11325. For what population?—The general population of the island; there are 15 curates at 150*l.* a year, and there are two paid by the vestry of the parish of St. Michael. I do not know what their salaries are.

11326. Is there not a bishop of the island?—He is paid by this country.

11327. Do you know what his salary is?—I think it is 2,500*l.* a year; it was 4,000*l.* to the first bishop; the Bishop of Barbadoes now receives 2,500*l.* a year.

11328. And he has under him 12 rectors and 17 curates?—Yes; that, with the addition of an archdeacon, is the establishment of the island.

11329. Are there any deans?—No. There were several churches blown down in the hurricane, and all those churches which have been rebuilt have been upon a very large scale, in consequence of the freedom of the negroes requiring so much more church room.

11330. What has been the expenditure upon the churches?—I am not able to inform your Lordship.

11331. Can you give no idea of it?—No, I am unable to give any idea. There has been a hospital built; that was built chiefly by an island subscription; but the Legislature afterwards finished it, and they have endowed it: there was a balance due, which they paid. There was a lunatic asylum built and supported entirely by the island legislature. There was a lazaretto building in July last, which was to be built and supported out of the expenses of the island also. All those things have been introduced in consequence of the emancipation of the negroes; therefore they may be considered as increasing the expense.

11332. You have not said what the salary of the Governor is?—The salary of the Governor is paid by England.

11333. Do you know its amount?—I think it was 4,000*l.* a year; but 4,500*l.* was the allowance afterwards, in consequence of some representation.

11334. With respect to the relative position of the planter and the labourer, can you suggest anything that could be done to ensure more continuous labour, and greater industry on the part of the labourer, by any industrial laws?—I am not aware that there could be anything of the kind.

11335. Nothing in the way of empowering the planters to make contracts for periods of six months or twelve months?—The labourers would not enter into them. There was a law for contracts, but there was not one of them who would sign a contract; they had been advised by those whom they considered their friends not to do so.

11336. Who were their friends?—The printers; and there may have been advice from this country, from the anti-slavery party.

11337. Not from the stipendiary magistrates?—It is not at all unlikely they may have given that advice. I would not say the stipendiary magistrates, but the special magistracy which existed during the apprenticeship system.

11338. Have you any reason to suppose that the special magistrates did discourage the black population entering into contracts?—I know the slave population generally acted under their advice; and I know they used to go and consult them, but I cannot say what advice may have been given.

11339. What number of hours a day do the labourers work?—Nine hours; and for any time beyond that you pay them so much per hour.

11340. How much per hour?—At the same rate as is the price of labour for the nine hours. I should have mentioned that it has been my practice to allow labourers additional hire in the crop season, and when they do works which are particularly heavy, such as carrying out manure upon their heads in baskets, the extra labour coming in the crop season would come under the three bits.

11341. Would not there be a great economy of labour by introducing carts, instead

instead of carrying out the manure upon the heads of the labourers?—It is found that the allotting of the manure, and putting it into the hole dug for the cane, and also putting the manure in a firm compost, produces the best crop of canes.

11342. Is it found that the convenient mode of putting in the manure is after the hole is made, when it would be impracticable to take a cart over the ground?—Exactly so; the planters are changing their system for the convenience of planting, and for the convenience of scarifying the canes when very young. The cane plant grows exactly like the wheat plant; it has its tap roots and then throws out coronal roots, and as soon as they begin to be thrown out you must not trouble the soil beyond cutting up the weeds.

11343. Do you suffer much from the want of continuous labour in Barbadoes?—No.

11344. You have no complaint upon the ground of want of labour in Barbadoes?—Occasionally we want labour, just as it may be wanted in this country. I cannot say, however, that the labour is not sufficient; perhaps I should have thought so if we had not reaped a large crop last year in a reasonable time.

11345. Is there anything like job work performed in the colony?—Occasionally, where job work can be performed; but in cultivating the soil, that is to say, in weeding, or various kinds of work, you must do it in a particular manner; you must do it well, and if you set people to do job work they hurry it over, and do not do it well; especially where the canes are ratooned, you must cut them very close to the ground, in order that they may spring out of the earth again; if you cut them too high they spring above the earth, and the consequence is that afterwards they do not grow well.

11346. Do you find that the women cut the canes closer than the men?—No, I think they are very equal in the manner of doing their work.

11347. The women do that work of cutting canes as well as the men, do not they?—Quite as well.

11348. The Committee has understood that the women cut the canes closer to the ground than the men?—I am not aware of that.

11349. You have said that you do not consider that the cultivation of Barbadoes could go on at a less price than about 15 *l.* net proceeds for each cask of sugar in England?—Certainly not.

11350. You have built a new cathedral in Barbadoes, have you not?—The town church was a very fine church, and that was converted into a cathedral; the church was built at the other extreme of the town, St. Mary's church.

11351. Mr. *Miles.*] Supposing there is no alteration in the Bill of 1846, how many properties in Barbadoes do you imagine can be carried on?—I consider that those estates which are disadvantageously circumstanced, that is to say, along the coast and in more dry situations, or if they have a bad soil, must be given up.

11352. Can you estimate at all what proportion that is?—I should say one-third. We can only guess at what may be the result of the increased quantity of sugar coming into the markets. I consider that if the slave trade and slavery go on, all that has been done in England has been wasted.

11353. What effect do you think would be produced upon the labouring population by throwing one-third of the estates out of cultivation?—It would have a very evil effect, certainly; and there is no knowing where it might end. I am of opinion, as far as I am capable of judging from the means in my power, that the whole island, and, in fact, the whole of the British colonies, will be destroyed by the slave population of foreign countries.

11354. You think there is not a single estate in Barbadoes that can be ultimately carried on?—I think not; judging from the free trade principle of buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, the slave country will be the cheapest market, and the slave trade will be universally carried on there, those of our slaves which were purchased being supplanted by foreign slaves, so that the slave trade will not be decreased.

11355. The effect will be gradually to drive the estates out of cultivation, instead of their all going out at once?—Yes, they will go out gradually; but you will increase slavery, because slaves will be transferred from Africa to foreign countries, to fill up the deficit of produce.

11356. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] How was it that you did not manage, when you had

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slavery in the West Indies, to keep out of difficulties?—Our time of greatest distress was when the decrees of Bonaparte were published.

11357. Was not the distress very great in Barbadoes in 1831?—There was a hurricane which blew down almost every house, and there was a loan from this country.

11358. Was not there great distress also in 1841?—That was a transition state; that distress arose in a great measure from the want of labour and disorderly conduct; and in addition to that they were very dry years. I am not aware that in 1841 there was any great distress.

11359. It was stated to Parliament, that in 1830 and some years previously, the average cost of production in the British West Indies, including Barbadoes, was 15 s. 8 d. a cwt.?—I am not at all conversant with those calculations.

11360. It was stated authoritatively from those colonies, upon a calculation made on a great many estates, covering an average of years, that the cost was 15 s. 8 d.?—There is a vast deal of difference between the work of a free labourer and a slave.

11361. You say you should be satisfied now with something like 15 s. 8 d. a cwt., do not you?—I have said this, that if the usual-sized hogshead of sugar netted you 15 l., you could make no living, you must have 17 l. 10 s.; but to have anything like prosperity, you must have 20 l. for it.

11362. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You stated that sugar cannot be cultivated to a profit in Barbadoes, unless the proceeds realized by the planter are 17 l. 10 s. per hogshead?—I said the “net proceeds;” in speaking of the value of a hogshead of sugar, we always speak of the net proceeds.

11363. Assuming B. goes to Barbadoes and buys your sugar, you engage to sell it him at a certain price; will 17 l. 10 s. per hogshead remunerate you as the producer of that sugar?—If it will remunerate in England, it will remunerate there. If you wish to put your colonies in a state of prosperity, the planters should receive 20 l. for their sugar; so low a rate as 15 l. will be the means of throwing out the estates from cultivation; and as the colonies increase, slave labour is so much cheaper than free labour, that the whole of the British colonies will be thrown out of cultivation, and will be supplanted by so much more land cultivated in the colonies where there are slaves.

11364. The rate of 17 l. 10 s. per hogshead of 15 cwt. is equivalent to 23 l. 7 s. per ton?—Yes.

11365. You give it as your opinion that the lowest price at which sugar can be produced to remunerate the planter would be 23 l. 7 s. per ton free on board?—Yes.

11366. To which must be added the charges for transmission to England, of 7 l. per ton?—Yes; whatever it may amount to.

11367. Making it equivalent to 30 l. 7 s. per ton as the lowest bonded price in England which will remunerate you, as a producer of sugar, to sell it in this country?—Yes.

11368. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] Would you propose that there should be an attempt, on the part of the Legislature, to regulate the prices of sugar?—I should venture to say that (the difference between free labour and slave labour being such, and as I think there is some justice due to the West Indians, having been under the treatment of the British Government) you ought to put on such a remuneration as would enable them to exist.

11369. Do you think that the Legislature is bound to guarantee to the parties growing sugar in Barbadoes a certain price?—I think they are bound to protect them from destruction, the West Indians having had no power whatever to alter the measures which the Government thought proper to adopt towards them.

11370. You think they have a claim of justice?—I think they have a very strong claim; and it is not only justice that is due to them from the British Legislature, they having the entire control over them, but the British Legislature now is acting contrary to the principles which they adopted, and which were so rife all over England. They will increase slavery and the slave trade unless they support our own colonies, in order that those colonies may throw a greater quantity of sugar into the markets of England. If you allow them to go out of cultivation you must have so much more slave sugar to take the place of that which will thus be thrown out of the market.

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Henry Wolley, Esq., called in; and Examined.

11371. *Chairman.*] ARE you a proprietor in St. Vincent?—No; I have been to visit the estates of a proprietor.

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11372. You are also connected with Antigua, are you not?—I have visited Antigua.

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11373. When were you last in St. Vincent?—In 1846. I have been five different times since 1835.

11374. Each time you have remained there six or eight months?—Yes.

11375. Your brother-in-law is proprietor of the Fairhall estate?—Yes.

11376. What is the rate of wages in St. Vincent?—I think, for the last three years, they have been about 8*d.*; perhaps a trifle above.

11377. As low as 4*d.* and as high as 1*s.*?—Yes.

11378. The major part are 8*d.*?—Yes; the amount of wages paid per month averages about 8*d.* They also have provision grounds.

11379. Free?—Yes; and a house, and medical attendance, and medicines are thrown in free.

11380. Are they equivalent to 4*d.* a day more?—I should think about 4*d.* to the labourer.

11381. With wages at 8*d.* a day, and free provision grounds and houses free, and medical attendance free, at what price in this country can you afford to grow sugar?—I have a statement of the last three years, which shows at the rate of 8*d.* what the return upon Fairhall estate has been, and showing also the profit from the estate. In 1844, 99 hogsheads of sugar were made, besides rum and molasses, leaving a net profit of 373*l.* In 1845, the crop was 89 hogsheads; the profit in that year was 675*l.* In 1846, the crop was 89 hogsheads again, showing a net profit 205*l.*; giving for the three years 277 hogsheads, and a profit of 418*l.*

11382. What was the price you got for your sugar?—It averaged 48 per cwt. including duty.

[The following Paper was delivered in by the Witness:]

BREBNER and FAIRHALL ESTATE, in the Island of *St. Vincent*, belonging to *James Adam Gordon*, Esquire.

	Charges Sterling.	Receipts Sterling.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Crop 1844:		
99 hogsheads sugar shipped to and sold in England - - -	- - -	- - -
50 puncheons and 4 hogsheads molasses ditto - - -	- - -	1,911 13 8
Invoice - - - - -	185 4 11	
Expenditure beyond receipts in the island - - - - -	1,352 17 -	
		1,538 1 11
Net Proceeds - - - - -	- - -	373 11 4
Crop 1845:		
89 hogsheads sugar shipped to and sold in England - - -	- - -	- - -
17 puncheons molasses, ditto - - - ditto - - -	- - -	2,033 19 2
7 puncheons rum - ditto - - - ditto - - -	- - -	
Invoice - - - - -	170 16 2	
Expenditure beyond receipts in the island - - - - -	1,187 16 6	
		1,358 12 8
Net Proceeds - - - - -	- - -	675 6 6
Crop 1846:		
89 hogsheads 1 tierce sugar, shipped to and sold in England } - - -	- - -	1,956 15 2
40 puncheons molasses - ditto - - - ditto - - -	- - -	
14 puncheons rum - - - ditto - - - ditto - - -	- - -	
Invoice - - - - -	248 10 2	
Expenditure beyond receipts in the island - - - - -	1,502 6 3	
		1,750 16 5
Net Proceeds - - - - -	£.	205 18 9

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		£.	s.	d.
99	hogsheads, crop 1844	-	-	373 11 4
89	- - - 1845	-	-	675 6 6
89	- - - 1846	-	-	205 18 9
3)	277			1,254 16 7
92	hogsheads. Average 3 Years	-	-	418 5 6

11383. If the prices had been as low as they are now, you would have been a considerable loser in each of those years?—Yes.

11384. The price being now 24 s. instead of 34 s., you would have lost about 300 l. a year, would not you?—That would have been about the loss.

11385. What do you reckon has been the average cost of producing sugar upon the Fairhall estate during 1844, 1845, and 1846?—I have a statement made by the gentleman in charge of estates, Mr. James Porter, which, if the Committee will allow me, I will read. I have every confidence in his correctness, and I have verified it by calculation from Fairhall estate. The estate I am referring to is an estate which makes under 100 hogsheads, and therefore does not work so profitably as it would provided it made more sugar. Mr. Porter states, “In my last letter I stated the average cost of producing sugar for the last three years on 16 estates in this island, situated in different localities, after deducting the present value (of rum and molasses in the British market), to be 19 s. 4 d. sterling per cwt. Since then I have, through the kindness of several proprietors and other gentlemen connected with the management of estates, obtained the average cost of production on 12 other estates, for the same period, making in all 28, rather more than one-third of the whole estates in the island, and comprising some of the most extensive and productive properties, which, when added to the former, brings the average cost to 19 s. 7 d. sterling per cwt., to which is to be added, duty, 14 s.; freight, 4 s.; commission, insurance, and other expenses, 3 s.; making the cost at which the sugar of this island is now brought to market, 40 s. 7 d. sterling per cwt., the present average value of such sugar in the English markets being only 39 s., leaving a loss to the cultivator of not less than 23 s. 9 d. per hogshead, besides loss of interest on capital, tear and wear of machinery, buildings, &c. These are no exaggerated statements, got up for the purpose of party clamour; they are melancholy and incontrovertible facts, which can be proved by the books and returns of the different estates from which they have been taken.” I have a statement to verify that, from the estate to which I have referred, Fairhall.

11386. Can you suggest any mode by which wages could be still further reduced?—I can only suppose they can be reduced by introducing labour.

11387. At the present wages do you consider the peasantry are exceedingly well off?—Exceedingly well off for the habits they are accustomed to; they are very much better off than the labourers in this country. In their huts they can generally produce a bottle of porter. There is not the same degree of comfort in them all, but if you go into the huts they are generally very comfortable.

11388. Have they their huts generally boarded, or are the floors clay?—They are generally clay and stone, some of them have them boarded.

11389. Do you think it would be a great advantage to St. Vincent to import immigrants?—We have derived already very material advantage in Antigua and St. Vincent from having imported Portuguese from Madeira.

11390. At what cost did you obtain those Portuguese?—Between March 1845 and June 1847, 1,893 Portuguese have been introduced into St. Vincent; the bounty paid was 4,914 l. I have not the exact cost of their introduction into St. Vincent's with me. I have the amount of bounty which has been allowed by the island, and I have the statement of the amount I have lately paid for the introduction of Portuguese into Antigua. I see 16, of 14 years of age and upwards, cost 7 l. 10 s. per head. For 10, of 4 years to 14, they cost 5 l. 10 s.; infants under that, nothing; so that for 26 people I have paid 175 l. sterling. These Portuguese were imported into Antigua by Messrs. Shand's, of Liverpool, who received the bounty.

11391. When they arrived, at what wages did they engage in your service?—They were to receive in St. Vincent 8 d. per day, being the average rate of wages paid in the island. We also agreed to pay them a certain amount of provisions

provisions for the first six months; and they have been working exceedingly well; and had I come here a fortnight ago, I should have said they were still going on well; but by the last packet I have received an account to say that they have all left the estate, asking a higher rate of wages, their time of contract being out.

11392. Do you think it was judicious to make such a short contract?—It would have made a very material difference if we could have made a longer contract; but Government has always thrown considerable obstacle in the way of that; we have made contracts as long as the law would permit. The island law must receive the sanction of the Home Government, and there has been considerable difficulty thrown in the way of our permission to make contracts for a longer period than one year, provided we received a bounty from the island; but they are allowed to be bound for a longer time, provided there is no bounty. I am not sure whether it is for two or three years.

11393. Is there any reason why you should not import labourers yourself, and enter into your own contracts?—Yes; the Home Government are very particular on that point. We can only enter into agreements by contracts made in the island, and that must be by the permission of an Act of the island.

11394. Does that apply to Portuguese immigrants?—Yes, to all.

11395. One of the most important improvements you think would be, to do away with that regulation?—Yes, if we were allowed to enter into contracts for longer periods.

11396. Do you find one advantage of the immigrants from foreign countries is, that they are less disposed to combine with the native population in strikes for wages?—Our experience hitherto has been chiefly while they have been under contracts; as long as the contract lasted they have always behaved very well; but when the contract ceases, they are inclined to go about to obtain higher wages if they can, which would be prevented if they were allowed to make contracts for longer periods.

11397. Do you find that the Portuguese will do as much work as the creoles?—Quite; indeed more; I think they are fond of earning money.

11398. Is one of the faults found with them, that they are so avaricious that they overwork themselves?—They are inclined to do so, and they make their little children earn every penny which they can earn, which is of great importance.

11399. Can young children make themselves of great assistance in the cultivation of an estate?—Yes.

11400. In what part of the work?—They can weed, and clean up about the works, and a variety of things.

11401. Can they trash the canes?—I do not think very young children are employed at that.

11402. The population of St. Vincent is about 25,000, is not it?—It is.

11403. Those employed on the sugar cultivation are not more than 5,000?—In the census I have before me, the labourers are put down at 10,000; my idea a few days back was, that there were not above 5,000 people actually at work, and I believe there is not more work performed than 5,000 people would perform, provided they worked five days in one week and six in the other. The number of Portuguese has added very considerably to the amount of work performed.

11404. Do they work every day in the week?—Yes, every day in the week.

11405. How many hours?—Seven hours. We are not able to work them longer than other people. In St. Vincent, I think we are far better off for labour than in any other colony that I have heard of.

11406. But you complain, do not you, that your labour is not very continuous in the planting season?—They certainly do take themselves away; but I believe we are doing better in that respect in St. Vincent, in consequence of the custom by which, provided they give you a day's work, they are considered to be under contract for a month, and you do not pay them till the end of the month.

11407. That gives the planter the only hold upon the labourer?—It is the only hold; the magistrates have acted upon that rule, that a day's labour is considered as a monthly contract; it is not constantly the case, that the wages are only paid monthly, but it is very general, and if we can [do it we like to do it.

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11408. It has proved very beneficial?—It has been of very great advantage in St. Vincent.

11409. And you ascribe very much of the superiority of your condition in St. Vincent over that of the planters in other islands to the circumstance that the custom is, that you should have a month's contract, and that unless the labourer works his full contract he gets no payment at all?—If he breaks his contract, which he has consented to, and if he goes away.

11410. You would recommend that such a custom should be adopted in all the islands?—I think some such law, if passed, would be very beneficial.

11411. The average crop of St. Vincent is about 10,000 hogsheads?—Yes.

11412. In your opinion there are about 5,000 labourers devoted to that production?—Yes..

11413. You allow two hogsheads to a man?—Yes.

11414. Do you think the same estimate would apply to Antigua?—I think very nearly; the average there is about 13,000 to 14,000 hogsheads, and I do not think the work which is performed is more than 7,000 people would perform.

11415. What is the length and breadth of St. Vincent?—It is 20 miles long and 18 broad.

11416. Supposing the prices, instead of being 34s., as they were when the estate with which you are connected was profitable, should continue at 24s. a cwt., is it your opinion that a great number of estates in St. Vincent will be thrown out of cultivation?—Certainly.

11417. What proportion should you say?—They would go out gradually; some would hope for better times, and continue to cultivate at a loss; others would not be able to get advances from merchants.

11418. Eventually, you think, a great proportion of the estates would be thrown out of cultivation?—I think so.

11419. Do you think half the estates would go out of cultivation with prices of 24s.?—Unless the parties got a remunerating price for their sugar they must ultimately go.

11420. Several witnesses have told the Committee that they calculate that if one half of the estates were thrown out of cultivation and abandoned, the remaining half would be carried on, from the circumstance that they would have a greater supply of labour, and be able to cultivate them at a cheaper cost; is that your opinion?—I doubt very much whether that would be the case.

11421. Do you think, if the estates were abandoned, the practical result would be that the creoles would be able to purchase the estates?—They would purchase small portions of them, half an acre, or two or three acres, and they could go upon them and become small holders of land; and that would be an inducement to the labourers on the estates which had not been abandoned also to purchase land in that way.

11422. You have paid many visits to St. Vincent and to Antigua?—Yes.

11423. Is the result of your observations that the resident planters cultivate their estates upon more improved and better principles than the estates belonging to absentees are cultivated?—I think, not generally; I know of as many instances of inferior cultivation under resident proprietors as under the hands of people who have been brought up all their lives to it.

11424. The absentees generally are possessed of more capital, are not they?—Yes, they are generally men of large capital.

11425. And having more capital at command, they are more enterprising?—Yes; their agents probably are more inclined to try experiments, not being at their own cost.

11426. Do you think there is much to be done in the way of improvement in St. Vincent, or do you think it is in as high a state of cultivation as sugar cultivation admits of?—I think there is no doubt there may be many improvements adopted, but I think much less so in a hilly island, where, from the nature of the land, you cannot use implements to the same extent.

11427. Is it rocky as well as hilly?—Yes, in some places; and there are steep hills and ravines, and there you cannot use the plough. Where it is flat I have no doubt there may be many improvements, and they are every day taking place. They have reduced the amount of cultivation very much, and have attended more to the smaller quantity which has been kept in cultivation. Artificial manures have been introduced to a considerable extent.

11428. Do you think free labour can ever be made to compete on even terms with slave labour?—I doubt it very much, under the laws which this country would enable the colony to pass. Free labour in Santa Cruz, under the Danish government, would perhaps compete, where they force the people to work. I have a note upon the subject, which gives my opinion very plainly. It was addressed by me to the editor of *The Herald*, in consequence of several of his correspondents appearing to think that a great increase of population would enable us to compete with slave labour. I say, "It is with considerable regret I notice what appears to me the mistaken views held by several of your West Indian correspondents; views, if I may judge from a recent article in *The Herald*, you yourself entertain. In the article I refer to, you seem to be of opinion that if Jamaica could double its population, it might be able to compete successfully with Cuba and Brazil in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar. I feel convinced that the owners of property in our colonies never will be able to compete successfully with the Cuba and Brazil proprietor while the one can only obtain a few hours' labour from a freeman, and the other can enforce, by the lash, many hours' labour from the slave. To yourself and those who hold a different opinion, I would ask how it is that Barbadoes, with a superabundant population, is as near the brink of ruin as any other West India island. I repeat, free labour in a tropical climate will never be able to compete with slave labour. No! we must have free labour *versus* free labour, or protection *versus* slavery, if sugar cultivation is to continue in the British West India colonies. Lord John Russell and Earl Grey may perhaps imagine they may try experiments in the West Indies with safety, feeling confident they have the mass of the population in their favour. I would not have them calculate too securely. The blacks are a fickle race, and their Lordships may find, when too late, they have reckoned without their host."

11429. You adverted to the laws in the Danish islands; do you know anything upon the subject?—I have been to Santa Cruz. I believe they are free now; and that may be brought forward as an argument against us, that free people can compete with slavery; but, from what I saw in the Danish islands, though they are taken great care of, I believe they would be compelled to work. Freedom there is a very different thing, I think, to freedom in our colonies.

11430. Is there not a great deal of difference in the charges to which you are subjected in Antigua and St. Vincent and the charges of the colonial government in Santa Cruz?—I am not aware of the particular laws in Santa Cruz; but from what I saw, it was evident that even the white people there were not what we should call free. The government sends them an order to cut down a tree, and they are obliged to do it; or if a road wants repairing, they will order out a gang to do it; and if they do that with the whites, it is very evident that they will compel the blacks to work.

11431. Do you know what the colonial expenditure of St. Vincent is?—No, I am not aware.

11432. Have you a governor?—A lieutenant-governor.

11433. What salary does he receive?—About 1,000*l.* to 1,200*l.* a year, I believe.

11434. Is he paid by the colony?—No; by the Government at home, I believe.

11435. Has the expenditure of the island been very much increased since emancipation?—There have been more charges for schools and hospitals, and a variety of purposes.

11436. How is the taxation of St. Vincent raised?—There is a tax upon the export of produce and an income tax, and import tax.

11437. What is the tax upon the export of produce?—I am not aware; it is so much a cwt. of sugar.

11438. And so much a gallon for rum?—I am not sure.

11439. You are connected with Antigua; do you know anything of the expenditure of Antigua?—I am not prepared to give any evidence upon that subject, for of late years the estates for which I am interested have suffered so severely from the effects of the earthquake in 1843, that in making a calculation upon the same principle on one estate, I find that the cost of sugar was 38*s.* and on the other 27*s.*; but I threw into that calculation the expenditure of about 9,000*l.* which has been laid out for the last four years in rebuilding the works which had been destroyed by the earthquake.

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11440. It is necessary to look for such casualties, is not it?—I should hope not for an earthquake, to do any such damage; but hurricanes we are subject to, and drought.

11441. I have had put into my hands a picture of the cathedral in Antigua; do you know anything of that building?—I have seen it in progress.

11442. It cost, did not it, 40,000 *l.*?—Between 35,000 *l.* and 40,000 *l.*; I believe the original estimate was 15,000 *l.*, but they miscalculated the expense, and I believe it originated in the misfortune of our getting a loan from Government; when money is plentiful people are ready to spend it rather freely.

11443. Did the building of the cathedral originate with the colony?—Yes; they deducted a certain sum out of the loan fund for the purpose of restoring public works; there were a great many churches thrown down, and that enhanced the price of labour very much; but it was entirely the work of the colony; they estimated the cost at 15,000 *l.*, but it ran up to upwards of 35,000 *l.*

11444. You have a bishop in Antigua?—Yes.

11445. He is not paid by the colony?—No.

11446. Has he 2,500 *l.* a year?—I am not aware of his salary.

11447. From the statement I have before me, it appears that he has but 33 clergy in his diocese?—I should think there were about that number.

11448. Do you know what the stipends of the clergy are?—No; there is a bishop and an archdeacon; the bishop has five chaplains.

11449. How many rectors are there?—Twelve.

11450. Have they 500 *l.* a year a piece?—I am not aware what their salaries are.

11451. *Mr. Goulburn.*] The bishop, though called the Bishop of Antigua, has jurisdiction over other islands, has not he?—Yes.

11452. Do you know what number of other islands he has jurisdiction over?—Antigua, Montserrat, St. Christopher, Nevis, the Virgin Islands, and Dominica.

11453. You stated that in the event of matters remaining as they are in St. Vincent, many estates would necessarily be sold?—I doubt whether they would be sold, except in small lots to the labourers.

11454. Are not the estates so entailed as to render it very difficult to sell them?—Some few are.

11455. Are not they encumbered with settlements for widows and younger children?—There are annuities upon many of the estates for widows and children.

11456. Under those circumstances would it be practicable to sell them in those small lots?—If they went out of cultivation I suppose some arrangement would be come to.

11457. *Mr. Moffatt.*] You state in this estimate of the proceeds of the produce of one-third of the estates in St. Vincent that the average price is equal to 19 *s.* 7 *d.* per English cwt.; can you inform the Committee how that estimate is arrived at?—I conclude it is arrived at in the same way in which I arrive at a similar estimate from my own estate. I took the expenditure in the island less receipts in the first instance; I added to that the invoice of the goods sent from home.

11458. You mixed up the amount of goods supplied to the estate as one of the ingredients in the cost of production?—Yes, that is part of the cost of production.

11459. Have you any document by which you can show how the cost of 19 *s.* 7 *d.* is made out?—No.

11460. You have been at St. Vincent, but you have never made those calculations for your own satisfaction?—Yes, I have. Taking three years, I have taken the total expenses in the island, I have added to that the invoice of stores from home, and I have deducted the molasses and rum sold in England from the expenses in the island; because if the whole had been sold in the island it would show what the expense of making a hogshead of sugar was. Part being sold in the island and part being sent home, to simplify the calculation I have deducted the proceeds of that sent home from the island expenses, giving credit to the island expenses for that amount, and the remainder, divided by the number of hogsheads, would give the cost of production.

11461. According to that estimate, you do not appear to have given credit in
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the cost for the produce sold in the island; this is expenditure beyond the receipts?—Yes; I have.

11462. It appears, according to that statement, which embodies the proceeds of a large portion of the island of St. Vincent, you would lose, in reference to the present rate, equivalent to 1*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per hogshead, or 1*s.* 8*d.* per cwt.?—Yes.

11463. Are you aware that, owing to various causes, in this country the sugar market is in an unusually depressed condition?—No doubt of it.

11464. There is fair and reasonable ground for apprehending that we shall have some improved prices?—We have to bear in mind that there is the differential 6*s.* protection to come off.

11465. It is to be reduced 1*s.* 6*d.* in the present year?—Yes.

11466. Do not you anticipate a larger advance of the price of sugar than 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. in the course of the present year?—I should hope so; but I believe there are many who differ from me.

11467. You stated that wages were, on the average, 8*d.* per diem; and you said that the value of the rents, medical attendance, and other small advantages which you give to the labourers, is equivalent to 4*d.* a day; do not you think that is an excessive calculation?—No.

11468. What is the cost of medical attendance for any one year on your brother's estate?—Medicine and medical attendance, about 25*l.*

11469. Can you state, in the cost of production, estimating it at 19*s.* 7*d.* per cwt., what proportion of that is labour?—I should say fully one-half.

11470. Was not there a considerable mortality among the Portuguese labourers after their arrival in the island?—Not in St. Vincent.

11471. You had an importation of 58, out of which not less than 26 died?—I am not aware of that.

11472. Your impression is that there is a very trifling mortality?—Very trifling.

11473. Do the labourers generally prefer residing on the estates, or in free villages?—They prefer going into free villages when they can.

11474. Where they go into free villages, do you make a difference in the amount of their wages?—No.

11475. So that it is evident that they do not think those advantages are equivalent to 4*d.* per diem in their favour, seeing they prefer residing in free villages at their own cost?—They are not so anxious to work; they are so independent, that they do not make those nice calculations.

11476. The difference between 8*d.* and 1*s.* is a very important amount?—We give them a good deal of ground; they have as much as an acre of land in many instances; besides which, they are allowed to take a cane-piece, and grow yams.

11477. But many of the labourers prefer residing in the free villages, though they have no higher wages?—Yes.

11478. Is there any squatting upon the Crown lands?—Not to any great extent.

11479. Are the negroes generally satisfied with the system of implied contracts?—Yes. I do not think that the contract law would bear out that; that is the law; but it has been carried out.

11480. Your impression is, that it gives satisfaction generally among the negroes and the labouring population of St. Vincent?—I believe they are more satisfied there than they are in other islands.

11481. They do not think the law is strained harshly against them?—No.

11482. They have confidence in the system, and in a just administration of the law?—I think so.

11483. Do you make much rum in St. Vincent?—We make a considerable proportion: not to the extent that they do in Jamaica.

11484. Does that pay any duty when used in the island?—There has been latterly some tax put on, to prevent its being sold without a licence.

11485. It is merely a licence upon the privilege of selling, not an excise duty on rum?—No.

11486. Is there any duty on British spirits when imported into St. Vincent?—I think everything that is imported pays a duty.

11487. Your revenue is derived from the import duties, is not it?—There is an income tax also.

11488. How is the income tax levied in St. Vincent?—Upon parties receiving incomes.

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11489. That is the per-centage?—Two per cent.
11490. To what time do the contracts of the Portuguese labourers usually extend?—I think if the bounty be received, they are only allowed to enter into contracts for one year.
11491. You stated that the absentees were generally more enterprising in the management of their estates than the resident planters?—There are exceptions, of course; but that is the general rule.
11492. The estates of absentees are better managed than those of the resident planters, you think?—I think so.
11493. Do you speak from any practical experience upon the subject?—I have known a merchant refuse to make advances, unless the proprietor allowed the estate to be managed by an agent.
11494. Do you speak of it as a general rule, that people have difficulty in getting advances?—Far from it.
11495. Your brother-in-law is a resident planter, is not he?—My brother-in-law is a landed proprietor in this country; he is not a resident.
11496. Your impression is, as far as your experience goes, that the properties of absentees are better managed, and more profitable, than those of resident planters?—I think quite as much so.
11497. You stated that in Santa Cruz labour was far more productive than in St. Vincent: can you state what the regulations are which govern labour in Santa Cruz?—When I visited Santa Cruz it was some few years back, during slavery; I imagined they had been freed lately.
11498. Do you suppose Santa Cruz is still in a state of slavery?—I mentioned it incidentally, in the fear that it might be brought forward as an instance against the West Indian that their free labour was able to compete with slave labour, while we are not.
11499. Were remarks you made in reference to Santa Cruz made under the impression that Santa Cruz was in a state of slavery at the present time?—Yes. We have made sugar at one time as cheap with free labour in Antigua as it is made with slave labour. The first two years of freedom in Antigua we made sugar at the rate of 6 s. a cwt.
11500. Did you in St. Vincent have the apprenticeship, or did you emancipate your slaves at once?—We had the apprenticeship. Under the apprenticeship in St. Vincent, I have a statement showing that sugar was made at 5 s. 6 d. and 6 s. per cwt.; for the first two years of freedom it was made at about the same cost in Antigua, and I believe the people were very happy and very free.

[The Witness delivered in the following Statement:]

STATEMENT showing the Cost at which Sugars were produced, taking a Period of Five Years, during SLAVERY, on an Estate in St. George's Parish.

	£.
Gross Expenses for 5 years - - - - -	12,127 sterling.
Deduct Offals for 5 years; viz. Rum and Molasses - - - - -	5,858
TOTAL Hogsheads Sugar produced - - - - -	1,502) 6,269 (2l. 3s. 5d. per hhd. of 15 cwt. or 5s. 6¾d. per cwt.

STATEMENT showing the Average Cost at which Sugars were produced, during the Four Years of APPRENTICESHIP, on an Estate in St. George's Parish.

	£.
Gross Expenses during 4 years - - - - -	8,707
Deduct Offals - - - - -	4,411
TOTAL Hogsheads Sugar produced - - - - -	955) 4,296 (4l. 10s. per hhd. of 15 cwt. or 6s. per cwt.

The above statements do not include interest of capital invested; they show the mere cost of production.

11501. Is this 6 s. per cwt. free on board?—Yes.
11502. What was the rate of wages during the two years of free labour in Antigua when you made your sugar at 6 s. a cwt.?—It averaged 6 d. a day.
11503. To what do you attribute the great difference in the cost of production?—To the decreased quantity; every hogshead we make less increases the price. If we get increased labour, and made more sugar, we could afford to sell it at a lower price.

11504. Is the statement you have given in, the same statement as that which you previously gave in the results for 1844, 1845, and 1846?—No, it is not.

11505. Can you state what was the production of the estate of which you gave in the results before, during the first two years of freedom?—That estate was one managed in an extremely bad manner, therefore it is not a fair criterion to judge by.

11506. You do not know what was the cost of the production of sugar upon your brother's estates?—No. I may be allowed to state perhaps, that my remarks with reference to resident proprietors have all been with regard to Antigua; My last accounts from St. Vincent told me that two estates of resident proprietors there were about to be abandoned.

11507. Are those estates very much encumbered?—No.

11508. The planters did not owe any money in those cases?—There was money owed by the planters; but I believe them to be well managed.

11509. What interest is paid in the case of mortgages of that kind?—Six per cent. is the legal rate, but 5 per cent. is generally the amount received.

11510. Are there any annuities charged upon those estates?—I rather think not.

11511. Mr. Miles.] What quantity of immigrants do you think would be necessary for St. Vincent?—Up to the present time we have imported 1,893, from March 1845 to January 1847.

11512. What quantity more do you think it will be necessary to import?—I can hardly say; I think those we have imported have had a great effect in keeping down wages.

11513. Do you think 4,000 or 5,000 more immigrants imported into the colony would have a great effect in reducing the price?—I doubt if parties would be found to advance money for such a large number; but if they were under contracts for two or three years, they might be introduced.

11514. Do you think that 4,000 or 5,000 would be quite the outside number that would be required?—I can hardly tell what the effect of increasing the supply of labour might be; we have Barbadoes close to us, with a superabundant population, and there it has not tended to reduce the price; the 2,000 we have had have been a very great benefit no doubt, and if more were gradually introduced no doubt they would keep down wages.

11515. Do you know in what state St. Vincent is as to the cultivation of the sugar cane; whether the planters intend to continue putting in fresh canes?—I have no doubt there are some few estates where they will put in fresh canes.

11516. They are not disposed to abandon their estates just yet?—Not if they can get advances.

11517. You stated that they were only relying upon the hope that something would be done by the Government of this country?—That is so.

11518. Supposing they get nothing, what will be the effect?—The white people I think will gradually leave, and the island will become divided among the blacks.

11519. Then there will be a total cessation of the sugar cultivation?—It will get into the same state as St. Domingo is in.

11520. That of course will have a very bad effect upon the blacks?—No doubt it will.

Dr. Norton Shaw, called in; and Examined.

11521. Mr. Miles.] WHAT is your profession?—I am a medical man, born in the Danish island of Santa Cruz, where my friends still reside. Some of them reside in the Spanish island of Porto Rico, and are connected with sugar plantations there. I have travelled extensively in all the West Indian islands, and have had some opportunity of comparing the effects of labour among slaves and among free people within the tropics.

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11522. You have a general knowledge of the whole of the West Indian islands?—I have, and of the United States, Mexico, South America, &c.

11523. Sir Edward Buxton has wished me to ask you several questions, which I will proceed to put to you. Can you explain how far free labour is employed in the island of Porto Rico?—It is employed to a very considerable extent, but is materially assisted in the hardest part of the occupation by slave labour. The wages of the free men in Porto Rico averaged, when I was there

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some years ago, and I have been there repeatedly, and speak likewise from information very lately received, about 1s. a day, for which a very fair day's work in the tropics may be had; from six to seven hours, or perhaps eight. Provisions are very cheap, and many of the labourers have their own grounds, so that they can afford to work at 1s. I wish particularly to mention, that that free labour which is employed in the island of Porto Rico does not exist, and cannot exist for some time in any of the British West India islands. The inhabitants of Porto Rico have been long an agricultural people. The Spaniards have no particular dislike to the blacks, such as we appear to have; and they have often intermarried with the coloured population. This population is likewise made up, to a certain extent, of the Indian race, which was there formerly. This mixture is very good, and consists of the Spanish, the Negro, the Indian. The docility of the Indian is pre-eminently brought forth there. Without such a species of middle class, as it were, I do not think any free labour in the tropics could compete with slave labour. Labour in Porto Rico can do so, because the more difficult portions of the work are carried out by slaves, while the rest is done by the free population.

11524. Are the white people employed in field cultivation?—They are not white; they are a mixture, and form a very excellent population.

11525. What part do the slaves perform in crop time?—They are worked harder than the free population.

11526. Is that in the field?—They work together in the fields, but the slave is worked harder than the freeman.

11527. A greater number of hours in the day?—Yes.

11528. What number of hours is it usual for a freeman to work in the day?—He works on the average seven or eight hours. By law the slave may be compelled to work 13; but he is often urged to work beyond that time; where the freeman works about eight hours, the slave may be compelled to work 13.

11529. In crop time, do the planters manufacture their sugar by night as well as by day?—They do; and they take their chance of being found out.

11530. Do you mean the free people engage in the manufacture of sugar at night?—They work for extra pay, but not the same persons; but as relief gangs.

11531. Is the extra pay found sufficient to induce them to do it?—In some cases; but generally speaking the slaves are compelled to do the harder work. I have never seen any free people working at night on any estate, but I have been told that they could be induced by extra pay to work at night.

11532. Do you know what the total production of the island of Porto Rico is?—I do not know the present total production of it; it has been very much increased of late years.

11533. Do you know whether it is capable of being much further increased?—I know it is very much so; the resources of the island are very great; the soil is one of unlimited capability. I have seen ditches where the soil was seven, eight, or even ten feet deep; a most fertile alluvial soil.

11534. Is not it the fact, that in Porto Rico most of the level portions of the valleys are in sugar cultivation at present?—No, by no means. I have seen large portions of land which only wanted capital and labour laid out upon them to be brought to bear.

11535. Are there any large portions of level land uncultivated?—Yes, or only nominally cultivated by those free people, who cultivate very little, and in a very slovenly manner.

11536. Do you think the production of Porto Rico is capable of being extended to an unlimited extent?—I do.

11537. Do the prejudices of colour exist among the population of that island?—I have already answered that question. The prejudices are very slight indeed among the Spanish population.

11538. They make almost entirely muscovado sugar in Porto Rico, do not they?—Yes.

11539. Are they taking any steps to improve the manufacture?—My last accounts state that they have imported a quantity of machinery lately, and that they were taking means to increase the quality of their sugar materially; they have imported many Santa Cruz sugar boilers into that island, who have materially increased the value of this sugar. They make far superior sugar to what they did 13 years ago.

11540. Is there any want of labour there?—If new land is brought into cultivation, they would want labour.

11541. Do you think there is a scarcity of labour now?—No, I should not think there was.

11542. Have there been many slaves imported lately?—There have been some, but very few. When I was in Porto Rico some time ago three ships arrived in three months, whose cargoes sold at prices averaging from 300 to 400 dollars a head.

11543. Were they publicly exposed for sale?—No; I heard in the capital, St. Juan, that they had arrived; the governor was not aware of it, that I know of; but it was generally acknowledged that his secretary was paid one doubloon a head for every slave that was landed.

11544. He takes no means himself to support the traffic, does he?—No; they were not allowed to come into the harbour, but they land at different places. I saw one gentleman, an Englishman, who bought 30 or 32 of them; he treated them very kindly.

11545. Is he a planter?—Yes; he wanted labour.

11546. Is there any feeling existing in the island against any further importation of slaves?—It is more among the new settlers that the want of slaves exists; the old Spanish proprietor I do not think wants more; he gets his labourers from the free population, and has a certain amount of slaves; but the new settlers who come in, whether they be English, or Scotch, or Americans, all want slaves.

11547. Has there been a large increase of capital flowing into this island lately?—There has been continually, and I believe there is still a want of it; when I was in the island the rate of interest was 15, 18, and 20 per cent.

11548. Of course, as the price of slave-grown sugar rises it attracts so many more capitalists to come and settle there?—It does. I may likewise state that I have just received letters from Porto Rico concerning a friend of mine who went over from Santa Cruz to Porto Rico many years ago. He settled in a bad soil at first, and his estate did not answer his expectation; he gave up the estate, and took his negroes to another portion of the island, where he bought land from the Spanish agriculturists in small proportions; he commenced operations with a cattle mill and from 100 to 110 slaves; he afterwards increased his operations, and built a very fine windmill; I was present when he was building it, and he had free labourers working with his slave labourers. He has since that time imported steam machinery, and expects this year to make 2,000 Porto Rico hogsheads of sugar, weighing 12 cwt. each; and I am informed that 10s. a cwt. will cover his expenses.

11549. That would leave him a large profit?—I should think it would; 10s. will cover his operations.

11550. Is there a small island called Crab Island near Porto Rico?—There is.

11551. What is going on upon that island at present?—I have only heard that at present they are intending to grow sugar there; but as far as my knowledge goes, it is a very small island, and they would not grow much there. They go there from Santa Cruz and St. Thomas to get wood.

11552. Have not their malefactors been sent there?—I believe it has been employed for that purpose.

11553. It is an island claimed by England, is not it?—Yes, it is claimed by England, by Denmark, and by Spain; the English claim, I believe, is as good as any.

11554. Have you ever been in Cuba?—I have.

11555. In what year?—I was last in Cuba in 1842 or 1843.

11556. Can you give the Committee any information about the cultivation of sugar in Cuba?—None of sufficient importance to make it worth while to state it to the Committee.

11557. Who was the governor, and were you able to form any idea of the fact of the encouragement of the slave trade?—The governor was General O'Donnell, and it was generally understood that he or his lady received from 10 to 15 dollars a head. In 1843 and 1844 the trade decreased in consequence of the very low prices which they got for their sugar. I have now information from Cuba, which states that the slave trade has commenced again, that is since 1846.

11558. Had you an opportunity of judging whether the Spaniards were satisfied with the prices received at that time by them for their sugar?—They were not;

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not; there were great complaints as to the prices of sugar in 1843, and afterwards in 1844 the prices of sugar had fallen so much that there were great complaints. Further than that, there was a considerable party in Havannah which was not at all disinclined to emancipate their slaves provided they could get possession of the English market. It is well known that the house of Drake, Brothers & Co. advocated it; they said if they could get possession of the English market, they could afford to pay 50 per cent. more duty than English sugars, and still better their condition.

11559. Do you think if the English markets had not been thrown open to them in 1846, in a few years Cuba would have been led to emancipate her slaves?—I think they must have done so; and if any differential duty could possibly be reimposed between the sugar of other nations and our own, I am quite confident we should lead to the emancipation of the slaves, more particularly since the French have emancipated their slaves in Martinique and Guadaloupe, which must, I think, lead to the re-annexation of St. Domingo to France. It is a stroke of deep policy on the side of France, and Spain will have to follow the example.

11560. And you think that result would be facilitated if we could shut our markets against slave produce?—If we could merely have a discriminating duty.

11561. Is it your opinion that free labour in the West India colonies can compete with slave labour without discriminative duties?—I think the free labour of the English colonies cannot compete with slave labour elsewhere. That particular kind of free labour which exists at Porto Rico might compete with any labour almost; at least, it would come nearer to competition than any other free tropical labour; but we could not for a century hence have that free labour in our colonies. Slavery has given to every species of agricultural labour in the English islands the badge of the lowest and most degrading work. Spanish freemen will work to a certain extent, but all our coloured people in the English islands detest agricultural employment, more or less.

11562. What is the common price of a day's labour in Porto Rico?—It is 1s. a day.

11563. Can continuous labour be obtained from the negro in a state of freedom?—Under present circumstances, I think not; he is not sufficiently advanced, perhaps, to be induced to give continuous labour. If he be paid very highly, he will work a day or two, and spend his money during the rest of his time in enjoyment; if he be paid very low wages, he will rebel against it.

11564. Can you give the Committee any suggestion of the means by which that continuous labour could be secured?—It is a work of time. Immigration may answer in some places; it is essentially necessary in Trinidad, and Demerara, and parts of Jamaica. A healthy immigration would go far to remedy their evils; but no immigration would be useful in the island of Barbadoes, and it would be of comparatively little importance in the islands of Antigua or of St. Vincent.

11565. You imagine that high wages can never compete with the stimulus of the whip?—Between the tropics I think not; for the very reason, that when negroes get those high wages, they will work for a couple of days, and then discontinue working the rest of the week.

11566. What colonies do you think suffer most at present?—I think the three I have just mentioned, Jamaica, Demerara, and Trinidad, must be the greatest sufferers; the others enjoy a greater population; and in these the negroes cannot have the opportunity of squatting which they have in larger places.

11567. Do you think squatting could be prevented in any measure?—It is a very difficult thing in Demerara, Trinidad, or Jamaica, to put an end to squatting; I fear it would be attended with the greatest difficulty. If you could render the negroes contented, and give them long leases of the land, or render them freeholders, and increase their value as British subjects, it would be beneficial. I would advance them in every possible way by education; I would do away with Crown colonies, like Demerara and Trinidad. I think by bettering the condition of the negroes, which is going on gradually, the civilized negro will have more wants than the uncivilized barbarous slave, and consequently the general condition of the colonies themselves will be improved.

11568. Do you think that an extensive system of immigration from Africa and elsewhere would remedy the evils under which the colonies suffer?—I have answered that it would only partially do so; it would be of great importance in those three colonies I have mentioned; any fair and gradual immigration would do good; but any sudden immigration, by throwing thousands of people upon those

those colonies in their present state, would do them no good; they have no capital to pay the labourers.

11569. Have you any knowledge of the exact number of sugar and coffee estates which have been thrown out of cultivation?—I have no more particular information than the late Report of the House of Assembly of Jamaica, which has just arrived, and which will be laid before the Committee by Mr. Borthwick.

11570. Drawn up by a committee there?—Yes, which has been printed, and I dare say is in the hands of this Committee.

11571. Have you any knowledge of the statements by Mr. M'Culloch or Mr. M'Gregor, that a differential duty ought to exist in favour of free sugars?—I think Mr. M'Gregor some time ago made a statement to Mr. Colquhoun, the consul of the Hanseatic Towns, to that effect. Here is a copy of Mr. M'Culloch's statement: "With regard to the 10s. differential duty, and considering the difficulties under which the planters in the West India islands have been placed by the measures forced upon them in connexion with the emancipation of the slaves, and the obstacles which have been thrown in the way of their obtaining supplies of free labour from Africa and the East Indies, the preference given them by the above statute does not appear to exceed what the justice of the case demands." This was after the passing of the Act of 1844, when the differential duty continued to be 10s.

11572. Have you any reason for believing that the slave trade has increased lately?—I believe there is a moral conviction of that in almost every breast. I have here some papers, which I have this day received, which, with the permission of the Committee, I will read. They are papers which were moved for by Mr. Hume, consisting of Reports from the Coast of Africa Blockading Squadron, from the Consuls in the Brazils, and likewise from Havannah. Those are accounts which have been received subsequently to the Bill of 1846. The first is from Consul Morgan to Viscount Palmerston, received the 5th January 1848, dated from Rio Grande, 1st November 1847, in which he particularly mentions, that "the rebellion, from 1835 to 1845, in that province caused the slaves to join the ranks of the republicans, and consequently materially diminished the importation of slaves; but since the pacification of the province a large increase of the traffic has taken place. Many Bozal negroes, under the denomination of passengers, are sent in every coasting vessel from Bahia and Rio Janeiro." Bahia and Rio Janeiro are two emporiums of the slave trade. "Several Portuguese houses are at present fitting out vessels for the coast of Africa for the purpose of prosecuting this illegal and iniquitous traffic. The introduction of these slaves can only take place by the permission of the authorities of this place, who receive for every African 10 dollars to 15 dollars per head, which sum is divided among themselves." The second is from Consul Porter, of Bahia, to Viscount Palmerston, received 29 December 1847, and written or dated 18 October 1847; it contains a statement that the importation of slaves has again increased for the quarter ending the 30th of September 1847, it being 2,233 to 1,500 for the quarter ending the 30th of June, and 1,180 for that ending the 31st of March; consequently the number in the quarter ending the 31st of March 1847 was 1,180 slaves, the quarter ending in the 30th of June 1,500 slaves, and in the quarter ending the 30th of September 1847, the number was 2,233. "The traffic is now carried on without any attempt of concealment. Regular landing places have been established at the island of Itaparica (about eight miles from this city), and signal lights are kept burning during the night for the guidance of the slave vessels engaged in this trade; thence they are brought over to the depôts in the city, and sold without interruption from the authorities. Although some vessels have been captured, many fresh ones are nevertheless being fitted out for the coast." The third is from the Governor of Sierra Leone to Earl Grey, 1st October 1847. It contains this sentence: "Although the vigilance of Her Majesty's squadron is extreme in the suppression of the slave trade, this traffic, I am sorry to state, is not only not diminished, but on the contrary, prosecuted, if possible, with more vigour than ever." The fourth letter is from Consul Cowper to Viscount Palmerston, dated Pernambuco, 30th September 1847. It states: "After an entire cessation of two years, the slave trade has again re-appeared on this coast. The democratic element gaining ground in this province, is, however, in favour of African liberty." The fifth is from Her Majesty's Commissioners at Sierra Leone, received 24th November 1847, dated 1st October 1847, which mentions that an unusual number of slave vessels had been captured, and refers to the increased activity of the slave trade,

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trade, particularly on the part of Brazil; signed Melville and Hook, the two Commissioners. The sixth contains an account from Sir Charles Hotham, that steamers are being substituted for sailing vessels by the slave traders. The seventh is from Sir Thomas Herbert to the Secretary of the Admiralty, dated Ship Raleigh, off Monte Video, 9th May 1847. He mentions: "I am informed by the senior officer at Rio Janeiro, that slaving is increased in an unprecedented manner along the entire coast of Brazil, but owing to the state of affairs in the River, I have not been able to send one single cruiser to check this abominable traffic"; received 1st August 1847. The eighth is from Consul Porter, at Bahia, to Viscount Palmerston, dated 1st April 1847, received 14 June 1847: he states, the increased activity of the slave trade, and that "the slave dealers themselves declare that the slave trade would cease of itself should the British cruisers be taken away from the African coast, as the price of slaves would immediately fall too low to be remunerative, and the Brazilian authorities, for their own safety, would be obliged to take measures to prohibit the importation. The whole population are, as it is, kept in a constant state of alarm, from fear of a rising of the slaves."

11572*. Mr. C. Villiers.] But that is the opinion of the slave dealers:— Yes; and I will undertake to assert that this belief is becoming more and more general in this country likewise. The ninth is from Consul Hesketh, at Rio, and is addressed to Lord Palmerston, on 4th May 1847, received 21st June 1847; and mentions the increased traffic with slaves, both by steamers and sailing vessels, to and from the coast. The 10th is from Commodore Hotham to the Secretary of the Admiralty, dated Steamer Penelope, St. Helena, 7th April 1847; speaks favourably of Liberia, and of the observance of treaties made with the chiefs on the coast. Slave vessels outsail men-of-war; the great facility on the coast for eluding the British cruisers, particularly so in the Bight of Benin; impossibility of putting an end to the traffic as long as the United States' flag is used to protect them; horrid scenes on board the slavers taken; good prospects for commerce with Africa in oil, corn, hides, ivory, gold dust, bees' wax, coffee, sugar. 11th, from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havannah, dated 9th March 1847, and received 8th April 1847, states the manifest signs of the renewal of the slave trade, though during several years almost entirely stopped; several vessels sent to the coast; high prices of sugar; one estate, newly formed:

	Dollars.
2,000 acres of land - - - - -	60,000
Buildings, &c. - - - - -	60,000
Negroes (400) - - - - -	160,000
Maintenance, and wages to overseers, &c. - -	20,000
TOTAL - - - Dollars	300,000

makes this year a crop of 10,000 boxes of sugar, which, at 15 dollars per box, will give 150,000 dollars, so that in two years the whole outlay will have been covered. A company, with the Conde de Casa Brunet at its head, has been formed, for the introduction of 20,000 African labourers, to be purchased on the coast, and afterwards freed in Cuba. Their plan has been forwarded to the Spanish Government. There is likewise at present a law in contemplation forbidding any future emancipation.

11573. What is your opinion concerning the practicability of adopting the system of leasing estates, recommended by Earl Grey?—Individually, I should have imagined that such a system would have been a very good one; but there is a gentleman connected with Jamaica, in fact an old proprietor, who has tried it, and his experience is decidedly against it. He says he has placed a paper in the hands of Sir William Jolliffe, showing, he says, "my having let a coffee plantation for 200*l.* a year; my having taken off 100*l.*, upon a showing of the tenant's losing by its cultivation; its return to me at the end of five years; re-let to another party at 50*l.* for five years, and 100*l.* for other five years, upon his having the benefit of a crop just ready to pick, upon which I had paid all the expenses; and showing the extraordinary fact of the rent of the labourers' cottages, amounting to 91*l.* a year (included in the tenant's lease), whilst for them, a good residence, requisite buildings, land and coffee in bearing, I get only an average rent of 75*l.* a year." That was a plantation which he had let for 200*l.* at first, and then for 100*l.*; then it was re-let for 50*l.*; and after having paid all the expenses of cultivation, he lets it to another party for 91*l.* a year,

a year, including a good residence, the requisite buildings, land, and coffee in bearing. Dr. Norton Shave.

11574. Do you think the planters are likely to continue sugar cultivation under present circumstances, and what methods are they likely to pursue?—In some of the islands they will undoubtedly continue. I believe the island of Barbadoes can compete with any other. I believe the Barbadians themselves do not think so; but I imagine they can compete with slavery in any form. 20 March 1848.

11575. Do you think that will be the case in any other island?—I think it is very questionable if any other could compete; there would be, perhaps, the island of Antigua, but the planters even there are labouring under very great difficulties. Some few estates in some of the other islands, where they are close to the sea and have plenty of labour close at hand, might compete; where the negroes are well treated and well paid, and every precaution is taken; but I believe the system universally will be, that of committing the estates to ratoon.

11576. You stated that you have been some time in the island of Santa Cruz?—I was born there, and lived there many years.

11577. Will you tell the Committee exactly what state the population of the island is in; is it in a state of slavery?—They are in a state of mitigated slavery; slavery exists until 1858, but it is mitigated by the laws, which are exceedingly protective to the negroes, and which are enforced through the vigilance of the Danish government; at the same time I am well aware of many movements which had taken place prior to this declaration of the Danish government that the slaves should be free in 1858, and I believe there is every reason to suppose that the time would have been much shortened had not their sugars been permitted to be introduced in 1846 into the English market; before that time they were very desirous of getting possession of the English market, fancying they were going to obtain enormous profits, and had not this Bill permitted their sugars to be introduced into the English market, there is every reason to suppose that the Danish government would have given them some compensation, and the slaves would have been freed sooner than 1858.

11578. What species of slavery exists at present; is it of the nature of apprenticeship?—Not at all; they are kept by their masters as they were formerly. The only change has been, that every slave born is free, and is permitted to remain with the mother; but they are slaves, and will continue so until 1858.

11579. Are they restricted to any hours of labour?—Yes; I do not exactly recollect what the hours are, but they are restricted to a certain extent.

11580. Do you know what number of hours it is?—I cannot answer with certainty; I think it is 13.

11581. Do you know what the cost of the production of a cwt. of sugar is in the Danish islands?—I have taken the average of the different accounts which I have received, and I believe they can under the present system grow sugar for about from 12 s. to 15 s. a cwt.

11582. Where is that sugar usually sent?—The United States of America have always bought their best sugars, which are of a very superior manufacture, and great attention is bestowed upon them; a large quantity of them have gone to Hamburg and to Copenhagen.

11583. Does it enjoy any protection in the Danish market?—Yes, it does; the protection is small, but it enjoys still a protection in the Danish market.

11584. Five or ten per cent.?—I cannot state with certainty.

11585. Is the sugar cultivation in Santa Cruz a profitable speculation?—I should think it was profitable; the island is in a very prosperous condition, it has been called *La Reine des Antilles*; every part of it is cultivated.

11586. Does not a great portion of it belong to the king?—A good many estates do; but he lets them out to favourites upon very fair terms. It has not always been in that state. The island is better off at present than it was formerly; they pay more attention to their estates than they did, and the absentee-tax compels the planter to remain upon his estates and attend to his interests; otherwise he would soon become a prey to his attorney.

11587. Is it far better cultivated than our West India islands?—I should think it was, with the exception of Barbadoes.

11588. Is there any great difference in the agricultural implements there?—They have the command of labour and of capital; they have imported steam-mills and machinery of every description; and I think, altogether, they have brought the cultivation of the sugar-cane to as high a pitch as I have seen it anywhere.

11589. Do you know what the average yield per acre is?—It is not by any

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means so great as it is in Porto Rico; about a ton would be about the average in St. Croix.

11590. That is a very high quality of sugar?—It is.

11591. Three or four shillings better in value than our muscovado?—Yes, but in Porto Rico, the average is two tons to an acre.

11592. Now you think there is no chance of slavery in Santa Cruz being got rid of before the year 1858?—I have just received information from St. Thomas and St. John's, the two other Danish islands, stating the contemplated changes which have taken place, at the head of which is the very eminent Danish statesman Judge Beog, of St. Thomas, who proposes to manumit the slaves in the Danish islands, provided that the Danish government would pay them 10*l.* a head. This movement appears to be popular in St. Thomas and St. John's, but the Santa Cruz planters are displeas'd with it.

11593. Are St. Thomas and St. John's as highly cultivated as Santa Cruz?—St. John's has been well cultivated, but in St. Thomas very little sugar is made; it is principally used as a commercial depôt.

11594. It is the emporium of commerce for all the West India islands, is not it?—Yes; there is an extensive trade carried on with Porto Rico and the Spanish Main particularly.

11595. Have you any other statement to make with regard to the West India islands?—No. I can speak generally with respect to the good conduct of the negroes: I do not blame them for their laziness.

Mercurii, 22^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Labouchere.

Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. Norton Shaw, called in; and further Examined.

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11596. *Mr. Moffatt.*] THE Committee understood you to say that you had been in Porto Rico some considerable time?—I have been there at several different periods.

11597. During the last few years?—1843 was the last time I was there.

11598. What proportion does the free labour bear to slave labour in the island of Porto Rico?—I should imagine that it bore, as respects numbers, the proportion of two to one. Free labour is two to one to slave labour, the population being upwards of 500,000, the number of slaves being about 50,000.

11599. Of the labour of those employed in the cultivation of sugar and coffee you would estimate the free labourers as two to one as respects the slave labourers?—As regards coffee I should say so; not as regards sugar. There is a great deal of free labour employed upon the coffee estates, because it is not such hard work.

11600. With regard to sugar, what proportion, in your belief, does the free labour bear to the slave labour?—I fear that the quantity of free labour would be very much diminished. The question put to me was with respect to labour in Porto Rico. Not only sugar and coffee, but large quantities of tobacco are grown in the island, and very many cattle are raised. As we go down to sugar, we find that the quantity of free labour diminishes materially, and the slaves become more numerous.

11601. What would be your estimate of the comparative quantities of free and slave labour employed in the cultivation of sugar?—I could not place the proportion higher than about equal, and even this is very doubtful.

11602. Is not it the practice of proprietors of slaves in Porto Rico to let the slaves out?—Yes; it has been so all over the West Indies wherever slavery has existed.

11603. That practice obtains at the present time in Porto Rico?—It did when I was there, to a certain extent.

11604. What

11604. What is the general rate per diem at which the proprietors of slaves are willing to let them to those who require their labour?—It would depend very much upon the place where the slaves are let; on some parts they will get half a dollar a day, or 2s.; again, at other times, when they are only let for a short time, they would be let at a dollar a day, particularly if mechanics.

11605. That is in crop time, or under any extraordinary circumstances, when labour was in great demand?—Yes; they let as high as a dollar a day; and that is likewise the case in Havannah.

11606. So that frequently, when employing those slaves in crop time, they have to pay at that particular juncture as much as a dollar per diem?—They have.

11607. Do you know anything of the cost of cultivating sugar in Porto Rico?—The cost has been materially diminished, according to the letters and information I have received since I was there. When I was there, the best sugar went to the United States, and they generally paid 3½ to 4 dollars a cwt.

11607*. Do you mean 100 lbs. or 112 lbs.?—It is generally called a cwt. I think it is 100 lbs.

11608. Your impression is, that the price is equivalent to four dollars for 100 lbs. of sugar?—It was; but I believe it is materially reduced since by the opening of fresh estates, and the improvements which have been made. I am speaking of the very best of their sugar a number of years ago.

11609. You are not speaking of that as being the price in 1843?—Yes, about that time. I have been there several times. I recollect some prime sugars which were sold at the harbour of St. Juan at that amount.

11610. What is your impression as regards the present price of average muscovado sugar?—My impression is, that at present the price is low. The last report I had from Porto Rico is, that the price had gone down; that must be the case in consequence of the great quantities of sugar which have been produced all over the world. I have read an extract from a communication to me, which says that the free people in Porto Rico work very well upon the estates, and in some parts are to be had in abundance. The price is one-eighth of a dollar per day with their food; but generally they are hired for taskwork, so much for planting an acre of canes, cutting them, weeding them, digging ditches, &c. I consider Porto Rico a very favoured island as regards labour, and its fertility is from two to two and a half tons of sugar per acre, which is a very common thing; and four tons are made per acre in some favoured positions. My letters by the last steamer but one stated, that "the market in Porto Rico had opened its crop at 2½ dollars or 10s. per cwt.; and even at this low rate they can have a revenue from their properties. My friend K. says, he expects to make 2,000 hogsheads of 1,200 lbs. this year." That estate has been opened a very few years. It is doing well. I mentioned the circumstance the other day, when I appeared before the Committee, that that estate had opened with a cattle mill, and after that that they had had a windmill; and now that they have first-rate machinery, with steam power, and that they have 100 to 120 slaves, besides free labour.

11611. What quantity of land is in sugar cultivation on that estate?—I do not know, but I believe the estate has been considerably enlarged since I saw it; they keep buying from small proprietors around.

11612. Your advices are that the price of sugar has fallen in Porto Rico?—Yes, to 10s. a cwt.

11613. That is a lower price than has ruled in the previous two or three years?—I should imagine that it is much lower than it was six months ago.

11614. The Committee have been informed that the price of slave sugar is very greatly augmented in consequence of the legislation of the British Parliament; that does not appear to be borne out by the facts you mention?—I wish to state that prices have fallen lately; that is on account of the large quantities of sugar which have been thrown into the English market in consequence of the Bill of 1846, but they may have risen first and then fallen again. I believe that to have been the case.

11615. The Committee understood you to say that the price of sugar was very much higher four years ago than it has ruled the last two or three years?—I said I saw some superior sugar sold for four dollars, which is 16s. a cwt., when I was there some years ago, but that the last accounts state that they can make sugar at 10s. a cwt.

11616. I understand you to say that they had decreased their cost of production

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duction very materially by improved machinery and by the opening of fresh estates and competition?—I believe that they have.

11617. On the estate to which you allude, is the proprietor resident?—He is, and he has always been so; he is a very intelligent, hard-working, excellent gentleman, a kind master, and a good man.

11618. Are you aware whether that estate fairly represents the general state of the sugar plantations in Porto Rico?—I think not; it is a favourable exception, in my opinion.

11619. Is this gentleman a person possessed of ample capital for cultivating the estate?—He has had considerable capital, and he had what was a great advantage there, a gang of very superior slaves, brought over from Santa Cruz some years before. They were very superior slaves, in excellent condition, and pulled well together.

11620. Have you any return of the number of slaves which have been imported into Porto Rico during the last five years?—There is no certainty as regards that; it is contrary to the law of the island that they should be imported, but there is no doubt that they are imported every now and then. When I was in the island in the year 1840 or 1841, I know that three cargoes were introduced in about three months; it was supposed that the governor's secretary received a doubloon a head for them.

11621. Do you know whether there have been many recent importations?—I believe not. I believe since the last governor, General Mirasol came, the importation has decreased.

11622. How long has he been governor?—I think within the last year.

11623. The importation of slaves is illegal; but the sale of slaves there is legal, is not it?—The sale of slaves is legal.

11624. What is the value of a slave there?—I have known 30, or 32, or 33 picked out of a cargo of Africans; those sold for 300 dollars a head.

11625. Is it the habit in the country for proprietors to sell them, or do they generally retain them for their own cultivation?—I do not think they change often; they are rather difficult to get; a great many of them are used as domestic slaves in the town.

11626. Does your experience enable you to inform the Committee whether many of the sugar estates in Porto Rico are under advances?—I believe they are. There has been a great want of capital. A man, in order to open an estate and buy slaves, would give 15 to 20 per cent. for any advances of capital, and many of the new estates were under heavy obligations.

11627. The proprietors of sugar plantations were anxious always to have a certain amount of slave labour upon their plantations?—Yes. I never saw an estate without.

11628. Do you say that the value of slave labour, when it is most needed, would be as high as a dollar per diem?—Yes; just at that particular moment.

11629. With respect to Cuba, does the same plan of letting slaves out obtain there?—Yes; I know it does in the towns. I know that in Havannah the coaling of the Royal mail-steamer is done by contract, and that a large number of powerful slaves are engaged for that purpose, who are let at very high prices. They are generally strong, powerful Africans, newly imported, and work magnificently.

11630. What is the rate of their hire?—Fully a dollar per diem, I should say; they receive a portion of the money themselves as an inducement to work; at least such was my information, obtained on the spot.

11631. Their labour is not entirely produced by the dread of the whip?—No, not there; but they are very picked men.

11632. Is that the practice in Porto Rico also?—I believe it is very often the case; any master who really is a kind-hearted man, and who wishes to forward his own interest, will always do so; because no doubt wages are an inducement to work.

11633. Even the slave works better when he has an inducement to do so, of that kind?—Certainly.

11634. To what do you attribute the difference in the amount of labour yielded by a slave labourer and a free labourer in Cuba, seeing that the slave has also a pecuniary interest in the amount of his work?—The slave has not always a pecuniary interest; I believe that the whip has a great deal to do with it. In a tropical climate I believe that no free man will work as long as a man in a temperate climate. The *labor ipse voluptas*, which is so common in a temperate

temperate climate, where a man works with pleasure, is not so great in a hot climate; neither white nor black will continue to work so long as a white man will in a temperate climate; there is languor felt, and it is contrary to common sense to suppose that he will work so well: but if that same man had a whip held over his back and were obliged to work, you can get out of him, without perhaps materially damaging him even in constitution, two or three hours a day more than you would out a free man. Upon the same principle your omnibus horses are worked; it pays the owner to work them five or six years and let them die; to knock them up in fact. That is the plan carried on with the slaves in Brazil and Cuba, where the mortality is about ten per cent.

11635. Is not it the case that proprietors of horses generally find it is not their interest to knock them up, but to take care of them, and keep them as many years as they can?—I believe there are many exceptions to that.

11636. Do you know any other case in illustration of that, except the omnibus proprietor?—I believe the same cruel rule may often be applied to cab-horses; stage coach and post horses; and I am glad to see that my assertion is confirmed by the high authority of the noble chairman. The natural age of a horse is from 20 to 25 years, and the average length of life of omnibus horses is only five or six.

11637. You have been in Cuba?—Yes.

11638. When were you last there?—About the same time as I was in Porto Rico; in 1842 or 1843.

11639. Can you inform the Committee what is the general impression of the proprietors of slaves in Cuba with regard to their emancipation?—Very many of the old Spanish proprietors, with whom I have mixed a good deal, were not at all indisposed to emancipate their slaves, in case it could be done so that they could receive compensation money for them. They considered that the rapid increase of the black population in the island was exceedingly dangerous; that the taxation of the island, in order to keep up an army of regular troops, amounting to upwards of 30,000 men, and a militia amounting to far beyond that number, was so heavy that it would be essentially necessary if possible to emancipate the slaves.

11640. Was there any impression among the producers of sugar there, that if this market was open to them it would be an additional inducement to them to emancipate the slaves?—It was a general wish, but there was no hope of getting to this market at that time.

11641. Have you also been at Santa Cruz?—I was born there.

11642. Do they let out slaves in Santa Cruz?—They did when I was there.

11643. What is the value of a slave per diem?—Less than in Porto Rico; half a dollar to three quarters of a dollar a day, I should think. Any estate which has a great many slaves upon it, where the gang is very large, will let a number of slaves to another estate having fewer slaves; but I cannot say that it was a very general thing.

11644. You stated in your previous evidence that any sudden large increase in the quantity of labour imported into Jamaica and Trinidad and British Guiana you think would be prejudicial to those colonies?—I think any sudden large increase would be prejudicial. At present they have no means, of paying for labour. I believe that any sudden mass of labour flung into any market would be detrimental to any country, particularly where a due regard to equality of the sexes is not paid.

11645. You think there is not so great a scarcity of labour in those three colonies as to warrant a further supply of labour?—I would not say that. I believe that Trinidad and Demerara need labour very much indeed, if we look at the extent of ground uncultivated and the extreme fertility of these two colonies, and likewise of a great portion of Jamaica, we see they will maintain an immense population, far superior to anything they contain; but I would not advocate any sudden increase of population in any country, particularly where no regard was paid to the equality of the sexes. Our own penal colonies I believe have failed principally through that very circumstance.

11646. Will you state to the Committee your views in regard to the quantity of labour which you think might be safely imported into the colonies, having some regard to the equality of the sexes?—If you pay a regard to the equality of the sexes, and the colonists would treat those men kindly when they arrive there, I think it would be impossible to limit the number of immigrants. Instead

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Instead of carrying it out under a system of immigration, you might introduce a system of colonization. I have a statement from Berbice of an enormous quantity of excellent ground which is there uncultivated, and the number of estates which have been thrown out of cultivation for want of labour in that colony, which statement I beg to lay before the Honourable Committee in proof of the want of population.

[The Witness delivered in the following Statement:]

The estates laid down and marked off in red lines, are intended to illustrate the capabilities of the country for profitable cultivation of all kinds of tropical products, more especially the important article of sugar. The fertility of the land is in all respects equal, if not superior, to any already in cultivation or granted out, being almost entirely composed of alluvial deposits, covered with, more or less, two or three feet decayed vegetable matter. Canals for drainage or supply of fresh water in the dry season, also for navigation, are primarily necessary. The number of new estates thus laid down, are as follows:—

Between Rivers Courantyn and Canje	- - - - -	752
Ditto - - Canje and Berbice	- - - - -	154
Ditto - - Berbice and Avary	- - - - -	144
		1,950
Each containing on an average	- - - - -	500 Acres.
Together	- - - - -	525,040

which, if brought under sugar cultivation, and yielding only one hogshead of sugar per acre, would enable this part of Guiana to supply one half of Europe.

The county of Berbice contains, as far as laid down in this map, 5,000 square miles. Population now only about 25,000 souls.

The interior is well adapted for the cultivation of coffee, cotton, cocoa, tobacco, rice, cinnamon, and all kinds of spice and tropical fruit trees and vegetables: also for rearing cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry. The deserts abound with valuable timber for building and furniture. The sea coasts and rivers and creeks furnish abundance of fish. The number of estates that have been granted out, are as follows:—

		Acres.
126	Estates in the Upper District, River Berbice, first settled and cultivated for coffee, cocoa, and cotton, now almost entirely abandoned, containing	75,000
88	Lower District, River Berbice, cultivated for sugar and coffee, whereof the coffee estates are in course of abandonment	50,000
48	Upper District, Canje Creek, once cultivated for coffee, cocoa, and cotton, now abandoned, containing	27,000
37	Lower District of Canje Creek, cultivated for sugar and coffee (coffee estates are in course of abandonment), containing	20,000
40	East Coast lots	20,000
81	Courantyn lots	40,500
52	West Coast lots	27,000
472	Estates.	259,000

* These lots were once almost entirely in cotton, now converted into a few sugar estates and grazing farms.

Number of sugar estates, 37.

11647. Do you think it would be necessary, in case of an importation of any considerable amount of labour into those colonies, that the Government should take the labourers under their present charge there, if there is not a sufficient demand at present to employ the labourers immediately on their arrival?—That will depend upon the number imported. I think a great number in Demerara, or Trinidad, might be taken off by the planters, and would be exceedingly valuable as regards increasing the staple production in the colony; but I would also have Government possess a truly conservative power, that they should have a control over the planters to see that the blacks are well used.

11648. What number would you specify?—It would be impossible for me to state anything of the kind. I believe that such is the enormous fertility of the mass of uncultivated ground in Berbice, and Trinidad, and Demerara, that under any ordinary system of immigration it would be impossible to limit it; but I do not state that we should go to Africa to buy slaves there to make them free afterwards.

11649. Does your experience warrant you in giving any information to the Committee

Committee in regard to the care which has been taken of labourers when imported into those colonies?—I have heard a great many complaints from the blacks themselves; and I have information from a friend of mine, a Prussian, Baron Von Greisheim, who owned an estate in Demerara. I coincide with his views entirely. He went out on purpose to look after his estate, and he thought great alterations might be made, favourable to the labourers there, by which means a greater quantity of labour might be obtained from them by another system.

11650. Can you state to the Committee what suggestions that Prussian proprietor made to you?—He was very favourable to the division or sale of lands among the negroes; he wished the negroes to become small proprietors; that they should become tenants for life, or have long leases, or become freeholders; he wished to improve their condition as much as possible, believing that the civilized negro would have greater wants, and would buy more of the manufactures of Great Britain, and consequently would be obliged to work the harder to get them.

11651. Are you aware that it has been generally alleged that this plan of squatting and giving negroes the means of obtaining a subsistence has been most prejudicial to them in a labour point of view?—I am aware of it. I am as much opposed to the system of squatting as possible; but whether the negro should be permitted to become an owner of land is another thing. When he is squatting he knows that he is doing an illegal thing, and he keeps out of the way; but in allowing him to become a proprietor, you are improving the negro himself, and you are improving the colony.

11652. Is there any law which prevents the negro from buying land in our colonies?—A great many estates are entailed, which I think is a great evil in the West Indies.

11653. Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee, by which you think the affairs of the West India colonies could be improved?—I think there are a great many evils to be remedied. When we see that the Dutch Government, who have always endeavoured to show the utmost attention to their colonies, has just appointed a commission to examine into the state of their colonies and to reform their government, I think it would be highly desirable that something of the kind should take place here. I have always been favourable to the representation of the colonies in Parliament. I know that many West Indians believe that it would essentially assist them, because they would then be represented properly, which is a thing they never have been; they would then take care of themselves, and if you let them escape the income tax and other taxes, as is the case with Ireland, they would very willingly take upon themselves the remainder. There is no danger of their declaring their independence; they are an exceedingly loyal people. I am sure they never would join France; the difference of language would be too great; and as regards the United States, the thing is impossible; as long as there is a slave in the United States, the blacks in the West India colonies would never permit anything of the kind. When England was in trouble, in Jamaica alone, in a very few hours, the people at Kingston voted 100,000*l.* to assist Great Britain in her need; that is the best proof of the loyalty of the people.

11654. When was England in need?—During the French war, from 1798, there was a great want of money several times. They have on other occasions proved their loyalty.

11655. Did they raise a loan and remit it to this country?—Yes, for the exigencies of this country; and that was filled up in less than two hours. They are now complaining of the prices; the prices are low; they cannot raise sugar to remunerate themselves; they are complaining of the slave competition which is brought to bear against them by the Bill of 1846; they are complaining very much that their staple produce sugar, should be taxed at the rate of 75 to 80 per cent. in order to increase the revenue of Great Britain; they consider that they have a right to be treated as an integral part of the British empire. The heads of the different parties in England have declared a wish to govern the colonies according to that principle; and they think that 75 to 80 per cent. upon their sugar is a very high tax. They likewise complain of the duties upon their rum, that they not only have to pay for the freight, and the extra expenses of bringing it to England, but likewise an extra duty on its arrival here; they complain that whenever they have attempted a retrenchment upon any extensive scale, Government has uniformly opposed it.

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11656. In the public expenditure of the colonies?—Yes. The constitution of the Council of Jamaica is exceedingly deficient. In the House of Assembly they have several times attempted to curtail their enormous establishment. The taxation of that island is upwards of 400,000 *l.* per annum; and they have once or twice attempted to retrench, but they are always vetoed by the Council, the majority of whom consists of placemen appointed by the Governor.

11657. The Council stand, in regard to the constitution of the island, something in the same relation that the House of Peers stand in this country?—They do not; I wish they did. The Council of Jamaica are nearly all placemen; the House of Peers are not. These members of the Council might lose their places in Jamaica if they opposed the governor.

11658. You believe that they would be dismissed by the Colonial Office in this country?—I do not know that they would; but the very retrenchment which the House of Assembly wished to pass would touch their own pockets. Their salaries are enormous. The receiver-general of Jamaica, received 3,000 *l.* per annum, and the salary was formerly much greater. I wish particularly to call attention to the sinecures enjoyed by certain individuals in England, which are paid by the West India colonies, and which ought at once to be abolished.

11659. Are there any highly-paid places in Jamaica for which a small amount of labour is given?—It is so general a thing that to name any particular post would be invidious, but a considerable retrenchment ought to take place.

11660. To what extent did the House of Assembly think they could carry reduction in the island?—Some of them think they might diminish the expenditure rather more than half.

11661. With equal efficiency in the administration?—Perfectly so.

11662. By whom are the Council nominated?—They are nominated I believe by the governor, except that some are *ex-officio* members of the Council, like the commander-in chief and the bishop.

11663. So that, in point of fact, the responsibility of the nomination of the Council does revert to the Colonial Office?—It does.

11664. Have you any other grievance which you can mention?—I think that the appointment of stipendiary magistrates should be looked to; it is perfectly right that the magistrates should be sent from home, in order that the negroes should not believe that the local magistrate would be able to oppress them. The negroes are a very sensitive people, and any appointment of local magistrates, unless the negroes participated in the choice of them, would always increase their fear of the oppression of the whites. I think, therefore, it is safer that the stipendiary magistrates should be sent from this country, but not such as are very often sent out; they should be men who know a little of the law and of morals.

11665. What is the salary ordinarily paid to the stipendiary magistrates in Jamaica?—I think 400 *l.* or 500 *l.* is their salary generally. While I am upon that point I will just mention that in Grenada the inspector of customs of that little bit of an island (where there is almost free trade, or rather free smuggling), received 1,500 *l.* per annum, and the governor quite as much.

11666. Mr. Milnes.] Was that paid by the colony?—I believe so.

11667. Mr. Moffatt.] Does the island of Jamaica pay all the expenses of its executive government?—I believe so, with the exception of the commander-in-chief. They used to pay the governor 10,000 *l.*, but it is now reduced to about 7,000 *l.* According to the last information I had, his private secretary had 1,800 *l.* per annum; the private secretary to the Prime Minister of Great Britain has but 1,200 *l.*

11668. The House of Assembly have endeavoured to reduce those charges, but have found themselves always thwarted by the Council?—Yes.

11669. That Council being appointed by the governor?—Yes, or by the Colonial Office.

11670. Do you know the island of Barbados?—I have been there several times.

11671. What is your impression with reference to its competency to produce sugar against the slave sugar producing countries?—I think it is very favourably placed indeed; it has a quantity of labour from a population of 120,000, or rather more. It has upwards of 30,000 agricultural labourers above the age of 18; which is a very fair proportion of labourers. I think if the island of Barbados cannot compete with slave labour, no place in the world can do so; much of their present distress is owing to the dishonest conduct of the bank, and the failure of a great merchant.

11672. Can you see any sufficient reason why the island of Barbados should not compete with Cuba, or Porto Rico, or Brazil, in the production of sugar?—No, I cannot see any.

11673. Mr. Villiers.] Are you connected with the planters on the West India islands?—I am not connected with planters in the English islands, beyond merely ties of friendship; I have received a great deal of hospitality from them. I am connected with planters in Porto Rico and Santa Cruz.

11674. Are you a professional man?—Yes, I am.

11675. Have you been led by your profession to make inquiries into the state of those islands?—I have, very often.

11676. Merely as matter of curiosity to yourself?—Merely as matter of curiosity and instruction to myself, and in order to arrive at truth.

11677. Have you been recently making a tour throughout those islands, and examining into the condition generally of both the planters and the labouring class?—Not recently; I have recently been very busily engaged in England, in investigating these things. During the last six months I have paid a great deal of attention to the subject, but formerly I was travelling through the islands, and as one born in them took a great deal of interest in examining into their condition.

11678. It is from a general interest in the subject of sugar planting, our West India islands, in the colonies of other countries, and from philanthropic motives, that you have been lately led to make the particular inquiries you have described before?—It is so; I had no other object in view.

11679. You have expressed rather a confident opinion as to the probable emancipation of the slaves in Cuba, if the law had not been altered with regard to the admission of slave sugar into this country?—It appears to me, when I take into consideration the feeling of the old Spaniards, who desired to get possession of the English market, and the statements made by some of the first houses there, that they thought it would be desirable to manumit the slaves of Cuba, even should they have to pay 50 per cent. additional duty in the English market; when I take into consideration those different statements, I am led to entertain a hope that such would have been the case. I did not mean to express any certainty.

11680. Was that opinion formed from what you learned from them with respect to their fears as to the increase of the black population, or their expectation of profit by being admitted into this market?—It was founded upon both. There were fears that a still greater introduction of African slaves would some day or other prove very detrimental to the planter. Generally the Spanish planters reside upon their properties, and to them it is a matter of great importance whether the slaves should rise, burn their properties, and cut their throats.

11681. When was it that you collected this opinion from the planters in Cuba?—My opinion is founded upon general conversation with them during my visits to the West Indies, and from later communications.

11682. In what year was that?—In 1842 or 1843 I was there last, I think; prices were ruling low, if I recollect, at the time.

11683. Was that before there had been a change in the differential duty between foreign sugar and colonial sugar?—Yes.

11684. That was before the Act of 1844?—Yes; Sir Robert Peel's Act.

11685. That was an Act permitting foreign free sugar at a lower rate of duty than slave-grown sugar?—Yes.

11686. What was the expectation founded upon in 1842, that they would possess our market if they emancipated their slaves?—They fancied that with their dense population, and the surprising fertility of their soil, they might get a market for their produce. I believe that foreigners have been apt to entertain too high an opinion of the English market. Instead of regarding the prices of sugar in bond, they have generally taken the prices when introduced after the duty has been paid.

11687. This opinion was formed after considering that they laboured under a disadvantage from having slave labour, and with the knowledge of the high differential duty which existed between colonial sugar and foreign sugar, whether produced by free men or slaves?—It was. At the time I am speaking of, Spanish sugar was almost prohibited from Great Britain. I think it paid 63s. a cwt.

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11688. That was the difference of duty upon sugar coming from foreign countries and our own?—Yes.

11689. They did not attach that great importance to the difference in the cost of production between free labour and slave labour that some persons here are disposed to do?—I believe they considered, as far as I am capable of judging, that the labour of slaves between the tropics would be more productive; but, on the other hand, they were excluded from one of the best markets in the world, and they thought it would be of great importance to get possession of that market by giving their slaves freedom.

11690. And they expected to do so, notwithstanding the high differential duty?—They hoped that the differential duty would be lessened by that time, and that they should get possession of the market; they hoped by giving their slaves freedom that the English Government would permit their sugars to come in.

11691. Was that from anything which had fallen from any Minister in 1842?—I cannot say, but every thinking person must have foreseen the impossibility of preventing the introduction of free-labour sugars into the markets of this country much longer.

11692. You said that it depended a good deal upon the governor of Cuba whether the slave trade should be continued or not?—As I stated upon my first examination, I am more capable of giving evidence upon the Danish islands and the island of Porto Rico, with which I am better acquainted than Cuba; still I have had so many acquaintances in Cuba that I think I may venture to state that, even in that large island, if the governor be determined to put down the slave trade, to a very great extent he may do so.

11693. Therefore it depends upon the governor whether the slave trade goes on or not?—To a very considerable extent, I should say. We cannot put a stop to smuggling in Great Britain, as long as the demand continues for any particular article, and so in Cuba we may not prevent smuggling in slaves. We know that under General Valdez no slaves were imported; the slave trade had stopped; but General O'Donnell coming in, large quantities were introduced.

11694. You referred to the inducement that was offered to the governors of Porto Rico and Cuba to allow the slave trade to continue?—I understood that in Cuba General O'Donnell or his lady received a doubloon per head for every slave imported; in the island of Porto Rico I think it was evaded, and the governor's secretary received it.

11695. General Valdez was a very remarkable man, was he not, as a Spanish governor?—I believe he was.

11696. Have you ever heard that a questionable arrangement takes place between the governors of those countries and the authorities of the mother country, which enable them to countenance the slave trade when they are so disposed, with impunity?—There is a great want of purity, no doubt; but I do not know that there is any direct engagement made to allow it. There is news from Cuba that a company has started, under one of the most influential men, to purchase 24,000 Africans on the coast of Africa, and to set them free in Cuba; to bring them out as free labourers; and they have communicated with the mother country upon that point. They do not wish to introduce any more slaves, but they would like to introduce some African free men.

11697. For what purpose?—To increase the labour there, and to open new estates. I have placed in evidence a paper received lately from the island of Cuba, in which it appears that a new estate has been opened there, which would pay its expenses in two or three years.

11698. To be worked by slaves?—Yes.

11699. There is an opinion in Cuba that free labour will answer as well as slave labour, is there?—I have not said so.

11700. You said that there was a company formed for the purpose of importing free labourers, in the expectation that they would be employed?—Yes.

11701. Therefore there is an opinion that free labour may compete with slave labour?—They are afraid of having too many slaves.

11702. There is a company who think they can profitably introduce free labourers, and employ them in competition with slaves?—They think so. I do not say they will come in competition with slaves.

11703. Do you believe that those 20,000 Africans are to be employed upon the sugar plantations?—Yes.

11704. Then they will compete with the slaves who are likewise employed in the sugar plantations?—They must compete to a certain extent.

11705. Supposing a governor is not very scrupulous, and desires to improve his fortune, whatever opinion the planters might have had, as to the dangers of slavery, the slave trade would have increased?—As long as there is a high demand for sugar I think nothing will stop the slave trade in Cuba but a degree of morality on the part of the Spaniards which you can hardly expect.

11706. Estates in Cuba are under different circumstances, of course; and though some planters might have objected to the continuance of the slave trade, and even to slavery, others would have a higher inducement than ever to the importation of slaves, and the continuance of slavery?—As long as there are high prices given for sugar that would be the case.

11707. Therefore the notion about emancipating the slaves, if the Act of 1846 had not been passed, is founded upon the opinion of a few planters, who viewed their interest in that light, but who might differ from other planters?—Decidedly so; I do not say it is general.

11708. Is there any council at Cuba?—There is; but the Governor-general of Cuba being at the head of a large army, has very great power.

11709. There is free labour employed in the field at Porto Rico, is not there?—Yes.

11710. Free labourers do not object to work in the field?—They do not.

11711. Do they work together with slaves?—Yes; I have seen them in the same field.

11712. What is the object of having slaves at all where the free men work so willingly?—They can get more out of a slave; they can get 12 or 13 hours a day, while they would not get more than 8 or 10 out of a free man.

11713. Do you mean that a portion of labourers in the field retire at certain hours of the day, while the slaves, who have no will of their own, are obliged to continue?—Not exactly so. It is principally in harvest time when you wish to take off the crop in a hurry, and when the mill has to be kept going continually, and the liquor to be converted into syrup and the syrup into sugar, that there can be no cessation of labour, and they must work night and day; it is that portion of the work which is so hard.

11714. As far as continuous labour is concerned, they do not depend upon the free labourers but upon the slaves?—They depend upon the slaves, as far as my experience goes.

11715. Do you mean that the free labourers require more wages, or are they unwilling to work beyond a certain time?—They are unwilling to work beyond a certain time; the process of making sugar is extremely hard work.

11716. Have you, as a medical man, made much observation upon the influence of a tropical climate upon the human constitution?—I have.

11717. Are you of opinion that there is something in the nature of sugar planting which will always make the free labourer very unwilling to work as long as is required for that purpose?—I will not say that by any means; on the contrary, free labourers, particularly such as they have in Porto Rico, where agricultural employ wears not the badge of servitude, work very well; but we have no such sort of free labour in the British colonies. In the British colonies they have no such population; they have a slave population suddenly made free. To work in the fields there, or in raising any species of agricultural produce, is not yet considered honourable; but in the Spanish colonies you have a population which has always been located upon the soil; a population descended from the Spaniard, the Indian, and the black. They have owned their lands and worked their tobacco fields and made a little sugar, and they consider it no disgrace to work upon the soil.

11718. You are alluding to an association in their minds of the character of the work in former times; do you think there is anything in the influence of a tropical climate which precludes the long and continuous labour in the sugar-field which is absolutely necessary to a great and profitable production upon any estate?—I will not go even as far as that; I think even slavery itself carries in its bosom its curse. I think ultimately it will, in some shape or other, punish those that carry it on. I believe that for a few years, or for a certain number of years, a

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great deal of sugar may be made, but ultimately there will be a rising among the slaves, and great losses to their masters will ensue.

11719. As to the influence of a tropical sun, you do not conceive that there is any insuperable feeling on the part of a human being not a slave to work as efficiently as he may be required to do on the sugar estates in the West Indies?—He may work very efficiently, but not as the slave is worked; the slave is overworked.

11720. Looking at it in a commercial point of view, do you think the planters can make labour profitable by any influence short of the whip?—I believe you may, provided you do not encourage slave labour and the slave trade.

11721. You do not consider that there is anything incompatible with the production of sugar in freedom?—No, not at all.

11722. I take for granted that you cite Porto Rico as an instance where free labour can be employed successfully?—It is one of the best instances I could mention. Two or three generations hence I do not doubt that we may have such an agricultural population in our own islands, by protecting the blacks; but you cannot get it all at once.

11723. Did you say that you never could get as much work out of a free labourer as you could out of a slave?—That is my belief, under present circumstances. As far as I can calculate, you get two or three hours a day more out of the slave than you would out of a freeman.

11724. Have you ever made any calculation of the expense in the long run, taking the first purchase of the slave, and the wear and tear, as compared with the expense of free labourers?—It is very heavy indeed; and I should imagine they would come very close to each other in such an island as Porto Rico, and that is one reason why the number of slaves is not so great. They have about 50,000 slaves in Porto Rico, and they are not rapidly upon the increase. They are imported now and then, but there is not that encouragement which is given to them in the Brazils, because in Porto Rico there is a quantity of free labour, but in the Brazils only a very limited number.

11725. You are of opinion that it is a miscalculation on the part of a proprietor, putting humanity out of the question, to employ a slave, working him out in a few years, as compared with employing free labour?—I believe in many cases it is so.

11726. Do you believe that that opinion prevails at all in Porto Rico?—I think to a certain extent it must be the case, when you take into consideration the comparative paucity of slaves in proportion to the free population.

11727. How is the estate worked which you mentioned in Porto Rico, where more capital has been brought to the culture of the estate within these few years, and the estate also has been extended; have they had entirely slave labour there, or has it been partly free labour and partly slave labour?—Partly free labour and partly slave labour; and it is in a portion of the island which is under very favourable circumstances. In the northern portion of the island there is rather a dense free population. This estate is worked by from 110 to 120 very valuable slaves, who were brought over many years ago from Santa Cruz, who speak English, and who do not mix with the other slaves in the island, and who would not be apt to run away. They were exceedingly well treated by their master, not overworked, and their children were taken care of; so that they were about on a par with the slaves in Santa Cruz. They worked well, and the free population worked well too; and the master living upon his estate, and being a clever, intelligent man, that estate must thrive if any estate could.

11728. You mention that as one of the most thriving estates in the island?—It is.

11729. There is no reason, then, in your opinion, why free labour should not compete with slave labour, supposing the population exists under circumstances in which it should be tempted to labour continuously?—I think that, with a healthy population, the difference would be exceedingly small; still there would be a balance in favour of slavery, I think. The island of Santa Cruz I imagine to be so placed that they can get a little more continuous work than you would out of a free population, such as exists in Porto Rico; but under present circumstances there is no such free population in the British islands.

11730. You give this opinion without reference to peculiar circumstances which otherwise might hamper particular estates, such as large debts or imprudent expenditure;

expenditure; it is a comparison between free labour and slave labour?—Yes; where bad methods of cultivation prevail nothing can thrive, and there is no system that can be invented to create any successful competition where bad legislation and bad debts exist.

11731. Are the estates in Porto Rico much encumbered by debt?—A good many of them are; they have had to get large loans in order to open their estates.

11732. You stated that you had visited Barbadoes?—I have.

11733. Lately?—Not since I was in the West Indies in 1843.

11734. Have you heard since that what they are particularly suffering from is from the mismanagement and subsequent failure of a bank?—I know that is not altogether the generally received opinion among the West Indians, but from what I have observed, I must candidly state that it has a great deal to do with it.

11735. What is your fear founded upon of introducing too suddenly what may be considered a sufficient amount of labour by the planters in those islands?—Almost any one would express a fear that any sudden change in society would be detrimental. If a large population of Africans is thrown at once upon any one of our colonies it will be difficult at first to locate them; it will be difficult to find houses and hospitals and medical attendance to receive such a population, and there would be no money to pay them.

11736. Is there any obligation to provide for the poor or infirm or sick in any one of the islands?—I believe there is in many of them; but I do not know that it is at all efficient; I believe that one large proprietor in Demerara, when he applied for some of the Africans that had arrived, was asked by the governor whether he had arranged for any hospital upon his estate; he had not done so, and consequently was refused his Africans.

11737. The government interfered?—I believe Governor Light has very often acted as a protector to the blacks.

11738. Out of what funds would any provision of this kind be made?—There was an arrangement made that the planters should pay the expenses of a hospital upon their estates; but they have had so many different systems of legislation in different colonies that it is almost impossible to follow them. I think at one time they taxed the colony itself for the introduction of these Africans; that was taxing the blacks in order to introduce fresh labourers to compete with themselves. This was a strong act of injustice.

11739. Do you know if the planters, in any of their representations to Government for immigration, have stated their readiness to provide for the necessities which you have just referred to of the people so introduced?—I believe in some cases they have; I believe they have in Trinidad, and partially so in Demerara, but a very strict surveillance should always be kept upon them. No West Indian colony will thrive unless the black be well treated and be satisfied. He is a suspicious being, and even in slavery, if obstinate, you cannot get him to work well.

11740. What is the expectation in those islands, supposing more labour is introduced; do they expect that the existing population will be more subservient and more ready to work at low wages?—That is the expectation, and I believe any healthy immigration, where there is a due regard to equality of the sexes, would materially benefit, particularly those three colonies I have mentioned, British Guiana, Trinidad, and portions of Jamaica; but that immigration alone is to be a cure for all the evils is a great mistake.

11741. You are referring to what is for the interest or advantage of the black population, and not what is necessary to meet the necessities of the planters?—In part I should say it would rather meet the necessities of the planters than benefit the black population of the islands themselves. I do not know that any immigration from Africa would benefit the creole negroes themselves.

11742. I understand you to say that the planters want the introduction of these labourers for the purpose of bringing the existing population to terms, therefore there must be a sufficient number, or a number they consider to be adequate for that purpose, introduced?—Yes.

11743. You are disposed to allow the immigration only to proceed very gradually, for fear of lowering the scale of living among the existing population?—For fear of injuring the planters themselves. If we look to the enormous increase of the population by immigration into the Mauritius, it is a proof that it would ruin the planters to throw a vast quantity of labour into their market.

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11744. Do you know anything of the Mauritius?—I have never been there.
11745. Do you judge that the introduction of labour has failed there?—I do; I think the manner in which labour has been introduced has been one cause of the failure there.
11746. Was there any restriction upon the introduction of coolie labour there?—There have been restrictions, but I believe those restrictions have not been sufficiently attended to; I believe that the fault committed by the Mauritius people would ruin the West Indian islands if it were committed there. With regard to the Mauritius, there was no due regard to the equality of the sexes.
11747. You have referred to the equality of the sexes; what has that to do with the work which is required by the planters to be done?—I believe the moral man will work more, in the long run, and be more serviceable than the immoral man, and that he will not be weakened down by his immorality and his excesses.
11748. It is an increased expense to the island if they have to support those people either in sickness or old age?—The immediate and first expense would doubtless be greater, but they would have a more moral immigration; that population would increase, and they would become located and attached to the soil, and the colony would escape much of the expense attending the providing of hospitals, prisons, police, and sending their immigrants back again to their original country, as the man who immigrates with his family will remain in his adopted country.
11749. As you understand the interests of the planters in those islands, do you believe that if this gradual immigration were to take place, and this proportion of the sexes to be maintained, that would meet the difficulties?—Not altogether.
11750. You have referred to some of the expenses which are imposed upon the islands; do you think that a great reduction could be made in that respect?—I am perfectly convinced there might.
11751. Is that the opinion of the planters there?—With regard to Jamaica, it is I am sure; I have spoken with many people from Jamaica, and they were all of opinion that a great reduction could take place.
11752. Is that opinion expressed in the House of Assembly?—It is; and it was carried in the House of Assembly by a large majority. I believe there were only two votes against the reduction.
11753. Have they pointed out the particular reductions they wish?—They particularly pointed out reductions in the higher salaries.
11754. Are there some parties there who take a leading part in promoting reforms of that kind?—Yes; but the opinion is becoming more and more general, and there were only two dissentient voices, I believe, out of the whole Assembly.
11755. Do you know if representations have been made to the Government here of the extravagant character of the government in the island?—I believe they have sent in memorials to the Government. In the memorial from the House of Assembly they mentioned that; but one of the witnesses who comes after me will more particularly point that out.
11756. You referred to a time when Jamaica people were very loyal; that was the time when slavery and the slave trade existed?—Yes.
11757. Not long after the revolution in Hayti?—Not long.
11758. That was their palmy day?—Yes.
11759. Since that time the mother country has thought proper to suspend their constitution?—That has been done; but it was afterwards given to them again.
11760. That was not from the excess of loyalty they displayed?—It was a great mistake of the mother country; and I believe she found that out very soon, and gave them their constitution again, and sent out a truly great man, Sir Charles Metcalfe as their Governor.
11761. Is there any duty upon the export of produce from Jamaica?—I am not aware whether there exists in the English West India islands any duty upon exports; there does both in the Danish and Spanish islands.
11762. Is there any duty upon the imports of provisions?—There were, in my days, very heavy duties.
11763. That increased the cost of living?—Yes.

11764. Do you remember whether that was a grievance with the people of Jamaica, that they could not get their provisions except from the mother country?—Yes, it was a great grievance; and also that they were not permitted to get their provisions from America. Many years ago, during the days of slavery, some thousands of those poor Africans died of starvation in the island of Jamaica.

11765. That protection to the mother country and injury to the colonies have been removed, has not it?—It has, lately.

11766. And they now have free trade with America in provisions and lumber?—They are permitted to do so, but it is very lately.

11767. Do you know whether that is considered a great advantage now that they have it?—They were frequently demanding it, and it was refused; now it is permitted; it is such a late event, that I do not know how it has been received. I should consider it myself a very great boon.

11768. They do not pay the expense of their military protection, do they?—There are different arrangements in different islands. I believe the people of Jamaica refused to pay any expenses connected with the army.

11769. Have they objected to having regiments there?—I suppose they considered, if they were not obliged to pay for the army, and the soldiers would spend their money there, it would be a good thing. Where any regiments are quartered the shopkeepers are rather satisfied with their being so, because they spend money there; there is no other advantage in it. It increases the immorality of the country very much; they are people who have nothing to do but to drink, and the climate of the West Indies is accused of killing them, instead of the rum.

11770. You say there is no disposition to throw off the protection of the mother country?—I am perfectly persuaded that there is not. There is a strong feeling at present—men who are ruined will have strong feelings; but if anything took place they would rather demand the permission of the mother country to govern themselves as much as possible than annex themselves either to France or to the United States.

11771. You think there would be a party who would be ready to govern themselves, and would think there was an advantage in it?—I do not mean to say that they would wish to throw off all connexion with the mother country.

11772. You think they would consent to the withdrawal of our troops?—Many of them would; and I think it would be a great boon to the different colonies. The men who go out there are sent out with thick woollen clothes to that climate; they have very little to do; they have been accustomed to look upon grog in the mother country as a great blessing; they come out there and get spirits cheap, and kill themselves with hard drink; and the idea of sending out regiments of Highlanders, with their thick dresses and naked legs, exposed to the torments of the mosquitos would be laughable, if not too cruel. The Spaniards manage these things much better. The officers live a very indolent and wild life, and very often destroy themselves by their irregularities.

11773. The mortality among the military, was enormous, was it not, in the West Indies, at one time?—It was.

11774. That was owing to the place where the barracks were placed?—Yes, that is the case in some of the islands; in Trinidad the barracks were built in a swamp. I have been given to understand that it was a job.

11775. Have you seen any definite notions put forward of the way in which they would benefit from being allowed to govern themselves; do you think they would introduce slavery again?—I do not think there is any desire of the kind. I have mixed very much with the West Indians, and do not think they would desire it.

11776. There are no restrictions which the mother country interpose upon their trade which they complain of, are there?—The planters do complain a good deal of the restrictions upon labour; they wish the blacks to be forced to labour; they wish that the system of contracts should be altered materially in favour of the planters, but I am inclined to think you cannot force blacks to labour; such unwilling labour would defeat itself.

11777. Did you not express an opinion that without such forced labour they cannot prosper?—There should be contracts between the masters and servants.

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11778. You alluded to the stipendiary magistrates; you say you wish they should be sent out from this country?—I do not suppose the mother country would ever permit the population to choose their own magistrates, and unless that be permitted, I think it would be far better that the stipendiary magistrates should be sent from the mother country; I know it is opposed to the wish of the planters.

11779. Stipendiary magistrates appointed by the government there, or by the planters, would not, you think, be trusted by the black population?—The stipendiary magistrates are not appointed by the governor or by the planters, but the local magistrates are. The black population look with a considerable degree of suspicion upon the appointment of local magistrates among the planters.

11780. Those stipendiary magistrates were appointed when the apprenticeship system was established?—Yes.

11781. Do they continue still?—Yes.

11782. Are they paid by the island?—By the Government here.

11783. You say they did not give satisfaction; do you remember what was said at the time of apprenticeship, or just before it was abolished, with respect to stipendiary magistrates, that their leanings were very much to the planters?—I think the planters have generally declared that the leanings of the stipendiary magistrates have been towards the black population.

11784. The only society in the island are planters, are not they, for gentlemen in the station of life of the judges or lawyers?—In some of the islands the coloured population have advanced a good deal in civilization, and to a certain extent are received in society, particularly the male portion.

11785. The stipendiary magistrates would generally associate with the planters, would not they?—There was a feeling among the planters against the stipendiary magistrates; they fancied they were inclined to favour the coloured population, and that would lead to a split between them, in the same way as there was a split between the missionaries and the planters.

11786. Have you had any opportunity of observing how far they did administer justice strictly and purely?—I believe they intended to do justice, but they were incompetent persons very often, who gave way to the effects of the climate, and drank a good deal.

11787. Were they all lawyers?—No, I think not.

11788. The cases before them were cases between the masters and the labourers?—Chiefly so.

11789. In any future regulation that will be one of the most important functions to be discharged in the island?—Yes.

11790. Have you any suggestion to make, either in respect to their character, or their salary, or the circumstances under which they act, by which they may be made more efficient?—I should think they should be picked men, persons of some standing at home, at any rate of a certain standing.

11791. They have not a salary of above 300 *l.* a year?—In some places they have 400 *l.* or 500 *l.* a year; but I believe all professions are so overstocked now that a very respectable man would go out for 300 *l.* or 400 *l.* a year.

11792. Do you think that a respectable man could be induced to leave this country, and to forfeit all prospect of rising in this country, for 300 *l.* or 400 *l.* a year in Jamaica?—Some arrangement might be made that his prospects might not be materially injured; it might be rather in his favour if he conducted himself so as to gain the approbation of his superiors.

11793. You have no doubt that that has been a great improvement upon the old local magistracy?—I have no doubt of it.

11794. Did you hear when you were in Jamaica any complaints of the existing regulations with respect to vagrancy, or with respect to the mode of compelling contracts to be fulfilled between master and labourer?—Yes; I have heard a great many complaints in the West Indies upon that subject.

11795. Do you believe they are well founded?—I believe they must be well founded in large colonies like Trinidad and Jamaica, where the population is scanty and the amount of land enormous.

11796. You think that the regulations should be different in different islands?—Squatting exists in St. Vincent, which is a small island.

11797. It

11797. It is less likely to exist where the population is dense than where it is thin?—Naturally.

11798. Do you consider that it would be an improvement in those islands to make such regulations more stringent?—That would be a very difficult question for me to answer. I know it is generally supposed that it would be very beneficial to do so. If you could hold out inducements to the black population to become owners of land, either as leaseholders or freeholders, you would do away with vagrancy much better than by any stringent laws.

11799. You believe you could combine the two things, a man being a labourer upon his own land, and working at the sugar cultivation?—I do.

11800. That is not the opinion of the planters generally, is it?—It is not.

11801. Did you say that a Prussian gentleman had made the experiment?—I do not know that he has made the experiment; but I know him as a very talented man. I saw what he had written upon the subject afterwards, but I do not know the success which attended his measures, nor do I know even whether he put them into practice.

11802. You were stopping in Cuba some time; did you see very great cruelties practised towards the slaves?—I have been in Cuba several times, but never for lengthened periods; my knowledge of Cuba is not so extensive as to permit me to go into any details.

11803. Have you any reason to believe that the planters work them day and night, and sometimes 18 hours out of the 24?—I only know that from hearing others say so. I should rather decline giving evidence upon that point, because I do not personally know anything about it.

11804. Are you acquainted with any part of Africa from which emigrants could be drawn except the British settlements?—I have never been in Africa.

11805. You know nothing of that coast?—Nothing personally.

11806. You do not know anything of the circumstances of the country from which we might get this labour which you have been referring to as being desirable to be introduced into those islands?—My impression is that a certain quantity of labour would be desirable, but I have not mentioned from what part of the globe it should come. I believe African labour would answer in the West Indies, but I do not see why Chinese should not be obtained as well. I think if any Chinese could be brought to settle there it would be a stroke of policy on the part of the English Government to promote it.

11807. You know nothing of any country from which we could get those free immigrants?—I do not; but I very much doubt the practicability of getting large quantities of Africans without purchase.

11808. Referring to the circumstances of those islands generally, do you consider that the interests of the planters resident upon their properties there and of the merchants here are quite identical?—At the present moment I should say they were decidedly so, for they are both in the same boat; but it has been a very common case, I think, that they were not identical.

11809. In what respect would you say they are not?—With regard to the duties levied, and the manner of levying the duty upon West India sugar coming to this country, the merchant charges his commission upon the sugars after they have paid the duties; consequently, he receives a larger per-centage upon the whole sum than he would upon charging it in bond, or if he bought the sugar in the West Indies of the planter. I do not know how any change could take place; but I think if the West India merchants residing upon the spot could buy the sugar of the planter, so that the responsibility of the planter could totally cease there, it would be a great blessing to him, instead of his being obliged to send his sugars home in certain ships. He is not able to sell them to the Americans, supposing the Americans would buy them, which at present they will not; but supposing the Americans were to wish to buy some sugar in the West India islands, the planters are very often obliged to send their produce to England in certain ships; this operates as a restriction upon trade. As an illustration of my views upon this subject, I beg to hand in the following statement.

[The same was read, as follows:]

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Suppose 20 hogsheads of sugar, at 15 cwt. each, equal to 300 cwt., sold at 26 s., short price, when the duty was 24 s. 0 d. per cwt.			
Five per cent. upon 24 s.	- - - -	1 s. 3 d.	
		25 s. 3 d.	
		26 s. 0 d.	£. s. d.
		51 s. 3 d.	768 15 -
Upon this gross sum and duty the merchant gets 2½ per cent. commis- sion, or	- - - -		19 4 4
When the duty is reduced, as at present, to 14 s., the affair would stand thus: price of sugar, 26 s.; duty, 14 s.; equal to 2 l. per cwt.	- - - -		600 - -
The merchant gets 2½ per cent.	- - - -		15 - -
So that by the reduction of duty the merchant loses	- - - -	£.	4 4 4

So that any reduction of duty to benefit the planter and consumer, is contrary to the merchant's interest, and consequently it is his interest to discourage it.

In like manner, the broker gets ½ per cent. brokerage, and the lower the duty the less brokerage does he get.

For ½ per cent. on 768 l. 15 s. would be	- - - -	£. s. d.
½ per cent. on 600 l.	„ - - - -	3 16 9
Loss to the Broker	- - - -	£. - 16 9

Suppose the duty were struck off altogether to ease the planter and consumer, it would be the merchant, consignee, and broker's interest to oppose such a duty, because it would reduce his commission.

Thus, 300 cwt. would be, at 40 s., 600 l.		£. s. d.
Commission on 600 l., at 2½ per cent.	- - - -	15 - -
Suppose no duty, 300 cwt. would be, at 26 s., 390 l.		
Commission on 390 l., at 2½ per cent.	- - - -	9 15 -
Loss to the Consignee or Merchant	- - - -	£. 5 5 -
To the Broker the Loss would be	- - - -	£. 1 1 -

11810. Owing to the peculiar condition which exists now between the merchant and the planter the planter is not a free agent?—That is the case. The merchant makes advances, and he knows he does it with a great deal of risk, therefore he is obliged to charge a high per-centage upon it. All West India mortgages bear at least six per cent.; transactions on account current five per cent. for interest; commission on gross amount two-and-a-half per cent.; brokerage, one-half; on paying bills and receiving remittances, one-half; besides a vast number of other charges, such as interest on advance of duties, of freights, the freights themselves, five per cent.; dock dues, insurance, insurance from fire in dock, primage and pierage, &c., &c., all which are introduced into the accounts of sales, and are deducted from the proceeds.

11811. Some of those merchants have ships of their own?—Yes.

11812. The planter must use them, from his connexion with the merchant?—Yes. Sometimes an order is received for a certain quantity of sugar to be put on board by a certain day; the overseer is obliged to work hard to get this sugar ready. The sugars sometimes are not cured properly, or the casks are not properly filled, and there is a great waste, and sometimes they are not properly treated on board the English ships. I fear that a great loss has been experienced through this want of method.

11813. Do the instances where there is that want of care occur where the ship is chosen by the merchant rather than by the planter?—I believe a great change in the present system could take place with advantage.

11814. When the sugar is sent home in that state, of course it affects its price

price in the market?—Very much so. I believe the dock companies make something from the leakage which takes place. I know it to have been the case in the British West India ships; that it was not uncommon to pump out the bilge water, which was distilled, and they make rum out of it, from the large quantity of molasses which had escaped from the cask.

11815. Are you speaking of a time when the duties were much higher than at present?—I have been speaking of my own experience, but I have heard it from West Indians within the last fortnight that to a certain extent those things do continue yet.

11816. There is still this slovenly manner of shipping the sugar and preparing it?—Yes, to a certain extent it exists yet.

11817. *Chairman.*] When were you last in Jamaica?—In 1842 or 1843.

11818. How long were you in Jamaica?—I have never been in Jamaica more than a week at a time; I have not been far out into the country.

11819. How many times have you been to Jamaica?—I have been there I suppose a dozen times at least.

11820. Then all your information is gathered from visits of a week at a time, and none of a later date than six years ago?—That is the personal experience I have had; but I have had a good deal of communication with merchants and Jamaica planters since that period.

11821. You are not a merchant or agent?—No.

11822. Nor a shipowner?—No.

11823. You have no practical acquaintance with those things?—Only that acquaintance which one gets from observation and study and from acquaintance with others.

11824. You stated that some years ago, in consequence of the restrictions upon the intercourse with the United States, some thousands of Africans died in Jamaica from starvation?—Many years ago; it is an occurrence in the history of Jamaica that I am alluding to.

11825. When did that occur?—I think it was during the American war, from 1775 to 1783.

11826. During the War of Independence?—Yes, from 1775 to 1783, when no intercourse could take place.

11827. What history do you rely upon for that fact?—I do not know what particular history. I think Bryan Edwards or M'Culloch mentions it, if I mistake not; but I am perfectly certain of the circumstance.

11828. You have stated that you presumed that the Government of this country would never tolerate that the stipendiary magistrates should be appointed by the planters, or by the members of the Assembly of Jamaica?—What I meant to state was, that they would not tolerate that the magistrates should be elected by the population of Jamaica. This is what I intended to convey, that they would not be elected by the people of Jamaica; and consequently I thought it would be but right that the Government should maintain the power of sending out stipendiary magistrates.

11829. The gist of your observation I understood to be, that the Government at home would not tolerate that the stipendiary magistrates should be appointed by the planters, or any authorities chosen by the planters, or by the population of Jamaica?—Your Lordship has misunderstood me. I do not know how far the Government would or would not do that. I meant to convey, that I suppose the Government would not permit the population of Jamaica to choose their own magistrates.

11830. I understood the purport of your observation to be, that Government would not permit the magistrates to be appointed by the planters, especially because it might be supposed that the stipendiary magistrates would in that case be hostile to the black population?—I did not mean to convey such a meaning. The Government has permitted local magistrates to be appointed already in different places.

11831. Are not you aware that the great majority of the magistrates of the island of Jamaica are resident planters, and are chosen as magistrates in the same way that magistrates are appointed in this country?—That is just the reason why I stated that there was an objection to it on the part of the black population.

11832. You are aware that the black population vote for members of the Legislative Assembly?—Certainly, and that they have coloured representatives in the House of Assembly.

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11833. The right of voting for members of the Assembly vests in freeholders or renters of 6 *l.* a year?—Yes, in Jamaica; but not in Demerara or Trinidad.

11834. And in one single parish there are something like 40,000 freeholders?—I know the number is very large in the island of Jamaica.

11835. You gave the Committee to understand that you did not see what benefit it would be to Jamaica if she were permitted to govern herself?—I did not mean to imply anything of the kind. I think it would be a very great benefit to Jamaica if she could be permitted to govern herself.

11836. She would not in that case be subjected to those obnoxious restrictions upon the importation of labourers and the contracts for hire which she has now to submit to?—I stated that I thought Government should retain a truly conservative power to act the part of a mediator between the black population and the white population there, otherwise I fear that very great evils might arise.

11837. You objected to the island governing herself, because you thought that the Government at home should retain what you called a conservative power to interpose and prevent the planters, if they were the ruling power of Jamaica, appointing their own magistrates, and deciding what restrictions should be permitted and what restrictions should be withheld?—That is, provided the planters should have the island to themselves, without any participation on the part of the black population; if there was a fair participation, I should advocate their governing themselves.

11838. Is not there as free a representative government there as the Government of this country is?—When we look at the formation of the Council of Jamaica, I think we cannot say so; as I have just observed, the formation of the House of Lords is very far superior to that of the Council of Jamaica, seven out of ten of whom are dependent upon government.

11839. You stated that it would be of some advantage if the West India planters were enabled to sell their sugars to the Americans?—To any one who would buy them; but I think the Americans would not buy them under present circumstances.

11840. You stated those circumstances were that they were prevented by the connexion of the West India planters with their merchants and mortgagees in England?—That is one case. If an American came to a West India planter whose estate was involved, that planter would not be at liberty to sell his sugars to the American merchant; at the same time I stated that, under present prices, I believe the Americans will not buy them, because they get their sugar cheaper elsewhere.

11841. Is not it perfectly trifling to speak of such obstructions as those when there is a much more important obstruction in the laws of the United States, which charge a duty, *ad valorem*, of 30 per cent. upon Jamaica or Trinidad sugar, and puts Jamaica and Trinidad sugar upon an equal footing with Cuban sugar?—That is just the cause I alluded to. The Americans will not buy their sugar of the British West Indian islands, because they can get slave produce cheaper. If the West Indian islands could sell their sugars as cheaply as others, the *ad valorem* duty would rest equally upon all. The Americans go to Cuba and Porto Rico, and buy their sugars; and they get them at a cheaper rate than they can get them from us.

11842. I understood you to be speaking of the difficulties which the colonists are placed under, by their being hampered by their connexions with their merchants and mortgagees at home?—I believe that all restrictions on trade are bad, and that is a restriction upon trade. If the West Indian proprietor could get a better price anywhere, he ought to be allowed to do it. At the same time, if he pleases to get his property mortgaged to the merchant it is his own fault. I do not know how he is to be extricated from that.

11843. What has that to do with the American trade?—I mention that particularly, because I have heard repeatedly that sugar might have been, under the circumstances, sold to the Americans, with a considerable profit. The price of sugar may suddenly have risen in the American market; the news arrives, perhaps, in a very short time from America, and the Americans might wish to buy sugar in the island of Trinidad or Jamaica; but the proprietor is not able to sell his sugars to them, because he is obliged to send them to England, where, perhaps, at that moment, only a low price is to be had.

11844. That applies to so many proprietors as happen to be under mortgages?—It

—It can only apply to those; the others would be glad to sell their sugar to any one.

11845. As far as any laws which exist are concerned, every West India planter, who does not happen to be under mortgage to a merchant in London, is perfectly free to send his sugar to the United States if he can afford to pay 30 per cent. *ad valorem* duty?—I believe he is at present.

11846. Is not it perfectly visionary to suppose that a West Indian planter can ever afford to pay 30 per cent. *ad valorem* duty, competing after the payment of that duty with slave-grown sugar in the United States?—I believe it would be most difficult, under present circumstances, for the West Indian planters to compete with slave-grown sugars, because they cannot produce them as cheaply, but the quantity of sugar produced in the United States of America is by no means equal to the demand; and they import large quantities of sugar from the Brazils, from Cuba, and from Porto Rico. At the same time I cannot but direct attention to the enormous increase in the quantity of Louisiana sugars, and the decreased quantity of cotton in the same state.

11847. Unless the West Indian is prepared to undersell Brazil, and Cuba, and Porto Rico, the West Indian, whether those restrictions in the shape of mortgages, are on or off, cannot enter into competition in the American market?—I was alluding only to a system which I considered to be injurious.

11848. You gave as your opinion, that it was quite impossible that the British colonies could ever desire to be annexed to the United States of America? I am perfectly convinced such a thing would be impossible, on account of the opposition which would be immediately raised to it by the black population.

11849. Are not so many of the black population as have become freeholders equally interested with the whites in getting the best possible market for their produce?—They are; but they are coloured men and they have one tie of brotherhood which binds them together; they are opposed to slavery, and I am sure they would oppose any annexation to the United States as long as there is a black in chains in the United States.

11850. The United States does not consist entirely of slave states?—But as one large government or country they have slaves, and as long as the federal government governs a country having slaves in it, all the West India negroes will be opposed to any annexation.

11851. Do you think the West India islands would, from any sentiment of that kind, be indisposed to a connexion with the United States, if, by becoming connected with the United States, they could obtain a protection for their sugar at 30 per cent. *ad valorem* against Cuba, and for their rum at 200 per cent., and were able to compete on equal terms with the produce of Louisiana?—I know that those opinions have been broached, but I have been a great deal among them, and I do think there is too much loyalty there for that; I believe there is no portion of the English empire where there is so much loyalty as in the West India colonies.

11852. You have been at different times for a week at a time at Jamaica, but not for the last six years?—I have mixed with many people in the different islands since that time.

11853. When were you last in any of the islands?—Five years ago; since that time I have seen and known a great many of the planters. No doubt there is a very strong feeling that they have been ill-treated; I know that threats have been held out that they would join the United States of America; but my own individual opinion is, that there is no danger of that, and I am convinced the United States of America would not have them.

11854. Do not you think, generally speaking, that people are governed by their material interests, and that if by being annexed to the United States they could have a cheap government instead of a dear government, could govern themselves instead of being governed by Downing-street, and could have access to a good market instead of a bad one, that would be likely to change their feelings from those which existed in their breasts six years ago, when they were highly protected in the English market?—I am aware those are great inducements, but they hope something will be done for them by the mother country, and they will merely ratoon their canes and diminish cultivation gradually, waiting to see if some change may not take place; and I believe the United States would refuse any annexation of the British West India colonies, with the exception of the Bermudas, the possession of which was eagerly desired even as early as the days of Washington.

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11855. If they allow their canes to wear out in the way you now indicate, and their plantations to go out of cultivation, do you think they will still remain as loyal as ever to the Government of this country?—I believe a change might then take place, particularly among the landed proprietors and sugar growers; and the encouragement offered by the Bill of 1846 to slavery will tend materially to render the coloured population of our islands suspicious of the policy of the mother country.

11856. Mr. *Labouche*.] Is there not a great difference between the social and political position of the negro population in the West India islands, and the social and political position of the black and coloured population even in the free states of America?—Yes; there are less prejudices against colour than among the population of America; the prejudices are very strong in the United States of America against the coloured population, and I should think the British West India islands might be materially benefited by the encouragement of immigration from the United States, and of a number of blacks who are in Canada, whose condition would be improved by the change.

11857. The prejudices which previously existed against the black and coloured population in the West Indian islands have very rapidly diminished since emancipation, have they not?—They are diminishing, but they are by no means eradicated; that is a slow work; you may suddenly overthrow a throne, but cannot so easily eradicate a prejudice.

11858. You have stated already that coloured men sit in the Colonial Legislature with white men?—They do; I know that a black man has very lately been returned as one of the members to the House of Assembly in the room of Mr. Geddes.

11859. Do you believe that the blacks in the West Indian islands are well aware of the political and social degradation to which their race is subject in the United States of America?—They are; that was my very reason for stating the impossibility of any annexation of the British West India islands to the United States.

11860. Do you think they have any real attachment to this country, grounded upon the efforts which have been made by this country for the improvement of their condition?—I am perfectly convinced that they are very grateful indeed to this country for what it has done.

11861. Do not you believe, giving them credit for the ordinary feelings which actuate mankind, that those recollections would prove a very strong tie between the great majority of the population of our West Indian islands and the mother country?—I have already stated that to be my belief.

11862. *Chairman*.] Have you heard that Texas has been annexed to the United States?—I know it well.

11863. Do you know if there is any provision in the treaty with Texas excluding the population from the same privileges with the whites?—Slavery exists in Texas, and consequently they could not have the same privileges as the whites; I believe that is the case everywhere where slavery exists.

11864. There is no law in Texas, is there, that prevents a free black from possessing all the privileges of Texas?—I am not aware there is any law that prevents a free black, but should be inclined to think such to be the case.

11865. You stated to the Committee that you thought half the sugar plantations in Porto Rico were cultivated by free labour?—I stated that perhaps half the labour used in the produce of sugar is free labour.

11866. Are you aware that that is totally at variance with the statements made by Mr. M'Gregor, Mr. Merivale, and others?—I am perfectly aware that it has been denied and asserted, but I am only speaking from what I have seen in the island itself. Free labour is extensively used, and particularly in the northern districts. At the same time I particularly mentioned that the free labour population of Porto Rico is a population which does not exist in the British West India islands.

11867. Are you aware that Mr. M'Culloch states that, in 1836, the number of slaves was 41,818 in Porto Rico; and that in 1839 the export of sugar from Porto Rico was 32,000 tons?—I do not know the exact amount; but I have the tables of imports and exports for the years 1841 and 1842, which I beg permission to offer.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION of *Porto Rico*, for 1841 and 1842.

EXPORTS.

ARTICLES.	—	WHERE TO.	—
	<i>Dollars.</i>		<i>Dollars.</i>
Brandy - - - - -	52,440	To Spanish Ports - - -	981,753
Cotton - - - - -	141,230	To Cuba - - - - -	20,760
Brown Sugar - - - -	3,216,734	To Contiguous Colonies - - -	692,595
Coffee - - - - -	1,281,243	To United States - - - -	2,474,543
Hides - - - - -	51,035	To Germany - - - - -	572,650
Cattle - - - - -	117,033	To Brazil - - - - -	12,514
Honey - - - - -	455,659	To Denmark - - - - -	44,323
Tobacco - - - - -	268,644	To France - - - - -	794,671
Precious metals - - -	93,239	To Holland - - - - -	10,269
Other native products -	43,004	To Great Britain - - - -	318,771
Warehouse - - - - -	704,640	To Italy - - - - -	249,791
Foreign productions - -	4,337	To Prussia - - - - -	2,377
	6,429,258	To Spanish America - - - -	22,248
Total in 1841 - - - -	5,962,445	To British Colonies in North America - - - - -	232,080
In favor of 1842 - - -	466,813		6,429,258

IMPORTS.

ARTICLES.	—	WHERE FROM.	—
	<i>Dollars.</i>		<i>Dollars.</i>
Liquors - - - - -	365,375	British Colonies in North America	14,892
Provisions - - - - -	109,664	Spanish America - - - -	580,039
Spices - - - - -	7,724	Italy - - - - -	7,301
Fruits - - - - -	43,825	France - - - - -	32,971
Breadstuffs - - - - -	994,041	Brazil - - - - -	54,967
Oils - - - - -	187,698	United States - - - - -	1,320,624
Fish - - - - -	353,303	Cuba - - - - -	192,492
Other Articles - - - -	121,896	Germany - - - - -	224,145
MANUFACTURES :		Great Britain - - - - -	113,193
Cotton - - - - -	856,288	Contiguous Colonies - - -	2,349,904
Woollens - - - - -	76,666	National Ports - - - - -	866,773
Linen - - - - -	597,079		
Leather - - - - -	159,465		
Silks - - - - -	127,950		
Lumber - - - - -	301,006		
Metals - - - - -	491,017		
Other articles - - - -	964,405		
Total Import 1842 - - -	5,757,404		
Total Import 1841 - - -	6,062,363		
Surplus 1841 - - - - -	304,959		5,757,404

	<i>Dollars.</i>
Total Commercial Movement for 1841 - - - - -	12,024,808
Ditto - - ditto - - 1842 - - - - -	12,186,661
In favor of 1842 - - - - -	161,853

	<i>Dollars.</i>		<i>Dollars.</i>
Import 1841 - - - - -	6,062,363	Import 1842 - - - - -	5,757,404
Export 1841 - - - - -	4,962,445	Export 1842 - - - - -	6,429,258
Balance of Trade against - - - - -	99,918	Balance of Trade in favor - - - - -	671,854

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11868. And that by 1843 the number of slaves had increased to 50,000?—The number has been on the increase; they were almost all of them imported under one of the former governors, Manuel De la Torre, and they have been upon the increase continually.

11869. Do you know that in the year 1814, the island did not grow sugar enough for its own consumption?—They produced very little indeed, till, I think, the year 1823, when their whole colonial system was altered. Before that time they had not been permitted to have any commerce with any other part of the world except the mother country. Those restrictions were then taken off, and they were permitted to have intercourse with other portions of the world; and then it was that persons went and settled in Porto Rico.

11870. Was not it in 1828 that Governor La Tone encouraged the importation of slaves from other islands, that the increase of slavery takes its date from 1828; and that simultaneously, connected with the increase in the importation of slaves, the sugar cultivation has increased till the exportation amounted to 47,000 tons last year?—I am aware of that; and I said that the slaves were necessary in Porto Rico for making cheap sugar, because they do the hardest work; they work at night a good deal.

11871. Fifty thousand slaves chiefly employed upon the sugar estates and giving only 47,000 tons of sugar, does not give a ton of sugar for each slave, exclusive of that which is consumed in the island?—A large number of the slaves are domestic slaves, living in the towns; and with a large population of free men the internal consumption of sugar must necessarily be considerable.

11872. Do you know that in the statement of the details given by Mr. McGregor of the different estates in Porto Rico, it appears that there are altogether 19,140 proprietors?—Yes, but they are very small proprietors; and many of those proprietors work in the field.

11873. That a considerable number of those, viz., 17,440, are accounted for as being proprietors employed in breeding cattle, and in the cultivation of provisions, and some coffee?—I mentioned particularly, that the free population were principally employed in the production of cattle, and coffee, and tobacco.

11874. Are you aware that it is represented that there are 3,079 acres cultivated in cotton, and 2,999 cultivated in tobacco?—I did not mention cotton, but I mentioned tobacco, of which large quantities are grown.

11875. As it is represented that there are only 109,587 acres of land in cultivation altogether, assuming the proprietors of the cotton and tobacco estates to hold estates of the average size, that would give as nearly as possible about 1,000 proprietors of cotton and tobacco estates?—I have not given much attention to that part of the subject.

11876. It is absolutely stated that there are 275 sugar estates, and 148 coffee plantations, exclusively cultivated by slaves?—I have not seen that statement, but am quite willing to believe that in the cultivation of sugar the slave labour upon the whole must predominate; in fact I stated before that as we go down to sugar, the slaves become more numerous.

11877. That leaves but 286 estates to be accounted for, for the growth of pepper, valuable woods, building timber, lignum vitæ, fruit trees, and gardens?—I have not only mentioned my own experience, but I have read a letter from a gentleman who has been many years in Porto Rico, and had owned a Porto Rico estate, concerning the value of the free labour of this important colony.

11878. The result of this is that out of the 19,140 estates in the island, but 286 are disposable for the free cultivation of sugar, pepper, valuable woods, fruit trees, gardens, and so on; consequently you must see that your statement that "half the estates in Porto Rico are cultivated by free labour" is wholly inconsistent with the official statistics of the island?—I said that perhaps half the labour on sugar estates was free labour; I did not say that half the estates were so cultivated.

11879. We have this authority of Mr. McGregor for stating that 275 estates are exclusively cultivated by slaves?—I have mentioned what I have seen, and my statements lead me to believe that the free labourers work very generally upon the sugar estates in the field, but not at the hardest or most difficult labour; and I believe they could be had for a shilling a day in any part of the island to work in that way. I have seen them working on estates; at the same time I do not wish to convey that half the estates are worked by them; I only wish to state that the hard labour of the estates is generally performed by slaves, and the more easy part of the work is performed by freemen.

11880. Are

11880. Are you able to state, upon your own knowledge, that any one single sugar estate in all Porto Rico is worked exclusively by free labour?—I am not; I particularly stated that they were not.

11881. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Do you mean to say that about one half of the labour connected with the cultivation of sugar in Porto Rico is performed by free men?—I should scarcely put it as high as that with respect to sugar alone, because there is the cultivation of large quantities of tobacco and coffee, and the island exports large quantities of very fine cattle. If we take the population of the island at 500,000, and the number of slaves at 40,000, I should think there would be about as many free labourers employed in the cultivation of sugar as the others; but those men do not work so hard as the slaves by any means, although they work better than our labourers do in the West India colonies. I think I am stating it very fully when I put the number of free labourers down at 40,000: it is a very full estimate. I have seen them working in many parts of the island. I by no means wish it to be inferred that half the estates are worked by free labour, nor that one half of the production of sugar is raised by free labour; and at the same time we must take into consideration the circumstance that a large number of slaves exist as domestics in the towns, and upon the estates.

Mr. E. St. Martin, called in; and Examined.

11882. *Chairman.*] YOU are a native of Holland?—I am.

11883. Your father is engaged in the Java trade?—He is.

11884. Are you acquainted with the mode by which the Dutch Government encourage the cultivation of sugar in Java?—I am, to a certain extent.

11885. Is it by making them advances in money, and giving the land, and guaranteeing to take off their hands a certain quantity of their produce at fixed prices in repayment for those advances?—It is.

11886. Does the government plant the canes at its own expense?—It plants the canes and takes care of them up to the time of cutting.

11887. It plants canes in the months of July, August, and September, does not it?—That is the time when the canes are fit for cutting; at that period they are given over to the manufacturer.

11888. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Have you been in Java yourself?—No.

11889. *Chairman.*] You are principally acquainted with the modes of cultivation in Java from your father?—I am.

11890. In the months of July, August, and September, the government makes an estimate of the probable crop, does not it?—It does.

11891. And then it fixes the price at which the sugar manufacturer in Java shall contract with them to take off the crop and convert it into sugar?—The price which government pays to the manufacturer is fixed before that, when the contract is made; it remains fixed for the whole length of time that the contract lasts, but the estimation made at the time when the crop is given over to the manufacturer is an estimation of the quantity which the crop is likely to produce, according to which the planter is to pay the planting expenses back to Government.

11892. The extent of land in the different plantations so planted by Government varies from 400 to 700 bouws; a bouw being equal to one and two-thirds of an acre?—Yes.

11893. From 400 to 700 bouws would be equivalent to from say 650 to 1,150 acres?—Yes.

11894. This is good arable soil, is it?—Yes, all fit to produce good sugar.

11895. Not more than two crops are grown in succession?—Government never allows more than two crops to be grown, so as not to exhaust the land too much.

11896. The contracts are made for a length of time, varying from 10 to 20 years?—They are.

11897. Government having been at the expense of planting the canes, and having also taken care of them up to the month of September, it requires the manufacturers to pay various rates; those rates being calculated upon the estimate of the amount of sugar which is likely to be recovered from the land?—It is.

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11898. If the land is calculated to produce a crop not exceeding 30 peculs per bouw, that is to say 22 cwt. per acre, the planter is charged 4 s. 10 d. a cwt. ?—Exactly.

11899. If the estimate is that it will produce from 22 to 29 cwt. per acre, then the planter is charged 3 s. 6 d. per cwt. ?—Yes.

11900. If the land is calculated to produce over 29 cwt. per acre, he is charged 2 s. 1 d. per cwt. ?—Yes.

11901. The pecul is to weigh 125 half kilogrammes, equal to 137 lbs. English, for first qualities of sugar, and 100 half kilogrammes, or say 110 lbs. English, for second qualities ?—Yes.

11902. In addition to this repayment made to government, there is another payment to be made to the chiefs or residents, as a rent to them for the land ?—Yes, there is.

11903. That is also paid by the manufacturer of the sugar ?—Yes.

11904. If the land is calculated to grow 15 cwt. of sugar an acre, 2 s. 9 d. a cwt. is paid to the chief or resident ; if from 11 to 15 cwt., 2 s. 1 d. ; if from 7½ to 11 cwt., 1 s. 1 d., and if from 4 to 7½ cwt., then he pays at the rate of 5 d. per cwt. ?—Exactly.

11905. The contractor is obliged to cut his canes before the end of September on those lands on which a second crop is to be planted ?—Yes.

11906. He must cut the canes before the 15th of November on those lands which are destined for other purposes ?—Yes.

11907. If the contractor neglects to fulfil those conditions, then the government comes in and cuts the crop itself ?—It does ; charging the manufacturer with the extra expenses.

11908. In addition to this, the government frequently makes large advances of capital to the planters, to the extent sometimes of 100,000 florins or thereabouts ; that is to say, from 8,000 l. to 10,000 l. for the construction of buildings and other works ?—Yes.

11909. And those advances are refunded in sugars of a certain quality, at fixed prices, and at a certain quantity every year ?—That is the case.

11910. The government also makes advances every year at the beginning of the cutting of the crop, to enable the contractor to pay the labourers' wages, and other expenses of making sugar ?—It does.

11911. Are those advances fixed at a larger or a less sum according to the estimate of the amount of the crop ?—Yes.

11912. The advances are made in Java bank paper ?—Yes, and free of interest.

11913. Is there any interest paid upon the advances for buildings ?—No, there is no interest paid at all ; all the advances are made in Java bank paper to the manufacturer, and he has to pay no interest whatever.

11914. The manufacturer is obliged to buy from the government a piece of land not exceeding from 10 to 14 acres, for building his works ?—Yes.

11915. Does the price vary from 80 l. to 160 l. ?—Yes.

11916. From 1,000 to 2,000 florins ?—Exactly.

11917. Have the prices fixed for the sugars delivered to the government, varied at different periods ?—They have.

11918. When government first set out on this plan the price paid to the planter was as high as 27 s. 6 d. a cwt. ?—It was.

11919. Do you know what period that was ; how many years ago ?—It was about 1827, I think.

11920. Since that the price has been gradually diminished ; first to 21 s. 10 d., then to 19 s., subsequently to 13 s. 6 d., and at last it has been reduced to 9 s. 6 d. per cwt. for brown sugar, the average quality of standard No. 10 in Holland ?—Yes ; of the standard numbers fixed by the Dutch trading company.

11921. Have you the memorandum rendered by the Minister of the Colonies to the second Chamber, published on the 18th instant, stating the quantities of sugar taken upon contract in the year 1847 ?—I have ; it is stated to be contract for 936,063 peculs, making 57,205 tons, at an average price of 9 guilders 34½ cents per pecul, equal to 12 s. 9 d. per cwt. ; that is the sum which it actually costs the government.

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11922. The 9s. 6d. per cwt. which it pays to the manufacturer is paid to him on the plantation?—Yes; so that the difference between 9s. 6d. and 12s. 9d. may be taken for extra expenses for transport to seaport, &c.

11923. The manufacturer has other privileges besides those, has not he; he is allowed to cut timber in the adjoining forest for his building and works, and is only charged one half the ordinary tariff?—Exactly.

11924. He is likewise permitted to cut wood for fuel in the government forests?—After he has used all his crushed canes.

11925. There is some rule, is not there, about the sugar being delivered to the government before the end of December in the year in which the sugar is grown, or else it is to be delivered previous to May?—At least half the amount of the sugars which are deliverable to the government must be ready before the end of December in each year, and the remainder before the end of May next.

11926. You have stated that the bond of that contract is only a bond to provide a certain quantity of sugar to the government; but if the plantation bears a surplus crop, the contractor is entitled to all that benefit?—It is left at his free disposal to do with it whatever he likes; to sell it in the markets of Batavia, Sourabaya, Samarang, or other markets, these being the principal.

11927. He has to pay the government nothing for that?—He has to pay 8d. for every hundredweight not delivered to government.

11928. Those are what are called free sugars?—Exactly.

11929. The free sugars are the surplus over and above the amount which the manufacturer is bound to deliver over to government?—Yes, the surplus over those which are called government sugars.

11930. Those free sugars constitute the principal supply at Batavia, do not they?—They do.

11931. Does it sometimes happen that the manufacturer has as much as one-third the crop left him at his own disposal?—It does.

11932. Then the contract, of course, becomes a very profitable one?—Yes.

11933. He then pays off the advances?—He does.

11934. Have the free sugars greatly increased of late years?—They have gradually increased every year, and they have now come up to an amount of from 24,000 to 27,000 tons.

11935. Which is to be added to the 57,000 contracted for by government?—Yes.

11936. That is about 84,000 tons?—Yes.

11937. The sugar plantations enjoy another privilege, do not they?—Yes; they are exempt from the obligation of cultivating rice.

11938. All other cultivators being obliged to maintain one-third of their lands under rice cultivation?—Yes.

11939. For the consumption of the island and the government; the government taking the rice at a fixed price?—Yes.

11940. Government has this privilege, that it may judge for itself whether of the sugar it will take the whole or any part in repayment of the advances?—It has; that is the right which is reserved to government, to reject the sugar; but I do not know any instance of its having taken place, or in which it has been rejected.

11941. You do not know any instance of the enforcement of that right?—I do not.

11942. Government has a preference over all other creditors for its claim upon the planter?—It has.

11943. In addition to those plantations, are there other plantations which are totally exempt from any contract with government?—There are.

11944. Those are plantations where the planters have purchased their own grounds from government, and that is an addition to the free sugar?—It is.

11945. What are the present prices of sugar at Batavia?—For No. 11, the price is 17s. 2d. per cwt.

11946. At what date was that?—In December last, No. 12 was 17s. 8d. to 18s.; No. 16 was 21s. 3d. to 21s. 7d. The present value in London is 40s. for No. 11, 41s. to 41s. 6d. for No. 12, and 48s. 8d. for No. 16. The duty on the two first numbers, No. 11 and No. 12, is 20s., and upon No. 16, 23s. 4d.

11947. At the present prices, No. 11 would leave, 2s. 10d. per cwt. to pay all freight and charges?—Yes.

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11948. No. 12 would leave from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* to pay the freight and charges?—Yes.

11949. And No. 16, which pays the higher duty, would leave 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.* to pay the freight and charges?—Yes.

11950. Then, in point of fact, no sugar at the present prices can be imported from Batavia under the existing duty?—No.

11951. Can you state what the government freight is from Batavia?—The government freight to Holland was 145 to 150 guilders for two tons, or about 6*l.* to 6*l.* 5*s.* per ton on the gross weight. The freight paid by private merchants is sometimes less.

11952. What is the freight paid by private merchants?—It varies from 110 to 150 guilders for two tons, making about 4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* on the gross weight.

11953. Under this system of protection or bounty, the production has increased from 25,000 baskets to 400,000 baskets, between 1827 and 1847?—Yes.

11954. The estimate now is 90,000 tons a year altogether, including 57,000 tons Government contract sugar, and 27,000 tons of what in Java are called "free sugars," and that quantity is annually increasing?—Yes; 90,000 tons a year, or thereabouts.

11955. The government contract for 1847 was 57,000 tons?—Yes; and calculating about 27,000 tons free sugars, would make 84,000 tons, and suppose 6,000 from independent estates.

11956. The calculation is, that about one-half of the island is still uncultivated, is it not?—About one-half at least.

11957. The planters and the manufacturers find their own labourers?—That is so.

11958. Are those labourers free Javanese or Malays?—They are all free.

11959. There are no Chinese?—There are some Chinese manufacturers, but they only work on their own account.

11960. With respect to the government labourers, is the work done by them compulsory?—In some sort it is compulsory.

11961. In what way is that?—If they do not choose to work, they are obliged to leave the village in which they live, and the wages paid by the government are lower than are paid by private manufacturers.

11962. There is a public tariff, is there, proclaimed?—There is.

11963. At which they must work for the government?—Yes, for the government.

11964. There are some Chinese sugar plantations, are not there, that work upon their own account?—There are; but they form, as it were, a separate body. They are generally not liked, and known as a very oppressive people, so that the sugar manufactories conducted by them are worked by Chinese.

11965. Mr. *Wilson*.] You mean that the employers and the employed are all Chinese?—Yes, mostly so.

11966. *Chairman*.] There is a resident or chief of each *desa* or village, who is always a born Javanese?—Yes.

11967. Whose business it is to set the labourers to work upon the government plantations, and who takes care that they perform their labour on the one hand, and that on the other, during their work, the planter or manufacturer treats them well?—Just so.

11968. Any ill-usage on the part of the planters is punished by severe fines?—It is, or suspension of their direction.

11969. What do you mean by suspension of their direction?—Somebody else is put into the manufactory to look after the business, to prevent their ill treating the people; or they may be transported to another district, or even expelled from the island.

11970. What are the hours of labour?—From sunrise to sunset, including a reasonable time for breakfast and dinner, which makes an average of 10 hours' work every day; this to my best knowledge; these hours are those usual in Holland, and I believe them to be the same in Java.

11971. The wages of the people are paid in copper coin, are not they?—They are.

11972. Is the intrinsic worth of the coins what they represent, or are they only tokens?—They represent the value of the silver coin; there being no silver coin in the island, the circulation in the island is bank paper and copper coin.

11973. Do

11973. Do you mean that the copper coin represents a silver coin of far greater value?—No, of the relative value; the agio is 20 per cent. between copper and silver, that is, 120 guilders copper for 100 guilders silver.

11974. There is a duty on Java sugar, if carried in foreign vessels, equal to six per cent. *ad valorem*?—Export duty.

11975. All Dutch vessels are free?—Yes; the trading company only charter vessels; all Dutch vessels have the same rate.

11976. There is a duty of 2 *d.* per cwt. upon sugar imported into the Netherlands by Dutch vessels, and 10 *d.* by foreign vessels?—Yes.

11977. Is it material from where the sugar comes, as long as it is imported direct without breaking bulk?—No.

11978. A ship could not call in England and leave a part of her cargo?—No, it must come direct from the place of production to Holland, without breaking bulk, without leaving any part of the cargo on the way.

11979. There is an excise duty in Holland upon sugar used for home consumption, but there is no distinction in the kind of sugar, is there?—No, all sugar is the same.

11980. Whether beetroot sugar or cane sugar?—I believe so.

11981. Is there any beetroot sugar used in Holland?—Very little.

11982. What proportion should you say?—I cannot tell; I do not think there are any beetroot manufactories in the country.

11983. You never saw one?—No.

11984. Nor heard of one?—No.

11985. Beetroot sugar, therefore, cannot compete in Holland with the cane sugar?—It does not.

11986. There is beetroot sugar in Belgium and in Prussia?—There is.

11987. And none can be imported?—Not that I know of.

11988. Though that can be imported at the same rate of duty?—It may, I believe, be imported; but it does not pay them to bring it in, because the other sugar is cheap enough to do away with all competition.

11989. The excise duty is 13 florins and 50 cents, is it not?—The total duty is 21 guilders 98 centimes, or 18 *s.* 4 *d.* per cwt.; that includes the stamp and all.

11990. A return is given to the refiner upon the re-exportation of his lump and refined sugar, of 17 *s.* 1 *d.* per cwt., is not there?—There is.

11991. He does not get his whole duty back again?—He does not; but it is calculated that the difference is fully made up by the better quality, and the increased value he gets out of his sugar.

11992. Does he make a larger quantity; does he get 17 *s.* 1 *d.* per cwt. upon the refined sugar exported, or does he get 17 *s.* 1 *d.* per cwt. upon all sugar that he refines?—I believe upon all sugar that he refines; if he takes in in bond a certain quantity of raw sugar at 18 *s.* 4 *d.*, he gets 17 *s.* 1 *d.* over the same quantity of sugar, though it be rendered into refined sugar.

11993. Mr. Wilson.] Are you aware that those duties are not actually paid, but only kept in account with the refiner in Holland?—Yes.

11994. So that when the refiner takes the sugar out of bond he does not pay the duties, but they are paid to a debit account in the custom-house books, and the account is credited with the allowance upon the exports of the sugar?—Exactly.

11995. Therefore whatever quantity of sugar is refined for home consumption, up to a certain proportion, goes in without any duty at all except the difference?—Yes, with the difference.

11996. There is re-allowed 17 *s.* 1 *d.* drawback upon all sugar which he exports up to some certain proportion; do you know what proportion that is?—No.

11997. Practically it operates as a bounty upon the export of refined sugar?—Yes.

11998. And though it appears in the first instance to be a small allowance on the duty originally paid, yet the quantity he is allowed to export leaves a considerable quantity for home consumption above that quantity which is subjected to little or no duty?—That is so.

11999. You are not aware of the precise proportions?—No.

12000. Is your father at present in this country?—He is not.



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12001. Has he been in Java many years?—He has not been himself in Java; he is a merchant having relations with Java.

12002. From what source do you derive this information?—I derive part of this information from the contracts which are drawn up, not exactly those between the contractor and the government, but the mere form upon which they are generally made.

12003. A printed form?—Yes; the contracts themselves are kept very secret.

12004. Have you had any personal communication with any planter who has entered into such a contract?—No.

12005. The information you have given is derived chiefly from a communication with your father, who is in the Java trade, but has never been in Java?—Exactly.

12006. And has never been engaged in the sugar cultivation of Java?—No.

12007. Nor has had any personal communication with those who are so engaged?—Not that I know of, but his experience is of long standing.

12008. But it is chiefly from the blank contracts that you have derived this information?—Yes, details of the real ones are quite secret.

12009. You have said that the quantity of sugar grown last year by the government was 936,000 peculs, or 57,000 tons; are you aware of the entire production of Java last year?—Eighty-four thousand tons. I speak of 1847.

12010. The year 1847 is not yet completed, is it?—It is not completed; it must be the crop of 1846–47, the crop ending May 1847, that I speak of.

12011. You have stated that the proportion of the government sugar is 936,000 peculs?—Yes.

12012. You did not state the proportion of free sugar, did you?—I can only state it as far as it is calculated; 24,000 to 27,000 tons.

12013. More than one-half of the quantity grown by the government is grown as private sugar?—About 60 per cent. of the whole crop grown comes to the government.

12014. And the remainder is free sugar?—Yes.

12015. You are aware that that free sugar is composed of two classes; first, the quantity over and above what the planter has to deliver to the government; and secondly, what is grown upon the free estates?—Yes.

12016. Can you tell the Committee what proportion of the remaining 40 per cent. is grown upon free estates unconnected with the government?—I cannot.

12017. You do not know what portion is grown by the Chinese?—I do not.

12018. The Chinese estates are included in the free estates?—Yes.

12019. Are there not many estates belonging to Englishmen and Dutchmen?—Yes.

12020. Is it within your knowledge that those estates have been, up to this period, very successful and very profitable?—I am not aware exactly that they have been profitable, but I have not heard of their having been unprofitable.

12021. You are not aware that it is considered a great advantage for a person in the island of Java to possess one of those private estates unconnected with the government?—I am not.

12022. Can you tell the Committee, taking the estates consisting of the government estates, and the estates worked by private individuals, whether there is any difference in the mode in which the planters engaged their labour?—So far there is a difference, that the government labour for the field-work up to the time of cutting is different from the labour exacted by the planter, and the manufacturer; and the government labourers are in some sort different from the labourers employed both by the free planters and by the manufacturers, who take over the crop from the government at the time of cutting.

12023. As far as regards the government estates, the field cultivation of sugar may be said to be entirely government cultivation?—Those estates lying under contracts.

12024. The land and the farming operations belong to government; the manufacturing operations only belong to the contractor?—Yes, the contractor has nothing to do with the sugar till the time of cutting.

12025. He

12025. He is then under contract to cut it, carry it away, and deliver it at a certain price to the government?—Yes. Mr. E. St. Martin.

12026. You said there was a fixed rate of wages by a tariff of the government for all those estates?—There is. 22 March 1848.

12027. Do you know the rate?—I do not.

12028. But you know it is a lower rate than that which is paid by private individuals?—So far as I am aware the government pays lower wages than private individuals and planters.

12029. Are the people compelled to work for private individuals and private planters at this tariff rate?—No, they are not; if they do not choose to work they can go away and seek some other master.

12030. Are they compelled to work for the government at that rate?—They are compelled to work at the rate fixed by the tariff; if they do not work they are driven away from the place where they live.

12031. They have the choice of leaving that particular village and going and seeking another master elsewhere?—Not those that work for government; they are so far compelled to work, that they must work or they will be driven away from the village.

12032. They must work or leave the neighbourhood?—Exactly.

12033. But they may leave that neighbourhood and go and find work elsewhere, under a private planter or in the government fields in other districts?—I think they may, but I do not know the fact.

12034. Therefore if they have an oppressive master, or a person they do not like, or a situation which is disagreeable to them, they have a perfect liberty to leave that place and go to a place more agreeable to their views and wishes?—I believe they have, but I cannot state the fact.

12035. With regard to the private plantations on which all this free sugar is grown, there is no compulsion whatever?—None whatever.

12036. Have you any reason for thinking that private sugar costs more than government sugar?—I have not.

12037. You do not know of a difference in the rate of wages paid?—By the government and by private planters, I do not know the amount of that difference.

12038. Supposing in the same district there were government fields and private fields, are you aware of any law or any regulation which should compel one of those labourers to work for government as long as they could get employ with a private planter in the same district?—I am not informed as to the law in this respect.

12039. You do not know that such a restriction exists?—I do not.

12040. If there were private planters, as there are in most of the districts, and government planters also, the labourer may have the choice of working either with the one or with the other?—I am not certain about that, whether it is the case or not.

12041. Are you aware that in the island of Java the aborigines of the island were divided at the time the Dutch took possession of the island, and settled there into a great number of clans, each having its chief?—Yes.

12042. You have described them as a sort of chief?—Yes.

12043. They are native Javanese?—Yes.

12044. Men of distinguished families, who possess that as an hereditary honour, which has come down from generation to generation, like the hereditary chiefs in Scotland and other parts of Europe, as far as we can trace the analogy between them?—Just so, but I have not the knowledge for certain.

12045. Are you aware that those hereditary chiefs have a great political and social influence over the labourers, in the same way that the chiefs in Europe have a social influence over the common people here?—They are in fact, as far as I believe, substitutes for the government to carry out their objects.

12046. Are not you aware that they existed before the Dutch possessed the island of Java at all?—They did.

12047. Are not you aware that when the Dutch became possessed of the island their policy was to secure the co-operation of these chiefs, in order to make the people industrious, and to secure their labour for the sugar cultivation?—It was so.

12048. When you speak of compulsory labour under the government, that

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labour is under the particular protection and supervision of the resident chief?—I believe it is.

12049. And the labourer is protected by his supervision; he has confidence in that chief as a person belonging to his own race, the head of his own particular clan; he places himself willingly under his guidance, and he is substantially protected as a freeman against the impositions of the planter or the government officer, by his interference?—He is, as far as I know.

12050. Either the government officer or the private planter would be subject to severe punishment if he abused any of those labourers, and complaint were made by the chief?—He would.

12051. Do you think that that forms any kind of analogy to slavery, as you have heard of its existing in any part of the world?—Not the least.

12052. You would, to all intents and purposes, call them free labourers?—Quite free. There cannot be any analogy between those labourers and slaves, the latter being bought and sold according to the will of their masters, and receive no wages whatever; with the Javanese labourers their employers have no right of purchasing and selling them, besides being bound to pay them for their labour.

12053. Will you refer to the following answer given by a former witness before the Committee, and say whether you agree with it: "The greatest portion of the sugar in Java is grown on account of the Maatschappy Company; there are a few estates belonging to the English, who were there for a short time." Is there any sugar whatever grown by the Maatschappy Company?—The Maatschappy Company act as doing business for the government; they do not grow sugar themselves.

12054. They are not cultivators at all?—No.

12055. Are the Maatschappy Company cultivators of sugar in the island of Java?—I do not think they are.

12056. Are they not simply a trading company on commission, who make advances to the Dutch government, conduct the trading part of the sugar importing from Java, making sales in Holland, and repaying the advances which have been made by the government for the proceeds of those sales?—Exactly.

12057. Acting in every respect the same as Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., or any other mercantile house in London?—Merely as agents.

12058. Making advances in anticipation of the crop, and repaying themselves from the proceeds of the crop?—Exactly so.

12059. But not as having any control over the cultivation in the island, or having any risk as to the extent of the production in the island?—Not at all.

12060. Perhaps you are aware that originally the Maatschappy Company had scarcely anything to do with the cultivation; that they were originally in the place of government?—I am not aware.

12061. You are not aware that the Maatschappy Company originally were, in fact, connected with the government in connexion with the late king, and that originally they undertook the cultivation in Java in the form in which the government now have it; but after a number of years it was found to be very unprofitable; and the late King of Holland, finding that it was a very unprofitable thing to be a proprietor in an unprofitable concern, induced the government to take the island of Java into their hands, and constituted himself and his partners into a trading company?—I am not aware of any of these circumstances.

12062. At the present time the Maatschappy Company are exclusively a trading company?—They are.

12063. You stated that the cost to the government of the 57,000 tons of sugars last year was 12s. 9d. per cwt.?—Yes.

12064. Nine shillings and sixpence being paid to the manufacturers, you concluded that 3s. 3d. were only charges prior to shipment?—Yes.

12065. Are you aware whether interest upon the advances which have been made for cultivation, and paid in Batavia, is included as part of the government expenses in that 3s. 3d.?—I am not aware of that.

12066. From the description you have given the Committee of the mode in which the government contracts are formed, I understand you to mean that the government, in fact, cultivate the soil; that they with their own labourers and

and their own capital, plant the sugar cane, and conduct the cultivation, up to the time it is ready for cutting. What advances, if that be the case, can be made to the planter for the purpose of cultivation?—There are no advances made to the planter for the purpose of cultivation.

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12067. What advances can be made to the manufacturer. You state first that there are advances made to enable the manufacturer to erect his works, and then that there are advances made, as you afterwards said, for the purpose of manufacturing the sugar?—He has to pay his labourers for cutting the crop, taking it home, boiling it, and preparing it for delivery; for those purposes advances are made.

12068. When government make those advances, is it not simply in the shape of an advance by the grower of the sugar, the government really being the grower, and employing a person as it were by contract to manufacture its sugar after it is grown?—The contractor rather employs the government to conduct the planting.

12069. The land belongs to the government?—It does.

12070. The government has a lien on the manufactory for all the advances which are made?—Yes, they have.

12071. Therefore the whole property, until the advance be repaid to the government by the manufacturer, may be said to belong to the government?—In some sort it is mortgaged.

12072. If government make advances to those manufacturers to enable them to take the crop off the ground, and manufacture it into sugar, and deliver it to them at certain rates, those advances are simply for facilitating the produce of their own sugar?—I do not think you can call it their own sugar.

12073. They grow it in the first place, and they receive it in the last place?—Yes.

12074. They grow it up to the time it is ready for cutting, and they have to receive it back from the manufacturers when it is made?—Yes, but in fact they only act as agents in that way for the contractor, and they get back the expenses which they incur from the contractor afterwards.

12075. The government deduct from the price which they have to pay to the contractor the advances which they have made to enable him to take it off the field and manufacture it?—Yes.

12076. The advance is for enabling the manufacturer to take the crop off the ground, and to fulfil his original contract made with the government?—It is.

12077. The interest of those advances, though not charged to the planter, would in reality be an addition to the price paid by government to the contractor for the sugar. Supposing government paid to the contractor 9s. 6d. when they came to receive the whole of the crop, and they have already made advances in anticipation of that quantity, suppose of 4s. 3d., the interest which government may pay to the bank for those advances would in reality be so much addition to the 9s. 6d. which the sugar costs them?—There is hardly any interest upon those bank notes, because, in fact, no capital has been put forth; it is all paper.

12078. The Bank of Java gets the profit, and not the government department?—The Bank of Java is a government institution; it is not a private bank.

12079. It is a bank separate in some respects from the government who take the sugar?—It is a separate establishment.

12080. Are those notes convertible into gold?—I do not think they are; if they were it would be impossible to convert them, because there is no gold.

12081. Are not you aware that there has been a quantity of coin sent out to that bank from Holland?—There has, but the amount of the coin sent out is very small; the amount sent out in silver and gold coin amounted to, say 500,000 guilders yearly.

12082. When that coin is converted into bills in Europe is there any depreciation?—There is a difference of exchange between Java and Holland.

12083. What is a paper guilder worth in the island of Java?—To pay 100 guilders in Java you only pay 95 guilders in Holland; the exchange has been as low as 75 per cent.; it gradually went up to 80, and now it has come back to 95.

- Mr. E. St. Martin. 12084. That is only five per cent. difference between the value of a guilder in Holland and in Java?—Yes; if in silver guilders.
- 22 March 1848. 12085. That five per cent. is only the difference in the exchange?—Just so.
12086. It is no depreciation of the guilder?—No.
12087. For what date are bills drawn in Java?—Six months after sight, but now generally at 10 months' date.
12088. The Dutch trading company are not shipowners at all, are they?—No.
12089. The mode in which ships are taken up for conveying sugar from Java to Holland is somewhat in this way. There are a great many shipowners in Holland who are private owners of Dutch and East India ships; there is an arrangement by law that the government shall take up in rotation a certain amount of tonnage from Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Middelburg, annually, in certain proportions; and the shipowners of the registered ships take their turns, and are taken up at fixed rates of freight?—That is the case.
12090. And during the intervals while they are not in use, they lie doing nothing in the ports of Holland?—That is their own choice; they may go out on their own account to seek a freight.
12091. Practically, and by custom, they do not do so, do they?—No; but if they do they are taken up when they come back.
12092. Practically a Dutch East Indiaman, as regards that, never goes in search of freight elsewhere?—They have done so lately in some instances, but it has not generally been the case.
12093. What trade do they go into?—Generally those that go out seeking freight go to Java: some go to North America; but that is only in a very few instances; there have been this last year five or six which have gone to the Havannah, and many in the corn trade.
12094. You stated that the beetroot sugar could not compete in Holland with cane-grown sugar?—I do not think it can.
12095. You have no knowledge of the attempt having been made?—I have not.
12096. Therefore it is merely an opinion that it could not do so, because it has not been done?—Just so.
12097. It was suggested to you by the Chairman that because beetroot sugar had not been imported from Belgium and the surrounding countries where it is made, it could not compete with cane sugar; are not you aware that in those countries to which the Chairman referred, their chief source of supply of cane-grown sugar, particularly in Belgium and Germany, is really from the Dutch markets?—I am aware of that.
12098. Therefore Holland is always a cheaper market for sugars than Belgium or Germany?—Yes.
12099. And the refiners and dealers in those other countries resort to the Dutch sales to supply themselves with their stocks?—It is supposed that from half to two-thirds of the sales are taken by the Germans and Belgians.
12100. The refiners in Antwerp and in Cologne are largely supplied with their sugars from Holland?—Yes.
12101. Therefore though beetroot sugar may be manufactured to a profit, in competition with cane sugar, in Belgium and in Germany, it does not at all follow that it would pay to send it to Holland, where cane sugar is cheaper than it is in Germany or in Belgium?—No.
12102. You said that half the island of Java is at present uncultivated; does that apply to parts of the island which are capable of being cultivated?—Yes.
12103. A large part of the centre of the island of Java is almost uninhabitable from its insalubrious climate and difficult approximation?—It has been difficult of approximation up to the present time; but they are continually making roads and making the conveyance more easy, for the purpose of inducing those lands to be taken up and cultivated.
12104. Are you aware of the population of the island of Java?—No.
12105. You are not aware that it consists of upwards of 7,000,000 of people?—I am not aware of the amount of the population.
12106. Is it within the range of your knowledge whether there is any large proportion of the population unemployed?—I cannot say.
12107. You do not know whether there is any means, except by importing labour, of cultivating the remaining part of the island?—I do not think that they

they would import labour, for the present population would be sufficient to cultivate those parts which are under cultivation. Mr. E. St. Martin.

12108. Do you mean that there is enough labour in the island now to cultivate double the quantity of land which is cultivated?—At present there is sufficient labour in the island for those estates which are under cultivation. 22 March 1848.

12109. If there be one-half of the island uncultivated, and if they are extending roads to facilitate the cultivation of that land which is not cultivated, how are they to derive labour for the purpose of doing it, unless they have a surplus of labour in the island?—That I cannot tell.

12110. Do you know anything of the extent of the Chinese estates to which you referred?—No.

12111. Are you aware that there is a very rapidly increasing communication between China and Java?—There is.

12112. Are you aware that there are a large number of Chinese and Malay labourers come down in trading vessels seeking for labour?—Yes.

12113. Are you aware that in the island of Java a number of those China head-men have got possession of land, and are cultivating it with sugar, upon the contract system, with their own people?—They are.

12114. Are you aware that that is increasing?—I am not certain of the fact, but I should suppose it to be so.

12115. Is not that rather a new feature in the cultivation of sugar within the last few years?—Yes, the Chinese generally had no permission to come into the interior of the island, they were only permitted to reside in the sea-ports.

12116. It is only recently that they have been permitted to do so?—No.

12117. The object of allowing them to do so is to extend the cultivation of the land?—Just so.

12118. Have you any reason to believe that a considerable portion of this uncultivated land will be brought into cultivation by importing Chinese labourers in that way?—Whether it will be by Chinese labourers I cannot tell. Contracts are daily made in the same form as others, by Dutchmen going out to establish themselves.

12119. There is still an increased number of planters going from Holland to cultivate under government, in the same way that others cultivate?—Yes.

12120. Therefore the cultivation of the island, under this present system, is rapidly increasing?—It is.

12121. You stated that the price of No. 11 sugar, in the island of Batavia, at the last date, was 17 s. 2 d. per cwt.; at what would you compute the cost of bringing it home; would you suppose it was 8 l. a ton?—I should say it was from 8 l. to 9 l.

12122. Taking it at 8 l. 10 s., that would make the price 25 s. 8 d., would not it?—It would.

12123. With a duty added of 20 s., that would make it 45 s. 8 d.?—Yes, leaving a loss of 5 s. 8 d.

12124. That was the price of sugar in Java in the month of December?—Yes.

12125. I suppose the price of sugar in Java rises and falls according to advices received from Europe of the state of the markets there?—Yes, and according to the demand.

12126. The people are willing to sell or to buy at rates regulated by advices from Europe at the moment. In the month of December last, what would have been the last dates of advices received from Europe do you suppose?—The preceding August, I should say.

12127. In what part of December was it?—The end; they receive their letters by the Indian mail as regularly as possible; there is a steamer between Batavia and Singapore to meet every mail.

12128. You would say that August was the last date?—August, if not September.

12129. The price in Europe, at that time, was higher than it is now?—It was.

12130. Therefore the 17 s. 2 d. was fixed in reference to the price of sugar in Java, having reference to the price of sugar in Europe in August or September?—Yes; as far as the Java prices are influenced by the European markets.

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12131. When the advices reached Java of September last, showing the price of sugar here to be only 40 s. duty paid, the effect would be to reduce this 17 s. 2 d. in proportion?—It would have an influence.

12132. And there is no reason to suppose that such a reduction in the price will interfere with the production, because the cost to government of all the sugar which they imported last year, you have shown was only 12 s. 9 d.; therefore the private planter, who got 17 s. 2 d. for the surplus, was still receiving a much larger price than he had obtained for the portion which he had to deliver, under his contract with the government?—Exactly.

12133. Therefore this 17 s. 2 d. would suffer a reduction to 12 s. 9 d., and still the planter would be as well off in selling his private sugar as he was for the greater portion of his crop, which he took to government?—Exactly so; but the planter would lose part of his profit, because he calculates on the higher price of free sugar to make up for the lower prices he gets from government.

12134. Therefore, though the price of Java sugars, according to the advices of December, would not pay being brought home here, the prices are certain to fall to such a rate that they will pay upon the advices being received in Java of a fall in this country, but that fall would leave them a still higher price than they had cultivated sugar at, in reference to the government contracts?—Exactly so; but he would lose the profit to be derived from his contract, having calculated upon a large price for his surplus crop.

12135. Mr. Moffatt.] Are the number of the free estates restricted by government?—No, not at all.

12136. They raise no objection to planters going out and cultivating sugar without their interference?—No; they have to buy the land from government.

12137. But government is very willing to sell the land?—It is.

12138. On as favourable terms as they will to parties who take land from the government who are not able to pay for it, but who have therefore to pay in kind by raising sugar?—Of course it is much more certain to bring the land under cultivation without any risk.

12139. Have you been in the island of Java?—I have not.

12140. You have no practical knowledge respecting the production of sugar?—No.

12141. Chairman.] With respect to the united price which the manufacturer of the sugar pays to the government and to the resident, upon the average of 4 s. 10 d., 3 s. 6 d. and 2 s. 1 d., he pays to government 3 s. 5 ½ d.?—Yes.

12142. He pays that to the government for planting and nursing the canes to the end of September?—Yes.

12143. Then upon the average he pays to the chief 1 s. 7 d.?—Yes.

12144. The sum total which the manufacturer of sugar pays is 5 s. 0 ¼ d. to the government, and to the resident chief combined?—Yes.

12145. Which is to be deducted from the 9 s. 6 d., leaving him 4 s. 5 ½ d. per cwt. for his portion of the cost of making the sugar?—It is so.

12146. For the cost of cutting the canes and manufacturing the sugar?—Yes.

12147. You were asked some questions about beetroot; are you aware that the price of strong sugar-cane loaves at Magdeburg is 18 dollars, which is equivalent to 75 s. per cwt.?—I am not aware of that.

12148. Neither probably are you aware that the price of beetroot loaves at the same place is 70 s. 10 d.?—I am not aware of that neither.

Mr. Coventry Mark Woodhouse, called in; and Examined.

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12149. Chairman.] YOU are an extensive Sugar Broker in the City?—I am a sugar broker.

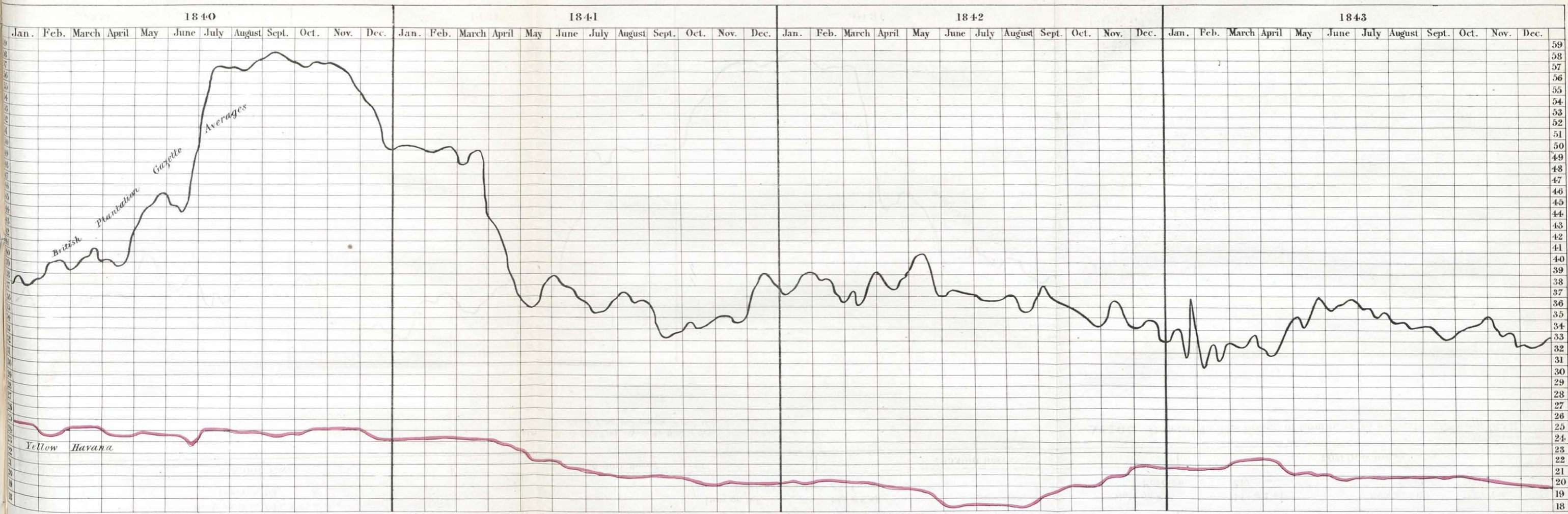
12150. Well acquainted with the prices of sugar?—I am.

12151. Have you prepared for this Committee a chart showing the variations in the prices of British plantation average sugar, and of Havannah sugar in bond for a number of years back?—For the last eight years.

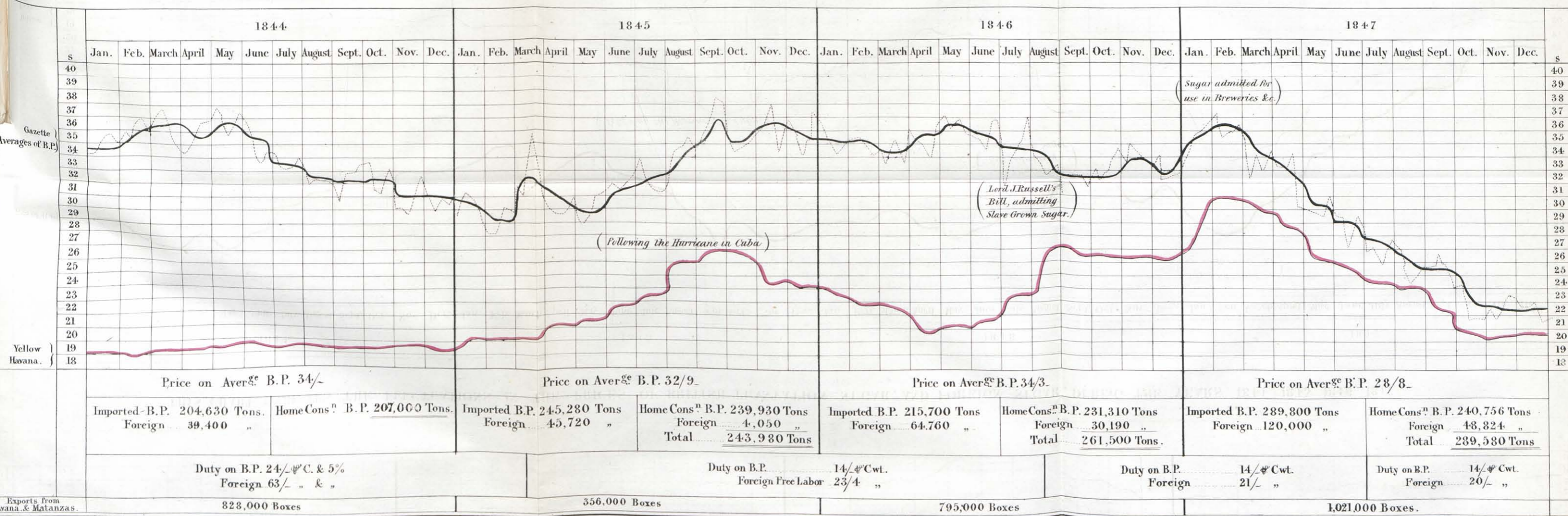
12152. You have distinguished the months, have not you?—I have.—(The same was delivered in.)

12153. Was

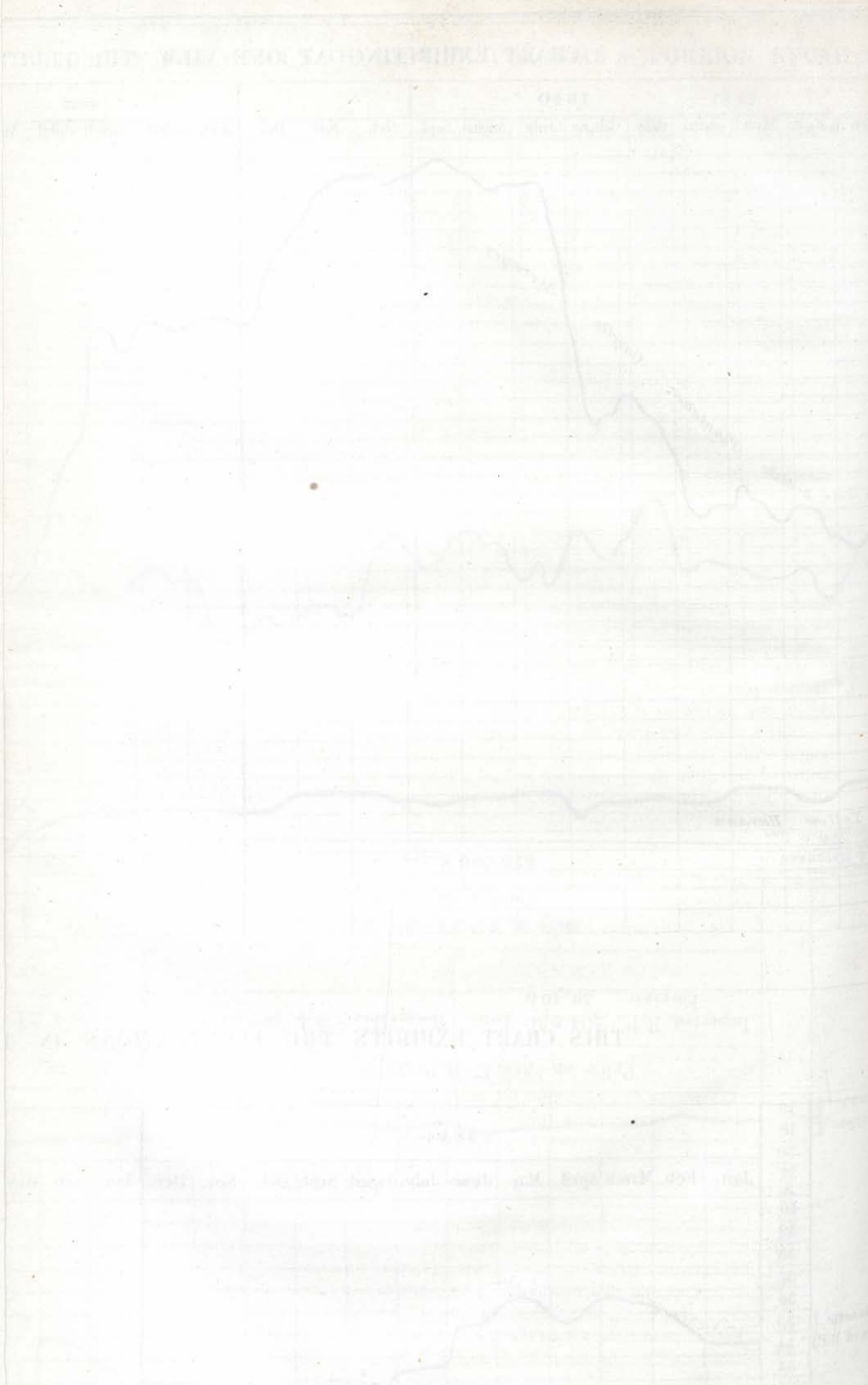
A CHART EXHIBITING AT ONE VIEW THE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE PRICES OF BRITISH COLONIAL & FOREIGN SUGAR, DURING THE YEARS 1840, 1841, 1842, & 1843.



THIS CHART EXHIBITS THE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE PRICES OF BRITISH PLANTATION SUGAR, AND FOREIGN SUGAR, DURING THE YEARS 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847.



Note.— The Dotted Line shows the Weekly Gazette Average Prices of B.P. The Black Line the course of the Market.



12152. (one more delivered in.)

12153. Was

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12153. Was the high price in 1845, when sugar rose nearly to 27s., the consequence of the drought and hurricane in the year 1844?—Yes, in consequence of the hurricane in Cuba, the latter part of the year 1844.

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12154. Am I right in concluding that the Cuba plantations had not recovered the effect of the hurricane in 1844, which destroyed the canes even in the year 1845?—You are.

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12155. The product of sugar was, in 1845, far below the product of sugar in periods prior to the hurricane in 1844?—Yes.

12156. It appears from this chart that Havannah sugar went up from 20s. 6d. in the month of April 1846, to 27s. in September 1846, and to 30s. 6d. in February 1847?—Yes.

12157. That, on the other hand, British plantation sugar came down from 35s. 1d. in April, to 32s. 4d. in September, and went up again to 36s. 4d. in February?—Yes.

12158-9. That plantation sugar fell, between February 1847 and December 1847, to 22s. 6d., and yellow Havannah sugar fell from 30s. 6d. to 20s. 6d.?—Yes.

12160. The result is, that as compared with the year 1844, the Gazette average of British plantation has fallen from 34s. 6d., in January 1844, to 22s. 6d. in December 1847, while yellow Havannah has risen from 19s. in January 1844, to 20s. 6d. in December 1847?—Yes.

12161. Have you also another chart, showing the prices of British plantation sugar from January 1840 to December 1843, and yellow Havannah sugar from January 1840 to the same period?—Yes. (*The same was delivered in.*)

12162. From this it appears, that British plantation sugar was at 37s. in 1840, and yellow Havannah at 25s.; that British plantation went up, in September, to 59s., while at the same time yellow Havannah had fallen to 24s. 6d.?—Yes.

12163. And between January 1840 and December 1843 the lowest price of British plantation was 31s.; but yellow Havannah, for three entire months of 1842, was as low as 18s. a cwt.?—Yes.

12164. Can you give any information in respect to the quantity of Java sugar which has been imported in the last and the present year?—The only return I can give the Committee is that published by the Liverpool Committee of Brokers. The importation of Java and other foreign East India sugar into the four principal ports, London, Liverpool, Bristol, and the Clyde, in 1847, was 359,900 packages.

12165. That would be about 30,000 tons?—Upwards of 25,000 tons. In 1846, it was 215,800 packages; in 1845, 161,800 packages; and in 1844, 139,100 packages.

12166. Was that entered for home consumption, or is that the total import?—It is the total import into the four principal ports.

12167. Does that statement show how much of that has been re-exported?—No; it only gives a statement of the stocks at the close of each year, which shows that it has been either taken away for home consumption, or exported. We have no means of distinguishing between the two.

12168. Do you know what the price of Java sugar in bond in London is at this time?—From 16s. to 24s., according to the quality.

12169. Do you understand that importers can sell at from 18s. to 24s. at a profit?—I have no means of knowing.

12170. You do not know what the price on the other side of the water is?—I do not know the cost price in Java.

12171. Mr. Wilson.] The chart you have exhibited alludes to yellow Havannah sugars only?—Yes.

12172. The price of Havannah sugar is very much regulated, is not it, by the state of the crops in Louisiana?—Partially so; the Americans buy more largely in Havannah when their own crop in Louisiana fails.

12173. Are you not aware that the amount of consumption of sugar is derived in a very large proportion from Havannah?—It is.

12174. And that in different years, according to the largeness or smallness of the Louisiana crop, they require a larger or smaller quantity from Havannah?—Certainly.

12175. In the sugar market is not the state of the American markets considered a very large element in the quantity of Havannah sugar which is sent to

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Europe?—The difference in the Louisiana crops affects the quantity sent to Europe.

12176. When you put this chart in evidence as a proof of the fluctuation in the price of yellow Havannah sugar, you are aware that it is not alone the European markets which control this fluctuation, but that it has also some reference to the state of the American markets?—I apprehend the price of Havannah sugar in this market is regulated by the price on the Continent; up to a recent period it had to be re-exported.

12177. The price of foreign sugar in Europe has materially been influenced by the quantity which, from year to year, has come from Havannah?—No doubt it is one of the largest producing colonies.

12178. Therefore the demand being larger or smaller in America from Havannah, would influence the price of foreign sugar in Europe?—In some measure.

12179–80. The price of foreign sugar would be influenced by that circumstance?—If a large quantity were directed to America it would affect the price here.

12181. Then if the crop in Louisiana were very large, and a large quantity of Havannah sugar came here, it would diminish the price?—Certainly, it would have that tendency.

12182. Therefore in considering the causes of this fluctuation we must not only look to the state of the sugar market of Europe, but also have reference to the sugar market in America?—To a certain extent; but the important rise shown by the chart in the year 1845 followed the destructive hurricane in Cuba, and that in 1846–47 the admission of Cuba sugar by the Act of 1846.

12183. Mr. *Moffatt*.] Can you state what is the amount of the import of sugar into the United States?—I cannot.

12184. Mr. *Miles*.] Do you think the classification duties are accurately adjusted, or not?—I think the adjustment is very imperfect; the range of price under one duty is 18 s., while under another it is only 5 s. Sugar pays the same duty worth 26 s. and worth 46 s.

12185. You think there is 20 s. difference in the value?—Yes. I have a sample of Penang sugar with me not worth more than 26 s.

12186. Which comes in at the same duty as muscovado?—Yes.

12187. You think Penang sugar should come in upon payment of a lower duty than West Indian muscovado?—Penang sugar varies much in quality; the lowest quality is half molasses; that ought not to pay the same duty that the dry sugar does.

12188. Would you call West Indian sugar a dry sugar?—Muscovado sugar cannot be called a dry sugar.

12189. Do you think there should be much difference in the duty established between the brown Havannah sugar and the brown Brazil sugar, and the common West Indian muscovado?—Not between the brown Havannah and the brown Brazil; they class with the average of our muscovado sugars.

12190. But they have gone through the process of refining, have not they?—I believe they are clayed.

12191. To what proportion do you suppose?—I can hardly judge of that; I can judge of the intrinsic value by the prices we get; the prices of brown Brazil and brown Havannah are rather under the price of good West India. I think the brown Brazil and brown Havannah are only part of a manufacture; and the finest description has been already extracted.

12192. Is not it the fact that brown Havannah and brown Brazil are the bottom part of the loaf that has been clayed?—Certainly.

12193. Has the best part of the sugar been extracted when it is only cutting off the loaf into three parts?—That is a practical question which I can hardly answer. The value of the brown Havannah and the brown Brazil would rank, I think, with brown West Indian sugar.

12194. Is it your opinion, that as far as Brazilian and Cuban sugars go, the duty is equitably charged between them and West Indian sugars?—Not on the finer descriptions. I think an article of greater intrinsic value is introduced at the lower rate of duty.

12195. There are yellow Havannahs introduced at those lower duties, are not there?—Yes.

12196. They

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12196. They class more with our West Indian muscovados than brown sugars, probably?—They are better than our muscovados.

12197. Do they come in at the same relative duty?—Yes; they are classified the same.

12198. Have you any suggestions to make with regard to the alteration of the duty, so as to adjust it more equally between the different qualities of sugar?—I have not. I can give the Committee an analogy which will prove that the protection is destroyed, to a great extent. If you take the article of rum, where the intrinsic value, by means of an instrument, is easily ascertained, it will illustrate the point: supposing the rates of duty on rum to be charged on the liquid gallon only, without reference to its strength, and the duty were 9s. upon British and 12s. upon foreign; if from any circumstances the West Indian or British colonist sent only rum of proof strength, while the foreigner introduced spirit 33 per cent. over proof, though there would be a nominal difference in the duty, they would be admitted practically on the same terms. If an equally simple test could be applied to sugar it would simplify the question very much.

12199. There is no such test at present, is there?—No; there is not.

12200. Do you think there is the same advantage in sugar that there would be in the case you have put with respect to rum, which actually takes place now?—I think there is no question about it.

12201. What difference in the duty do you suppose ought to be imposed upon those Brazilian and Havannah sugars to make them come in at a fair duty with the common run of West Indian muscovados?—Unless I had a sample before me I could not say; the gradations are so gradual from brown to yellow. Upon yellow Havannah, if you take the higher descriptions, the duty, I think, ought to be 2s. to 3s. per cwt. more, in order to give a protection of 6s. in favour of the average West India.

12202. Have you seen Mr. Crossley's experiments?—No.

12203. Do you know anything about them?—Not at all.

12204. He puts a pound of West Indian sugar into a pneumatic pan and he has proved that a pound and a half of West Indian sugar is required to make a pound of sugar equal in dryness to a pound of Brazilian; do you think any fair test of that kind can be introduced?—No, I think it would be difficult in practice.

12205. *Chairman.*] Have you any samples of Province Wellesley sugar with you?—I have three samples (*producing the same*).

12206. *Mr. Goulburn.*] Have you considered the effect of the present differential duty as affording the protection which it was intended to give to the sugar of the British colonies?—I have.

12207. Do you think it does afford a protection?—I think it affords a protection on the superior class of British colonial sugar, but not upon the average of West India produce.

12208. Upon what do you found your opinion?—I find that foreign sugar which pays duty averages in my opinion about 3s. a cwt. more than the average of British colonial sugar.

12209. Is the average price of sugar dependent upon the quantity of refined sugar which it would ultimately produce?—Generally speaking.

12210. In what way would it be possible, in your judgment, to afford to the British plantation sugar the protection which the Legislature professes to give to it?—By lowering the standard of quality which is called equal to white clayed on foreign sugar.

12211. Lower it as you would, there must necessarily be considerable inequalities?—Certainly.

12212. By lowering the class, British colonial sugars would be in some measure deprived of the protection existing at present, though not to the same extent?—That would be the effect.

12213. Do you consider it practicable to have an *ad valorem* duty on sugar?—There would be great practical difficulties in the way.

12214. What description of sugar would you recommend to be taken as the standard of classification?—I have not formed an opinion upon that point. I think it would be very much simplified with regard to foreign sugar if it were by colour.

12215. Would not that operate very unfairly upon some of the East Indian sugar?—

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sugar?—I have guarded myself against that, by saying, upon foreign only; it would operate very unfairly upon the soft Bengal sugars.

12216. You would apply a different classification to foreign to what you would apply to colonial sugar?—Fine sugar cannot be made without a certain portion of brown; the British colonist sends the whole of his sugar to this market, whereas the foreigner sends a superior description only.

12217. Is it the fact that the sugar sent by the foreigner is, generally speaking, that which brings him within the standard?—Generally.

12218. Very little colonial sugar is introduced above the standard?—Very little; out of 290,000 tons upon which duty was paid last year, the quantity was under 3,000 which paid the higher rates of duty.

12219. How much foreign sugar paid the higher rates of duty?—I have not the quantity of refined, but 648 tons paid duty as equal to white clayed.

12220. Would it be possible to make a distinction between clayed sugar and sugar not clayed?—It would be very difficult.

12221. Would it lead, in your opinion, to as great an inequality as the present classification leads to?—It would.

12222. Mr. *Gibson*.] Colonial sugar and foreign sugar, the duty having been paid, and being of the same quality are bought at the same price by the consumer?—They are.

12223. Therefore if there be a difference in the price of the sample of foreign sugar and the sample of colonial sugar, after the duties have been respectively paid, it arises from the quality solely, does not it?—The same quality commands the same price after the duty has been paid.

12224. If they command a different price after the duty has been paid, they must be of different qualities?—Yes.

12225. Therefore if foreign sugar has paid a high duty, and the colonial sugar has paid a low duty, the difference between those two duties is received by the colonial producer?—Certainly, quality for quality.

12226. Does not it appear perfectly clear, therefore, that the protection is not defeated by the mere fact that there is some difference of duty, without reference to the qualities of the sugar?—It is not defeated upon sugar that is equal in quality to the sample of foreign sugar, that is, upon a sample of foreign sugar and colonial sugar of equal value, the latter is protected to the full 6s. per cwt.

12227. Do not the relative values of the sugars remain precisely as they were before the protection was imposed; they are not affected by the protection, are they?—By no means.

12228. Therefore the relative value remains unaltered in the value of the sugar, but the protection operates to raise the price of colonial sugar whatever be its value?—If you introduce two sugars of equal quality, and one pays 14s. duty and the other 20s., no doubt the one is protected to the extent of 6s. per cwt.; but if you introduce a different quality, one intrinsically more valuable, containing more saccharine matter, at 20s., the other being at 14s., those duties approximate, and the protection is not to the extent which is nominally given.

12229. The consumer gives an additional price for sugar of a higher value, and he has to add to that whatever may be the protection?—Perhaps it might enable you to see the matter clearly if you take another article. Supposing the duty upon rum were levied only upon the liquid gallon, without reference to the strength and the rates of duty were 9s. per gallon on British colonial and 12s. per gallon on foreign, if the West Indian, from any peculiar circumstances, could only produce proof spirit, while the foreigner sent his rum 33 per cent. over proof, it is clear, though there would be a nominal protection of 3s. per gallon, that they would be admitted on the same terms, and there would be no protection.

12230. Mr. *Wilson*.] What you mean is simply this, that the quality of sugar which is admitted of foreign growth at 20s. duty is in fact a higher quality than a large portion of the average West India sugar which is admitted at 14s.?—Yes.

12231. And if the two were admitted even at the same duty, yet in reality the foreign sugar would be at a lower duty than the colonial sugar?—Yes.

12232. And therefore the whole difference of 6s. is not in reality the protection at present to the West Indies?—That is what I mean.

12233. The

12233. The whole arises from this fact, that the foreign sugar which is admitted at the lower standard is of a better quality, practically, than the average of plantation sugar?—Yes.

12234. Mr. *Goulburn*.] The colonist being obliged to send all his sugar of every quality, the foreigner limiting his supply to what is of the better class?—Yes.

12235. Mr. *Miles*.] The standard is taken of Java sugar, is it not?—Yes.

12236. Is there any particular class of sugar which you think ought to be taken as the standard?—The varieties of British colonial sugars are very numerous, but in foreign sugars they are not so numerous; it is easier to classify foreign sugars, because they are generally clayed.

12237. *Chairman*.] The principal difficulty arises from the circumstance that some of the East India sugar is clayed?—Yes, that is one difficulty.

12238. Mr. *Wilson*.] You propose to remedy this by lowering the standard of foreign sugar upon which the lowest duties should be imposed?—Yes, that would practically give the result.

12239. Would you propose to lower the standard upon foreign sugar without also proposing to lower the standard upon colonial sugar?—I think there is a difference; the duty upon colonial sugar is levied for revenue purposes only; upon foreign sugar it is levied for the purpose of revenue and protection, and you cannot carry out protection unless you classify the sugars.

12240. You carry it out as long as you have the same standard of sugar subject to the same proportionate duties?—Exactly.

12241. Therefore if you lower the standard of foreign sugar, you must also lower the standard of colonial sugar, or the highest qualities of colonial sugar, now coming in equal to the present standard of foreign sugar, would have an advantage to which they are not entitled by the law as it at present stands?—That is true, but as I mentioned before, the colonist sending his whole crop sends his low brown sugar as well as his fine sugar, and, taken as a whole, they pay an average duty.

12242. Then that would only be putting into the pocket of the planter who grows a very fine sugar an additional advantage in order to compensate the disadvantage which another planter who grows a very low sugar suffers by his growing that inferior sugar?—It would give a premium to the grower of the better sugar.

12243. What is the reason that the colonial planter now sends all his sugar here, and does not take a choice of the markets?—The reason is, the price here has been better than elsewhere.

12244. Why is the price here better than elsewhere?—In consequence of protection.

12245. The only reason why he is confined to this market is that it is a protected market?—Certainly. It is a more advantageous market.

12246. Have you considered what would be the effect of refining in bond; should not we get rid of a great deal of this inequality by enabling refiners to refine in bond and to pay the duty on the refined sugar?—If it were made optional, it would have this effect: upon sugar where the extract was very great, the parties would continue to refine, duty paid; where it was very small, they would refine in bond, and the revenue might suffer.

12247. Would not it give the importer of inferior sugar an opportunity of obtaining the real relative price of his sugar in bond, without being subjected to a duty out of proportion to its value?—It would.

12248. If the duty upon the refined sugar were equivalent to the duty upon raw sugar of a fair average West India quality, there would be no real disadvantage, but rather an advantage in refiners refining in bond?—It might be so with fair average quality.

12249. The duty upon refined sugar is now 21 s., and the duty upon muscovado sugar is 14 s.; that is contemplating a difference of 50 per cent.?—The duty upon single refined sugar is now 18 s. 8 d., upon double refined it is 21 s.

12250. Therefore, suppose the duty is at present fixed at 14 s. and 21 s., in relation to the comparative value of the two articles, 1½ cwt. of muscovado sugar would make 1 cwt. of double refined sugar; and therefore the revenue would be as well off in receiving 21 s. for 1 cwt. of refined sugar as it is now in receiving 14 s. for 1½ cwt. of muscovado sugar. In that case there would be no object to the refiner not to refine in bond from that sugar, especially when

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he has saved the capital involved in paying the duty?—I think it might be a question with him upon the average quality; there is no question that he would like to refine a low sugar in bond, because the extract would be small; and instead of paying 14 s. duty per cwt. upon it, he would pay 10 s. or 11 s.

12251. Would the effect be that the refiner not refining in bond would pay to the importer the precise actual value of the two sugars for his refining purposes?—That is the case now.

12252. My object is to get for the importer of the sugar that exact relative price, according to the qualities of his sugar, for all the different qualities imported, and then that the price shall not be disturbed by his being obliged to pay the same duty upon inferior sugar that he pays upon superior. If all sugars were refined in bond, and paid duty in their refined state, no one sugar would in reality pay a higher duty than the other, and the importer would get a price proportioned exactly to the quality of the sugar he imported?—If you made it compulsory and insisted upon all sugars being treated alike, you might be able to carry out those views.

12253. If you take a sufficiently high quality of sugar as the standard upon which your calculations are made, and proceed upon that, no other sugar, except the higher qualities, which are at present taken for grocery purposes, would be excluded from those refineries?—The quality of sugar with most strength is taken by the refiners.

12254. The reason why it would be desirable to be left optional would be to enable producers of the highest class of muscovado sugars to sell their sugars in that state for grocery purposes?—Unless it were made compulsory you would, I think, have two sets of refiners, one working in bond upon the low sugar and the other working upon the better sugar.

12255. Mr. *Goulburn*.] Is not it the fact that the refiner, whether he worked in bond or otherwise, would always select a particular class of sugar upon which to work?—He would select that which contained the most saccharine matter at the lowest price.

12256. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] Do you mean to say that if there is colonial sugar in bond worth 14 s. and foreign sugar in bond worth 20 s., and if I put a duty only on the foreign sugar of 6 s., inasmuch as the difference between the value of the foreign sugar and the colonial sugar is 6 s., and I have only given a protection of 6 s., I have not given any protection at all?—Not to the extent of 6 s.

12257. To what extent have I given it; have not I given it to this extent, that after the duty is paid the value of the sugars will remain in the same proportion as they were before the duty was paid?—Yes.

12258. Then my 14 s. sugar would be raised to 18 s. 4 d. if I have raised the higher sugar to 26 s., because 18 s. 4 d. is to 26 s. as 14 s. is to 20 s.?—I do not quite follow the calculation at the moment; I do not deny that there would be a protection, but not to the amount of 6 s. per cwt.

12259. Mr. *Moffatt*.] Are the Committee to understand that you recommend the continuance of the classification duties on British colonial sugar?—I do not recommend them; I merely tell the Committee the practical result; I think without a classification of foreign sugar you cannot effectually maintain the protection of 6 s. per cwt.

12260. The question applies exclusively to colonial sugar; are the Committee to understand that you recommend the continuance of the classification duties, as far as regards white clayed sugar?—I am not prepared to advise upon the subject; I have stated the effects which I think will result.

12261. Is it the general opinion among those connected with the sugar trade that the classification duties are beneficial to the sugar producer?—That sugar should be generally classified for duty purposes is the opinion of importers.

12262. Are the merchants in favour of retaining the classification upon the white clayed sugars?—I am not prepared to answer that.

12263. You are a broker, extensively engaged in the sale of other produce besides sugar?—I am.

12264. Coffee you sell largely?—I sell coffee.

12265. Can you state what the extreme variations are in the price of colonial coffee?—Thirty shillings to 80 s.; some coffees are much higher, but they are exceptions.

12266. Upon coffees do you recommend a classification duty?—They have never been classified.

12267. Would not the same principle apply to them as to sugar?—I think not.

12268. Why not?—The coffee is not re-manufactured like sugar; if you had no classification you would have refined sugar introduced at the same duty as the lowest brown.

12269. Is not coffee roasted before it goes into consumption?—It is.

12270. Therefore do you think the reason you have stated is a sufficient reason why you should not apply the classification scale to coffee if you do to sugar?—With regard to coffee, you do not change the results in roasting it; whereas with sugar it is different; it may be converted into refined sugar.

12271. Your sole reason for not applying the classification scale to coffee is, that you do not change the article so much in the secondary process of manufacture; or have you any other reason to give?—Nothing occurs to me at this moment.

12272. You are a broker largely engaged in the article of rice, are not you?—Yes.

12273. What may be the variation in the price of rice, from the lowest to the highest?—From 7s. to 12s.

12274. That is a large per-centage in value; would it be right to impose a classification duty there, having reference to the value?—I think the general principle of levying duties is, with regard to the extent of manufacture, *ad valorem*; refined sugar is a much more highly manufactured article than the raw sugar, and therefore should bear a higher rate of duty, especially so as regards foreign manufactured sugar.

12275. You are speaking of refined sugar; I am speaking of raw sugar?—Clayed sugar you have been speaking of, and claying sugar is a process of refining, a process of manufacturing.

12276. To a certain extent, all sugar is more or less refined?—It is; and that is the difference between it and rice.

12277. Is coffee a manufactured article?—Clearly not.

12278. Does not it go through the process of pulping?—It does not come under the head of a manufactured article; it is merely taken out of the pod by machinery.

12279. Your evidence to the Committee is, that coffee undergoes no process of manufacture; that it is not a manufactured article?—It is not, in the general sense in which a manufactured article is understood. Manufactured articles, I believe, pay an *ad valorem* duty.

12280. Is there any other article of consumption imported from our colonies which pays an *ad valorem* duty?—Yes, rum.

12281. Is there any other article?—I am not aware that they manufacture anything else in the West Indies.

12282. Or in the East Indies?—No article that I have to deal with.

12283. You have quoted the article of rum; are you aware that our main test with regard to rum is really not by the liquid contents, but the strength?—It is by the number of over-proof gallons contained in each 100 gallons of spirit.

12284. That is an easy test at all times?—Yes.

12285. It is perfectly easy to levy the duty upon it?—Yes.

12286. Are not you aware that with regard to sugar there is the greatest difficulty in levying the duty upon this white clayed scale?—There is a difficulty.

12287. Have not samples been submitted to you, as a broker, on which you could not say accurately on a dull day whether it should pay the 16 s. 8 d. or the 14 s. rate?—There may have been.

12288. Is it your impression that imposing a higher duty upon the produce of our colonies at the rate of 16 per cent. must tend to produce an inferior article, and to check improvements in the production of sugar in our own colonies?—I think it is an approach to an *ad valorem* duty.

12289. Will you have the kindness to answer the question?—It would induce the colonists to send their sugars so as to escape the standard.

12290. That is to keep down the quality?—Certainly.

12291. That is to send an inferior sugar in order to get it in at a lower duty?—To send sugar inferior to the standard; not inferior sugar.

Mr.
C. M. Woodhouse.

22 March 1848.

Mr.
C. M. Woodhouse.
22 March 1848.

12292. *Chairman.*] It appears that the duty now levied upon yellow Havannah, taking the intrinsic value of the sugar exclusive of the duty, amounts to about 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*?—Yes, upon that worth 22 s. 6 d. per cwt. in bond.

12293. You say that the best West Indian sugar is equal in quality to that yellow Havannah?—Yes, in value.

12294. The duty of 14 s. amounts to about 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*?—That would be about it. I cannot speak to the accuracy of the figures.

12295. What do you consider to be the value of the bulk of the sugar from British possessions; may it be taken at 20 s.?—The Gazette average price would give that very closely; it would be more than 20 s. at the present moment; the last Gazette average price was 23 s. 4 d.

12296. Would it be about 66 per cent.?—About 62 per cent.

12297. You have shown the Committee that sugar comes from the East Indies and from Penang as low as 10 s. and even 8 s.?—There has been some sold as low as 8 s.

12298. Upon that sugar the duty of 14 s. would be an *ad valorem* duty of upwards of 117 per cent. upon the sugar which sold for 10 s.?—Upon the sugar sold for 10 s. it would be 140 per cent.

Jovis, 23^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Labouchere.

Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Commander *William King Hall*, R. N., called in; and Examined.

Commander
W. K. Hall, R. N.
23 March 1848.

12299. *Chairman.*] YOU were appointed to the "Growler" upon the death of her late commander?—I was.

12300. Can you inform the Committee of the reasons why, in your opinion, a steam-vessel is very ill adapted to the transport of Africans from the coast of Africa to the West Indies, and why, in your opinion, a sailing vessel is much better?—Most steamers are compelled to keep their ports or half ports closed even in moderate weather, besides the heat, and the necessity of a free circulation of air, and the constant cleansing, which is not necessary in a sailing vessel. The detention for coaling, the uncertainty of getting coals in the West Indies, and also the quality of the coal when it is procured, would prevent any certainty as to the consumption or expense of the fuel, as well as the speed of the voyage. I consider a frigate, of the class of an old 46-gun frigate, would be able to keep her main deck ports open throughout the whole of the passage, day and night, with the main deck entirely given up to the emigrants, and not lumbered up with bunks, as is the case in the "Growler;" she would be able to carry 600 or 700, and make the passage nearly as fast, because under sail she would go faster than the "Growler" would under sail. Our orders are to preserve economy as much as possible, and not use fuel except on particular occasions. The "Growler" was detained three weeks at Sierra Leone on the last occasion, coaling, getting provisions and water, from her fitting not being able to carry enough for her crew and the return emigrants from the West Indies, leaving a sufficient quantity on board to take the others back with. A frigate of the class I mention would be able to carry water and provisions sufficient for this purpose, and enable her to leave 12 hours after her arrival, provided the Kroomen were ready, and thus avoid the chances of disease breaking out by lying on the coast of Africa.

12301. You

12301. You are of opinion that, taking into consideration the cost of the coals, and the high wages paid to engineers, the expense of an old 46-gun frigate, manned by 130 or 140 men, would not exceed the expense of the "Growler," manned by 90 British seamen and 20 Kroomen?—I think not, but I am not able to state the fact certainly. The "Growler's" expenses were 14,000 £, I believe, from the Parliamentary papers.

12302. What would be the expense of a sailing vessel?—I cannot say, without consideration; her complement might be fixed expressly for the purpose.

12303. How many Africans could the "Growler" conveniently carry?—She could conveniently carry 300, the number she was put down for.

12304. While an old 46-gun frigate would carry 600 or 700, and much more healthily?—Yes; and much more comfortably to them and to the crew.

12305. The "Growler" lay very deep in the water, did not she, and rolled very much?—All steamers roll very much; not particularly the "Growler."

12306. They all roll very much in meeting the trade wind?—Just so. They are not so steady with sails as a sailing vessel; a sailing vessel would carry her main deck ports seven feet out of the water; I think the "Growler's" were about six feet out of the water.

12307. You think an old 46-gun frigate would be much more airy?—Yes; with a poop and a fore-castle built for her crew, and the main deck given up to the emigrants.

12308. Is it your opinion that a merchant vessel would carry them cheaper still?—I should think so.

12309. That is because a merchant vessel gets a freight home, while the man-of-war, devoted exclusively to the purpose of carrying those passengers, has no back freight?—No.

12310. The course of the winds and currents is such, that they run into a circle?—Yes.

12311. They carry the West Indian ships out to the West Indies very much by the African coast, and bring them back very much north about?—I have never thought so much about that. They would sail at a cheaper rate, because they would not pay their officers so high as we are paid, and they would have freights both ways, which is not the case with us.

12312. The trade wind would set against any ship returning from the West Indies straight to the African coast, would not it?—No; they make a fair wind of it after they get a little way from the West Indies; it is nearly a fair wind both ways. In the Parliamentary papers there are returns of the average number of voyages made by those transports. I think the length of the voyage was 27 days one way; I forget what it was the other.

12313. Do you know what the passages of the "Growler" were?—I forget at this moment; I think they were as long as the others.

12314. You said you had 20 Kroomen under your command?—They are always supplied to vessels serving on the coast of Africa.

12315. Can you speak to the character of those men?—Yes; I only discharged them the other day.

12316. Have you found them very hard-working, industrious, people?—Yes.

12317. Do you know anything about the facility of getting them in great numbers?—That I do not know anything about; but I think the surgeon, Dr. M'Crae, will be able to give the Committee every information on the subject.

12318. You found the Kroomen very good men in all respects?—Yes.

12319. In work to which they were accustomed they would work as hard as British sailors?—Quite as hard.

12320. Perhaps under the heat of the sun they will work harder?—Yes, they are able to do so.

12321. Are they willing to work for low wages, or do they require high wages?—That I do not know.

12322. Are they paid the same as British seamen?—No, their pay is less than that of British seamen.

12323. Do you know how much?—I am not certain; I think it is 10s. a month less; I am not quite certain.

12324. I suppose they feed alike?—Their rations are exactly the same.

[The following Paper was afterwards delivered in:]

Commander
W. K. Hall, R. N.

23 March 1848.

EXTRACT from ADMIRALTY REGULATIONS.

	No.
KROOMEN allowed to 5th Rates - - - - -	38
Ditto - - - to 6th Rates - - - - -	26
Ditto - - - to Sloops - - - - -	18
Ditto - - - to Brigs - - - - -	12

Steamers, 3 for every 10 of her complement.

One head Krooman in all vessels, 2 *l* 1 *s*. per month.

Two head Kroomen in sloops and larger vessels, with the pay of an able seaman each, 0^r 1 *l* 14 *s*. per month.

The remainder of the Kroomen to be divided equally into first and second class.

First-class Kroomen to receive the pay of landsmen (which is a rating between first-class boys and able seamen), which is 1 *l* 3 *s*. per month.

Second-class Kroomen to receive the pay of first-class boys, 14 *s*. 3 *d*. per month.

The pay of an able seaman on board is 1 *l* 14 *s*. ; ordinary, 1 *l* 6 *s*.

The rations are the same throughout, from the captain to boy or Krooman.

12325. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] If a steamer economises her coals, and does not use the steam power, she makes a worse voyage than a sailing vessel?—A sailing vessel will beat a steamer under sail generally.

12326. Mr. *Miles*.] How would it be supposing you had the screw; would that be an advantage?—I was thinking of that myself, but it takes up a great deal of room, that is the only disadvantage. I think it would be much better to have the room for water and provisions, so that the moment the vessel arrived she could take those people on board and start immediately: that is the only objection I have to the screw, that it takes up a great deal of room.

12327. Of course there would be the same objection on the score of heat?—Yes.

12328. How long have you been in the "Growler"?—Since the 28th of last December. She came into Bermuda with everybody sick with the fever. I took the command of her there.

12329. Have you ever been on the coast of Africa?—No.

12330. Is there a general distaste among the navy to go to the coast of Africa?—Some people like to go there in hopes of prize-money. I am not particularly anxious to go myself.

12331. *Chairman*.] When you took the command of the "Growler," you made several alterations; will you state what they were?—I found the decks too much crowded with sleeping bunks, and I removed all the midship ones, because they prevented the circulation of air. I pulled them down and burnt them for firewood.

12332. Had she been fitted up with those bunks under the misapprehension that they would be advantageous for the carrying out of the emigrants?—They were put up for the accommodation of the emigrants, supposing it would be a great comfort to them. They were like so many coffins; each one had a board between them for a person to lie in.

12333. That interrupted the free circulation of the air?—It must have prevented the free circulation of the air, besides the collection of dirt.

Dr. *William Ranken*, called in; and Examined.

Dr. *W. Ranken*.

12334. *Chairman*.] YOU are deputed by the colony of Demerara to represent the grievances of that colony to this Committee?—I am sent for the purpose of giving evidence, and I am furnished with documents from the colony for that purpose.

12335. Mr. *Labouchere*.] By whom were you deputed?—By a committee of the inhabitants of the colony. A meeting of the inhabitants was held, and they appointed a committee to collect the evidence I have before me, and to select a person or persons to come to England with it.

12336. Was that meeting attended by the planters generally?—By the planters, and merchants, and inhabitants generally.

12337. Did

12337. Did it fairly represent the planters and inhabitants of the colony?—

Yes.

12338. *Chairman.*] Will you state to the Committee the case which you wish to lay before them?—If I am to state the case generally, I must go as far back as the year 1823, when Mr. Canning's Resolutions were promulgated in the colony; from that time there has been a great change in the social condition of the province; the slave population, after those Resolutions were promulgated, had the seeds of distrust sown in their minds, which were never eradicated. I dare say the Committee may be aware that those Resolutions led to a very bloody insurrection in the month of August following the promulgation of them; they came out in July, and about a month afterwards there was an insurrection which cost a great many lives. The negro mind being thus agitated, the people did not work as they formerly did, with assiduity and attention to their duties; and that state of mind was kept up by successive enactments of the British Parliament; there was a protector appointed, for instance, by the perpetual government, which increased the distrust which they entertained towards their masters. I do not say upon principle it was bad, but it certainly had that effect. In 1829 the Compulsory Manumission Bill passed, which also had the effect of producing a great deal of excitement. Then, in the year 1831, came the Nine Hours' Labour Bill, which at one blow deprived the planter of one hour and a half, or one seventh part of the labour he considered himself entitled to, and which he had previously obtained from his slaves. This was without any compensation. Then we had the great measure of Emancipation in the year 1833.

12339. That came into force in August 1834?—Yes, in August 1834; it so happened that the prices of produce rose about that time, and continued to rise during the period of apprenticeship, and the planters were enabled by means of those better prices to pay extra wages to the people, so that their cultivation did not suffer. They remained during that time pretty nearly in the same position that they were in before.

12340. That was during apprenticeship?—Yes. Then in 1838, the apprenticeship was terminated most abruptly and most unexpectedly by the planters, on account of the agitation which was set about in this country, and the pressure from without upon Parliament. The planters were called on, and got very significant hints from the Colonial Office to have the apprenticeship abrogated, and the local legislature acted upon it. Apprenticeship was abolished, and the people were unprepared for it in a great measure; they did not work as they did before, from the moment they were completely free, and Government, unfortunately, to add to the loss occasioned by this circumstance, passed an Order in Council on the 3d of September 1838, disallowing all contracts made out of the colony, between the planters and the labourers who immigrated into it, which nearly put an end to immigration for two or three years, till the pressure of circumstances forced the planters to have recourse to it, trusting entirely to the immigrants remaining with them voluntarily, even without being bound by contracts.

12341. How many immigrants had come into the colony between 1834 and 1838?—I have no document to which I can refer for information on that head. I can tell the numbers imported in each year since 1841, but regarding those years specified by the question, I must speak from memory only; there were about 1,000 in 1836 or 1837, and I think 300 or 400 afterwards.

12342. Of what description were those immigrants?—They were chiefly from the West India islands, and a few from Madeira. I recollect there were 1,100 imported about the year 1837, and about 300 or 400 in the other years.

12343. Were you up to 1838 at liberty to enter into contracts with immigrants out of the island wherever you pleased?—Yes, it was understood so; there was no Act prohibiting it.

12344. You considered yourselves at liberty to go to the coast of Africa or elsewhere?—Anywhere.

12345. And enter into contracts out of the island, of any description that might be arranged between the contracting parties?—Yes.

12346. Are you sure that that was the case?—I am very sure of it; I never heard of any Act to the contrary. That Order in Council rendered null and void all contracts made out of the colonies, Great Britain not excepted.

12347. It appears from a return to the Committee, that there were 586

Dr. W. Ranken.

23 March 1848.

immigrants imported in 1835; 1,124 in 1836; 1,795 in 1837; and 1,910 in 1838. Therefore there appear to have been about 4,300 immigrants imported into British Guiana in the years 1835, 1836, 1837, and 1838?—That is more than I had imagined.

12348. Have you any reason to doubt the accuracy of this return?—No.

12349. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Where did you get the number from which you have stated?—I said that I spoke from recollection only, having no account of the numbers in any document now before me; the correct list will be found in the report of the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for 1846. In that paper the importations of each year are inserted separately.

12350. *Chairman*.] Was that importation of immigrants found very beneficial to the colony?—They were certainly beneficial to the colony.

12351. And they came all under contracts?—Under contracts.

12352. Contracts for what periods?—Generally, for 12 or 24 months; I beg to say that I cannot speak positively upon that subject; that was at a time when I was absent from the colony.

12353. Will you proceed with your statement?—I would beg to point out to the Committee the inadequacy of the compensation which was paid under the Act of Emancipation, for all those encroachments on property. It will be in the recollection of the Committee, that the slaves were valued, as the Act directed, according to the prices which ruled for the eight preceding years; the average of those prices was taken, and from that the Commissioners fixed the price of the slaves; so that nothing could be fairer than the mode of valuation. I have here documents, attested by the proper officer, having the seal of the colony appended to them, showing that the amount of compensation which was paid to British Guiana, (the portion of the Compensation Fund of 20,000,000 *l.* allotted to that colony,) was 4,297,117 *l.* 10 *s.* 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* I have here the appraisalment of the slaves, which amounted to 11,302,190 *l.*, showing that the compensation awarded was only about 8 *s.* 3 *d.* or 8 *s.* 4 *d.* in the pound; and the valuation of the price of the class called *prædial* attached, was 169 *l.* 10 *s.* 4 *d.* in Demerara, according to that document. I have a paper showing the number of each class, and ample details concerning the distribution of the Compensation Fund, the price of each class, and the award upon it.—(*The Papers were delivered in.*)—I have also a document to show the grievous depreciation of property under the operation of the Emancipation Act, from 1838 down to 1846. It is a list of estates sold by private bargain between the two periods mentioned, showing the value of those estates during slavery, and the prices which they brought after the period of completed freedom. The first is Anna Catherina; which was sold in 1838; the price was 30,000 *l.*; the value during slavery was 50,000 *l.*

Vide Appendix.

12354. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Do you mean it was sold for that?—It was sold in 1838, for 30,000 *l.*, but I do not mean to give the price at which the estate was sold at any time during slavery, because I have no information relative to it; but an estimate was made from appraisements, and from actual sales of other properties during the time specified. It was found, in making this valuation, that in estates having 150 slaves, the latter and the land, buildings, and machinery, were equal in value; the slaves being worth 15,000 *l.*, and the land, &c., being of the same value, making 30,000 *l.* in all. Taking this as a guide for estimating the other estates on this list, those who had more slaves had an additional value fixed on them in proportion to the number; if they had a large extent of land, or larger buildings, they also had a corresponding increase of value attached to them.

12355. *Chairman*.] For what purpose was that appraisalment made?—It was made by myself last year in writing a pamphlet upon the subject.

12356. Then there was no valuation made at the time of which you are speaking?—No positive valuation; some of those estates I have in this list were actually sold during the last years of slavery.

12357. Will you give the Committee the amount of those that were actually sold?—The Kitty Estate was sold in the year 1829 for 63,500 *l.*; it was sold in the year 1840 for 26,000 *l.*; and it was sold in the year 1846 for 3,000 *l.*, affording a very striking instance of great depreciation.

12358. In what period of the year 1846?—About the month of April, I think.

12359. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Do you happen to know what the compensation for the slaves was upon the estate?—It was about 16,000 *l.*

12360. *Chairman*.]

12360. *Chairman.*] The compensation actually paid?—Yes, if you deduct the 16,000*l.* from the 63,500*l.*, it would leave 47,500*l.* It was sold for 26,000*l.* in the year 1840, when property attained an artificial value in Demerara, from the very high price of sugar, and from the faith which the planters placed in the British Government, that slave sugar would be kept out of the market here.

12361. Was that estate sold for 3,000*l.* in 1846?—The purchaser in 1840 became bankrupt from his connexion with it entirely, and it was brought to execution and sold in 1846 for 3,000*l.*

12362. Are there any other estates of which you can give the Committee an account of the sales?—I have a list of various execution sales.

12363. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Was the Kitty Estate sold under an execution sale and subject to the encumbrances upon it?—It was sold at an execution sale; it was subject to the mortgages.

12364. Do you know what those mortgages amounted to?—It was the mortgagee who bought it.

12365. Perhaps the mortgage upon it was 46,000*l.*?—I think it was 10,000*l.* or 12,000*l.*; but I do not admit that the mortgagee would agree to pay to the extent of his mortgage for the estate; that implies that he would put a higher value upon it than any other person.

12366. *Chairman.*] Was the estate sold subject to mortgages, or was the estate sold independent of mortgages, to pay off the mortgages?—It was sold, as all estates are sold there, with the mortgage upon it, as a preferent claim, so far as the proceeds of the sale went; for instance, if there are no other preferent claims due, such as salaries to white people upon the estate, or wages to labourers, supposing the whole proceeds were available, the mortgagee could not get more than 3,000*l.* from the purchaser.

12367. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Are you quite sure that 3,000*l.* represented the full value of the estate entirely unencumbered?—I do not think there was any person who would have given much more for it; it might have been worth a little more.

12368. In point of fact, unless the Committee are aware what the encumbrances were upon it, it is impossible to know how far 3,000*l.* did or did not represent the full value of the estate?—The encumbrances were more than the proceeds of the sale amounted to.

12369. *Chairman.*] You do not make it clear to the Committee whether this estate was sold outright for 3,000*l.*, or whether it was sold for 3,000*l.* over and above the mortgage upon it?—I have said to the Committee that the 3,000*l.* paid for the estate would go in liquidation of the mortgage; that is all the mortgagee would get.

12370. Then it was not sold burdened with the mortgage?—By no means.

12371. *Mr. Miles.*] Was it sold in court by private sale or public sale?—By execution sale; like sales in Chancery in Great Britain.

12372. By auction?—Yes.

12373. The parties who represented the purchaser appeared and bid for it publicly?—Certainly.

12374. Did they pay any money into court?—The money, according to the new law, is paid into court immediately; I am not aware that that law was in operation then.

12375. If the purchaser were the mortgagee upon the property, he would be allowed to set the purchase-money against the claims of his mortgage?—Yes.

12376. Therefore in reality no money might pass?—He had no money to pay for it, except a few salaries which might be due, or other claims preferent to the mortgage.

12377. Therefore the money bid for it was the highest bid which at a public auction could be obtained?—No other person bid more.

12378. *Chairman.*] The new purchaser, if I understand you rightly now, purchased the estate for 3,000*l.* unencumbered?—Yes, unencumbered; he tendered the mortgage as payment for the 3,000*l.*; that is the way those sales are effected.

12379. *Mr. Miles.*] Was there any other bid for this property?—I think there was another bid, but I was not at the sale.

12380. The mortgagee was contented to take 3,000*l.*?—The property was sold without any reference to the mortgagee whatever.

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12381. *Chairman.*] Was the estate put up for sale encumbered or unencumbered by the mortgage?—It is always understood, if there is a mortgage upon the estate put up for sale upon an execution, the mortgage is a preferent claim on the proceeds; but that does not affect the purchaser.

12382. The mortgagee has a preferable claim upon the proceeds of the sale?—Yes, but that does not affect the purchaser; the purchaser has nothing to do with it on any other claim.

12383. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Are you quite certain that if anybody else had bought this estate, he would not have had to pay the mortgage upon it?—He would have had nothing to do with it, further than to pay the money he offered for the estate.

12384. You are quite certain of that?—Yes.

12385. *Chairman.*] Will you proceed with the statement of the sales of any estates to which you can speak with certainty?—Here is a list of all the estates sold at execution sale since the year 1838 up to 1846; 84 estates, altogether, were sold by execution within that period. I will select one or two instances, showing the vast depreciation of property. There is an estate called Peter's Hall, which was sold in 1841 for 113,100 dollars, or 25,000 *l.* sterling; and was resold on the 3d of November 1847 for 26,500 dollars, or 5,500 *l.* I was present at both of those sales, and I know the estate perfectly; it was in a better state of cultivation at the last sale than at the first, but it sold for only 5,500 *l.*; whereas the first sale brought 25,000 *l.* Here is another, sold on the 26th of November 1838 for 26,000 dollars, or about 5,500 *l.*; it was re-sold in March 1847 for 10,000 dollars, or 2,100 *l.*; those are most striking instances. The whole document shows a miserable depreciation of property throughout the colony within that time.—(*The Papers were delivered in.*)—I have a document here showing the crops of the colony from the year 1830 to the year 1838, with an estimate of the public expenditure in each year along with it. Another document exhibits the crops of the colony from 1839 to 1847 inclusive; those papers show an increasing expenditure and taxation, and after the year 1838 a rapidly decreasing production in the colony. The public expenditure in the year 1830 was only 40,000 *l.*; in the year 1847 it was 225,000 *l.*

Vide Appendix.

12386. Will you give the Committee the items upon which that increase of expenditure has taken place?—There is an increase in the item of public fixed salaries of 49,069 *l.*; on religious establishments there is an increase of about 10,000 *l.*; on schools the increase is about 2,300 *l.*; on hospitals the difference is about 15,000 *l.*; on gaols about 12,000 *l.* Immigration expenses amount to 150,000 *l.* for five years ending 1 January 1846; that includes the bounty paid upon immigrants.

12387. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Have you taken this from any public document?—This statement has been taken from the blue-books, containing the reports of the Governor.

12388. *Chairman.*] What have been the diminutions in the crops of the colony in the years you have spoken of?—They were pretty much the same during the apprenticeship. I have the crops of sugar, rum, molasses, cotton, coffee, plantains, and value of cattle sold from 1830 down to 1837; in the year 1830 there were 101,811,777 lbs. of sugar made.

Vide Appendix.

12389. What was the amount in 1846?—44,763,977 lbs.—(*The Paper was delivered in.*)

12390. Will you proceed with your statement?—I have next a paper, showing the number of mortgages executed in the colony on estates, from the year 1838 to 1847 inclusive; of those estates, 98 are mortgaged by resident proprietors, and 16 by non-resident proprietors; they are 114 in all; the sum for which they are mortgaged is 1,006,783 *l.* sterling.

12391. Have you distinguished between those mortgaged by resident proprietors and those mortgaged by non-resident proprietors in point of value?—I have not the names of the estates; it is a paper taken from the registrar's office, where all deeds are recorded; by this packet I may have the names of the purchasers of the estates, and the names of the estates themselves in a separate document.

12392. How many estates are there in the colony altogether?—Two hundred and twenty sugar estates.

12393. Of those, 114 are mortgaged, of which but 16 are estates of non-residents?—Yes; there is no doubt that the non-resident proprietors are the most prosperous in Demerara.

12394. Is that because they have more capital than the residents?—They have more capital, and they are able to avail themselves of any improvements which take place; if there is money required for the purposes of advancing the estate in any way, they are able to advance it; money is often wanted even for wages by the poorer classes of resident proprietors, and they cannot get it; that is not the case with regard to the non-resident proprietors.

12395. Do you think the non-resident proprietors have improved their estates more than the resident proprietors?—I do; I am sure of it.

12396. They have more capital and more enterprise?—I am not aware that they have more enterprise; I think the resident proprietors have exerted themselves according to their means, as much as any men could do under the circumstances in which they have been placed.

12397. Are improvements in the way of machinery and agricultural implements carried out more effectually and on a greater scale by the non-residents than by the residents?—On a much larger scale; very few of the resident proprietors are able to adopt such extensive improvements as are required to improve the quality of sugar.

12398. Has the outlay in the importation of labour been made chiefly by the resident or the non-resident proprietors?—I should say certainly by the non-resident proprietors, for the same reason, that they have more ample funds at their disposal. I ought to state that at the time the contracts were disallowed by Government in 1838 there was a voluntary association formed in Demerara by the inhabitants, by which they agreed to import people for their mutual benefit; they did import a good many at their own expense, and there were many imported by private enterprise also.

12399. Up to the year 1838 had the importations taken place at the expense of private individuals or at the expense of the island?—I think at the expense of private individuals. I cannot speak positively as to that point.

12400. Mr. *Labouche*.] Are you quite sure that the measure you alluded to with regard to contracts in 1838 had a retrospective effect with regard to the contracts which had been already entered into?—I do not think that I said so.

12401. You do not mean to imply that that ordinance had a retrospective effect in cancelling contracts already made?—It would cancel the contracts that were being made about the time that the Order in Council was passed, which was the 3d of September 1838.

12402. *Chairman*.] In 1838 it appears that the immigration extended to 1,910 persons, and in consequence of that Order in Council immigration fell the following year to 192?—Yes, and for two years there were very few imported I think.

12403. In the year 1840 there were 876?—In 1841 there was a great importation of Madeira people.

12404. How did that take place?—That was at the expense of the colony.

12405. When was the Order in Council renewed that gave permission to the colonists to enter upon contracts out of the colony again?—That has never taken place so as to come into operation yet, except in the United Kingdom.

12406. How do you account for this enormous importation in 1841?—The planters were impelled by necessity to bring them even without binding them by any contracts.

12407. Will you proceed with your statement?—I have gone through all the documents I brought with me.

12408. What are the remedies which you have to suggest on behalf of the colony?—Protection; the colonists complain very much, and with great reason, that the Sugar Duty Bill of 1846 has caused the grievances brought about by the Emancipation Act to fall upon them with increased severity by depreciating their produce 40 per cent.; they wish to have protection against the slave sugar grower and immigration from Africa. They have been at vast expense to import people from India, from Madeira, and all parts where they could be obtained; and I am sorry to say that they have not benefited to the extent which they had reason to hope they should.

12409. Is that because the expense of the importation of coolies was so very great?—That is one reason; the expense is enormous, but they have found them much more inefficient than they expected to find them as labourers. The

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expense of bringing coolies from India, and sending them back, amounted to 150 dollars for each person.

12410. Of course the success of any scheme of immigration depends entirely upon the cheapness with which it can be carried out?—Certainly; the people may cost more than they are worth.

12411. Do you find that at the same time that those coolies are so very expensive, they are also less efficient labourers than others?—They are less efficient; the most experienced planters are of opinion, and I made it a point to converse with as many of them as possible, and also to acquire the opinions of other practical men, that they are very inferior as labourers, even to the creole population, disorganized as it is at present.

12412. Is it found that those Africans, of which it appears you have had 3,448, answer very well?—They answer very well indeed; I have heard scarcely any complaints of the Africans.

12413. And the cost of importing the African is not above one-third the cost of importing the coolie?—It is 35 dollars, or 7 l.

12414. And he does more work?—Yes, he works more continuously; in fact the imported African is a pattern now to the more civilized creole of the colony.

12415. Have you found that great inconvenience has arisen from the short contracts?—There is no doubt of it; that must be the case from the nature of the cultivation they are engaged in. With respect to immigrants, particularly if a person gets a number of them upon his estate, he requires to know how long they are to be there to regulate his cultivation by it.

12416. Is it generally thought that if the contracts were of longer duration in the first instance, that would be a great inducement to the immigrants to domicile themselves upon the estate upon which they first came?—I think it would; it would fix their habits in connexion with the estate, and their association of ideas. If the immigrants were bound by contracts of three or four years' duration, it would be much for the benefit of both the contracting parties.

12417. It would create a settled rural population?—Yes, it would promote settled habits in that way; it would promote a sort of tie between them and the proprietors of the estates; a kindly feeling.

12418. Would you propose that the planters should be at liberty to enter into contracts either in Africa, or in whatever the land was from which they might be disposed to obtain immigrants?—Certainly.

12419. The immigrant so entering into a contract should not be permitted to change his service till he had compensated the importer for the expense of bringing him over and teaching him his business?—Yes, I think that would be very fair and just, the colony advancing the money in the first place.

12420. And that the immigrant should have to rely upon his own exertions for earning for himself the means of a return passage to his native country?—I think so; the expense of returning to Africa is not so much, but that any of them can easily acquire the means of defraying it with a little industry, and in a very short time.

12421. The practical operation is this, that an immigrant coming with the certainty that he must be carried home again at the expense of the colony, or the expense of the importer, it has the effect of unsettling the mind of the immigrant, and preventing his devoting himself to such industrial labour as he otherwise might do?—I think so; he has not the same inducement to work continuously and assiduously.

12422. You think if he had to rely upon his own exertions to procure for himself a return passage home, he would be induced to labour much harder than he is induced to do at present, when he knows that whether he works hard or works lazily he must be carried home at the expense of the colony, at the end of a certain period?—No doubt of it.

12423. You think the present system is at the root of the idleness of a great many of the immigrants?—I think it is one cause of it.

12424. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Have you seen Lord Grey's last despatches upon the subject of the contracts?—I am not aware that I have.

12425. You are not able to state whether you think they will be satisfactory or not?—I have not seen them at all.

12426. Was it not the fact that the immigration which had taken place into British Guiana previous to, and in 1839, had been attended with great abuses; that

that there had been great mortality among the people?—There was a considerable mortality among the Portuguese who arrived in 1841. I am not aware of any before that.

12427. Among the coolies was not there a great mortality?—The coolies that were imported were brought in by private individuals at that time.

12428. It had become necessary to put some restrictions upon the immigration at that time, in order to guard against the recurrence of those evils?—I do not think the mortality was great among them; they suffered from ulcers.

12429. The great impulse which was given to immigration in 1841 and subsequently, arose from certain restrictions being removed, and immigrants having been brought into the colony from bounties raised by public taxation?—Yes; there was a bounty given equal to the expense of transporting them; but the most urgent motive was the want of labour.

12430. Do you believe that British Guiana would be disposed to make exertions in future to promote immigration?—I should think so; the inhabitants are perfectly convinced that their existence as a colony depends upon it.

12431. *Chairman.*] With respect to those Portuguese, you remarked that mortality took place in the year 1841?—Yes, it was in the year 1841 or 1842.

12432. That was the year of the yellow fever, was not it?—The Portuguese are subject to a peculiar fever there.

12433. Governor Light at a later period reported to the Government at Home that the mortality was an epidemic which spread among all Europeans, and was not limited to the Portuguese immigrants?—Yes.

12434. That it was a casual mortality, and not one which was to be ascribed to the climate in any way?—The yellow fever prevailed among all classes about that time, and though it assumed a peculiar form with the Portuguese, there is no doubt it originated in the same state of atmosphere which produced a different modification of the disease among Europeans.

12435. The Portuguese have been found to labour very industriously, have not they?—Yes, but they do not possess the constitution which Africans have; there is no class of people I have seen in the West Indies by any means so well adapted as the African for field labour under the sun.

12436. The avarice of the Portuguese induces them to labour even beyond their strength, does not it?—Very generally; and the same passion prevents them from buying necessary food to support themselves; they are very inadequately fed; and any person may see, from the bloodless state of their lips, and the want of blood generally in their appearance, that this is the case; when they do get ill, the whole expense of nourishing them falls upon the proprietor with whom they are working; they will do nothing for themselves.

12437. It has been stated that several ships arrived with Portuguese, and not a single man was lost on board?—That has happened in more instances than one.

12438. Of the 57,000 Irish emigrants who went out to Canada last year, 6,000 perished upon the voyage; have you ever heard anything like that in Demerara?—I am happy to say we have not.

12439. Can you state what the rate of wages has been in Demerara?—The rate of wages latterly has been higher than was fixed by the tariff of 1838, which was pretty much on the same scale as that which was agreed upon at the beginning of the apprenticeship.

12440. What was that rate?—The task was then fixed at a guilder, which is 1 s. 4 d.

12441. What is it now?—It is now 1 s. 8 d. I must be understood to speak of the wages of men of the strongest class; the wages of women have been 4 d. less, because their work was generally of a lighter nature; they are engaged in weeding chiefly; if they cut canes, or do the same work in any way which men do, they get the same wages. There is another class of labourers, which has been for some years a very numerous one, as compared with the rest, I mean the free settlers; they get an additional 4 d. above the rest; if they are women, they get 4 d. more than the women located upon the estates, and if they are men, they get 4 d. more than the men who are settled upon the estates.

12442. What is the reason of that?—On account of their having no houses from the proprietor with whom they work; that class has become very numerous, and some of the greatest evils, I think, may be traced to its increase.

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12443. Do you find that the women work as well as the men?—In general they do, I think.

12444. That being the case, in any future importation of immigrants, the colonists would have no objection to be put under an obligation to import as many women as men from the coast of Africa?—None whatever, if they could procure them; I apprehend there is more difficulty in procuring women than men, which is the reason why immigrants have had fewer of that sex among them.

12445. Evidence has been given by Commander Matson, that it is much more easy to obtain women than men from the southern parts of Africa?—We have only had hitherto a small proportion of Africans in our immigration lists; the Hill Coolies in India travel for work without their women.

12446. The colony of Demerara has come to the settled conviction that it cannot answer to import coolies?—I think so; it appears to be the general opinion.

12447. When did you leave the colony?—On the 18th of January last.

12448. That was after Mr. Barkly and others had endeavoured to reduce the wages?—It was while a general attempt was under operation to reduce the wages.

12449. With what success had that attempt been attended?—It had failed entirely up to the time I came away, and down to the 4th of February, which is the date of the latest newspaper I have seen. I do not think there are any later accounts. The following is an extract from that newspaper: "We cannot report any improvement in commercial affairs; every branch of business having been almost at a stand still, very few estates are at work, and the labourers seem determined not to accept of the reduced rate of wages offered. Several megass logies have been burnt down, and no one doubts the cause having been wilful." There is also a proclamation of the Governor, offering 1,000 dollars reward for evidence that may lead to the conviction of any person who has been engaged in those incendiary acts. I had put into my hands yesterday, while I was in attendance upon the Committee, a petition from the inhabitants regarding the state of the colony, from which, if the Committee will allow me, I will read a few paragraphs. It is, "The humble petition of the proprietary body and others dependent on the successful cultivation of the plantations in British Guiana," and is addressed to "The Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled." The petitioners say, "That only a very short time has elapsed since your petitioners and others of their fellow colonists addressed your Honourable House by petition, setting forth the distress which pressed so heavily upon them, and threatened to involve them and the colony at large in ruin, unless their prayer for remedial measures was promptly granted by the British Parliament." This alludes to a petition which was sent home in November last. "That since the said petition was forwarded for presentation to your Honourable House, the state of the colony has become highly alarming, and your petitioners emphatically declare, portends at no distant period a dissolution of the bonds by which society is held together. That your petitioners felt that whilst they had in their petition claimed the support of Parliament to alleviate their sufferings, it was nevertheless incumbent on themselves to endeavour, by an equitable mode of proceeding towards the agricultural peasantry, still further to lessen the cost of production, in order to palliate, in some measure, the disadvantage of their position in having to compete, for the present, with the staple products of slave labour. That with this object in view, your petitioners commenced with diminishing the salaries of the staff of the plantations, which being composed of persons sensible of the distressed condition of their employers, willingly acquiesced in the measure as one of paramount necessity, and following up this course of proceeding, proposed to the agricultural population a reduced scale of wages for the tasks hitherto performed, or a continuation of the old rates of remuneration for an increased quantity of work, based upon the tariff sanctioned by the late Governor, Sir J. C. Smith, for 7½ hours per day. That although your petitioners have, at a vast expense, brought into use every practicable auxiliary power to manual labour which mechanical invention or science could suggest, short of thorough drainage and the use of the plough (the latter being altogether dependent in this colony upon the costly

costly introduction of the former), and notwithstanding several of the manufacturing operations are rendered less laborious by the use of some of those mechanical powers to the persons employed about the sugar works, and also notwithstanding the wages offered by your petitioners are still beyond what the present prices of sugar and other staple products in the home markets warrant, your petitioners regret to say that their offers have been met by the labourers with a decided refusal, and at this moment an almost total cessation from field labour has taken place; the few estates which have any field or manufacturing operations going on, procure it only from immigrant Portuguese and coolies, together with a few of the staff of the properties, and even they are performing it irregularly under fear of encountering the hostility of the creole population, who are systematically practising a course of intimidation. That since the Christmas just passed, several fires have taken place of megass logies, whereby those costly and indispensable buildings have, with their large stocks of fuel for manufacturing the product of the estates, been entirely consumed; and from the fact of no manufacturing operations being carrying on at the time on any of the estates where the fires have occurred, and also the remarkable circumstance of their taking place at such a crisis as the present, and in such unparalleled rapid succession, as well as from other circumstances elicited through magisterial investigation, there is little doubt of their being the work of incendiarism. It is awful to contemplate the state of this fine colony at this eventful crisis; the temper of the labourers is soured, and they feel acutely the competition to which the produce of their labour has been exposed with that of slaves; but your petitioners have no means of shielding them from this disadvantage, although willing to share with them even more than their fair portion of the evils it has entailed, until, by respectful representations, they may be palliated, or entirely removed, through the wisdom of the British Parliament, but in the attempt to secure the temporary co-operation and submission to patient endurance of the labouring population, and to uphold the cultivation of the colony, your petitioners have entirely failed; the plantations are now, during the present rainy weather, fast running to waste; and this at a time when labour is most required to keep the cane cultivation free of grass, for the purpose of procuring a return from the soil. Your petitioners are paralysed at this state of things, unparalleled in the annals of the colony. They see their distresses and difficulties daily augmenting, and without the power, by any exertions of their own (of the want of which they have often been unjustly accused by parties ignorant of the nature of their trials), to help themselves; for if your petitioners cease to cultivate their estates, they become valueless, and run to waste; on the other hand, if they continue to cultivate them under present circumstances, they must do so with the certainty of loss."

12450. You state that up to the period of the last intelligence, the attempt to reduce wages in the colony of Demerara had entirely failed?—It has failed with the native population.

12451. Has it succeeded with the immigrant population?—There were a few employed; very few when I came away, which was on the 18th of the month; there were perhaps 10 or 12 upon each of a dozen estates at work; not more.

12452. Then had the immigrants struck work as well as the native population?—I believe what is stated in the petition did happen; that they were intimidated by the creole population.

12453. That evidence does not accord with the evidence given by Mr. Barkly, which was, that the estates had been saved to a great extent by the immigrant population?—That remains to be seen; I think the injury done to the plantations has not been so much yet, up to the latest accounts, as to ruin them.

12454. Are not the first three weeks in January the very period of crop time?—The crop is over about Christmas generally.

12455. The crop goes on all the year round, does not it?—Yes; but two-thirds of the crop at least are taken off in the last four months of the year.

12456. Is not there a large portion of the crop taken off in the month of January also?—What is left at the end of the year, and which should have been taken off in December, may remain over to January.

12457. When does the crop commence in Demerara?—They take off the canes

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canes when they attain a certain age there, if the weather is suitable at all, and in any month.

12458. What are the principal seasons for taking off the crop in Demerara?—From the 1st of September to the 1st of January.

12459. Should cane planting be going on in the month of January?—Yes.

12460. Is cane planting not going on now?—Nothing has been going on.

12461. Then the effect will be, that two years hence there will be a diminution of the crop?—There is no regular time for planting, as there is in the islands. If a field gives out and requires planting, it is planted at any season which is suitable, if the weather promises to be wet enough for the young plants.

12462. What was going on?—Weeding generally should go on, and relieving and supplying; that is, dressing the fields which have just been cut.

12463. Was the weeding abandoned, and the supplying also?—Yes; many estates, when I left the colony on the 18th, were standing just as they had been left a month before.

12464. Would the effect be to diminish the next crop?—There is no doubt of it.

12465. It would smother the young canes?—It would prevent their springing altogether.

12466. You do not agree with Mr. Barkly, in stating that the immigrant population have been of such valuable assistance?—I have not observed that in the districts where I was. Mr. Barkly was in Berbice chiefly; it may have been the case there.

12467. Mr. Barkly's evidence went to this, that the immigrants were not disposed to combine with the creoles, and thus formed a check upon the creoles?—In Demerara I am quite sure they have not been working to any extent.

12468. Do you know anything of Berbice, as well as of Demerara?—I have not been there for some time; I cannot speak from personal observation regarding Berbice; Mr. Barkly's evidence on this head, I imagine, refers to Berbice rather than Demerara. On several estates I have heard complaints of intimidation on the part of the negro population towards the Portuguese and coolies.

12469. Has the Governor's proclamation reference to Demerara or to Berbice?—To the whole colony.

12470. If no change should take place in the law, and the colonies should continue to be exposed to the competition of slave-grown sugar upon the present terms of differential duty, do you consider that the cultivation of the colony of Demerara is likely to proceed?—I do not; I consider that the planters this year, if there is no protection afforded, will throw a large proportion of the estates entirely out of cultivation.

12471. What do you call a large proportion?—I should say one third at least, and next year a third more.

12472. Do you think if the differential duty between foreign and slave-grown sugar were to be raised to 10 s. a cwt., and there were a free immigration permitted from the coast of Africa, unrestricted by any regulations preventing the planters from entering into contracts, one-third of the plantations would be thrown out of cultivation?—I beg to say, that in the one-third which I spoke of, I meant that so much will go out of cultivation this year, and there will be as much next year; and in the course of a very few years there will be no cultivation in the colony. I believe, though I am aware that I differ from a witness who has preceded me, that that amount of protection will not be sufficient to keep all the estates in cultivation in Demerara.

12473. What protection would you think sufficient to keep all the estates in cultivation?—It would require a protection equal to the difference between the present cost of production and the cost of production during the time of slavery; and I think that is the fairest way of putting it, because it is against slave-grown sugar that we have to contend now.

12474. Have you any statement showing what the cost of production in British Guiana during slavery was, and what it is now?—Except regarding the result upon a small estate of my own, I have none; but I believe the evidence before the Committee will show that the expense of cultivation during slavery was little more than 6 s. a cwt., after deducting the value of the rum, while it is

now

now more than 20*s.* My own experience goes to prove that the expense was about 6*s.* 5*d.* during the time of slavery, and that it is now 23*s.* I should say, that taking the difference between the cost of the two periods, 15*s.* would be a fair protection.

12475. You think nothing short of 15*s.* would be of any use?—I believe 10*s.* would keep in cultivation the larger and more fertile estates. It must be observed, that the most fertile estates are generally the largest, they having been extended on account of their fertility, and they have immense advantages in regard to the cost of production; it is always much smaller, and must necessarily be so upon a large estate; for if the return is larger from a given quantity of land and a given amount of labour, the cost of production must be less in the same proportion, while the expense of wear and tear, and of managers, overseers, &c. is not much greater.

12476. Do you think that the being allowed free access to the coast of Africa would make a considerable difference in aid of that differential duty?—I do; without immigration I do not think any protection short of prohibition would give us the means of competing with slave-growing countries. I believe without African immigration we could not continue to raise any considerable quantity of produce; and after it has been in full operation for a few years, protection may be withdrawn.

12477. Mr. *Labouche*.] You have stated that you conceive that a protection of 15*s.* a cwt. would enable the cultivation of sugar to proceed in British Guiana, provided you had at the same time access to a supply of labour from Africa?—Yes.

12478. Do you mean that that protection should be for a time, or permanent?—I would say for 10 years, until immigration should be fully and freely established, in fact.

12479. You would wish it to be guaranteed for 10 years?—Yes.

12480. That would be a protection against the slave-labour of foreign countries?—Yes.

12481. Should you be afraid of the competition of other countries which are not cultivated by slave labour?—I should say we should not by any means be so much afraid of them as of the competition with Porto Rico, Cuba, and Brazil. I am aware that Java has been brought forward as an instance of the successful competition of free labour with slave labour, but I cannot admit that it is a decisive instance; during the 20 years Java increased so much in its production, that is, from 20,000 tons a year to upwards of 70,000 tons a year, if we look to Cuba, Porto Rico, Brazil, and the southern states of North America, we shall find that the increase in those places has been as great in proportion as in Java; the increase in the production of slave sugar during that time has been from 300,000 to 400,000 tons; the increase in the production of foreign free-labour sugar has been only 50,000. From this I infer that, the market being the same to which both sorts were admissible, slave-grown sugar has been more remunerative as a species of cultivation, even without considering the peculiar system, almost coercive, in use in Java.

12482. You would require a protection against all foreign sugar, with a higher protection against that foreign sugar which is produced in countries where slave labour obtains?—Certainly. I think we should not require the same amount of protection against Java.

12483. You are aware, probably, that those foreign countries which Parliament has determined to be free-labour countries at present, produce more sugar than they consume themselves, or than they are able to send to the British markets?—I do not hear the question distinctly; am I to understand it to mean that foreign free-labour sugar is produced equal to the consumption of the United Kingdom.

12484. Hitherto they have always produced more sugar than they have consumed themselves, or than we have taken from them, and consequently there has remained a surplus which they have been obliged to send to the European markets, where it has met with Cuban and Brazilian sugar, and successfully competed with it?—Yes, that is certainly the case; it has competed with slave-grown sugar upon the continent.

12485. If that be the case, do not you think it is probable, if we continue to receive the foreign sugar which is raised in those countries, any difference which might be made in the duty upon the importation of foreign free labour

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and foreign slave-labour sugar, would be merely nominal, and would have no practical effect in giving additional protection to the British colonists?—I do not think those free-labour cultivating countries will continue to produce the same quantity in competition with slave countries. I think the slave-importing countries will put them down.

12486. You look forward to a diminished produce in those countries?—Yes.

12487. Are you able to say what rate of protection you would require against foreign sugar, which is not the produce of slave labour?—I have not thought upon that question.

12488. When you say that you think the British colonist has a claim to unrestricted access to the coast of Africa, with a view of obtaining the negro labourers, you would probably allow that that should be given with any precautions which are necessary to prevent the recurrence of anything like the slave trade?—Certainly; I do not think there can be any risk of that; it implies a continuance of slavery after they are brought to the British West Indies, which is impossible.

12489. You would allow that any precautions which are necessary to prevent a trade arising, which might encourage any internal slave trade in Africa, would be highly desirable?—Certainly; I think a great deal might be done by treaties, by subsidising the chiefs.

12490. You would not consider it to be an unfair interference on the part of the mother country that we should insist upon any immigration from Africa to the West Indies being conducted under such regulations as shall effectually prevent the recurrence of any slave trade, either internal or external?—Certainly not, if the regulations for that purpose are properly carried into effect, without being so carried into effect as to amount to a prohibitory check.

12491. You only desire to have such access to the coast of Africa, and such power of procuring labourers there, as shall secure you the service of labourers who are really willing to come, and shall not have the effect, directly or indirectly, of encouraging any slave traffic whatever?—Certainly. I observe Captain Denman says he thinks a great deal might be done by treaties with the chiefs; and I believe by paying them for the loss they would sustain by the stoppage of their trade, much might be done towards effecting that object, and in suppressing the slave trade.

12492. Has the importation of labourers into British Guiana hitherto had the effect of lowering the rate of wages?—It has not; indeed wages have risen in the face of all the immigration we have had.

12493. Do you believe that a further immigration would necessarily have the effect of diminishing the rate of wages?—I think if we procured the necessary number of people from Africa, it must have that effect to a certain extent.

12494. If some of the estates in Demerara, as you anticipate, are thrown out of cultivation, there will be more labourers available for the cultivation of those that remain?—Yes.

12495. Would not that have the same effect, do you conceive, as an additional importation of labourers?—I do not think it would; it would imply an immense loss to the planters and the colonies; a great many estates must necessarily be sacrificed, and I do not think those which remained could continue to compete successfully with the slave-cultivating people at Cuba, unless they have a stream of immigration from Africa.

12496. Supposing the plan you suggest were adopted, and a protecting duty of 15 s. were guaranteed to the colony for 10 years, and immigration into the colony were encouraged and stimulated in every manner, do you anticipate that the cultivation of sugar would be considerably extended in British Guiana under those circumstances?—That would depend altogether upon the number of people; a good many would be required to restore the abandoned lands, which have been already withdrawn from cultivation; but there is an ample field in Demerara for the cultivation of many articles besides sugar if the population were equal to it.

12497. Do not you think it probable, under the circumstances you have mentioned, that the sugar cultivation would be extended in Demerara?—It would be extended if there were a number of people sufficient for it.

12498. If that were extended the rate of wages would soon rise to be as high as they are at present, would not it?—I do not think that would follow as a necessary

necessary consequence; the planters have been exposed to many different evils, which probably raised the rate of wages; the price of sugar rose very high in 1839 and 1840, which I think gave occasion to the first rise of wages, along with the increasing and growing necessity for additional labour.

12499. Supposing for ten years this policy were pursued, and sugar planting became a very prosperous trade in British Guiana, and the cultivation were extended, and an artificial system were built up, of that kind, should not you be apprehensive that if at the end of those ten years this protection were withdrawn or greatly reduced, there would be very great ruin in the colony?—I do not think there would be the slightest risk of it; that would imply an immense accession of people to the present population, which I do not consider we have any chance of obtaining.

12500. You stated that 6*s.* 5*d.* was the expense of raising a cwt. of sugar during the period of slavery in Demerara?—I said that was the average on my own property, during the last four years of slavery.

12501. Does that calculation mean the mere money payments you made, or does it include all the contingent expenses which a condition of slavery necessarily involves?—It includes all the expenses of the estate, deducting the value of the rum.

12502. Does it include the interest of the purchase-money of the slaves, for instance, and the cost of maintaining them in sickness?—No.

12503. It includes none of those expenses?—No, except the cost of maintaining them in sickness, which is always part of the contingent expenses of an estate, and of course is comprehended in my estimate of them.

12504. You mean the mere money payment?—Yes; and in calculating the cost of production of the latter years during freedom I do not make any allowance for interest.

12505. You state you have reason to believe that the fires which have taken place in Demerara were incendiary fires?—That is the general impression; I believe there is too much foundation for it.

12506. Has the general conduct of the negro population in Demerara been orderly, or the contrary?—There is no doubt the calendar of crime has been larger since the year 1838.

12507. Do you concur in the opinion, that though there may be reason to believe that those incendiary fires were the work of ill-disposed persons, yet they were the acts of a few individuals, and are not evidence of the general disposition of the negro population?—I would not say the general disposition of the people was so bad as that. At present they are under a state of excitement, and under delusion, and very probably they form extravagant ideas of the state of affairs; they are naturally very suspicious, and they do not take the statements of the planters as matter of fact, when they tell them they cannot afford to give the same wages on account of the low price of sugar.

12508. Have they generally shown a disposition for something beyond the mere necessities of life, and consequently a wish to get money wages to enable them to purchase things of that description?—There is a great disposition among them to drink rum and to spend their money upon it. I do not think their tastes are so refined as to desire finer liquor yet; they do not care for wine. There is also a considerable quantity of gin and brandy consumed by them. They have also evinced a disposition to hoard money, either for some definite purpose or for the pleasure of keeping it, as a very considerable amount in notes was produced by them when a sort of panic prevailed regarding the banks lately, and presented to be cashed.

12509. Do they wish for such things as fine dress?—The women like fine dress, but that is only on certain occasions; they lay out their earnings on it to some extent.

12510. Have they shown any disposition to provide good furniture for their houses?—The free settlers have shown some taste in that respect, but not the general body of the labourers.

12511. Mr. *Goulburn.*] Do you apprehend if there were a free intercourse between the coast of Africa and Demerara, it would tend to increase the slave trade?—Certainly not.

12512. Do you think, on the other hand, that a premium upon sugar grown by slaves is likely to increase the slave trade?—I think so decidedly; I think

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we have had sufficient proof of that in the immense number imported into Brazil lately.

12513. Does your reason for requiring an additional population in Demerara arise from a desire of extending cultivation, or to supply the deficiency of labour which is now given by persons in a state of freedom?—To supply the deficiency of labour between past and present times caused by the Emancipation Act.

12514. What proportion does the labour now given by a person in a state of freedom bear to the labour which was formerly given by a slave?—That is a difficult question to answer; the quality of the labour is so much deteriorated now that it is difficult to tell what its real amount should be. When a man is in the field, I should say he does not do more than half the work he did during the time of slavery; I can only speak with reference to the time he is in the field; there are many who do not work more than one day in the week, and some not one day in the month.

12515. To put the working population on a par with what it was before, a large importation would be necessarily required?—A large importation.

12516. You have stated that a considerable number of estates will necessarily go out of cultivation unless some relief be afforded. Do you apprehend that the persons employed upon those estates will be transferred to the other estates which remain in cultivation?—I think it is probable that a large portion of them might go there, the most industrious of them.

12517. And you think the proprietors of better circumstanced estates have capital sufficient to employ a considerable addition to the number of labourers now employed, at the present rates?—It would depend upon the price of sugar.

12518. Assuming the price of sugar to remain as it is now?—I do not think there would be any inducement to the proprietors to employ many of them at the present price of sugar. It would afford them the means of keeping their cultivation in better order, and so far it would bring labour to approximate to what it was during the time of slavery.

12519. Do you think it would produce a diminution in the daily price of labour?—I do not think it would permanently to any considerable extent, because the competition with Cuba would soon force them to cease to cultivate.

12520. On what do you found that opinion?—Upon what I have stated, that the price of sugar is likely to rule low on account of the competition with slave-grown sugar, and that the planters would not be induced to extend their cultivation. Wages, in fact, would not be low enough to enable them to compete without protection.

12521. Therefore, the partial ruin of the colony, in your view, would not bring with it an improved condition of the remainder of the colony?—Not to any extent; it would improve the cultivation of those estates which might remain, but those proprietors, I consider, could not maintain a struggle against slave-grown sugar, and they would be obliged to abandon their estates too, like those who were forced to do so sooner.

12522. Is it the fact in Demerara, that the want of attentive labour subsequently to the abolition of slavery, has greatly deteriorated the quality of the produce?—I believe it has; there is no doubt it must have done so, because in the process of manufacture everything depends on attention.

12523. The free importation then of labourers from the parts of Europe from whence they could be procured would probably supply that deficiency?—It would supply that deficiency, and in a manner that would benefit the proprietary body in general, as a check upon the present idleness of the resident population.

12524. Do you see any objection to leaving the importation of Europeans perfectly unrestricted?—I do not think that there would be any objection to that if they were from a country in Europe.

12525. You are now prohibited from making contracts out of the colony with people at the Cape de Verd Islands and Madeira, for example?—We are.

12526. Does not that oppose a great obstacle to the introduction of such Europeans?—There is no doubt that it does, and it had the effect of stopping it to a great extent at one time, till the necessities of the planters forced them into the importation of those people, even without any contract or agreement.

They

They adopted the plan of entering into contracts with them after they landed, latterly, previously to the re-establishment of the bounty, which had been stopped for a few years. A ship went to Madeira: they got people there, and told them they would take them free to the colony, on condition that they entered into contracts when they arrived there to stay for a year upon the estates.

12526*. That is the way in which you evaded the regulation which prohibited the making of contracts out of the colony?—Yes; it depended entirely upon the people, whether they entered into contracts after they came. If they were at all disposed not to enter into contracts, there was no law to force them.

12527. You had only the means of recovering the passage-money from them?—That was all.

12528. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] Whom do you represent before this Committee?—I have been sent by the inhabitants of Demerara here.

12529. Do you mean that you were sent by a public meeting of which notice was given, which was composed of any number of the inhabitants who chose to come?—I believe so; there was a committee appointed by that meeting.

12530. Were there any labourers there?—I am not aware that the labourers are in the habit of attending any of our meetings.

12531. Were there any persons who represented any interest except the planters?—There were planters and merchants.

12532. Were there any others?—There would be some professional men, no doubt; it was a meeting composed of individuals who generally attend public meetings, held for purposes connected with the interests of the community.

12533. Was it a private meeting of the planters and merchants?—It was not; it was advertised as a meeting of inhabitants generally.

12534. You have stated that a good deal has been done in Demerara in reference to the improvement of the cultivation?—A great deal has been done with reference to the improvement of the manufacture of sugar, and the abridgement of the use of manual labour.

12535. So lately as the year 1834, Sir J. Carmichael Smyth, then Governor of Demerara, stated, in a despatch to the Government here, that “the introduction of the plough into more general use, as enabling the planters to cultivate more ground with a smaller number of labourers, was much to be desired, as also generally of all those improved implements of agriculture now so common in Great Britain;” has that recommendation, given so far back as 1834, been attended to and adopted?—I can say that I have seen the plough at work in Demerara in 1815, and I can say that I believe the plough has been tried on almost every estate in British Guiana; but, as has been set forth in this petition, the number of small drains which are necessary for the purpose of carrying off the water which falls in such quantities, renders the use of the plough exceedingly difficult; it becomes so laborious for the cattle as to destroy a great many of them, and it has been altogether abandoned upon one estate after another. For that reason the planters are very anxious to introduce under drainage, which would render those surface drains unnecessary, but they have not the funds requisite.

12536. Sir J. Carmichael Smyth also says, in reference to the soil, that it is inexhaustible, both in quality and in quantity; supposing you get this increase of population, and are enabled to lower the wages, do not you think that the old colonies will want to be protected against you, and that they ought to be also?—That implies an accession of labourers of which I can form no idea; all the planters desire now is to have people sufficient to keep the fields which they have in cultivation in proper order; and if afterwards they can get sufficient labour in addition to that, to bring back those fields into cultivation which have been abandoned since the era of perfect freedom (1838); that is the utmost extent of their wishes.

12537. You admit that the quality of the soil is extremely fine in Demerara?—It is very rich; a great deal of it is very much exhausted by long cultivation; but the virgin soil is very rich.

12538. Do not you think that those natural advantages which you possess, and which the old colonies do not possess, give them a claim for protection against you?—I cannot give an answer to that question, but as to the foreign colonies, I believe the soil of Cuba is in every respect as rich as that of Demerara.

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12539. The question has reference to the English colonies which have not the natural advantages that you possess?—They have labour infinitely cheaper than we are likely to have it in Demerara; I am sure we shall never have wages at 4 *d.* a day, as they are in Antigua; nor 8 *d.* or 9 *d.*, as they are in Barbadoes.

12540. You said that you thought the compensation given to you was quite inadequate?—It was.

12541. What do you suppose the income derived from the estates in British Guiana was?—It is impossible for me to answer that.

12542. Can you give an approximation?—I cannot; I consider there could be no better proof of the value of that property, than the price which the slaves upon it bore for eight years preceding the appraisal, which was made by order of the Government. The average price of those eight years, regulated the fixing of the price for the distribution of the Compensation Fund.

12543. Was not it a fair market price for the property, if you received 10 years' purchase of the net income?—I never heard of an estate being sold in that manner; it was only 8 *s.* in the pound for the slaves, while the estates were left to be sacrificed without a semblance of compensation.

12544. Have you never seen any calculation, to show that the value of West Indian property was fairly obtained, if from 10 to 12 years' purchase of the net income were obtained?—I can give no opinion upon that subject at all; I cannot conceive that there could be anything fairer than the appraisal of the slaves, as directed by the Act of Parliament; that was the price actually paid for the eight preceding years for those slaves.

12545. You have written upon the subject of the distress in British Guiana, have not you?—Yes; I wrote a pamphlet last year.

12546. Did you obtain any grant from the Court of Policy for that publication?—Yes, I did; the court was kind enough to award me 1,000 dollars for it.

12547. Is it your opinion that the present relation and understanding that exists between the labourers and their employers might be placed upon a better footing?—I believe the local legislature, and all the principal people in the colony, have been engaged on that subject for many years back, without being able to arrive at any remedy which they consider would be successful; I do not consider there is anything wrong in the administration of justice. The planters complained very much of the decisions of the stipendiary magistrates, for the first few years after they were established; but I am happy to say we have a different class now, and their decisions are generally satisfactory.

12548. Are they satisfactory to all classes?—They are; I believe the labouring population have perfect confidence in them.

12549. Mr. Villiers.] You made a mistake, did not you, with respect to the manner of regulating contracts made out of the colony; you stated that no contracts could be made with any people either in Europe or Africa?—I said that except in this country, they could not, and that was permitted only some time after 1838.

12550. Cannot they be made with any European people?—The only two places where they can be made are within the bounds of the colony of British Guiana, or within the United Kingdom.

12551. You believe that contracts cannot be made with any European nation except our own?—Not out of this country.

12552. Mr. Moffatt.] You stated that the inhabitants of British Guiana complain of the extension of the taxation; can you inform the Committee by whom that taxation is imposed?—By the combined Assembly; the Court of Policy combined with the financial representatives.

12553. Who originates the suggestions for taxation?—The estimate is framed by the Court of Policy, and is then laid before the combined Assembly when it meets, which it does once a year, to decide on the items of the estimate, they being discussed *seriatim*, and afterwards to arrange the mode in which the taxes for the amount passed in the estimate are to be levied.

12554. Then the initiative does not rest with the financial representatives?—No, with the Court of Policy.

12555. It is not laid separately before the financial representatives for their consideration apart from the combined Assembly?—No.

12556. Do the two bodies sit in the same chamber?—Yes.

12557. And at the same period?—Yes.

12558. Then for legislative purposes they are but one body?—They are one body.

12559. How are the financial representatives appointed?—By the votes of the inhabitants.

12560. What number do they consist of?—Six; the Court of Policy consists of ten.

12561. Consequently, the Court of Policy can ordinarily outnumber the financial representatives when it comes to a general vote?—Supposing the members of the Court of Policy are of one opinion; the Court of Policy consists of five official members, and five colonial members, five proprietors of the colony, and five members *ex officio*.

12562. Who appoints the members of the Court of Policy?—The colonial members are appointed to the Court by the College of Kiezers, a body established by the Dutch in former times for the purpose of nominating two persons eligible to the Court of Policy, one of whom must be selected by the Court for the vacancy.

12563. That was done in the time of the Dutch?—Yes.

12564. Who nominates the members of the court now?—It is done in the same way; it is this College of Kiezers who make the nomination.

12565. Who constitutes the College of Kiezers?—They are elected by the votes of the inhabitants.

12566. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Have the official and the unofficial members of the Court of Policy differed upon questions of expenditure?—They have, at different times; at one time, particularly, a difference arose after the Order in Council of 1838; the Immigration Ordinance framed in the year 1840 by the Court of Policy was disallowed by the Home Government, and in consequence of that the combined Assembly refused to vote the annual supplies, Government was obliged to get Sir Henry Macleod, the Governor of Trinidad, to come up and settle the dispute, which he did.

12567. Those were differences rather upon policy than mere money questions, were not they?—The combined Assembly withheld the supplies; it would not grant the civil list.

12568. Was that because they thought the civil list extravagant, or because they differed from the policy of Government?—Doubtless some acrimony arose out of the disputes between the two parties, and a great deal of dissatisfaction was created by the Government by this Order in Council of which I have been speaking. In January 1841 Sir Henry Macleod came, and settled the dispute, but the supplies were withheld because the colonists could not obtain their Immigration Ordinance.

12569. Mr. *Moffatt*.] Do the financial representatives generally acquiesce in the expenditure, which you describe as being very extravagant?—Certainly; they are part of the Court.

12570. It is not their habit to protest against the imposition of this heavy taxation?—They are the persons who impose the tax; they are quite sensible, along with the great body of the Court, that the extraordinary increase in the public expenditure has arisen out of the evils of the time; that it has all arisen out of the operation of the Emancipation Act, and the altered state of the population.

12571. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Is the money chiefly raised by customs' duties, or by direct taxation?—It is raised by import duties, and by rum duties, chiefly.

12572. Mr. *Goulburn*.] There is a duty on all produce exported, is not there?—Not exported; there is a return made for the purpose of taxation, and a duty of one per cent. levied upon all the produce of the colony, and on all incomes above 300 dollars.

12573. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Is there any land-tax of any kind?—No. The estimate last year was 1,100,000 dollars; the import duties are calculated to produce 376,000 dollars, or 76,000 *l.*; the spirit and cordial duties 17,000 *l.*; the duties on bottled wines 6,200 *l.*; retail spirit licences, those are licences paid for by the men who retail spirits to the labouring population chiefly, 15,500 *l.*; and the duties on rum consumed within the colony amount to 33,000 *l.*

12574. Mr. *Moffatt*.] There are considerable taxes on the importation of food, are not there?—I do not consider that they are high; they have been

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2½ per cent., except the duties on enumerated articles. The duty upon those articles which are not enumerated was only 2½ per cent. till last year, when the great exigencies of the colony demanded that it should be raised to four per cent.

12575. Is there any large quantity of food imported?—There is a great quantity.

12576. What proportion of the quantity consumed is imported?—All the salt fish, which is, with plantains, the staple food of the negroes, is imported; they have it very cheap, about 2*d.* a pound; rice pays a duty of 2*s.* per 100 lbs., and fish the same.

12577. You do not think the taxes upon provisions press heavily upon the people?—I do not.

12578. Are there not heavy licences upon the liberty to vend food in Guiana?—They are not heavy on the liberty to vend food. I think shop licences are only 16 dollars each. The spirit licences are high in town, where the population is dense.

12579. You stated that the colony was in great financial embarrassment?—It is in great embarrassment just now.

12580. Is it the fact that last year the Court of Policy voted the sum of 10,000 dollars for the erection of an ice-house?—I think they voted 5,000 dollars, chiefly on account of the extent to which its use is now carried in fever.

12581. Can you give the Committee any information respecting the charges upon estates encumbered by mortgages?—I am not aware of any peculiar charges with respect to those estates; they are obliged to send the produce to the house which lends the money, and they pay interest on the money advanced to them at six per cent., with the usual charges on sales of produce.

12582. What quantity of African labour do you think would be necessary to make British Guiana a flourishing colony?—That is a question upon which I should not like to give a decided answer.

12583. Are you prepared to state from what funds you would propose to provide that immigration?—I cannot say just now; but I think the credit of the colony would be restored if Government were to afford us protection, and allow us a reasonable scheme of immigration from Africa.

12584. Who do you suppose should pay for that supply of labour?—We have raised money by loan before; if our credit were restored, I do not see why we should not do it again; at the present moment the legislators find themselves unequal to meet the expenditure. They propose to make a reduction in the civil list, and before I left the colony they had intimated publicly that they would propose a reduction of 25 per cent. upon all fixed salaries. It was understood that the opinion of the Imperial Government was to be taken upon the subject of the civil list.

12585. What saving would that have effected?—The salaries are now about 70,000 *l.*; that would be a saving of about 18,000 *l.*

12586. *Chairman.*] You have stated that there are five independent members of the Court of Policy, and five members in the pay of the colonial government?—There are five official members of the Court of Policy, and five colonial members.

12587. Then they are even?—Yes, but the Governor has a casting vote; the Governor, the Government secretary, the chief justice, the attorney-general, and the collector of customs, are the members *ex officio*. In the combined Assembly, the financial representatives and the colonial members of the Court of Policy conjoined constitute a majority of 11 out of 16 in favour of the colony.

12588. You stated that the revenue of the colony was 1,100,000 dollars?—That was the estimate of last year.

12589. Have you any estimate of the value of the produce of the island; is it 3,500,000 dollars; is not the revenue of the colony equal to one-third of the whole exported produce?—I have formed no estimate of the value of produce exported.

Mr. *Henry Nebbs Browne*, called in; and Examined.

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12590. Mr. *Villiers*.] WHAT is your business?—I am a sugar refiner.

12591. You have been in the habit, for some years past, of frequenting the sugar market?—Upwards of 20 years.

12592. At Mincing-lane?—Yes.

12593. Will you give the Committee some account of the manner in which sugars are sold at that market?—In all my answers to the various questions which may be put to me, I disclaim all intention of alluding to any particular individual, or any particular firm, but I mean to speak very freely of the pernicious system which prevails; a system based upon immemorial custom, and which requires the high power of this court to remove. Many individuals have attempted it, and have not succeeded. The plan pursued is this: a man who ships sugar in the West Indies, be he the agent or attorney, or the proprietor himself, writes a letter to his consignee here, sending the bill of lading. When the ship arrives in the River Thames, she goes into one of the docks. The sugar is parcelled and sampled, and laid before me as one of the buyers. I pass my judgment upon it, and give a certain price for it. In that price is included the duty, which is as much as to say that the merchant sells me the sugar, and at the same time says, "Mr. Brown, here is 1,000 *l.* to work it with." I have an account here which I extracted from a letter in the "Morning Herald," dated November 1847, signed by "A West India Planter." It begins with "Sale of 30 hogsheads of sugar; 420 cwt., sold at 73 days' credit for 37 *s.* per cwt.;" that is the duty-paid price, amounting to 777 *l.* Then come the charges: duty, 14 *s.* per cwt., 294 *l.*; freight, 5 *s.*, 105 *l.*; dock due, 8 *d.* per cwt., 14 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.*; primage and peage entry stamps, 1 *l.* 7 *s.*; merchants' commission and brokerage on gross produce, 23 *l.* 6 *s.*; insurance against sea risk on 450 *l.*, at 40 *s.* per cent., 11 *l.* 18 *s.*; insurance fire in docks, 17 *s.*; guarantee against the purchaser's failure, half per cent., 3 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.*; interest on duty, dock dues and freight, 4 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*, together amounting to 458 *l.* 4 *s.* 4 *d.*, leaving the net proceeds, 319 *l.* 15 *s.* 8 *d.* In the newspaper, I beg to observe, the casting up is wrong by 10 *l.*, but I have corrected it here. The following is a form of the sample by which sugar is sold to me: the broker sends me this. "Messrs. A. B. and Co. sold Mr. Brown 1/40 40 hogsheads Demerara sugar, ex 'Nymph;' money or acceptance, if required—broker's signature." And this broker is no broker at all. A broker is bound to act on both sides, but he is nothing more than the West Indian merchant's agent. I would not allow such a man to be a witness in a case which I brought into court. I should endeavour to make him one of the parties; he is an agent. Brokerage implies that the buyer and seller should equally contribute towards the commission, but when it is paid wholly upon one side, it is evident that he is an agent of the party. With respect to the guarantee of half per cent., I may be told that the form of this is "money or acceptance if required;" but if the merchant sent to me to know if I had money in my hand, it is like putting a pistol to my head and demanding my money. I should lose my credit if I did not give it, and then he may charge half per cent. though the money is paid. How the system originated of charging the commission on the duty-paid price I cannot tell; it arose a great many years ago and it may be that in those days there were no docks, and the ships having to come into the river, the merchants had a great deal to do with the sugars, and perhaps 2½ per cent. might hardly requite them. Then half per cent. is given to the broker. It is a very good business that gives 10 per cent. profit; this is 3 per cent. upon the gross return, and if the profit is 10 per cent., it is equal to 30 per cent. upon the profit, or one-third of the profit.

12594. This is the invariable practice, you say?—It is invariable.

12595. Is it the practice as much with respect to foreign sugar as colonial sugar?—At times foreign sugar is sold duty paid, but I should say the bulk is generally sold without duty. If it is foreign sugar for a foreign purchaser, and so forth, they will sell it at the short price, because the foreigner would not have to pay the duty; but if it is sold in the home market it is very likely the party who has the sugar will pay the duty.

12596. How is it with respect to Mauritius sugar?—It is always sold duty paid.

12597. This is all added to the price of the sugar?—Of course.

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12598. What is the case with the East Indian sugars?—They are sold by public auction at the long price; they used to be sold at the short price in London before the alteration while they belonged to the East India Company.

12599. Do you know anything about the practice in other ports, such as Bristol or Liverpool?—No.

12600. Do you believe that larger weights of sugar are sold by public than by private sales?—Decidedly I should, that two hundredweight are sold by public auction where one hundredweight is sold by private sale.

12601. Is there any difference in the price whether it is sold by public or private sale?—I should think that the party would get less for his sugar, because he would have to pay the interest upon the duty he had lent to the buyer if it were sold privately.

12602. Are the public sales conducted at the ex-duty price?—No.

12603. You would say that public sale is the rule, and private sale the exception?—I should say so.

12604. Then it is for the benefit of the planter to sell by public sale?—I think so, decidedly.

12605. What commission is usually charged upon the sale of sugar?—Two-and-a-half per cent. by the merchant, and one-half per cent. by the broker, making three per cent. together, besides one-half per cent. guarantee for the goodness of the debt.

12606. That includes the duty?—Yes.

12607. Do you know how much is sold altogether, and what the commission amounts to?—I suppose the return of an estate would be enormous; the net profit need not be so large. People grumble very much at the three per cent. of the income tax, but that is upon the net profit. This would amount to 30 per cent., supposing a man makes 10 per cent. by his business.

12608. Have you any idea how much is sold in this way, and what the amount of commission would be?—I do not know what the whole amount of commission would be.

12609. What would 250,000 tons at 35 *l.* a ton be?—£. 8,750,000.

12610. It would be three per cent. upon that amount?—Yes.

12611. Have you calculated what that would be?—I make it upon the duty, 105,000 *l.*

12612. What is the whole amount paid for commission?—About 262,000 *l.*

12613. Do you believe that parties equally responsible with those now employed could be found to manage the importation and sale of sugar for a less remuneration than that now charged?—Decidedly; every bit as responsible, and parties who know the market a great deal better; I allude to the Mincing-lane brokers. A broker would undertake the importation of the sugar, the management of it, and the sale of it, for one per cent. upon the ex-duty price; he does so upon all other articles; I believe sugar is the only exception.

12614. You speak from your own experience in connexion with the sale of sugar?—Yes.

12615. Do you know why persons do not employ brokers at one per cent., instead of paying the merchants three per cent.?—Because, if the broker sought the proprietor, the merchant who employs the broker in other matters would abandon him altogether, and therefore the proprietor must seek the broker, in order that the broker may be safe, and then the merchant will not quarrel with his broker, because a man called upon him and said, "Will you manage my business at one per cent.?" but he would if the broker were to go and seek it, because he might interfere with the connexions of some other merchants.

12616. It would be a transaction then between the proprietor and the broker without the intervention of the merchant?—Yes.

12617. What do you understand to be the reason why that does not take place?—The broker is held in such thralldom by the merchant, that he dare not go in search of a connexion of that kind; but if the connexion happen to go to the broker, the merchant could not find any good reason to quarrel with him.

12618. Do you mean that the broker is held in thralldom?—Exactly.

12619. That applies to some brokers, but not to all?—To all, I think; the merchant has such power over the broker; the broker gets his livelihood through him.

12620. Do

12620. Do you know any instance of a proprietor seeking a broker, and getting his sugar sold at one per cent. ?—Yes; not at one per cent. ex-duty price, but at one per cent. long price. In that case the proprietor would have to send out all his own supplies to the estate.

12621. He must be his own merchant ?—Perhaps the broker for another half per cent. would do that; but the proprietor would get the large discount allowed by the various tradesmen who supply the goods. In tallowchandling, and that sort of thing, there is, perhaps, 12 per cent. discount allowed for ready money, which the proprietor has not an opportunity of giving, but the merchant may.

12622. Are the Committee to understand that that is not carried to the account of the proprietor ?—I cannot say that.

12623. But it is a discount which those tradespeople allow to the merchants ?—Yes.

12624. You do not consider that there is any insuperable difficulty in the way of changing the system ?—It is only the custom in the market.

12625. But it would be possible to get the sugar sold, and the affair managed at a lower per-centage commission than is paid now ?—Decidedly.

12626. You said you were a sugar refiner ?—I am.

12627. Do you believe it would be possible to mix together fine foreign sugar, which now commands the highest rate of duty, and colonial muscovado, in such a manner that the officer would be unable to detect the presence of the former, and consequently the whole mixture would, to the injury of the revenue, be admitted at the lowest rate of duty charged on colonial sugar ?—Decidedly; I think fine white Havannahs might be mixed with low muscovados from the British West Indies, and passed by the officer as muscovado. Where that mixture would take place is another affair; but we have always found that when a thing will pay, it is done. When slave-labour sugar was excluded, we found in Jersey and Guernsey they were making a large quantity of succades; you would allow sugar to pass in that shape, but you would not allow it as sugar, and some active people took advantage of that. Therefore I think if they could make a couple of shillings a hundredweight by it at the expense of the revenue, it would be done.

12628. Do you know whether it is done ?—I do not know that.

12629. That has nothing to do with the present system of managing sales of sugar ?—No.

12630. Can you suggest any mode of selling sugar, by which the importer would be compelled to sell it at the ex-duty price ?—I think I could; an *ad valorem* duty would be the best. I would call it an *ad valorem* duty upon sweet, taking molasses at the bottom, and double refined sugar at the top. If you were to put a per-centage upon it equal to the present 14s., keeping up the present differential duty at the same time, that would meet the justice of the case.

12631. How would you prevent fraud ?—I would do away with all private sales. It is just possible, where there is but one seller and one buyer, that there may be connivance; but by public auction, where there was one seller and many buyers, they are not so likely to connive.

12632. You would do away with private sales ?—I would.

12633. Do you think that would be of use to the revenue ?—Yes, if an *ad valorem* duty were the rule.

12634. Do you believe that parties who are entrusted to sell other persons' sugar ever deal in sugar on their own account ?—I am sure of it.

12635. Is that notorious ?—It is notorious.

12636. Have you ever considered the way in which the Navigation Law affects persons connected with the West India interest ?—I should say the stock of sugar being so immense as it is in Great Britain now, is owing very much to that law, because a man in Manilla, or at a distance, will say, "Which is the best market for me to send to in Europe?" and he comes to the determination of sending it here, because he may afterwards send it to Amsterdam if he chooses; but if he once sends it to an European port, he cannot then get it into an English port.

12637. You mean that more sugar comes to this market on that account than would otherwise come ?—If the Hamburg market was better than the

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Great Britain market, he could send it to Hamburg; but if once he imports it at Hamburg, he cannot get it here.

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12638. That does not cause more sugar to be bought in this market?—No; but to be imported, it does.

12639. Why should that increase the quantity of sugar in the market here; they are waiting to see where the best European market is?—We always look to the stock as the quantity upon the market.

12640. Though it has not paid duty?—Though it has not paid duty.

12641. Is there any expense upon reloading, which induces them to enter sugar to be brought here, which would not have been brought here otherwise?—Yes; they would not re-ship to Amsterdam under 1 s. 3 d. or 1 s. 6 d. per cwt.

12642. That is an additional inducement to bring it into the market here?—Yes; and it compels the British producer to sell at a reduced price to keep on a par with the foreign producer.

12643. You consider that, owing to the Navigation Laws, there is always a greater amount of sugar hanging over the market here than there would otherwise be?—Decidedly.

12644. What sum do the charges on British colonial sugar amount to per ton, when imported into this country from the West Indies, independent of the charge for freight?—They are generally put at something like 3 s. 6 d., and 14 s. the duty.

12645. Three shillings and sixpence are the charges, independent of duty and freight?—Yes.

12646. Do you know anything of any improvement which has taken place in colour and quality, within the last 20 years, of West India sugar?—Nothing at all; it is rather worse than better; it has been gradually going back.

12647. Is that the case with respect to Mauritius sugar?—Certainly not; I saw yesterday a sample of Mauritius sugar as fine as I could make in my refinery.

12648. Refined in the Mauritius?—Yes; if it does not come in as refined sugar, it would be admitted at 16 s. 8 d. duty; if I were to mix some of that sugar with my refined sugar, I could get a drawback of a guinea; I have shown some of the same quality from Cuba to Mr. Porter, at the Board of Trade.

12649. Is there any reason why such improvements should not take place in West India sugar?—I cannot say; I can only say that where a board of sugars is laid over, the first sample is good, and they gradually go down to bad, so that it would look as if there were great care taken in the early boiling, and none at the end; perhaps master and man go to sleep.

12650. How do you determine the quality of sugar; is there any other way than by testing?—I should say testing is the only safe way.

12651. Are any sugars imported into this country from Penang?—Yes, at a middle rate of duty; that is to say, the duty between the foreign duty and the 14 s.

12652. Does Penang produce sugar?—Yes.

12653. But it imports it also?—It will import it as a mercantile article.

12654. Do you believe that the revenue could be defrauded by the importation of cane-juice into this country?—I am inclined to think it might; I know that cane-juice would be a more costly article to import than sugar, inasmuch as it must be more bulky, and they must have tight casks; either the Crown or the refiner must pay that charge, or the consumer; it could not go into immediate consumption; the refiner would have no competitor; it would be entirely at his mercy as respects the price he chose to pay for it.

12655. The duty is taken upon the price?—When it was talked of sending cane-juice in here rather thickened, there was to be a peculiar duty fitted to this quality.

12656. The quality is various, is not it?—Very.

12657. How could it be imported with safety to the revenue?—If I were to suggest any plan, it would be by weight; we know that a gallon of water weighs 10 pounds; a gallon of treacle would weigh 14, therefore four pounds would be the sweet.

12658. Would you recommend that it should all be put up to sale by public auction?—Always.

12659. Do you believe that it would be advantageous to the West India proprietors to refine or purify sugar in the colonies?—They do not know how to make

make sugar yet, and as to refining it, it is ridiculous to talk about it; it would require double the labour that they possess, and a great deal more ingenuity.

12660. You do not believe they understand the manufacture of it?—Not the least in the world. I am obliged to take their sugar, and undo all they have done, and bring it down to a primitive state, to make a concrete of it.

12661. It would be more profitable to them if they manufactured it with more care, would not it?—Decidedly.

12662. It is one reason of their losing so much by their sugar that there is not skill and economy in the manufacture?—Decidedly. There is no waste in the sugar that comes home from the Mauritius, nor in Bengal sugar; but with West India sugar, from bad manufacture, there is a great amount of drainage.

12663. Is it not notorious in the market that that is the case?—Certainly.

12664. You were alluding to the mode in which the merchants charge the proprietor with interest upon the duty; do they charge that interest upon the duty before the amount is paid?—That I cannot say; some may and some may not. If I buy sugar, I generally buy it a month before I want it. There are merchants who, I am sure, would not charge interest upon the duty before they paid the duty, but I cannot say as to others.

12665. The proprietor would know nothing about it, would he?—No, he could not tell; the merchant merely writes out to the proprietor, "I have sold your sugar."

12666. Mr. *Goulburn*.] If the proprietor were to inquire at the custom-house, he might ascertain when the duty was paid?—Yes.

12667. Mr. *Villiers*.] Are the proprietors as vigilant as that, generally speaking?—I should think not.

12668. With respect to the custom of tradesmen supplying stores to the West India merchant for the service of the plantation, you say they invariably make an abatement or allowance in the shape of discount?—There is generally a heavy discount for ready money, and whether that is carried to the credit of the estate or not I do not know.

12669. Can you tell the Committee what is generally the practice?—Ten and 12½ per cent. I suppose in the scarcity of money lately it would be 15 per cent.

12670. Is it your opinion, as far as you have heard from persons who must know, that the merchants carry it to the employers' account, or not?—I have never looked into the accounts to see. I have had some opportunity of looking over books lately, but I have never ascertained the fact.

12671. Do you believe that the practice is for the proprietors to rely implicitly upon the merchants who act for them?—You had that proved the other day when you examined Mr. *Tollemache*. He was told by his merchants that he could not reduce his expenses; he went out and reduced them 900 *l.* a year.

12672. Mr. *Miles*.] Do you know whether this guarantee charged by the merchant is entirely optional?—I believe it is; it is not the universal practice, but it is done in some cases.

12673. The planter has only himself to blame if he asks to have a guarantee of one-half per cent. ?—Precisely.

12674. Do you know any case of that one-half per cent. guarantee being charged to the planter where the merchant had asked for the money immediately from the sugar refiner?—I think I do, but I am not clear that I could prove it.

12675. Do you think that it is usually the case?—No.

12676. You think that case was an exception?—Yes.

12677. You stated that the broker ought to be paid his commission both by buyer and seller?—Exactly.

12678. That is, that the refiner ought to pay half of it and the merchant half?—Yes.

12679. Do you apprehend that would generally be liked by the refiners and purchasers of sugar?—I should think it would by the refiners. I do not know as to the grocers; I think the refiners would prefer buying their sugar at the short price. In some instances, in buying refined sugar, the broker does charge both parties, the refiner and the buyer.

12680. What cases are those?—In the case of crushed sugar for exportation.

12681. That is a refined sugar?—It is.

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12682. It has nothing to do with the merchant?—No, they are a different class of people altogether.

12683. Do you think if a proposition were to be made by the London merchants now that this brokerage should be divided, you would find any opposition, generally speaking, on the part of the purchasers?—It depends altogether on the state of the seller; if a gentleman is independent, as Mr. Tollemache described himself to be, he would of course prefer paying one per cent. to the broker to three per cent. to the merchant; but if an unfortunate man is in debt he must get on as well as he can.

12684. That does not answer the question. If the London merchants were to come to the agreement that the payment should be divided between buyer and seller, do you think there would be any opposition on the part of the buyers?—I think there would not.

12685. You think it would be possible to establish that custom in the port of London?—Exactly.

12686. You say you think the broker would undertake to do all the business for the planter in the West Indies at one per cent.?—The management of the sale of his sugar he would, and of his other produce, but he would not export the supplies to the estate.

12687. You imagine he would require half per cent. for doing that?—He would require half per cent. for doing that.

12688. Who is to meet the planter's bills which he draws upon the produce in this country?—That must be an arrangement of his own; if he is resident in the West Indies, he would draw upon his banker here.

12689. What charge do you apprehend the banker would make for accepting those bills?—If his accounts were large besides, I should say none; if that were the principal transaction he had through that banker's hands, there would be a charge of course of half per cent.

12690. Then you make it upon your plan two per cent.?—Yes, ex-duty price.

12691. And it is already done by the merchants for two and a half per cent.?—And the brokerage makes it three, and the guarantee three-and-a-half.

12692. The guarantee is entirely optional?—Yes.

12693. It is already done for two-and-a-half?—The brokerage is not optional.

12694. The brokerage you propose to be divided, therefore it is two per cent. against three per cent.?—Yes.

12695. You do not apprehend that the broker would have to find any money?—No, the broker would find no money; but my two per cent. is upon the short price, while your three per cent. is upon the long price.

12696. Do you think that three per cent., as now charged altogether by the merchant, is an extravagant price for doing the business for the planter, in consideration of his finding the money for the planter to carry on the estate?—That is another affair altogether with respect to finding money.

12697. Does not the merchant find money now?—He does, but the proprietor ought to find his own money.

12698. The merchants would very much prefer, would not they, not finding money to the planters?—I believe so.

12699. What are the terms of sale of a ton of sugar now in the London market?—You buy it at two months, or if they draw a bill, at 73 days; if you pay the money they allow you at the rate of 73 days' discount.

12700. How long a time does it take you to produce your refined sugar from the raw sugar?—Part of it comes forward in the course of a fortnight, but I do not get all the treacle appertaining to that sugar out of the house under six weeks; the syrups are boiled over and over again, and therefore it would be fully six weeks before they all got out of the house in the shape of treacle.

12701. But the far greater part is extracted in a fortnight?—I should say it was.

12702. And you have not to pay for that sugar which you have extracted for 73 days?—No.

12703. That is your argument for imagining that it is much fairer that you should pay the duty than the merchant?—My intention was, that the proprietor should save the extra charge of the commission upon the duty.

12704. Why do you propose yourself to pay the duty instead of the merchant?

—For

—For no other reason that I can assign, except that I could hold more sugar; if I had 10,000 *l.* to lay out in sugar, I could lay it out, and hold a greater quantity of sugar with it, at the short price, than at the duty-paid price.

12705. And pay the duty as you want it?—Yes.

12706. If this plan were adopted, it would require a much larger capital on the part of refiners, would not it, to carry on their business?—I think it would.

12707. To the amount of the duty?—Yes.

12708. Do you think the refiners, generally speaking, in London would be able to meet that?—I think so.

12709. They have been doing a good trade lately, have not they?—I do not know that they have been doing a very good trade; they have been depressed like all the sugar interests, of course.

12710. Do you think the refiners generally would be willing to buy upon those terms now?—I think so, decidedly.

12711. Will you state what credit you give your customers?—Two months; I give the same credit that I receive from the merchant.

12712. Do you think that any reduction of the terms of selling by the merchant could be effected?—It would be exactly 73 days, unless he draws a bill or wants money; then I say to him, "I will give you the money, instead of your drawing a bill;" that is, discounting my own bill, and that, with three days' grace, makes 73 days.

12713. You do not think it would be advantageous to have that credit altered?—Foreign sugars are sold at a month.

12714. Is there any reason why colonial sugar should not be sold at a month?—None that I know of.

12715. Except that the merchants have not chosen to do so?—They have found it more convenient to the refiners and grocers to trust them two months, I suppose.

12716. Would you reduce your credit to the consumer, if the merchant reduced his?—No.

12717. You would still give him the two months?—I would.

12718. Do you think that would generally be the case?—I cannot say that.

12719. That would depend upon the capital of the person?—It would, and upon the disposition of the man.

12720. What reason would you have for giving him credit for two months?—Because I should get a preference in the market; a man, though he might be a very good man, might prefer being trusted for two months rather than one, and he would come to me.

12721. Do you know anything of the experiments going on here by Mr. Crossley?—Not at all; I have only heard speak of them.

12722. Do you know the nature of the experiment. It is extracting the molasses and the gross particles of sugar from the sugar?—I know that proprietors of estates in the West Indies have run away with very expensive alterations and improvements as they have thought, but having no judgment in the affair, they have taken the wrong.

12723. Do you think it possible by any means that an *ad valorem* test can be applied to sugars, so that they should pay an equivalent rate of duties?—The better way would be, to put the duty upon the price. If the broker sells, he should send down his book immediately to the Customs, and the next day the book might be returned; then each of the parties would have his account adjusted by the time they wanted to clear the sugar.

12724. Do not you think that would lead to great fraud?—No; how could 200 buyers combine to defraud the Crown? A buyer and a seller may, but a seller and 100 buyers cannot.

12725. Do not you think it possible that they may so arrange the matter before they go to the sale as to effect a fraud?—It would be utterly impossible.

12726. Do you think that any satisfactory test could be discovered by which the actual amount of saccharine matter in each cwt. of sugar could be arrived at, so that it would be fair to have the duty paid upon that quantity?—I do not think it possible to invent such an instrument. I think there is nothing but actual experiment will give it you; therefore the better way will be to leave it to the buyer; if he gives 10*s.* for that which is only worth 9*s.* 6*d.*, he must feel the smart in the duty.

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12727. If such a test could be discovered, you think it would be a very fair way of exacting the duty?—There are a great many sugars; for instance, Mr. Gouburn's sugars, which sell on account of their bloom. They are sold to the grocers; they are not sold to the refiners.

12728. Still the same test would apply, would not it?—No, the thing sells for its beauty more than for its quality.

12729. You think that that sugar should be admitted at a lower duty?—The sort of person you have to fear is the refiner, who can re-export and take the drawback. If he should get some of that mixed sugar, where 112 lbs. will produce 112 lbs., how large a drawback he would be taking.

12730. That is found out to be the case, is not it, that crushed lump comes into competition with raw sugar?—With a purified sugar.

12731. And with raw sugar also?—It may be called raw sugar; but it has undergone some process to purify it.

12732. That keeps the price down?—Yes.

12733. Crushed lump being the better article?—Yes.

12734. Mr. *Wilson*.] What do you think the effect would be for the purpose of equalizing the duties, if you were enabled to refine their sugar in bond, and pay the duty upon your sugar in a refined state?—That is a question I have considered, and I think it is open to many difficulties, inasmuch as the refiner has a private sale of his sugar afterwards, and it is just possible that the buyer and seller might connive, as they would in the other instance, and the Crown might be defrauded; therefore I would make him pay the duty upon the raw sugar before he took it into his refinery.

12735. Do you apprehend that there is any danger to the revenue from the bonded refineries, at present?—No, but if I were to sell out of my bonded refinery into the country, the buyer and I sitting in my sale room might say, Those are 32s. or 34s., or what not, and every shilling I put on might be ninepence in duty to him.

12736. I am supposing that you are to have a fixed duty per cwt., not an *ad valorem* duty; supposing you bought your sugars in bond, according to the relative value of them, and paid a fixed uniform duty upon the refined sugar?—There would be the expense of watching the various houses in which the process is carried on, which, I believe, is heavy; they are obliged to relieve the men every 12 hours.

12737. There would be no more expense than there is at present at the bonded refineries, would there?—No.

12738. Do you see any practical objection, independently of that charge?—There would be a great difficulty in apportioning the duties upon refined sugars to put them in proportion with the raw sugars.

12739. In what way would the difficulty arise?—It becomes a question of extract.

12740. There would be great difficulty, if you attempted to get precisely the same duty of 14s., which you get from all the different qualities of sugar now; but the object would be to get a uniform duty, according to their quality, from all sugars. If you had the privilege of purchasing sugars in bond, from common Penang sugars up to the fine muscovados, paying at present the same duty, refining them, and then paying one common duty upon the extract, you would pay a uniform duty then according to the real value of all sugars?—Who is to appoint the duty?

12741. The duty now is 21s. upon double refined sugar?—We are not certain whether that is enough or too much.

12742. Supposing the Government says it is enough?—I have already stated that by-and-by, when the duties come to be equalized, by mixing the white Havannahs, which have paid a duty of 16s. 8d., with crushed sugar, I could make that concrete which I have left at Mr. Porter's office at the Board of Trade.

12743. Which is equivalent to refined sugar?—No officer could find out the difference.

12744. When the duties come to be equalized, taking yellow Havannah sugars, which would be admitted at 14s. duty when the duties are equalized, and the low Penang sugars paying the same duty, do not you think there will be a great equality in the actual duties paid upon those two articles?—Decidedly; and it is for that reason that I advocate an *ad valorem* duty.

12745. Supposing

12745. Supposing you are enabled to purchase those two sugars in bond, before you pay the duty and refine them, and pay the duty upon the extract from each, you would extract much less refined sugar from the Penang sugar than you would from the other, and you would pay a duty equivalent to the relative value of the two sugars?—It would be difficult to ascertain what the extract was from particular sugars. I will boil some sugar to-day, it will drip to-morrow; the next week I boil that dripping, and the person who watched to see what quantity I obtained would have to follow the sugars through those various boilings.

12746. All the officer desires to know is, that you have paid the duty upon the whole produce of the sugar which you have refined?—I cannot help thinking it is better for the refiner to pay the duty in the first instance, before he takes it into his refinery.

12747. Provided you could discover an equitable mode of levying *ad valorem* duty?—Exactly; and that would be very possible, provided private sales were done away with.

12748. Do not you think that doing away with private sales would be a great restriction upon the sale of sugar; it might, under particular circumstances, be extremely inconvenient to the merchant?—I think it is better the moment sugars are landed that they should be sold; I do not think it does to speculate with them. If you write up to a banker to sell you so many Three per Cents., he does it immediately; the consignor sends home to the consignee the sugar, and it is his duty to sell it at once, in my opinion, be the market high or low.

12749. Supposing the consignor sends home a limit with his sugar?—Then he takes the onus upon himself.

12750. But there is no reason why the law should interfere to place him in a worse position than he would be if he chose to sell immediately?—I do not know that he would be in a worse position.

12751. You are of opinion that the importer ought not to be a holder of sugar?—No.

12752. Who is to be the holder of sugar?—The public.

12753. Is not the importer entitled to take the advantage of a rising market as well as the public?—If he were sure there would be a rising market he would be wrong to do it, but he cannot be sure of that. I have bought sugars at 39s. for which 49s. have been refused.

12754. Supposing the state of the market was, that there was a general conviction on the part of the public that sugars were going to fall, and supposing every importer were to force his sugar upon the market immediately it came in, what effect would that have upon the price?—It would tend to overload the market.

12755. Do not you think that it would be very prudent for the importer to say, I will not sell just now; I will keep my sugar a few months?—While he is waiting there may come in half a dozen ships with other cargoes, and then what will be the effect to him?

12756. Some one must run the risk of holding the sugar; either the public or the importer?—I should say the public should. I think it is the duty of the merchant or the broker to sell the sugar immediately, supposing it is consigned to him.

12757. Do not you conceive that if the law were to interfere and compel any merchant to sell commodities altogether by public sale, it might act prejudicially to the interests of the holder in particular cases?—Generally speaking the importers have advocated public sales. I have heard on two or three occasions of Jamaica proprietors who have sold their sugar by public auction in preference to private sale.

12758. Is there any other means which you can suggest by which an *ad valorem* duty can be arrived at?—No.

12759. Supposing from public policy or other considerations the Government were to see that such a restriction was not advisable, in that case do not you think that the next best plan of getting an *ad valorem* duty would be to enable the refiner of sugar to purchase the sugar in bond, refined in bond, and pay the duty on the produce according to the quantity of each quality produced?—The question is whether that duty would not be appropriated upon the quality

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of the refined sugar, so that you would tax the refiner's skill and industry as well as the sugar itself.

12760. At the present moment you pay 14 s. a cwt. upon all qualities of muscovado sugar, but those qualities vary very materially in their intrinsic value; you will get from one quality 90 per cent. of refined sugar, and from another 80 per cent., and from another 70 per cent., and perhaps from some only as much as 60 per cent. It is quite clear that on those qualities you pay the same duty of 14 s. You pay 14 s. on the 60 per cent. in the one case, and upon 90 per cent. in the other case; supposing you were to pay upon the refined sugar, you would pay a correct duty, apportioned to the precise intrinsic value of each quality of sugar?—Still you would have to ascertain what the produce of the extract was of each description of sugar.

12761. You mean that you would have to ascertain what duty should be charged upon the refined sugar, to be equivalent to the present duty which you pay upon the raw sugar?—Exactly.

12762. That fact being ascertained, do you see any difficulty that would arise in carrying out an *ad valorem* duty?—Certainly not; but it would be very difficult to get at the right extract.

12763. Taking the average quality of muscovado sugar, what proportion of refined sugar would you derive from 112 lbs. of that at the present time?—You must specify the quality of the raw sugar; the qualities are so various.

12764. Take the average of West India muscovado sugar?—I go into the market; I look upon some sugar which is charged with acid, and I go to another board which I see is charged with alkali, and I mix the two together; the combination answers my purpose.

12765. What would you say, at present, is the average produce of muscovado sugar per cwt. in refined sugar?—I think the Customs have it, 70 lbs. of refined, 18 lbs. bastard, and 14 lbs. of treacle; and then there is the waste.

12766. You know by practice what quantity of refined sugar you get from a cwt., do not you?—That is very difficult to say; taking one board, and refining it by itself, the value would be 5 lb. less than by mixing two qualities together.

12767. Supposing the average quality of sugar produces 75 lbs. of refined sugar, 18 lbs. of bastard, 14 lbs. of treacle, and 5 lbs. of waste to every 112 lbs.; supposing the duty were fixed upon that proportion, so as to make it equivalent to 14 s. upon the raw sugar; that being once ascertained, if you were to take a fine sugar into your refinery after that, the effect would be that you would get a larger quantity of refined sugar; if you were to take a lower quality, you would get a smaller quantity; but whereas you pay the duty upon the refined sugar you obtain in all cases, you would pay a smaller duty, in reality, upon the lower quality sugar, and a higher duty upon the higher quality of sugar?—Those sugars are very much mixed. I take in, for example, 20 hogsheads upon the Monday, and 10 upon the Tuesday, and they are all mingled together, so that no officer could follow the sugar through the house.

12768. All the officer has to do is, to see that you pay duty upon the produce of your sugar; you pay a price for it in the market according to its quality, and you pay the duty after it is refined, according to its produce; and all the refiners being placed in the same situation, you would all pay the duty as you pay it?—It would be, in effect, making the refiner pay a discriminating duty.

12769. In what way would it make the refiner pay a discriminating duty?—He has to deliver such an extract for such quantity of sugar that he is to boil down.

12770. I do not contemplate that the refiner is to pay the duty upon a certain specific quantity of produce which he is expecting to receive from a certain sugar, but upon the actual quantity which he does receive, be it small or great?—I still think you have no right to fetter the refiner with the control of an officer.

12771. Is that the only objection you have to it?—That is one objection; and I am inclined to think he would have more duty to pay, because the sugar that came out would be very much improved by his skill.

12772. He would only pay a duty in proportion to the quality which he obtained?—

obtained?—It would be very difficult to determine what duty I ought to pay upon the different grades of sugar.

12773. The quantity of sugar that came to your refinery would define that?—If there is no interference with business, I see no objection to that mode. If I am obliged to run after the officer when I have to deliver goods to the grocer, and he is not ready at my hand, he obstructs my business.

12774. That is just the same inconvenience which a refiner in bond is now subjected to in refining in bond for exportation?—Yes; I should say under those circumstances the refiner ought to be permitted to do what he likes with his sugar; to sell it to the home market, or to the foreign market. The refiners, however, do not take above half the sugar; there is the other half to deal with.

12775. With regard to the grocery sugars, those sugars of course would still be charged duty in their raw state; are they not all a superior class of sugar?—Superior on account of their colour and bloom, not on account of their quality.

12776. As far as regards their value, they are superior in point of price?—Yes.

12777. In those sugars is there a very great inequality, or are they pretty nearly equal?—There is great inequality, I should say.

12778. What is the range of price in grocery sugar?—At the present time I should think from 48 s. to 35 s.

12779. For grocery purposes?—Yes.

12780. What would you say as a margin on refining sugar, supposing the duties were all equalized?—Upon yesterday's market the refiners could afford to give from 35 s. to 41 s.

12781. What would you give 41 s. for?—A very strong and good sugar.

12782. West India sugar?—Yes.

12783. What is the lowest you would buy?—About 35 s.

12784. What is done with those Penang sugars which are sold at 22 s.?—I cannot say; they do not go to my refinery; I believe the brewers take them.

12785. For what purpose are the very low West India sugars taken?—I do not know, unless it is for the breweries; a very large quantity of sugar is now bought by the brewers.

12786. Are not they used by refineries?—No, they get so much more out of the higher qualities of sugar.

12787. Contemplating the periods when the duties will be equalized upon yellow Havannah sugar and our own West India sugar, what do you think will be the range of price then?—It is very difficult to foresee that; good yellow Havannahs are now worth about 40 s.

12788. If they paid 6 s. less duty, they would be worth 6 s. less in price?—Exactly.

12789. Supposing you had this privilege of refining in bond, and you had the privilege of choosing the export market, or the home market, as you required, it would be optional with the importer whether he paid 14 s. duty for consumption, or whether he sold for refining in that case; he would act entirely according to his own interest?—If the refiner could buy sugar at the bonded price and not pay the duty, he would never buy it at the duty-paid price.

12790. If a person imported a quantity of sugar, and had the option either of selling it to the refiner in bond for refining, or to the grocer for grocery purposes, in the one case selling it in bond without paying duty, and in the other case selling it duty paid, the sugar would be sold to one or to the other according to the interest of the proprietor?—Precisely.

12791. Therefore no person who chose to pay 14 s. in that case would have a right to complain that he paid an unequal duty upon his sugar?—Certainly not.

12792. Therefore as far as you see, it being optional on the part of the importer whether he sold it in bond to the refiner, or sold it paying the 14 s. duty, any objection which he now makes would be done away with?—Yes.

12793. Have you seen an article called concrete?—No, I think not; we call the refined sugar concrete.

12794. A concrete manufactured in the West Indies?—I have seen something looking like bees-wax lying at a broker's shop.

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12795. You have not tasted it?—Certainly not.

12796. Have you ever refined sugar from cane juice?—No; I have boiled foreign sugar, Java and Manilla sugars, and Brazilian sugar, but I never went down to the juice, because there I should be boiling so much water.

12797. Do you happen to know anything of the process by which the beetroot sugar makers in France convert their sugar at one operation into a refined sugar without first making it into muscovado?—I have not seen it; I remember perfectly well Mr. John Hodgson telling me that the Prussian consul had applied to him to go and look at some machinery at Aix-la-Chapelle, but I did not see it; it professed a great deal.

12798. Have you not understood that the whole of the beetroot sugar in France now is refined direct from the first expression of the juice, without the intermediate process?—I do not believe it is; the law of France will not permit the refiner and the sugar maker to be in the same house; I know Mr. Le Grand at St. Omer; he is a very large sugar maker, and he cannot refine in his house.

12799. What do you mean by a sugar maker?—A producer of sugar from the beetroot; the next affair is to refine the sugar, that is the refiner's duty.

12800. Do you know if there is such a restriction in Prussia?—I do not.

12801. Do you know whether that restriction has not been removed in France?—It was not three months ago, because Mr. Le Grand came over to me with a sample of his beetroot sugar to know of what value it would be in our market, in order that he might send it here; the sugar in appearance was beautiful, but in taste it was very bad; I do not think he would be able to sell it here.

12802. Is that a recent improvement?—No, it was three years ago.

12803. Has there been during the last eight or nine years a considerable improvement in the manufacture of beetroot sugar?—I think so.

12804. Do you attribute the rapid increase of beet sugar on the Continent to those improvements?—Yes, to the improved processes; it was thought, when the duty was first put upon it, that they could not proceed; but as they improved the process, so they were enabled to work with advantage.

12805. Prior to 1838, the French beetroot manufacturers had protection against Martinique, and Guadaloupe, and Bourbon sugar?—No.

12806. In that year there was a law passed, contemplating a gradual equalization of the duties?—Yes.

12807. The immediate effect of the law being passed was a very sudden reduction in the quantity of beetroot manufactured?—Yes.

12808. Since then there has been a gradual increase, in consequence of the improved processes which have been discovered?—I think so.

12809. Is there a great increase of beetroot sugar manufactured on the Continent?—I should say so.

12810. Do you know when the duty will be equalized in France between beetroot and cane?—No.

12811. Are you aware that the cane-sugar producers have been applying to the French government for protection against the beetroot?—They did some time ago. M. Derosne told me he had had some canes cut; they were hermetically sealed at the end; he got 15 lbs. of sugar out of 100 per cent. of juice; the West Indian does not get above 5 lbs.

12812. Do you suppose that the improvements which have been made in the beetroot manufactories in France have not been extended to their colonies?—That I cannot say; I believe there is one improvement by M. Michelet, which has been sent to Guadaloupe.

12813. Mr. Maffatt.] You stated that upon a rough estimate the additional charges put upon sugars, by selling them duty paid, instead of in bond, were equivalent to 120,000 *l.* per annum?—Yes.

12814. Did that calculation include the interest of the money employed?—No.

12815. That is to be taken in addition?—Yes.

12816. Are you aware of any article of large import and consumption upon which the importer finds the duty for the buyer?—No.

12817. The rule is that the importer sells his goods in bond, leaving the buyer to settle with the Crown for the duty?—Yes.

12818. Sugar being the sole exception?—Yes.

12819. Are you aware of any advantage which the sugar planters derive from that plan of selling sugar?—It increases the number of buyers, because it brings needy buyers into the market, who are obliged to the merchant for trusting them with the duty; but in doing that there is the great need for a guarantee.

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12820. Which implies the necessity for that charge, which you said before was not generally adopted?—Exactly.

12821. Would the same principle hold in regard to tea and other articles of large value, if it were found to be a benefit?—If it were found to be a benefit I should say it would; but the sales of tea are so immense, and they would require so much money to pay the duty for the importer, that they do not do it; if they did it, I have no doubt they would find a larger field of buyers.

12822. Is that the case with respect to coffee?—No, that is sold at the short price.

12823. Is it your opinion that the plan of selling sugar duty paid, and incurring those additional charges, is for the benefit of the planter in the sugar-producing colony, or for the benefit of the broker and merchant in this country?—For the benefit of the merchant and broker in this country.

12824. Though the planter may in some cases derive a small advantage from increased competition, there is a certain heavy charge which goes into the pocket of the broker and the merchant in this country?—Decidedly, and moreover it is about one of the first articles introduced to his credit, and when a man is once in debt, he does not consider how much further he will go.

12825. Your belief is, that it would be very beneficial to the planter that the same plan which is adopted in regard to the manner of sale of all other articles of import should be applied to sugar?—Decidedly.

12826. You have had considerable experience in the sugar trade?—Yes.

12827. You may recollect, possibly, that a certain attempt was made some years ago to introduce the plan of selling sugars in bond?—I believe a great deal is sold in bond now. I remember when it was under the East India Company it was always sold in bond.

12828. It is an attempt, three years ago, that I refer to?—Yes, I do remember it; Howard & Company were the brokers. I do not know whether they succeeded in their attempt or not. I know Mr. Goulburn sent some sugars to be sold at the short price, but unfortunately he hit upon the grocers' sugars, and the grocers would not touch them.

12829. Your belief is, that the refiners as a body would cheerfully adopt the system of buying in bond?—Yes.

12830. You think the grocers would demur to that system?—Yes; it would lead to number 1 grocer coming into the market and selling to number 2. Number 1 would pay the duty, and sell it to a second-rate grocer duty paid.

12831. Were you understood to recommend the adoption of an *ad valorem* duty generally in regard to raising the duties upon sugar?—Yes. There may be some alteration in the Navigation Laws, and if there should be, we should have sugar in from Rotterdam, Hamburg, and Amsterdam, and then what duties are you to affix upon such sugar in justice to the colonists.

12832. You want a little protection from the continental refiners, do you?—We need no protection; we can protect ourselves.

12833. You would recommend, in case of the abolition of the Navigation Laws, and the free importation of sugar from the continental markets, that there should be an alteration of the present scale of duties to an *ad valorem* duty?—Yes.

12834. You would have compulsory sales by auction?—Yes; and that the duty should be levied according to the price paid for the sugar.

12835. You do not think that that would lead to any collusion?—I am convinced it would not. From the eagerness with which people at a sale contend for an article when they have bidden what they consider to be the price, I am sure if a man were to get it under price, there would be a considerable commotion about it; he would address the room.

12836. Would that affect the price?—Not after the hammer had gone down, but it would put the Government upon the *qui vive*.

12837. *Chairman.*] Did you ever see any Province Wellesley sugar?—No, I never saw it.

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12838. Nor heard of it?—No; it may come here as Penang sugar, probably.

12839. Did you ever hear of any fine quality of sugar coming from Penang?

23 March 1848. —Never.

12840. Penang sugar is of a very superior quality?—It is very inferior; the ground has lately been broken up. With respect to the malt duty, I think it will be necessary to look pretty sharply after that. A bushel of barley, kiln-dried and ground with a certain quantity of sugar, 7 or 8 lb. added to it, being the quantity that the saccharine would produce if it were malt, would be just the same as a bushel of malt; therefore that is a cheaper mode than the other, and you will lose the duty. In Belgium or France you never saw such a thing as a malt-house; and it is a most extraordinary thing that the public should have consented to pay the tax so long.

12841. In your opinion, if sugar comes into general use in breweries, we shall escape the malt tax altogether?—I think so.

12842. Seven or eight pounds of sugar added to a bushel of kiln-dried barley will enable the brewer to do without malting his barley?—Precisely so.

12843. Do you think the brewers have been using a large quantity of sugar in that way?—They do not brag of it, because it might interfere with their sale of beer; but there has been a great quantity of sugar taken out of the market by neither grocers nor refiners, and we suspect it is by the brewers.

12844. You said you thought that beetroot sugar was very rapidly increasing on the Continent?—I think it is.

12845. You have not any return which you could put in to show that?—No, I have not.

12846. Beetroot sugar does not sell so high as cane sugar, does it?—No; our sugar is manufactured for packing and travelling, and therefore we make it as weighty as possible. The sugar that you see in France is very light; a waiter brings in five knobs upon a tray; two of our knobs would weigh down the whole five. The refined beetroot sugar is made from beetroot and muscovado; the treacle that comes from it is scarcely fit for blacking.

12847. Do you reckon that the strength of the beetroot sugar is as great as that of cane sugar?—The term “strength” is improperly applied there: in beetroot sugar they have the principle, that is, if we were to put an ounce of sugar into a pail of water, and we were to dissipate that water, we should catch the ounce; so there is a certain quantity of saccharine in this beetroot sugar which the manufacturer catches; it may not be so abundant as in the cane.

12848. There was a statement made some time ago of the prices of sugar at Magdeburg, which set forth that loaf-sugar from the cane was selling at 75 s. a cwt., and loaf-sugar from the beet at 70 s. 10 d.; is not that a strong proof of its inferiority?—Unless we could see the samples, and know the qualities of the two sugars, we cannot take that as a criterion. Refined sugar from beetroot might be very low in quality, while from the cane it might be very fine in quality. In France it is very difficult to say what the duty is, on account of the octroi. The refiners are generally in the town, while the places where they make the sugar are out in the fields, consequently in bringing it in in the shape of sugar the octroi has to be paid.

12849. What is the comparative value of beetroot and muscovado sugar?—I do not know, except in Paris or Havre, where they come into competition; I should say, quality for quality, one would be worth 50 francs, and the other 56.

12850. The cane 56 francs, and the beetroot 50 francs?—Yes.

12851. What are the existing differential duties between beetroot sugar and foreign cane sugar?—Monsieur Desrosne told me he had got 15 lbs. out of some canes which were hermetically sealed, and brought from Guadaloupe; the French people only get 6 lbs; while, looking to West India manufacturers, they do not get above 5 lbs.

12852. In Germany there is no duty upon beetroot sugar, is there?—I am not acquainted with the practice there. In the Rhenish Provinces, a person by the name of Du Brin, at Amsterdam, supplied Cologne and Dusseldorf, and Bohn and Coblentz.

12853. In Belgium, beetroot sugar pays 12 s. a cwt., and cane sugar 19 s.; it would appear therefore that beetroot sugar is very inferior?—I do not think beetroot sugar would be tolerated here; there has been a manufacture in this country, under the rose, for making a sort of colourable sugar that should be soluble,

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soluble, to mix with West India muscovado by the grocers for sale. I was applied to three or four years ago from Guernsey, by a party who kept a store there, to know what I would make 20 tons of potato sugar per day for, he disposing of it afterwards in such a way that it should be mixed.

12854. You said that if the Navigation Laws were repealed, the importers of sugar would be able to carry their sugar to Hamburgh, and bring it back to England. I suppose you meant they would discharge their cargoes and load again?—Yes.

12855. Would not the passing by England and going to Hamburgh, unloading the cargoes and loading them again, put them to a very large and unnecessary expense?—There would be a charge upon it; but on the other hand, if the importer is willing to pay the charge, he cannot get it from this country to Hamburgh. I dare say this year we shall have a great quantity of foreign sugar cargoes, because of the disturbances on the Continent.

12856. As a general rule, sending sugar to Hamburgh, on its way to England, would be very much like sending your goods by way of Edinburgh to York, would not it?—The market at Hamburgh may be the better of the two at the time. All ships now call at Cowes for orders from London, either to go to Hamburgh, Amsterdam, or London, whichever may be the better market; but before the ship can get to the one place or the other, a change may take place.

12857. What would be the extra freight and charges, from Cuba, or Manilla, or Java, to the port of London, *via* Hamburgh, and back, as compared with the freight and charges direct from either of those places?—It would cost the same to send sugar from Hamburgh here, as from hence to Hamburgh, which I put at 1 s. 6 d.

12858. How are the charges?—It would be the same thing in both instances.

12859. Would 1 s. 6 d. cover it?—Yes, it would.

12860. Would 1 s. 6 d. cover the freight, and charges, and brokerage, and insurance, and waste?—I think so.

12861. If I understand right, it would be the increased voyage from the Channel to Rotterdam, or to Hamburgh and back again?—Supposing the sugar comes here first of all, it would be coming to this country and going back to Hamburgh.

12862. It is all in the way, is it not?—There is the voyage up the river.

12863. Do you think that under any circumstances, Hamburgh or Rotterdam would be a convenient place for England for sugar coming from the westward or the southward?—I think Hamburgh would be a very good mixing position. We send crushed sugar to Hamburgh; it is there mixed with white Havannahs, and sent to Petersburg.

Sabbati, 25° die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.	Mr. Matheson.
Sir Thomas Birch.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Cardwell.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Milner Gibson.	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Hope.	

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Peter Borthwick, Esq., called in; and Examined.

12864. *Chairman.*] YOU are just returned from Jamaica?—I returned on the 3d of February. *P. Borthwick, Esq.*

12865. I believe you were elected by the Chamber of Commerce at Kingston to represent their interests?—I was. *25 March 1848.*

P. Borthwick, Esq. 12866. As their honorary agent, not a salaried agent?—I am not a salaried agent.

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12867. Have you visited any other islands besides the island of Jamaica?—I visited Barbadoes and Grenada and St. Domingo on my way out; on my way home I called also at St. Domingo, but only for a few hours; and I saw Porto Rico and St. Thomas's; those are all the islands which I visited.

12868. Have you any statement to make on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce at Kingston?—If I were permitted to make a statement in detail, I am certainly authorized so to do. I do not know whether the forms of the Committee will permit me to make any such statement of the views which they take of the condition of the island.

12869. Perhaps you will proceed to state what those details are?—The Chamber of Commerce in Jamaica is a body constituted of resident planters and resident merchants, with a view to have the condition of that colony fairly represented before the Government, the Parliament, and the public of Great Britain. The view which they take of the present state of Jamaica is, that it has been reduced to great adversity in consequence of the mis-legislation which for more than half a century has been adopted by the Home Government. They think that the laws which were passed both before and subsequent to the great Emancipation Act of 1834, were unsound in principle and injurious in operation; they think that of all the laws which have operated mischievously against their interests the law of 1846 is the most injurious, both in principle and in operation, inasmuch as it admits into competition with their produce the produce of slave labour ultimately upon equal terms; they think that in consequence of those laws the colony is now reduced to so hopeless a condition that it must be abandoned, with the exception of one or two estates, altogether, as a sugar colony, unless it were transferred to the protection of some power which did not rob its subjects. I have here a statement of some properties in St. Elizabeth, belonging to the Cohen family, which were valued by Mr. Edward Peart, a gentleman whom I know intimately, and by John Griffiths, Esq. in 1828; their sworn valuation at that time was 128,000 *l.* Mr. Peart assured me that those properties could not now be sold for 5,000 *l.*, and, as a proof of this, one of them, a coffee plantation, called Berlin, valued at that time at 26,000 *l.* sterling, not including the slaves which were upon the property, was put up for sale when I was in Jamaica, and it would have been sold for 1,000 *l.*, but only 800 *l.* was offered for it. The works, houses, and machinery on that property [cost 10,000 *l.* in the erection. I have before me a memorial addressed to Lord Grey, signed by 17 owners and lessees of properties in the west end of the island of Jamaica; they say, "We, the undersigned, are the owners of 19 and the lessees of 13 sugar estates in the west end of the island of Jamaica, on which properties we employ daily an average of 2,898 labourers, who represent families numbering 14,490 people, lately redeemed from slavery. Our sugar estates, 32 in number, are expected to make this year 2,796 hogsheads of sugar and 1,354 puncheons of rum, which will cost us, by accurate computation, 60,315 *l.* 13 *s.* 5 *d.* We have no hope of realizing more than 15 *l.* per hogshead and 14 *l.* per puncheon." The Committee is aware that they will not realize anything like so much.

12870. That is 15 *l.* per hogshead of 15 cwt.?—They generally average 15 cwt. when they come home. "At which rate," they say, "our produce will bring 60,896 *l.*, leaving a balance over our expenditure of 580 *l.* 6 *s.* 7 *d.* to go against 6 *l.*, the common rate of interest which money bears in the colony, and which on 60,315 *l.* 13 *s.* 5 *d.* would be 3,618 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.* Our capital invested on these 32 sugar estates, in live stock and implements of husbandry, amounts in live stock to 32,094 *l.*, in implements to 14,630 *l.*, upon which wear and tear capital we receive no interest whatever. The 19 sugar estates that we own cost us 95,784 *l.*, and we pay a rental for the 13 other estates of 3,110 *l.* per annum, which sunk capital is likewise wholly profitless. We are not so unreasonable as to expect that the British nation should abandon the principles of free trade now, upheld by the majority of the people, in order to afford us protection; but we submit it cannot be consonant with the spirit of free trade to give to the slave colonies a monopoly of the sugar market by allowing them to cultivate sugar by means of slaves, denied to us; and we submit they must have that monopoly if the British West Indies cease to supply the market with sugar, as your Lordship must have ascertained that a supply from the East Indies cannot be obtained at the rates of slave-grown produce. Now, we are resident proprietors, and all of us, with

one exception, have purchased and leased our properties since the Emancipation Act. It will be evident, from the facts stated, that we cannot cultivate for another year; indeed we have not the means, unaided, of taking off the present crop, and the British West India merchants are now unable to assist us, and, of course, disinclined, where there is no hope of profit or even of recovering their advances. If we, being proprietors and lessees, living on and managing our own properties, brought up to tropical agriculture, and availing ourselves of every practical improvement, have only such a result to exhibit as is set forth in the statement of these facts, the inference is conclusive that the position of the absentee proprietor or mortgagee, represented by paid agencies, is still more deplorable. It is evident that, unless some mode of suppressing slavery and the slave trade more effectual than that hitherto pursued be adopted, and without immediate aid in the shape of money loans, sugar cultivation, upon which 300,000 of the emancipated negroes are wholly dependent, must cease in Jamaica." I have a great deal of evidence from every part of Jamaica exhibiting the deteriorated value of property. I hold in my hand an extract from a letter I received by the last packet from a gentleman who is a proprietor of three estates in St. Andrew's; he says, speaking of the plan which had been adopted at the public meeting I attended in Kingston, which would afford 14s. protection to the West India sugar grower, "If this could be done, great good for the colony might yet be accomplished; for myself, and many others, little would it benefit us. With respect to my own affairs, I fear nothing the Government can now do will be of material value. Unless they can make me, my wife, and my children, full compensation for the property, amounting in value to more than 40,000*l.*, of which they have deprived us, I must give up all and go in quest of employment as a clerk, to New Orleans, and begin the world over again." That is the statement of a gentleman who is a member of the Assembly, and also a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a landed proprietor of three estates. I have two letters which were put into my hands just as I was leaving Jamaica, directing a steam-engine on Donkley's estate to be broken up, and the steam-engine to be sold to Cuba; that I am sorry to say is not a solitary instance, but a good deal of machinery has been taken out of its place in the sugar manufacture in Jamaica, and has been sold to the proprietors of estates in Cuba.

12871. Do you know any other instances which you can state by name?— There are two instances which occurred last December. Those two came under my own observation; but there are very many instances which are equally capable of proof, though I was not present at the time when they occurred. I have here a letter from Mr. Carr, also a member of the House of Assembly in Jamaica. This I received by the packet before the last; it was written just after I had left Jamaica. I saw all the estates which are described in it, and I am personally cognizant of the facts which he relates up to the time I left; and he continues them from that period. This letter is very explanatory of the state of things in Jamaica. "I mentioned to you," he says, "in a conversation here, that the parties who were the complete victims of the free trade in sugar, as established by the '46 Bill, were the lessees and parties who lately had become proprietors; many of these had been overseers and managers, during slavery; they had scraped together, by their hard earnings, a little capital; this they embarked in the soil, preferring to be independent, and, relying on their own personal supervision of estate's work, to do well; not to make fortunes, but to put by more than the salary of an overseer would permit. These men are ruined; they have lost their all; and besides, have ruined their friends who have assisted them as merchants, making new advances to carry on estate's work. I unfortunately am one of these latter victims. I entered into this business of late years, say three or four years ago; I embarked in it the capital of my family at home; we had everything within ourselves; I looked after matters here; in making advances, I chose men of the highest character and standing; men who have done all that man could do to keep a most strict watch over expenses; they act as their own overseers, and save in every way. My advances to these parties have, from one thing to another, led on till they have amounted to 30,000*l.*; and I do not think we shall now receive back over one-half this amount. Now it is said by parties, you require resident men as proprietors. See the result: these men in my case have lost their hard earnings and saving of years, and involved their friends besides. It is said also that planters should erect new machinery, &c. &c. Well, in the case of two gentlemen who leased and purchased properties this was

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done to a considerable extent, and what has been the result? a complete and total failure. Tradesmen" (he means mechanics) "are not to be had; at least of a description to be relied on. The few white men that are competent are nearly all desperate drunkards, and not to be trusted for an hour. The natives of the country will not take the slightest trouble to learn their trade; instead of serving their time as in England for seven years, they seldom remain over one year to learn, and then set up for themselves, and without hesitation take jobs, calling themselves competent workmen. Such are the materials with which the planter has to put up his intricate machinery; and from the bitter experience I have learned, it is the height of folly to think of going out of the old beaten tract. In your travels through the island you may remember having passed through St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, and have seen the splendid fields of canes from Mount Olive Estate to Hyde Estate. Here are, at least, 600 tons of sugar on the ground, on the estates you drove through, say Mount Olive, Hog Hole, New Hall, and Hyde. The canes to make this produce have been put in at a heavy expense, and large amounts of money have been paid to the labourers for planting and cleaning these canes. I visited these properties this week, in the full confidence of seeing all the mills at work; you may fancy my dismay when I found that not a labourer had up to the 19th resumed work; their drums were still going in the villages in the mountains, and at these dances every description of wickedness and debauchery is carried on. The few people whom I met seemed to glory in the downcast countenances of the poor planter, who looking at his ripe canes, which had cost him such trouble and expense to bring to maturity, now spoiling for the want of hands to take them off. Not an able labourer but could earn with ease 2s. a day in taking off these canes; but it cannot be wondered at where we have to seek labour from men, who without it are better off by far than many of those called comfortable farmers in England. These labourers have land which grows the finest provisions; carts come up from Spanish Town, St. Dorothy, and Vere, and purchase these provisions at their houses, and then go back and sell them. The labourer in this country does not value his time, and no matter how cheap these provisions may be, it is apparently to him all clear gain, because there is no pressure upon these people; and except when they want to purchase a fine dress for a sweetheart, they have no necessity for labouring on estates. I have detailed to you in the letter from the Chamber of Commerce a conversation had with one of the labourers, which I need not here repeat. I think these plain facts ought to show men, who will not determinedly shut their eyes, the desperate position of our case. Here is now one month of the best and most favourable time for sugar-making gone, time not to be recovered; during that period I should have had made on these estates 120 to 140 hogsheads of first quality sugar, and not one cask has been made. The ship lies in the harbour waiting her cargo, the labourers that should be engaged in manufacturing the produce, dancing and carousing, not giving one care or thought for the proprietor, who has spent among them thousands. I need hardly say, the capitalist must soon get tired of such speculations; the hard-working planters must soon break heart under such treatment; but the people of England will have it that it is all the planters' fault." I have in my hand also an average of the prices and the annual value of the produce of Jamaica in the five years ending 1807, the five years ending 1815, the five years ending 1823, the five years ending 1833, and the five years ending 1843. The object of this document is to show the steady decrease in colonial production in the island of Jamaica down to that time, and I am prepared to show that since 1843 it has decreased in a still more frightful ratio. The hogsheads of sugar grown in Jamaica for the five years ending 1807, the last five years of the slave trade, were 131,962 hogsheads, and the average net price was 20*l.*; of puncheons of rum during the same time there were 50,462, and the average price was 10*l.*; of pounds of coffee there were 23,625,377, at 6*s.* per 100 lbs. The annual value of all that produce, on the average of those five years, was 3,852,621*l.* On the average of the five years ending 1815, which was the date of the Register Act, there was 118,490 hogsheads of sugar, 48,726 puncheons of rum, 24,394,790 lbs of coffee: the average annual value of those five years was 3,588,903*l.* That is about 300,000*l.* under the average of the former five years. The average of the five years ending 1823, which was the date of Mr. Canning's Resolutions in the House of Commons, was 110,924 hogsheads of sugar, 41,046 puncheons of rum, and 18,792,909 lbs. of coffee. The annual value during that time was 3,192,637*l.*; another decrease of about 400,000*l.*

Then

Then came the average of the five years ending in 1833, the last five years of the state of slavery; there were 95,353 hogsheads of sugar, 35,505 puncheons of rum, and 17,645,602 lbs. of coffee; the value was 2,791,478*l.*; showing a deficiency of one million as under the five years ending 1823. The average of the five years ending 1843, the first five years of freedom, was only 42,453 hogsheads of sugar, 14,185 puncheons of rum, and 7,412,498 lbs. of coffee; 1,213,284*l.* was the value; so that the Committee will perceive, that instead of 131,962 hogsheads in the year 1807, we had only 42,453 in the year 1843; instead of 50,000 puncheons of rum we had only 14,000; instead of 23,000,000 lbs. of coffee we had only 7,000,000 lbs.; and instead of 3,852,621*l.* average annual value, we had only 1,213,284*l.* If the Committee would permit me, I should like to make an observation here upon the effect of the law of 1846, as tending so materially still to diminish the produce. It is said, But the year 1847 showed a very large produce, and 1847 came after 1846, therefore the law of 1846 did not very materially interfere with the production; but the law of 1846 did not interfere with the putting in of the canes which were grown into sugar in 1847, because the growth of sugar is about 15 months. Therefore the effect of the law of 1846 will not tell upon the condition of Jamaica, as shown in its produce, till the year 1849. It will tell upon the fall and spring plants of 1847 and 1848, and I am sorry to have to inform the Committee, that having gone over every parish in Jamaica, I am able to say that there is hardly to be seen, except upon a few of the richest estates, anything of fall plants or spring plants put in for the purpose of making the crop of 1849, and, according to the united opinion of everybody with whom I conversed upon the subject, Jamaica will not produce a crop of 10,000 hogsheads in 1849. I have a table here, showing the average cost at which sugars were produced, taking the period of five years, during slavery, on an estate in the parish of St. George's, which is probably a favourable estate for the produce of sugar. In 1826 there were 304 hogsheads upon the property; the island expenses were 1,737*l.*, and the home expenses were 611*l.*, and the total 2,348*l.* The average cost of producing a cwt. of sugar in the five years, beginning with 1826 and ending with 1830, was 5*s.* 6½*d.* Upon the same estate, from the year 1835 to 1838, the average cost was 6*s.*, and upon another estate the average cost was 5*s.* 1*d.* The average cost upon the same estates now is 18*s.*, but they are estates of a very favourable description, because, as the Committee knows, the average cost of growing a cwt. of sugar in Jamaica, according to the showing of Mr. Barclay's committee, is 27*s.* At the bottom of page 2, you will see it is 1*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.* per cwt, that is, 1*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.* without taking into account interest on capital expended, equal to 4*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; and you will see in page 4, the last paragraph but one of the Report: "It has been shown, that even with protection, many of the properties have been ruined by the emancipation measure, and that all have been most seriously injured; that sugar cannot be produced in Jamaica under 27*s.* per cwt. to give common interest upon capital, while in Cuba, the committee are well informed, 12*s.* per cwt. is a remunerative price." So that according to the statement of Mr. Barclay's committee, the cost, including interest upon capital, is 27*s.*, excluding interest on capital, the cost is 1*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.*

12872. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] What do you mean by interest upon capital?—What I mean by interest upon capital is interest upon the money they borrow to carry on the cultivation of the estates; it would be perfectly right also to include the original cost value of the estates. That is always done in England in valuing an estate, you include rent and interest upon the purchase before you come at your net income; and I am not able to comprehend why the same rule should not apply to Jamaica, especially when you look at the fact, that the very nature of colonization implies mortgage. Hardly anybody, with 100,000*l.* in his pockets at home, would transport, in the language of the patents, "himself, his servants, and his slaves, to the island of Jamaica," to settle on a new piece of land. Generally speaking, the colonists were persons who left the country from some political commotion, as in the time of the Great Rebellion, or people who had left the country as young men obtaining employment upon estates, who had accumulated a certain amount of money and had purchased estates; and to cultivate those estates they have mortgaged them very often. The colonists who exist now in Jamaica are descendants of those who originally went out either at the time of the conquest of the various islands, or when they were ceded, or they are men that have come into the property in the way I have described. In either case,

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surely the amount of capital which actually is invested in the soil and in cultivation ought to be taken into account before you estimate the cost. But perhaps it is quite fair to state the question as at 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 *d.*, excluding all interest whatever upon capital. That excludes the wear and tear upon machinery; because what they mean by capital, is the capital they have invested in machinery as well as in other implements of manufacture.

12873. Is that the outside sum which it costs?—No, it is the average of the whole island. This committee, which was moved for by Mr. Barclay in the House of Assembly, examined one witness at least from every one of the parishes in Jamaica; they are all men resident there, and are men practically acquainted with the growth of sugar, and upon averaging the costs of the various estates which were given in, comparing them with the average cost of the various parishes, they arrived at the conclusion that the cost was 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, without including the interest upon capital. There are properties in Jamaica which, under any circumstances almost, would make a return; take, for example, Golden Grove, which is very often quoted in this country as a proof that Jamaica generally might do as well under existing laws. That is a property very favourably situated on the banks of the Plantain Garden River; the soil is from 10 to 12 feet deep; I saw canes which had been ratoonned from 10 to 12 years, and yielding a crop of a ton and a half per acre on the 12th ratoon. It is a very excellent return to get a ton and a half out of planted canes in many parts of the island. There is no manure required beyond the trash taken from the canes. Without any cost therefore, comparatively speaking, that property is making such a return as I have described. There is the property of Lord Dudley and Ward in Clarendon, called Whitley; it is situated in the centre of a basin; all the riches from the soil on the hill side are washed down to it in every tropical shower. I believe that that property has been known to make five hogsheads an acre, a thing unexampled in any other place. It would be difficult to conceive a state of things under which such estates would not succeed. Mr. M^cCornock, the manager of Golden Grove, is also a man of singular capacity as a manager, and he contrives to make something of it. I do not know that it pays, but he told me that had it not been for African immigration into that part of St. Thomas-in-the-East, he verily believed that even Golden Grove must have been given up. The African immigration into St. Thomas-in-the-East occurred in consequence of a visit which Mr. Barclay paid to Sierra Leone at the expense of the island. He brought home a certain number of negroes, that were chiefly located in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East.

12874. Mr. Miles.] Do you know the number?—I do not remember the whole number; I believe there were 2,000 altogether, and the greater number came into the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East. There is a very large district immediately bordering upon St. Thomas-in-the-East, which has gone out of cultivation. The consequence is, that there is an amount of creole labour very unusual in St. Thomas-in-the-East also; and it ought to be explained to the Committee that the labourers of whom I speak as having come from Sierra Leone had had the advantage of an intermediate education. Those labourers have given the greatest possible satisfaction, because they work six days in the week, and 10 hours in the day; the average of labour in Jamaica is about five hours in the day, four days in the week, and 10 months in the year. The Committee will see, therefore, from that circumstance, that all the estates in St. Thomas-in-the-East have a great advantage over any other estate in the island of Jamaica; but even with those advantages the estates of St. Thomas-in-the-East are not making any adequate return upon the capital which is invested, nor upon the expenditure of labour. In the letter which I received the last but one from the Chamber of Commerce, there is a more ample statement than that which Mr. Carr's letter contains of the state of the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-Vale. I believe some of the Members of the Committee are aware that that is a very favourably situated parish for the production of sugar. "To illustrate the difficulties with which our planters have to contend in regard to continuous labour, Mr. Carr, a member of our Board, who has just returned from the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, reports that up to yesterday the labourers in that parish could not be induced to resume plantation labour since Christmas. The parish in question has been peculiarly blessed during the past year with most favourable seasons; and there are, at the lowest calculation, sufficient ripe canes on the ground to produce 2,000 tons of sugar. It

It is well worthy of observation, that nearly all the estates in this parish are managed by resident proprietors or lessees. Still, with all their personal influence and attention, and notwithstanding their extreme anxiety to take off the canes, which become deteriorated every day they remain on the ground, the labourers, with very few exceptions, have done no work since the 23d of December, and there is no prospect of the estates being fully at work before the 24th instant. On Dove Hall, one of the estates in that parish, canes had been cut for the mill, but sufficient hands could not be obtained to put the mill about, and the canes were therefore necessarily spoiled. Mr. Carr bears witness to a conversation had between a local proprietor and some labourers, who were sauntering about the parish, which will give you an additional idea of the independence of our peasantry. The people were asked why they did not resume labour, and told that 'if they would not set to work and take off the crops, the estates must be abandoned.' I give the reply in their own language, or rather in the language of their spokesman: 'Massa, we don't care for your estate; me have my house and my mountain; me have my own provision and my little dumb tings' (meaning pigs and poultry); 'me rub my own floor, and if massa will come, me will give massa a glass of wine-and-water. What me care for your estate?' In August last, Mr. Carr states, these same people took five weeks holidays." To give the Committee an idea of the independence of the labourers, I may relate this fact: Mr. Stewart, of Green Valley, in Port Royal Mountains, a coffee planter, had a very beautiful field, of about 14 acres, in coffee; his field took fire by accident; it was at four o'clock in the afternoon; a gang of 36 negroes were at work at the time, and Mr. Stewart called upon them to come and help to put out this fire, which would destroy the whole piece; they said, "What for, massa, we go; him four o'clock." It was time to go home. Mr. Stewart and two or three other gentlemen who were present, set about doing the best they could to put out the fire; the negroes peremptorily refused to do it at all; and it happened that the headman on Sheldon Hall, a neighbouring property, was passing with his negroes at the time to their home; Mr. Stewart appealed to him, and he very good-naturedly induced his negroes to help, and they succeeded in putting out the fire. The next morning the negroes came to work as usual; Mr. Stewart gave a *douceur* to the negroes from Sheldon Hall, and he asked, "Why did not you help me put out the fire?" Their reply was, "Massa, you no tell we you go for pay we." Mr. Stewart said, "I never thought of telling you I was going to pay you; I did not tell the negroes of Sheldon Hall that they were to be paid, and yet they helped put it out." That was not from absolute unkindness on the part of the negroes; it is pure thoughtlessness; they are the most thoughtless race of people in the world; they will oblige you in anything they can except in the matter of working.

12875. Mr. Villiers.] And that they will only do for money?—They will not do it even for money. I was on another estate at Christmas, in another part of the island; I saw as many as 100 negroes, each of whom could have earned at the time 3s. a day, working no more than four hours, and no persuasion on earth would induce them to go into a field though the coffee was dropping from the trees and being lost. They said it was Christmas time, and they liked their drumming and dancing better. You may see in the villages that they are dancing and enjoying themselves at that time of the year, and nothing will induce them to work. In some parts of the island they take two weeks, in some parts three weeks, in some five weeks, and in some even six weeks holidays at Christmas. I was not present at the August holidays, but I am told they take a similar time then, and then there come also the holidays at Easter. The result is, that on the average of the whole island they work about 10 months in the year, and no more.

12875*. The coffee is an evergreen, is not it?—It is; but it is very capable of being burnt.

12876. Did the coffee field that you spoke of catch fire by accident?—It arose from a negro making a fire to boil some fish which he had caught in the Yallahs River, a species of mullet, which is considered a great delicacy. To contrast that state of things with the state of things in Cuba, perhaps the Committee will allow me to put in a list of 46 estates in the district of Cienfuegos, in Cuba, every one of which has been brought into cultivation within the last 15 years, and they sent into the market, according to the calculation here, in 1847, 36,986,162 pounds of sugar, that is about 16,000 tons, into the market. (*The Paper was delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix.

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12877. *Mr. Hope.*] What is the estimate derived from?—It is a list given me by a Spanish planter, resident in Cuba, made from various properties, in order to give in a return to the local government. It gives the names of all the proprietors, and the produce of each particular property. The important point for the Committee to remark is this, that those estates have all been brought into cultivation in consequence of the depression of the sugar cultivation in our colonies.

12878. *Mr. Villiers.*] During the last 15 years?—Yes; and I had a return taken out of one of them in detail, the first one on the list. This is the Carolina Estate, in Cienfuegos, the property of Mr. Hood, of Philadelphia, United States. The cane field in cultivation there is 800 acres; the number of slaves 320; the last crop commenced upon the 8th of December 1846, and ended on the 20th of May 1847. It produced 2,311 hogsheads and 250 barrels of sugar, equal to 3,014,860 lbs. of sugar, and 1,129 hogsheads, that is, 162,125 gallons, of molasses; the gross proceeds of the crop were 104,669 dollars, or 20,933*l.* 16*s.*; the contingencies were 35,000 dollars, including interest on a capital of 50,000*l.* There were two steam-engines for the mills, there being no water power; the expenses are, for the negroes, for maintenance and clothing, 5*l.* a head, which gives 1,650*l.* for the negroes. The staff of officers, 11 in number, one at 300*l.*, two at 200*l.*, one at 150*l.*, six at 100*l.*, and one at 60*l.* sterling, amounting to 1,510*l.* The value of the estate, 50,000*l.*, interest thereon, at 6 per cent., is 3,000*l.* That makes about 6,100*l.* as the cost to be deducted from 20,000*l.* sterling. I am able to state that that is a fair specimen of the whole number of the estates.

[*The Paper was delivered in, which is as follows :*]

CROP 1847.

Carolina Estate.—Cienfuegos de Cuba, the property of Mr. Hood, of Philadelphia, United States.

Cane field in cultivation, 800 acres; number of slaves, 320.

Last crop commenced 8 December 1846, and ended 20 May 1847; produced 2,311 hhds. and 250 barrels sugar, equal to 3,014,860 lbs. of sugar, and 1,129 hhds., equal to 162,125 gallons molasses.

Gross proceeds of the crop, equal to \$104,669, or 20,933*l.* 16*s.* sterling money.

Contingencies, \$35,000, including interest on a capital of \$, or 50,000*l.*

Two steam-engines for the mills, there being no water power. Iron boilers are used in the boiling-house.

CROP 1844.

	£.	s.	d.
1,890 hhds. sugar, weighing 1,250 lbs. each, at 5 <i>l.</i> per hhd., about			
8 <i>s.</i> per cwt. - - - - -	9,450	-	-
1,200 puncheons molasses, at 40 <i>s.</i> per puncheon - - - - -	2,400	-	-
	<hr/>		
	£. 11,850	-	-

CONTINGENCIES.

330 negroes (280 able-bodied), keep and clothing, at 5 <i>l.</i> - - -	£. 1,650	-	-
Staff of officers, 11 in number; one, 300 <i>l.</i> ; two, 200 <i>l.</i> ; one, 150 <i>l.</i> ; six, 100 <i>l.</i> ; one, 60 <i>l.</i> - - - - -	1,510	-	-
Value of estate, 50,000 <i>l.</i> ; interest thereon, at 6 per cent. - - -	3,000	-	-

12879. *Mr. Villiers.*] Somebody gave you that, you say, in whom you trust, but you have no opportunity of testing it by examining the accounts of the estates?—They did not allow me to enter Cuba; they thought I was too hostile to the slave trade and to slavery, and they refused a passport to admit me into the island. It is important that I should mention to the Committee the state of things in Cuba in reference to sugar cultivation. There are two parties in Cuba, one consists of the old Spanish planters, the original settlers there, and the other consists mainly of Americans and Spaniards who have recently entered the colony. I believe that the old Spaniards, of whom he was one who gave me this return, are hostile to the severe measures which have been adopted to extract labour from the slaves. My informant told me that if he were to work his property, which gives him an income of 800*l.* sterling a year, in the way in which these properties are worked by slave labour, he would have, instead of 800*l.*, 15,000*l.* a year sterling. On his property there are a fair proportion of women to the number of men. The negroes are educated and encouraged to marry, and

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and to cultivate civilized tastes and habits as much as possible, and that is the case he says with a considerable class of the original settlers in Cuba; but then those new people who have come into Cuba in consequence of our laws, which have depressed the productiveness of our colonies, purchase negroes, and extract from them by the whip as much labour as they possibly can. To illustrate this fact, I may state, that in the old times of British West India slavery it was considered a good return if you had a hogshead of sugar each year for every negro that was on your property, averaging men and women. Upon these estates the Committee will see that they yield an average of three tons for each negro; the secret of that is, that on the average there are six women to 100 men. They have no feeble labourers, either from infancy or old age, to maintain, and as I am credibly informed, and do verily believe, there is very little attention paid to the sick. They are taken home at night and put in a pen; their food is handed in to them, and the strongest generally fares the best. They are driven out in the morning before the whip; if any one runs away, he is traced by bloodhounds, and he is always shot, to make an example to the rest; they consider it better to lose the value of that negro than allow him a lighter punishment than death. This is the statement made by this gentleman, which was confirmed to me by more than 20 resident Spanish inhabitants of the island of Cuba, whom I saw in Jamaica. I cannot vouch for it on my own personal observation, because I was not permitted to land in Cuba; but I believe it as firmly as I can believe anything, and, undoubtedly, the Committee would believe it if they had the opportunity of examining the witnesses whom I examined upon the subject. The average of labour got from those slaves by that terrible coercion is 13 hours a day during the year, including Sundays, and 16 hours in crop time. In those periods I include the time for meals; that interval would be 25 minutes to eat their dinner, and another interval to eat another meal. I am informed that they have never quite half an hour for their dinner, because it is not meted out in time, but they are stopped at a given time, and the food is distributed, and they are required to eat it as fast as they may, and return to their labour.

12880. *Chairman.*] The day is only 12 hours, is it, in Cuba?—It is only 12 hours all over the West Indies.

12881. Do they work by moonlight?—Though the actual day is only 12 hours, everybody gets up before sunrise. I always got up at half-past four or five o'clock, and about five o'clock there was abundant light to do any work you please. Indeed, in moonlight and starlight nights, at midnight the work could be done perfectly well. I do not mean to say that it is done, but there is no reason why it should not be, as far as light goes; you might work 14 hours a day, as far as light goes, perfectly well, from five o'clock till seven. The 16 hours of labour which have been specified as being exacted in crop time, is performed under a roof by candle-light.

12882. *Mr. Wilson.*] Is not it the case that those people go out early in the morning, and that they have several hours in the middle of the day, and work in the cool of the evening again?—I was not in Cuba myself, and cannot answer that question.

12883. *Mr. Villiers.*] The purport of your evidence is to show the advantage which they have in Cuba over those in Jamaica, in respect to labour?—That is the purport of my observations.

12884. *Mr. Hope.*] When you say that they were getting three tons to each negro, do you mean on the average of the whole island, or merely the produce on a particular estate?—I mean the average of those 46 estates, the particulars of which I have given in; and I believe the same average would be given if an examination were to be made into all parts of Cuba where that description of planter existed.

12885. *Mr. Villiers.*] You refer that entirely to the advantage they have in slave labour, and you do not describe it to the difference of soil?—Not at all; because we have as good a soil in parts of Jamaica as in any part of Cuba, or any part of the world; and I believe in Demerara this advantage is general.

12866. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] Is your information confined to sugar, or have you any information to give to the Committee of the cost of growing coffee?—I have no statement upon that subject.

12887. Cannot you tell the Committee at what cost they can afford to produce coffee?—I can give them no further information upon that point. The coffee interest

P. Borthwick, Esq.

25 March 1848.

interest is, in parts of Jamaica, even more depressed than the sugar interest. In the parish of St George's, for example, there are three times the number of coffee estates thrown out of cultivation than there are of sugar estates.

12888. Does not the coffee depression constitute a very considerable portion of the complaints of the colonists?—Those who have to do with coffee cultivation complain just as much as the sugar growers, and from just the same cause; the state of the West India colonies, in as far as they are coffee-producing countries, is just as bad as it is with respect to sugar. I have heard it observed, and with some little degree of plausibility, that the coffee growers in the British West Indies are not entitled to protection on the same ground on which the sugar growers are entitled to that advantage, inasmuch as slave labour does not come so directly into competition with them as it comes into competition with the sugar growers.

12889. Would not it be considered that we had not met fairly the case of the West India interest if we neglected the case of the coffee growers?—If the question is put to me how much each pound of coffee costs in cultivation I cannot state it, but I am able to state facts in detail which bear upon that point, and which show two things; first, that the coffee production is exceedingly depressed; and, secondly, that the causes which have depressed the production of sugar have also depressed the production of coffee; and if you remove the causes in the one case you will remove them in the other too; they ought undoubtedly both to be removed.

12890. You think we must deal with both sugar and coffee to effect a complete cure?—Undoubtedly. I will direct the attention of the Right honourable Gentleman to page 2 of Mr. Barclay's Report, where it is stated that there were 653 estates then in cultivation in the island; 140 have been abandoned, and three broken up; 168,032 acres of land were contained in those estates; during the same period 465 coffee plantations have been abandoned.

12891. If anything, the coffee case is worse than the sugar case?—I think it is; it is hardly possible anything can be worse, but it is not better certainly; I have heard no objection to that, except from those who say that coffee is grown in Ceylon, and comes into competition with our colonial coffee from free labour, and not from slave labour.

12892. If a greater number of coffee estates have been abandoned than sugar estates, does not it prove that the coffee interest is in a worse position than the sugar interest?—It would be necessary to take into consideration whether the land which grows coffee has the same relative advantages as competing against foreign coffee which sugar land has; for example, Jamaica, in the Port Royal mountains, grows the finest coffee in the world.

12893. Mr. Wilson.] Is not it the case that the coffee has been abandoned in a great measure, in order to transfer the labour to the cultivation of sugar?—It is a very singular fact, that whereas the people in this country, myself among others, imagined always that the negro when made free would be willing enough to cultivate coffee, but would not be willing to labour in the cultivation of sugar, he has actually by experience proved that he is more willing to labour in the cultivation of sugar than in the cultivation of coffee.

12894. Is not that because he gets higher wages?—No, he gets higher wages for coffee; I have some leaves which I tore out by permission of the owners from the pay-books of some estates; from this the Committee will see that the average wages of the labourer in picking coffee is 4s. a day; they earn from 2s. to 6s. a day; sometimes more than that.

12895. In that case do they work by the piece?—In that case they are picking coffee at 9d. a bushel, which is the lowest price which is paid in Jamaica; in crop time in sugar they do not earn much more than 2s. and 3s. a day the very best labourers.

[The following Documents were subsequently furnished by the Witness:]

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

PAY BILL for SHELDON, 4th to 9th January 1847.

NAMES.	Employment.	Days of the Week						Task.	Rate.		Amount.		
		Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.		s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
James Grant -	picking coffee	1	1	1	1	1	1	per bushel	1	-	-	8	6
Catherine Bull	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	10	6
Betty Milward	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	11	6
John Leigh	ditto	4	5	1	5	5	5	ditto	1	-	-	1	6
Arby Milward	ditto	3	6	1	3	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	12	-
Eleanor Nelson	ditto	3	4	3	3	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	16	6
Henry Walters	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	14	6
Eleanor Hibbert	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	3	ditto	1	-	-	7	-
Samuel Walker	ditto	2	2	1	2	3	1	ditto	1	-	-	12	9
Hetty Thomas	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	1	ditto	1	-	-	9	-
James Flours	ditto	2	2	1	2	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	9	-
Mary Kelly	ditto	3	3	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	11	9
Afley Amos	ditto	3	3	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	11	9
John Little	ditto	3	3	2	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	15	6
Francis Graham	ditto	3	3	2	2	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	6	-
Henry Graham	ditto	2	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	3	6
Matilda Bull	ditto	2	3	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	8	6
Peter Robinson	ditto	2	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	7	9
James Davis	ditto	2	2	1	1	1	2	ditto	1	-	-	11	9
Colin	ditto	2	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	8	3
Ann Gale	ditto	1	1	1	2	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	2	9
Thomas Burke	ditto	2	3	3	3	3	2	ditto	1	-	-	16	6
Louisa	ditto	3	5	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	12	9
Charlotte	ditto	2	2	1	2	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	8	-
Robert Rodney	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	4	6
Agnes Nelson	ditto	2	5	1	1	2	1	ditto	1	-	-	9	-
D. Churington	ditto	3	4	1	3	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	13	6
Julian Bull	ditto	3	3	2	3	4	4	ditto	1	-	-	1	1
Ann Innis	ditto	3	3	1	4	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	17	6
Ann Kelly	ditto	2	2	1	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	9	-
James Kelly	ditto	3	2	1	3	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	15	-
Janet Bull	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	11	3
Margaret Stanly	ditto	2	3	1	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	11	-
Agnes Edwards	ditto	2	2	2	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	11	-
David Stewart	ditto	3	3	3	4	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	13	3
James Bryan	ditto	2	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	2	-
John Mentis	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	1	ditto	1	-	-	11	6
Polly Willis	ditto	2	2	1	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	11	-
Emma Edwards	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	11	6
Rose Bull	ditto	3	3	3	3	4	2	ditto	1	-	-	16	-
Heator White	ditto	1	1	1	1	0	0	ditto	1	-	-	4	3
Lushington	ditto	2	2	1	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	13	3
Gale	ditto	6	6	3	6	7	2	ditto	1	-	-	1	11
Dorothy Thomas	ditto	2	2	1	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	11	-
Ann Hill	ditto	3	3	2	3	4	1	ditto	1	-	-	15	-
William Anderson	ditto	4	2	1	4	3	6	ditto	1	-	-	19	-
Eliza Jackson	ditto	2	3	1	2	6	6	ditto	1	-	-	6	6
Betty Richards	ditto	2	3	1	2	6	6	ditto	1	-	-	1	9
Robert Edwards	ditto	2	3	2	2	3	1	ditto	1	-	-	13	3
Jane Jane	ditto	3	3	2	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	19	-
Lettice	ditto	2	2	1	2	4	3	ditto	1	-	-	16	-
James Graham	ditto	3	3	2	1	3	2	ditto	1	-	-	15	6
Thomas Graham	ditto	2	2	2	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	11	6
Elsay Orgill	ditto	3	3	2	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	8	-
William Maberly	ditto	5	5	4	4	10	8	ditto	1	-	-	1	16
Patty	ditto	3	3	2	3	3	4	ditto	1	-	-	18	-
Charity	ditto	3	3	2	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	16	-
Beck	ditto	2	3	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	13	9
Catalina	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	12	9
Sue	ditto	5	1	6	1	7	1	ditto	1	-	-	18	-
James Sutherland	ditto	1	8	1	3	2	8	ditto	1	-	-	1	3
Eleanor Walters	ditto	1	1	1	3	2	1	ditto	1	-	-	8	6
John Moore	ditto	3	3	3	4	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	17	-
Flora Grant	ditto	1	2	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	3	-
Pompey	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1	-	-	2	-
Joe Henderson	ditto	1	1	0	1	1	0	ditto	1	-	-	2	-
James Wray	ditto	3	2	2	2	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	10	-
William Bull	ditto	2	2	1	2	2	2	ditto	1	-	-	10	3
	ditto	2	2	2	3	3	3	ditto	1	-	-	13	-

NAMES.	Employment.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Task.	Rate.	Amount.			
										s.	d.	£.	s.
Behavorn -	picking coffee	-	2	3	2 1/2	3	3	per bushel	1 -	-	13	6	
John M'Crea -	- ditto -	-	2 1/2	2	2 1/2	2	2	- ditto -	1 -	-	10	6	
Kate Leigh -	- ditto -	-	-	-	1 1/2	-	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	1	6	
Dorothy Davis -	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	2 1/2	2 1/2	- ditto -	1 -	-	6	-	
Rosey Scott -	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	3	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	3	-	
Patty Gordon -	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	3	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	3	-	
General Kein -	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	2	2	- ditto -	1 -	-	4	-	
Nancy Stanley -	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	2 1/2	3	- ditto -	1 -	-	5	6	
Ben -	watching	1	1	1	1	1	1	by the week	- -	-	3	-	
John Moore -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	- -	-	7	6	
Andrew -	on works	1	1	1	1	1	-	by the day	1 6	-	7	6	
David Stewart -	- ditto -	-	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	1 6	-	7	6	
Nelson -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	-	-	- ditto -	- 9	-	3	-	
Charles M'Ken -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto -	- 6	-	2	6	
Prince White -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	1/6 & 1/3	-	7	9	
Dennis -	- ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	-	- ditto -	- 9	-	9	-	
Colin -	- ditto -	1	1	-	-	-	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	2	-	
Edward Parke -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	-	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	6	-	
Henry Doon -	muleman	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	7	6	
Toll and Grass -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
										£.	47	9	-

PAY BILL for SHELDON, 11th to 16th January 1847.

NAMES.	Employment.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Task.	Rate.	Amount.		
										s.	d.	£.
Charles Scott -	on works	1	1	1	1	1	1	by the day	1 6	-	9	-
David Stewart -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	1 6	-	9	-
Andrew Bogle -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	1 6	-	9	-
John Abrahams -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	7	6
George Hibbert -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	7	6
Francis Knokahn -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	1 6	-	9	-
Colin -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	-	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	4	-
Nelson -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	-	-	- ditto -	- 9	-	3	-
Charles M'Ken -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto -	- 6	-	2	6
Prince White -	- ditto -	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	7	6
Johnson -	- ditto -	1	1	1	-	-	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	4	6
Henry Doon -	muleman	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	1 6	-	9	6
Hector White -	ditto	-	1	1	1	-	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	3	-
Johnson -	errand	-	-	-	-	1	-	- ditto -	1 6	-	3	-
Ben -	watching	1	1	1	1	1	1	by the week	- -	-	3	-
John Moore -	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto -	- -	-	1	-
Toll and Grass -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Jane Dankin -	picking coffee	3 1/2	4	3 1/2	3	4	-	per bushel	1 -	-	18	6
Hetty Thomas -	- ditto -	2	3	2	2	-	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	9	-
Robert Edwards -	- ditto -	4	3	3	2	2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	14	6
Agnes Nelson -	- ditto -	2 1/2	2	2	2	3	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	11	6
D. Churington -	- ditto -	3	4	3	2	3	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	15	9
William Maberly -	- ditto -	3 1/2	3	2	2	3	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	15	-
Archy Milward -	- ditto -	6	6	6	2	2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	13	9
James Graham -	- ditto -	2	4	2	2	2	1	- ditto -	1 -	-	17	3
Catalina -	- ditto -	6	-	5	-	6	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	12	3
Jane Jane -	- ditto -	2 3/4	3	2	2	2 1/2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	11	-
General Kein -	- ditto -	4	3	3	2	2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	12	-
John Jackey -	- ditto -	2	3	3	3	-	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	12	-
Nancy Stanley -	- ditto -	3	3	3	3	-	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	10	6
Beck -	- ditto -	2	2 1/2	2	2	2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	13	-
Charity -	- ditto -	3	3	3	2	2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	13	9
Emily Orgill -	- ditto -	2 1/2	3	2	2	3	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	11	3
William Ball -	- ditto -	2 3/4	2 3/4	1	2	2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	11	9
Elsay Orgill -	- ditto -	9	8	6	7	5	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	13	-
Lettie -	- ditto -	3 1/2	3	2	2	2	-	- ditto -	1 -	-	-	-

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

NAMES.	Employment.	Days of the Week						Task.	Rate.	Amount.
		Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.			
Thomas Graham	- picking coffee	3	3	-	3	2	-	per bushel	s. d.	£. s. d.
Margaret Stanley	- ditto	3	2	1	4	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 19 -
Julian Bull	- ditto	3	2	2	3	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 9 9
Eliza Jackson	- ditto	5	5	5	4	4	-	- ditto	1 -	- 13 6
John Leigh	- ditto	7	6	5	4	3	1	- ditto	1 -	1 4 3
Agnes Edwards	- ditto	4	4	2	3	3	-	- ditto	1 -	1 8 3
Patty	- ditto	2	3	2	1	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 16 -
John Muntis	- ditto	1	2	1	2	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 -
Janet Bull	- ditto	2	2	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 7 3
Joseph Wray	- ditto	2	2	2	2	2	1	- ditto	1 -	- 10 9
Samuel Walker	- ditto	2	2	2	2	2	3	- ditto	1 -	- 11 6
James Flours	- ditto	2	2	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 14 9
James Grant	- ditto	2	2	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 -
Ann Gale	- ditto	3	3	2	4	2	1	- ditto	1 -	- 9 -
John Innis	- ditto	2	2	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 14 -
Ann Kelly	- ditto	3	5	-	2	5	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 -
James Kelly	- ditto	3	3	4	1	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 15 6
Mary Kelly	- ditto	2	-	3	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 -
Peter	- ditto	2	3	2	1	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 12 6
James Davis	- ditto	1	2	1	2	3	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 3
Emma Edwards	- ditto	5	5	6	6	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 3
Behavorn White	- ditto	4	5	4	4	3	-	- ditto	1 -	1 5 9
Polly Willis	- ditto	2	2	2	2	1	-	- ditto	1 -	1 2 9
Gale	- ditto	2	2	2	3	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 9 3
Catherine Bull	- ditto	2	2	1	2	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 12 -
Lushington	- ditto	4	7	5	6	3	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 9
Charlotte	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto	1 -	1 5 -
Eleanor Nelson	- ditto	3	4	3	3	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 6 6
Walters	- ditto	2	2	2	2	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 15 -
Matilda Bull	- ditto	2	2	1	1	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 9 -
Eleanor Hibbert	- ditto	5	5	-	-	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 -
John Little	- ditto	2	2	2	3	2	2	- ditto	1 -	- 10 -
Affey Amos	- ditto	3	4	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 14 3
Louisa	- ditto	2	2	2	3	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 14 6
Rose Bull	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 9 9
Dorothy Thomas	- ditto	4	4	4	3	3	0	- ditto	1 -	- 4 6
Ann Hill	- ditto	5	3	3	2	3	-	- ditto	1 -	- 17 9
Betty Richards	- ditto	3	3	3	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 17 6
Arcely Bonnin	- ditto	2	3	2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 13 6
John M'Crear	- ditto	3	3	2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 9 -
Sue	- ditto	-	8	2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 12 -
Pompey	- ditto	1	1	5	5	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 13 -
John Moore	- ditto	1	1	1	1	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 4 -
Nancy Dormage	- ditto	-	4	5	6	4	1	- ditto	1 -	- 4 -
Betty Milward	- ditto	-	6	-	6	1	-	- ditto	1 -	1 -
Chance Morgan	- ditto	-	3	2	3	4	-	- ditto	1 -	13 -
Francis Graham	- ditto	-	2	2	1	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 13 -
Robert Richie	- ditto	-	1	1	1	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 9
James Bryan	- ditto	-	2	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 4 9
Dick Richards	- ditto	-	3	3	3	3	-	- ditto	1 -	- 6 -
Eve Pownal	- ditto	-	2	2	2	2	1	- ditto	1 -	- 14 6
James Sutherland	- ditto	-	3	-	-	-	1	- ditto	1 -	- 8 6
Ben	- ditto	-	-	3	-	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 3 -
Thomas Burke	- ditto	-	-	5	5	5	-	- ditto	1 -	- 15 -
Hector White	- ditto	-	-	-	-	3	-	- ditto	1 -	- 3 9
Nancy Edwards	- ditto	-	-	-	-	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 1 -
Samuel Brown	- ditto	-	-	-	-	1	-	- ditto	1 -	- 1 3
Henry Graham	- ditto	-	-	-	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 4 -
Ditto	- 2 1/2 bushels, ground coffee, at 3s. per bushel.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 7 6
Charles Puval, 1 s. 6 d.	- ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 6 6
Amos Bull, 3 s.	- ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 6 6
James Spalding, 2 s.	- ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 6 6

£. 52 1 6

PAY BILL for SHELDON, 18th to 23d January 1847.

NAMES.	Employment.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Task.	Rate.		Amount.		
									s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Thomas Burke	pickng coffee	5	5	5	4	4	-	per bushel	1	-	1	3	-
Ann Hill	ditto	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	3	-	ditto	1	-	-	19	-
James Sutherland	ditto	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	6	-
James Davis	ditto	2	1 1/2	1	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	6	6
Emily Orgill	ditto	2 1/2	2	2	-	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	6	6
Louisa	ditto	2	2	2	1	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	-
Mary Kelly	ditto	3	2	2 1/2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	0	3
Samuel Walker	ditto	2	2	2	2	2	-	ditto	1	-	-	10	-
Behavorn	ditto	3 1/2	4 1/2	4	3 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	15	6
James Wray	ditto	1 1/2	2	2	1 1/2	1 1/2	-	ditto	1	-	-	9	-
Robert Richie	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	-	ditto	1	-	-	5	-
William Lewis	ditto	1	2	-	-	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	3	-
Afey Amos	ditto	3	3	2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	10	-
Nancy Dormage	ditto	3	5	3 1/2	3 1/2	3	-	ditto	1	-	-	18	-
Charlotte	ditto	1 1/2	1	1	1	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	4	6
Hetty	ditto	2	2	2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	8	-
Lettie	ditto	2	3	2 1/2	-	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	9	3
James Grant	ditto	1 1/2	1	1 1/2	1	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	5	3
Polly Willis	ditto	2	2	2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	6
Lushington	ditto	4	5	4	2 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	15	9
Matilda Bull	ditto	2	1	1 1/2	1	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	6	3
Nancy Davis	ditto	3	3	2	2 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	9	3
Catherine Bull	ditto	2	2	1	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	6
George Bryan	ditto	2	3	-	-	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	5	7
Janet Bull	ditto	2	2	2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	8	0
Gale	ditto	3	2	2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	8	9
James Flours	ditto	2	2	2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	6
John Innis	ditto	2	1 1/2	2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	7
Agnes Nelson	ditto	2	2	2	2 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	8	6
John Little	ditto	2	2	2 1/2	1 1/2	2	-	ditto	1	-	-	10	1
Abino Brown	ditto	2	2	-	-	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	4	7
Francis Graham	ditto	2	2	1	-	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	-
Dick Richards	ditto	2 1/2	3	2	2 1/2	2 1/2	-	ditto	1	-	-	13	3
William Bull	ditto	2	2	2	2 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	8	9
Andrew Brown	ditto	2	2	-	-	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	4	1
Eve Pownal	ditto	1	1	2	1	1	-	ditto	1	-	-	6	7
Letitia Dawson	ditto	2	2	2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	9
Ann Gale	ditto	2 1/2	3	2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	9	9
Thomas Graham	ditto	3	2	2	3	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	10	-
Elsey Orgill	ditto	7	5 1/2	5	5	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	1	2
Robert Edwards	ditto	3	3	2 1/2	2 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	11	-
Eliza Jackson	ditto	4	4	4	3 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	15	3
Patty	ditto	1	2	2	1	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	6	-
William Maberly	ditto	3	2	2	2 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	9	6
Agnes Edwards	ditto	2 1/2	2 1/2	2	2 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	10	3
Margaret Stanly	ditto	2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	6	9
Catalina	ditto	3	3	3	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	11	6
Jane Jane	ditto	2	2	2	1 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	7	6
Daly Hibbert	ditto	2	2	2 1/2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	8	9
Nancy Stanly	ditto	2	2	2 1/2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	8	6
John Leigh	ditto	5	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	18	9
Jane Dankins	ditto	3	3	2 1/2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	10	6
Chance Morgan	ditto	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2	-	-	ditto	1	-	-	9	6

SELECT COMMITTEE ON COFFEE AND SUGAR PLANTING.

NAMES.	Employment.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Task.	Rate.	Amount.
James Graham	- picking coffee	2	2 1/2	2	2	-	-	per bushel	s. d	£. s. d.
John Muntis	- ditto	2	1 1/2	1	1 1/2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 6
Dorothy Thomas	- ditto	3	3	2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 6 3
Hector White	- ditto	4 1/2	-	3	-	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 -
Ann Kelly	- ditto	5	4 1/2	4	3 1/2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 7 9
James Bryan	- ditto	2	2	2	1 1/2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 16 9
David	- ditto	2	3	3	3 1/2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 7 6
Charity	- ditto	3	2	2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 11 3
Peter	- ditto	2	2 1/2	2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 9 -
Beck	- ditto	1 1/2	1 1/2	2	1	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 6
Sue	- ditto	2	3	3	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 6 3
Elizabeth Roden	- ditto	4	4 3/4	4 1/2	4 1/2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 -
Emma Edwards	- ditto	3	2	3	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 17 9
Julian Bull	- ditto	2 3/4	3	2 1/2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 -
Peter Robinson	- ditto	2	2	1	1 3/4	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 10 3
Betty Richards	- ditto	-	4	-	4	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 3 9
John M'Crear	- ditto	-	2	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 8 -
Henry Walters	- ditto	-	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 7 6
John Moore	- ditto	-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 4 -
Pompey	- ditto	-	1	1	1	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 3 -
Stephen Rainford	- ditto	-	-	2	2	2	-	- ditto	1 -	- 6 3
William Anderson	- ditto	-	-	2	2	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 4 4
Grace	- ditto	-	-	1	1 3/4	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 2 9
Rose Bull	- ditto	-	-	-	1	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 1 -
Flora Bull	- 2 bushels of ground coffee, at 3 s.	-	-	-	-	-	-	- ditto	1 -	- 6 -
Henry Graham	- 2 bushels of ground coffee, at 3 s.	-	-	-	-	-	-	- ditto	-	- 6 -
John Moore	- watching	1	1	1	1	1	1	by the week	-	-
Ben	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	- ditto	-	- 3 -
Gordon	- on works	1	1	1	1	1	1	day	3 d. & 4 1/2 d.	- 1 7 1/2
Colin	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 -	- 6 -
Charles M'Ken	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	- 6	- 3 -
Andrew Bogle	- ditto	1	1	-	-	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 6 -
Charles Scott	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 9 -
Francis Knokalm	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 9 -
Francis James	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 9 -
John Abrahams	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 9 -
Nelson	- ditto	1	1	1	1	-	-	ditto	1 6	- 3 -
Prince White	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 s. 3 d. & 1 s. 6 d.	- 7 9
Johnson	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 9 -
David Stewart	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 9 -
George Hibbert	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	1 6	- 9 -
Martin	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	- 6	- 3 -
Andrew Parke	- ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1	ditto	- 6	- 3 -
Paul Duncan	- 9 days as ranger, at 1 s. 6 d.; 13 s. 6 d.; toll, 1 s.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 14 6
Andrew Bogle	- errand	-	-	1	1	-	-	day	1 6	- 3 -
James Flours	- shooting down coffee after dark.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 4 4 1/2
George Hunt	- picking up coffee at shoot.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 6 -
William Mason	- ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 6 -
Flora and Rose Bull	- 8 days in garden, at 9 d.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 7 2
Anna Bull	- ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 6 -
									£.	41 14 6

Fair copy from Plantation Book.

J. Carson, Attorney.

A RETURN of WORK performed by Labourers employed on GREEN VALLEY PLANTATION, Port Royal, Jamaica, J. L. Stewart, Esq., Proprietor.

WORKMEN'S DAY-BOOK for GREEN VALLEY, Jamaica, from the 6th to the 20th December 1846.

NAMES.	TRADES or CALLINGS.	HOW EMPLOYED.							Total Days.	Number of Bushels of Coffee.	Rate.	Amount of Week's Wages.	Rent.	REMARKS.
		Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.							
Charles Duthaney	Boatswain	1	1	1	1					s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		- On salary; 18/ sterling per annum.
William Headham	Ranger	1	1	1	1	1	1				13	4		Ditto; 4 weeks.
Jacques	Stock-keeper	1	1	1	1	1	1				14	2		2 ditto.
William Duffers	Works' hands	1	1	1	1	1	1				5	2		Ditto.
Doughlass	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				8	2		
Joseph	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				9	2		
Richard Stewart	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1		5	1 3	9 3			
Margaret	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1		4		4 6			And night-work.
William	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1		5		4			
Sammy	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				4			
Henry	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				4			
Brown	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				1 6			
Robert Law	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				1 6			
Francis Scott	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				6			
Ivan	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				5			
Minot	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				6			
Kelly	Watchman	1	1	1	1	1	1				12			
John Henry	ditto	1	1	1	1	1	1				6			
John MacCann	Works' carpenter	1	1	1	1	1	1				10			
Thomas Sterling	Ranger	1	1	1	1	1	1				12			
Edward Lacy											6			
Lydia Roberts									4		10			Total Number of bushels picked this week, 388.
Dennis Law	Picking Stew-								10		12			
Nanny Roberts	art's, Mad-								12		12			
Molly Stewart	dan's, and								17		17			
Prudence Garnett	Stanley, &c.								15 3/4		15 9			
Robert Sylvester									13 3/4		13 3			
Robert Drysdale									13 3/4		13 6			
Bobby Law									13 1/2		13			
Henry Stewart									13 1/2		13 6			
George Murray											11 6			
Sarah Duncun											6 9			
Lewis Crosly											8 9			
Elizabeth Nixon											15			- 2 weeks' wages, that for last week picking.
Bryan Bennett											13			

P. Borthwick, Esq.

25 March 1848.

WORKMEN'S DAY-BOOK, for GREEN VALLEY, Jamaica, from the 16th to the 23d January 1847.

NAMES	TRADES or CALLINGS	HOW EMPLOYED.							Total Days.	Rate.	Amount of Week's Wages.	REMARKS.
		Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.					
Jacques	Stock-keeper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 s.		
James Daly	Ditto	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15		
Catherine Bennett	Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5		
Isaac Garnett	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 3		
Abel Stewart	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 6		
Joseph Henderson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
Dennis Law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 6		
Thomas Sterling	Ranger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10		
Amelin Stewart	Works	1	1	1	1 town	-	-	-	-	1 6		
Doughlass	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	Extra wages.	
James Williams	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7 6		
Hinky	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5		
Francis Hall	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8		
Francis Scott	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3		
Thomas Williams	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9 6		
Edward Hughes	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3 6	Hire for donkey included.	
Thomas Doughlass	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5		
Brown	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2 6		
Adam Crosby	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6 3		
Maria Graham	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5		
Lydia Roberts	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6 6		
Henry	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2		
Catherine Daly	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4		
Simpson	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3 9		
Prudence Muir	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3		
Jane Markland	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6 3		
Christian Stewart	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3 9		
William Murray	Ranger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	Two weeks.	

P. Borlwick, Esq.

25 March 1848.

12896. In that case they are paid by the day?—They are paid by the gallon of juice they get out of the canes sometimes; there are many estates in which the advantage of a skilful feeder of the mill is very considerable; he can make a greater quantity of juice by putting the canes more equally into the mill, therefore they say, “If you make so many gallons in the day, you shall have so much for the quantity which you produce;” they make from 2 s. to 3 s. a day.

12897. In speaking to Mr. William Smith with regard to this coffee cultivation, he told me that he and his brother had taken some coffee plantations in some of the remote parts of Jamaica, and that they found no difficulty whatever in getting abundance of labour at 1 s. a day; that it was a great advantage to the neighbourhood, and that the people hailed it as such; that they commenced the cultivation of this coffee?—I do not know what part of the island that might have been in. I know Mr. William Smith; he is a gentleman of very great energy, and a man who would certainly carry out with the greatest possible enthusiasm any plan that he adopted. I know he is the head of a company called the “Land Company,” and that with the advantage of almost unbounded capital he went out to Jamaica, being a native of that island, and he hoped that by purchasing and renting estates he would be able to show the planters that they did not want any aid from the Legislature, but that they wanted energy. He set about it very energetically, and he gave high wages; he gave as much as 2 s. 6 d. a day on the estate of Cornwall, in the parish of Westmoreland, and 1,000*l.* a year to his manager; he took out two Englishmen, farmers, acquainted with English agriculture, on purpose. The labourers came to him in great numbers from the neighbouring estates; my friend, who is a great admirer of Mr. Smith, lost a number of his labourers in consequence of that for a time; but Mr. Smith found, that though he got a great many labourers, he did not get 2 s. 6 d. worth of work out of them in a day, therefore he was obliged to change his system altogether. He has now placed in Cornwall what are called old-time planters, and I do not know why he should not ultimately succeed, provided that the colonies are treated with justice in this country; but Mr. Smith’s attempts have illustrated, beyond any example that could be put forth, that no energy, no amount of capital, and no enthusiasm on the part of the proprietors can surmount the difficulties which the Home legislation has placed in the way of the planters. I have here a statement from Mr. Stewart’s estates in Green Valley; one woman, her daughter, and her daughter’s husband, with two children under eight years of age, earned in four days, picking coffee, at 9*d.* a bushel, from the 11th to the 15th of October in the year 1847, as follows:—Charles Fagan, the man, 1*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*; the mother-in-law, Helen Davidson, 8*s.*; Ann Fagan, the wife, 8*s.* 6*d.*; so that between those three alone there was 2*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* earned in that time, and two of those labourers were women. On the 3d of November, a gang upon that same property struck for 1*s.* a bushel; it is easy for a weak picker, at 9*d.* a bushel, to earn 3*s.*, and a middling one 4*s.* Charles Fagan, who earned 6*s.* 6*d.*, is considered a very good picker.

12898. Is that because it requires more skilful labour?—No; I could myself perform the operations of the sugar cultivation better than the coffee. I attempted both, and I could succeed in all parts of the sugar labour, but I could not manage the coffee picking, because I could not hold the vessel into which they pick it.

12899. Is not the preference for sugar cultivation caused by the fact that the work in the coffee plantations is confined almost exclusively to the period of picking, and that at other parts of the year there is little or no labour, whereas upon sugar estates there is continuous labour?—I do not think on a well-regulated coffee estate that there is any want of labour at any period of the year. Most of the coffee estates are high upon the mountains, and they have a variety of climate in proportion to the ascent; when the crop is going off at one part it is just beginning at another. I have several properties in my mind at this moment of which that would be perfectly true, therefore there is continuous labour pretty nearly all the year round. I think the negroes never need be out of work if they are contented on a coffee plantation with 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. I never saw an instance in which a negro could not be employed at those wages all the year round if he wished to be so.

12900. There is no process, is there, after the tree is planted?—There is cleaning, which is very important. The tropical vegetation is very rapid; the difference in two or three weeks is prodigious. On a coffee plantation which I saw, belonging

belonging to Mr. Carson, I saw the negroes refuse to go out to clean; they were plants which had been put in 8 or 10 months; they refused to go out, and Mr. Carson asked them why they were unwilling to go; the reason they gave was, that in three weeks more massa would give them more wages; he offered them 1 s. 6 d.; then they knew the weeds would grow so high in three weeks that he would be willing to give them more wages to get rid of his weeds. The weeds grow so rapidly that if they are not constantly kept cleaned they spoil the plant.

12901. Has not that reference rather to the young coffee plant?—It has quite as much reference to the old plant; the weeds would not grow in the same way, nor would the same weeds grow, but there is a character of weed which does grow, and it requires to be taken away.

12902. How many years does the coffee tree bear in Jamaica?—I saw a coffee tree which was planted 120 years ago, and which was in very beautiful bearing. They say that if you take a coffee piece out of cultivation you can never bring it in again. I never could understand why that should be, but that is the answer that all coffee planters give; they say when a field goes out of heart and is useless, you cannot, even by taking out the old trees and putting in new ones, get coffee from it again; therefore coffee is not like sugar, but becomes completely exhausted when the field is worn out.

12903. *Chairman.*] Coffee takes five years to come into fruit, does not it?—To come into full bearing; it will bear fruit in three years, but comes into full bearing in five years, and then it continues bearing a great many years; there is the belief that once lost it is irrecoverable; but, as I have stated to the Committee, I could never see the reason for it.

12904. *Mr. Wilson.*] Is not the picking done very much by women and children?—Very much indeed; men are employed; the planter is too glad to get any description of labourers who can pick.

12905. Do you remember why Mr. Gladstone made a difference between the sugar duties and the coffee duties, in allowing the introduction of slave-labour coffee, when he declined to allow the introduction of slave-labour sugar?—Yes; but I do not see that the negroes at all sympathized with Mr. Gladstone in that opinion.

12906. You do not think that Mr. Gladstone's view was a correct one?—I do not; I judge from the fact; I find that the negroes are quite as willing to work in the sugar cultivation as they are in the coffee cultivation, and rather more so; whether that is because they get advantages during crop time in sugar, I cannot say; they are very fond of gathering the canes, and I am afraid they like stealing the canes too. I have some evidence which I can give with respect to the moral condition of the negroes, which shows that the state of Jamaica requires protection for the negroes as much as for the planters. With reference to the condition of the negroes, and their unwillingness to labour, I should state to the Committee that in the island of Jamaica there are two millions of acres of land wholly virgin soil. It is in evidence already before the Committee, that of 653 sugar estates in cultivation in the island 140 have been abandoned, and 400 coffee estates have been abandoned, and those represent a population of many thousands. There was a competition between the planters; the proprietors of large estates, or men who could command capital, gave high wages to a few labourers on purpose to get the labour, and they swallowed up the little estates by that means; they defeated their own purpose, because no sooner were the little estates abandoned than the negroes became independent settlers upon those little estates. It is constantly quoted in this country that negro villages may be seen in Jamaica representing the greatest possible amount of physical comfort, and no doubt that is true; there is nothing in England, even among the lower class of farmers, which can at all be compared to the state of physical comfort in which the negro lives in Jamaica. In the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East there is an estate which has been broken up in that way, and it is covered with negro villages. There is not a negro hardly who is not possessed of a horse. I saw upon one Sunday in another part of the island, near Falmouth, at Mr. Blyth's church, a Scotch minister there, 45 horses, which I counted waiting at the door for their masters, who are negroes, whom they had carried to church, and whom they were to carry home again; there were seven gigs, very handsome vehicles, waiting at the door also for their negro proprietors. All those negroes had been slaves, and not one of them was above the rank of a field labourer at that moment. The value of the horses, as horses sell in Jamaica, would be from 15*l.* to 60*l.*; many of the horses possessed

P. Borthwick, Esq.
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possessed by the negroes are very fine animals indeed; they have a fault in Jamaica that they breed their horses too high; they are generally blood horses; the great ambition of a labourer is to get a horse.

12907. It must require a great amount of labour to procure such a horse?— It would form a great stimulus to labour if it were accompanied by other artificial wants; such as education for their children, and a higher state of civilization in their mode of living in other respects. They use their horse to gallop to church on Sunday, or to market on Saturday; they generally ride as fast as they can. One of the features which it is painful to notice in the case is, that whereas the men are riding to church and back again, the women are all trudging on foot; and the women always carry the heavy burdens to market, while the men either ride or walk beside them, but never take any share in the heavy part of the labour. Now, undoubtedly, if the negro had other wants which operated on his mind in the same way as his wish to obtain a horse does, it would afford a great stimulus to labour. But I have shown to the Committee by the letter of Mr. Carr and the letter of the Chamber of Commerce, that in consequence of the steps to which I have referred, the negroes are able to grow provisions, from which they acquire considerable returns. On an estate within six miles of Kingston there are 300 negroes squatted; the estate is altogether given up, and there are 300 negroes living upon it; they paid no rent to anybody; at least so they told me; they were willing to pay rent if anybody would ask them, but nobody asked them. Those people supply the market of Kingston with provisions, which they grow there; the sale of a few provisions soon produces 40 *l.* or 50 *l.*; and then a labourer can earn from 2 *s.* to 6 *s.* and 7 *s.* a day in the field.

12908. *Chairman.*] Do not they also cut grass and sell it; is not there a great business done in that way?—The cost of guinea grass was standing at 6*d.* a bundle when I was there; a bundle is a very small quantity indeed; you must give three bundles to your horse at night, and you pay 1*s.* 6*d.* for that quantity of grass to your horse; that grass is grown upon the lands of the proprietors almost invariably. There is a paper here which shows how that is. I prefer quoting it from this paper, because it is in a paper which has always taken a very strong anti-slavery view of the state of the West Indies, and has always been considered hostile to the interests of the planters. It is the "Falmouth Post." It is headed "Systematic plunder of property on estates in Trelawney." It alludes to canes, but precisely the same remark applies to grass: "The crime of cane stealing, as it is now practised in this parish, viewed in any light, whether as regards the immense quantity of produce stolen from each estate; the serious diminution of the crop, which it is certain to occasion; the systematized plan on which the pilfering is conducted; or the purposes to which the extensive spoliations are appropriated, renders it necessary that effective means should be adopted for its suppression, for it is an offence of great moral turpitude. Our police reports show that for a considerable time past the average number of cases brought before the sitting magistrates for this description of crime has been four per week. The quantity stolen has not (except in a few instances) been confined to the taking of one or two plants by promiscuous wayfarers; on the contrary, it has been proved by respectable witnesses that immense heaps have been made away with; that the robbers have cunningly enough avoided the edges of fields or places near to the road-side, where they might easily be detected, and have carried on their depredations in spots where they thought themselves secure from the watchful eyes of overseers, bookkeepers, and headmen. Not the less remarkable is the hour chosen by the thieves; midnight is the time usually selected; and the disposal of the plunder is a question that will no doubt excite the curiosity of our readers. From information that we have received, we may with confidence give the following report: Among many of the small settlers who live in the neighbourhood of estates small patches of canes are kept near their houses as 'blinds'; on the premises are to be seen wooden mills, which are used for the purpose of expressing the juice of the cane; the juice is afterwards boiled down in large iron pots, and the sugar produced is carried to the nearest market, readily sold, and is highly prized (by parties who know not how it has been obtained) as a proof of the enterprize and industry of the peasantry. Now several of these small settlers are not only the recipients of property nefariously acquired, but principals; and it is extremely desirable that every effort should be used to bring the guilty to punishment."

12909. Mr. *Wilson.*] Do you attribute that to the want of vigilance on the part

part of the police or of the proprietors?—I should think it impossible for any proprietor, unless he were to expend more in the payment of the police than in the growth of sugar, to guard his property against such inroads.

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12910. Is there no cure for that evil?—There is no cure, except in the improved moral condition of the negroes.

12911. What do you think would be the effect as to the growth of provisions if there were no duty upon the importation of foreign provisions?—I do not think the effect would be perceptible, because the provisions that would be imported would not be of a kind that would at all compete with the provisions which they raise; they would not import canes, for instance, to be made into sugar; they would not import pine-apples; they would hardly import yams; indeed it would be impossible for any other country to compete, without any duty whatever, with the production of such provisions grown out of lands for which they will pay nothing, or which they have purchased in freehold.

12912. If flour and rice and their different kinds of provisions were cheaper, by the duty being taken off, would not that lead to a larger consumption of imported food and a smaller consumption of food grown in the island?—The imports which they covet most are salt provisions; those are very much coveted; I do not doubt that to the extent to which those are imported, if you were to bring into competition against our own merchants the produce of foreign countries without any duty, they would be cheaper.

12913. Are not you aware that there is no difference of duties now between British provisions and foreign provisions in the West Indies?—I am aware that is no difference.

12914. Therefore there is no protective duty?—What I mean to say is, that if you were to take off the duty upon the imported articles which they do consume, those articles would be cheapened, and *quoad* those articles themselves, there would be probably a larger consumption.

12914*. Would not that lead to a smaller demand for the particular produce which is now raised by the negroes in the island of Jamaica, by giving them a smaller price and a smaller inducement to expend their labour in that particular way?—They would then be obliged to turn to something to obtain money for those provisions.

12915. Would not that send them into the cane field to get money rather than lead them to spend their time in growing provisions?—I think it would be impossible from any effect so slight as that to produce any sensible alteration in their habits; they could only be pressed into the cane field by one of two things—necessity or coercion. No man labours under any sun except for one or the other of those motives; either the moral coercion of his necessities or the physical coercion, the whip. You have removed the whip; there remains only the moral coercion. Certainly the cause which you have suggested could not produce any effect so considerable as that.

12916. By moral coercion, you simply mean an inducement to labour?—Such wants as would induce a man to labour.

12917. If a man has wants or wishes to gratify, he must make an effort in order to gratify them?—Yes. That is just why a labourer works in the field or a lawyer in Westminster Hall toils in England.

12918. Suppose a man finds that he can supply his physical wants by labouring a certain number of hours, if he found he could obtain as much money by labouring in the cane field a shorter period and buying his provisions, would not he rather do so than grow his provisions, labouring a longer period?—If the coercion amounted to that point; but it is impossible, I think, in the state of the land in Jamaica, that such a point could be arrived at without a largely increased population.

12919. A man labours at present a certain period to grow his own provisions; the question would be, if a man is to labour four hours a day in order to grow his provisions, if he found by labouring three hours in the cane-field he could get as much money as would buy the imported provisions he required, would not he rather work three hours a day and buy his provisions than work four hours a day and grow his provisions?—If that case could occur, no doubt the inference would be correct, but that case cannot occur in Jamaica, for this reason, no man needs to work four hours a day or much more than four hours a month, in order to supply all the wants of his family; I mean the absolute wants of nature, eating,

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drinking, and clothing; if he were to work four hours a month that is all that would be required to feed his family.

12920. *Mr. Villiers.*] Not his horse too?—I was riding a negro horse one day and I could not get him to obey me because his mouth was very hard; the negro scolded the horse very vehemently, because he said, “What for you eat massa grass six days in de week, you no obey me the seventh?” They always contrive to feed their horses on the way side when they are visibly being fed, but generally speaking they plunge them into the fields of guinea grass, which are very often so tall as to bury them altogether; that grass belongs to the master, and the feeding of the horse never costs them anything at all; their horses are seldom in what we call hard-working condition, because they do not give them hard food.

12921. Does the master feed the horse as well as the man?—He would not willingly do so, but he is obliged to do it; they are turned into his fields.

12922. *Mr. Wilson.*] From what you say, the Committee infer that the only means by which you could hope to get those people to work would be by increasing their wants?—Yes.

12923. Do you think their wants would be likely to be increased if you were to cheapen the articles of dress and the luxuries of life by reducing the duties on imports?—I do not think they have any difficulty at this moment in obtaining all they now want, and I do not think they would ever find any difficulty, with the present population, in obtaining the supply of any artificial wants you could create by improved education.

12924. You think they are a very happily circumstanced people, then?—They are; there is no population on the face of the earth to be compared with them.

12925. Then however badly the planters may be off, you say the sugar labourers are the best off of all people in the world?—In every material point, undoubtedly.

12926. *Mr. Villiers.*] What would be the effect of immigration?—It would be highly beneficial. I have in my hands a speech of Sir Charles Grey to the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East: “The efficiency, Mr. Custos, of the African labourers employed by your Honor, their unmistakable air of contentment and cheerfulness; their orderly demeanor and intelligence; their willing observance of religious rites, and attendance at church worship; and the quickness with which their children attain education in the schools provided for them, have fully satisfied me not only that by the influx of immigrants from Africa all that is wanted here in the way of labour may be supplied, but that it may be supplied without the slightest disturbance of social relations or order, and with so vast an improvement, physical, moral, intellectual, and religious, of the condition of the immigrants themselves, that it may be regarded almost as a transition to another life and another world. Of these facts, I am confident nothing can be required but personal examination and inspection, to convince the most decided and most ardent adversary of slavery. It is the opportunity I have myself had of observing these facts; it is the knowledge I possess of its being the desire and intention of Her Majesty’s Ministers to do everything for the benefit of these colonies, which is consistent with the general welfare of the empire; it is, above all, my perception and conviction of the resident proprietors and planters having acquired a full sense of their obligation and duties toward the people, and of their having come to the conclusion that strict justice is due to the labourer as well as to the employer, and that their interests are mutual and dependent on each other, that make me confident of the rapid growth of your prosperity.” I am able to certify to the Committee, from personal and careful examination of the estate, that not only are those immigrants themselves generally improved, but there is a very sensible improvement in the creole negroes, in consequence of the example which the immigrants have set them, both in respect to their attendance at church and at the schools, and they are induced to work six days in the week by the example of the Africans, while they would not work more than four days in the week before.

12927. Are the Committee to understand that the moral habits and intelligence of the immigrants are superior to those of the native negro?—Very considerably; but that answer would not be accurate unless I explained that those negroes are from Sierra Leone; they have undergone the process of a moral and religious education there; it would not be true of all Africans who might be caught on the high seas and imported at once.

12928. *Mr.*

12928. Mr. *Wilson*.] The improvement which you contemplate in the present race of labourers, would be by the wholesome restraint that would be put upon them by competition for employment?—Undoubtedly; the moral influence which a good example would produce upon them, and also competition. It is fair to admit that the previously existing system of slavery has produced many bad characteristics in the mind of the negro, which do not belong to him naturally. He owes a deteriorated condition of moral and social feeling to the fact of his having been in a state of slavery; you can trace it in very many points of their character which it is very interesting to notice. For example: their not working on Fridays and Saturdays arises from the fact, that as slavery began to be ameliorated by the planters, they gave them alternate Saturdays in Jamaica; in some of the colonies they gave them every Saturday. They therefore acquired the habit of thinking it was very undesirable to work on a Saturday. This habit has extended itself to Friday, from various causes; and now they will not work on Friday or Saturday, nor at Christmas time, nor at emancipation time, the 1st of August, nor at Easter.

12929. Can you give the Committee an opinion upon this subject; you are aware that the island of Jamaica is comparatively thinly populated; some of the other islands are still more thinly populated; and the great difficulty is, that labourers have an opportunity by the great quantity of unoccupied lands, either to squat or to obtain possession of the lands upon very easy terms, whereby they make an easy subsistence, and grow a sufficient quantity of provisions to supply all their artificial wants. Supposing there were a very considerable importation of labourers, do you see any means whereby that difficulty could be prevented by preventing the existing labourers still further pursuing that course?—My views are these; if you were to populate Jamaica as thickly as Barbadoes is populated, you must find the difference in number between 400,000 and 5,000,000; but I do not think it is necessary, in order to obtain from the negro a fair day's work for a fair day's wages, to force him to so severe a point as anything like this; because the very instance which I have been reading to the Committee, shows that the creole negro follows the example of an immigrant when he finds him willing to work 10 hours in the day. On Golden Grove estate, Amity Hall, and one or two others, the labourers are working 10 hours a day, at from 1s. to 1s. 6d. in ordinary times of the year. That is not because St. Thomas's-in-the-East is so over-populated, that physical necessity compels them to resort to the cane field, but because there is a moral influence produced upon their minds by the example of those immigrants. They do not like to see themselves outdone, and they go into the field with them.

12930. Those were trained immigrants from Sierra Leone; you cannot hope to get any number of those; if you were to bring them from the Kroo coast or the Cape coast, you could not expect to have tutored people in the first instance?—We have 30,000 negroes in Sierra Leone at this moment; I do not see why they should not be transferred to Jamaica.

12931. What are they doing now in Sierra Leone?—I believe they are very unprofitably engaged as regards physical labour, but they are under tuition in moral and religious instruction, and they are being fitted for labour in any part of the world where their labour can be useful.

12932. Some evidence has been given to the Committee, that if a ship were to go to Sierra Leone, there is great doubt whether there are any labourers to be obtained there?—I am surprised that any witness before the Committee should have stated that. They are perfectly free people, no doubt, and you cannot compel them to go to Jamaica if they choose to live at Sierra Leone; but you compelled them to go to Sierra Leone.

12933. Are you aware of the nature of the occupation they have at Sierra Leone?—I believe they are occupied in various processes of agriculture; I have never been there.

12934. Some evidence before this Committee has shown that the slaves that have been taken into Sierra Leone have deteriorated into the worst description of native people?—If that be so they would be greatly improved by coming to Jamaica, if we may judge from the examples we have seen.

12935. Even if there were 30,000, that would be nothing to the number that would be required for the whole of the West India islands, so that the coast of Africa must be very extensively opened to do them any good, and therefore we could not look for tutored and instructed labourers?—I do not by any means

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think that a large immigration would be advisable. Lord Howard de Walden stated to the Committee that a large immigration from Africa would not be desirable; I think it would not. If you brought 100,000 a year into Jamaica it would be too many. If you were to bring 30,000 a year into Jamaica, it would produce all the good results to be obtained by African immigration; but I do not think that immigration should be confined to Africa, by any means. I think the Madeira people have shown that they are very efficient labourers; and I am of opinion that white immigration from this country would be most valuable in the West Indies, particularly in Jamaica.

12936. Can you give the Committee any information with respect to the coolie immigration?—The coolie immigration in Jamaica has been a failure up to this moment. The coolies are of two classes, one set from Madras, and the other from Calcutta. The Madras people have invariably failed; the Calcutta people have been better. I have seen several coolies doing very well who came from Calcutta, and I never saw one from Madras who was not either a beggar or a vagrant of some kind, or in the Penitentiary. The people in Jamaica attribute this to the fact that the coolies were not well chosen in India; that the persons who chose them resolved to make up the number that was required; and in order to do that they took the first that came to hand. There was one set of them that was located on an estate in Jamaica, and instead of finding them to be field labourers, or to understand anything about agriculture, they were tumblers, and barbers, and tradesmen of one sort and another; some of them were walking on their hands, and tumbling about in the court yard, being jugglers and persons of that kind by profession, and totally useless as agricultural labourers. Then it is not to be concealed that the negroes did not like them; and the little insect that gets into the foot, called the chico, was not picked out by the negroes, which the negroes know how to do, but which very few other people do. The result was that they got the disease which proceeds from the works of that insect, and many of them were loathsomely lame.

12937. Is that disease common in Jamaica?—It is so common that almost everybody has felt the chico in his foot; but nobody suffers much from it, because the first negro you come to can always take it out.

12938. The coolies had not it taken out, and consequently they became diseased?—The consequence is that the insect lays an egg under the skin, and produces a sore.

12939. Have you heard any observation with respect to the want of a supervision by parties who understood the coolie habits, and the coolie language?—Yes; I have heard many observations to that effect, and I have no doubt that the coolies who understood field labour, or were willing to do it, would have got on much better than they have done if there had been a proper protection afforded them.

12940. In Jamaica there were no means taken to bring with them people who understood the habits or language of the people in India?—There were protectors appointed.

12941. They knew nothing about India?—I am afraid they did not know much about it. I found great difficulty in communicating with the coolies, because I did not know their language, and I seldom found an interpreter; but I found 14 Madras people in the hospital in Kingston, and four Calcutta people, and I conversed with them both through the interpreter who was present. They complained very bitterly of ill-treatment; but the Calcutta people admitted that the Madras ones, for whom they seemed to have a great contempt, were not fit for agricultural labour, and ought never to have been brought to the West Indies for that purpose. Whether that was envy, or whether it was a better founded remark, I do not know, but it was corroborated by the fact that everywhere those that had come from Calcutta were more successful than those that had come from Madras.

12942. Can you explain the reason why the railway in Jamaica was made by labourers at 1s. a day, and there was no difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of labourers at that rate for that purpose?—I heard that statement contradicted by persons who certainly ought to have known the facts.

12943. Was not the brother of Mr. Smith, who has stated the fact, the manager?—He was. Mr. David Smith was the manager of the works, and Mr. William Smith was there before the railway was completed; but I must say that I heard it repeatedly contradicted that the labourers did work for 1s. a day, and I heard it contradicted by people whom I should have believed to be well informed had
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not Mr. Smith stated the fact to me. I think there must have been some mistake on his part, or on the part of my informants. I do not think, however, that it at all interferes with the question. I should be willing to admit that the labourers might have worked for 1s. a day on the railway, but they were not always the same labourers; they did not continue from week's end to week's end working. The work itself was of a novel character to them; they saw white people doing it; they wondered what the result of it would be, and the curiosity operated upon their minds, rather than any stimulus of wages, to lead them to work. But about this fact there is no doubt, that they did not work continuously.

12944. Mr. *Villiers*.] When you spoke about the emigrants from Madeira, were you to be understood to say that they had answered perfectly in Jamaica?—Yes.

12945. Do you know what the mortality has been among the people from Madeira?—I do not know that.

12946. Do you know that half are in the grave now that came from Madeira a few years ago?—No.

12947. Do you know the contrary?—I know many estates on which I saw them working, where no such mortality occurred.

12948. You do not speak from any knowledge of the fact when you say that the labourers from Madeira have all prospered, do you?—I did not say they had all prospered there. People going from this country have died in very large numbers when they have gone to Jamaica, but that is no reason why they should not have done very well. On the estate Camp Savannah, near Savannah-la-Mer, as hot as any part of the island, I found a Scotch labourer who had been there six years as a ploughman; he does all the work that the negroes do, only he does a very great deal more of it; he told me he had never had a headache all the time he had been there.

12949. You have no belief that the Scotch are likely to emigrate there, have you?—I have a very firm idea that the Scotch people ought to emigrate there, and the English people too, and that they would do very well in many localities. Four men who came out with this same man died.

12950. Four men out of the five who came from Scotland died?—Yes; and the inference you would draw from that fact is, that Scotch labourers will not do there; but I asked this man why he lived while the others died; he said he could easily tell me the reason; there were two causes; the first was, that he always bathed once every day, and kept himself very clean; and the other was, that he drank no new rum. Cleanliness and abstinence from new rum secure life and good health to English immigrants there.

12951. You are of opinion that Europeans might be induced to emigrate, and that they would do well if they did?—I think so. At 3,000 feet above the level of the sea there is no reason on earth why any European should not live, and they do invariably live and prosper, unless they kill themselves by drinking new rum.

12952. Mr. *Miles*.] How many sugar properties are there 3,000 feet above the level of the sea?—There are many productions in Jamaica besides sugar; that is one of the reasons why I think a proper protection to the present properties in Jamaica would be useful. I do not think that one-tenth part of the real resources of Jamaica are developed under its present circumstances. If you protect its staples now you will educe wealth which now remains concealed. You find European herbage on the tops of the mountains, which indicates that sheep might be fed very well there; you go down to Kingston and find mutton selling at 1s. 2d. and 1s. 6d. a pound.

12953. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] Is there no way of inducing people to abstain from those habits of intemperance?—I believe many people would abstain. Those four labourers to whom I have referred were picked up from the streets of Glasgow; the one who lived was a man who had been accustomed to an agricultural life.

12954. Did you ever try any Irishmen out there?—All the accounts I have received were that Irishmen have universally died off shortly after their arrival.

12955. You do attribute a great deal of this mortality, or perhaps the greater part of it, to the excessive use of spirits?—My individual opinion upon that subject would not be worth much; but all medical men whom I examined upon it agreed that the causes were those two; want of cleanliness and want of temperance.

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12956. Can you inform the Committee, with regard to the different representations which have been made as to the interests of the resident planters in Jamaica, whether their interests are considered to be fairly represented by the West India body in London?—I think I can state that the very nature and composition of the body called the West Indian Body in London places it in some degree in a position antagonistic to that of the resident proprietors in the colony and the absentee proprietors too. The merchant in the city of London is the representative of capital. Capital has neither humanity nor patriotism. The English capitalist would lend a Frenchman money if he got a higher percentage for it to buy powder and shot to blow out his own brains with; he has done so before and he would do so again. I state that to show that the man who represents capital goes into that market of the world where capital returns the best interest; he does not care what becomes of the West Indies nor what becomes of England *quoad* his position as a capitalist. I am sure that the West India body in the city of London is composed of gentlemen of the highest character and the highest respectability in the world, but they follow the instincts of human nature, which are invariably, in their position, to go where capital makes the best return. To illustrate that fact, a merchant in the city of London gets $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as commission upon the duty as well as upon the net price of the sugar or coffee. It is his interest, therefore, to keep up the rate of duty, and if it should chance to be the interest of the West Indian to get the duty lowered, it would be the interest of the merchant—whether he might be chivalrous enough to throw his interest aside, and consider only the rights of the case, is another point—but it would be his interest to oppose the West Indian planter in attempting to obtain a reduction of the duty, because his interest would be in the ratio of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the duty as well as upon the produce; so that if a cwt. of sugar is at 50 s. in the market, and the duty upon a hogshead of sugar is 25 s., it is the interest of the merchant to keep that duty on, because he gets $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon 50 s. instead of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon 25 s. The merchant also in the city of London is not only a merchant for the West Indies, but he is generally a mortgagee and a shipowner. If he be all the three in one, a merchant, a mortgagee, and a shipowner, his interests are still more pointedly antagonistic to the prosperity of the planter than in the case I have supposed, because he gets, as I have said, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as his commission upon the sale, and he gets $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as commission upon the supplies he sends out to the estate of the proprietor in the West Indies. If therefore the estate requires 500 l. a year in supplies, it is the interest of the merchant clearly to get him to take 1,000 l. if he can, because he gets the freight, and he gets besides the freight $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission upon the supplies he sends out.

12957. If he is a shipowner he has an interest in the freights being high?—Of course he has, and he has an interest in the consumption of supplies upon the estate. Take an estate upon which there is a mortgage of 25,000 l.; a West India merchant makes out of that estate, in the city of London, 1,000 l. a year; the estate is getting the proprietor into debt 300 l. a year. His interest would be to get out of the debt of the mortgagee in London, if he could, and to sell his produce where it would yield the best return; but in the case I have supposed it is the interest of the mortgagee to get him to run further into debt, for if he run in debt 300 l. a year the amount of the mortgage is increased upon the estate, and yet the merchant is making 700 l. a year return out of that property. Therefore the position of the merchant, in all those points to which I have made reference, is clearly a position which in its nature is antagonistic to the interests of the planter; and it is fair to say, I think, that the interest has been very often misrepresented and wronged in consequence. At this very emergency at which we have arrived, and from which it is impossible to conceal from the Committee that the West Indies cannot emerge unless by practical legislation of some kind, you are reduced to this dilemma—you must give protection or you must lose the West India colonies. There are two ways in which protection may be given: You want from the colonies one of two things, you want revenue or you want cheap sugar. In either case, the case of the West Indies is, that they can give you a better revenue and they can give you cheaper sugar than any other part of the world; that is their case. Now supposing the necessity of the Government with reference to public opinion, or other influences by which they are actuated, to compel them to decide upon a protection by a diminished duty; supposing the Govern-

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ment to say, "We will abandon the duty of 14s. upon West Indian sugar and retain the duty upon foreign sugar;" that would cheapen the price of sugar to the country, and it would afford protection to the West Indians and get us over the difficulties. If the West Indian merchant, however, obeyed the position in which he would find himself with reference to interest only, he would be against a measure which obtained relief to the planter by a reduction of the duty; he would be for a measure which obtained the protection by an increased duty charged upon colonial and foreign produce.

12958. To go to another subject; a Mr. Lewis was examined before the Committee in Jamaica, to which reference has been made. He states, "In consequence of a great many properties having been abandoned, thereby casting the labourers on the remaining properties, labour is more readily obtained," thus showing, as it were, an advantage from abandoned estates; did you observe anything of that kind?—I have said already that I observed, in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East, and in the parish of St. Ann's, that there were one or two instances where such advantages were derived to the estates which remained in cultivation from the labour upon the estates which had gone out of cultivation. There was the case of Rio Mano in St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, which illustrates the abandonment of apprenticeship. In 1837 the proprietor of Rio Mano purchased a pimento walk which was next to it for the purpose of entitling himself to the apprenticed labourers for the remaining years down to 1841; immediately he had made the purchase for 3,000*l.* the abandonment of apprenticeship was enacted, and he lost altogether the object for which he paid the 3,000*l.*

12959. With respect to coffee, Mr. Lewis says, "Coffee properties bear no actual value; they are unsaleable at almost any price. Many have been publicly advertised for a length of time for sale, and no offer has been made for them." You attribute the condition of the coffee estates to the depressed price of coffee, do not you; that it is not a remunerating price to the growers of coffee?—At the cost at which the planter is obliged to produce it, it is not.

12960. Is there any feeling that that remunerating price of coffee can be restored by any legislation that might be adopted?—The cost of production can be reduced, which is in effect raising the price.

12961. Do you think that under any circumstances they can compete with the growers of coffee in Ceylon?—There are parts of Jamaica in which they can compete with Ceylon, no doubt. I do not think that that remark applies to all the island. In Manchester and some parts of St. George's, though there are very fine coffee-producing powers in the soil, I doubt whether it could compete with Ceylon.

12962. Do not you believe that the increased production of coffee in Ceylon, looking to the fineness of that climate and that soil, is one of the main causes of the depression of the West India coffee estates?—I think so; but I think it would not have had that effect with the labour which is in Jamaica if proper provisions had accompanied the Act of 1834, for securing the labour of the negro. That distinction ought never to be lost sight of for a moment. It is not true that there are too few hands in Jamaica to do all the work which is required. The fact is, that there is not a motive sufficient to induce them to work; there are plenty of men and women to do the work, but there is no motive to induce them to do it.

12963. That motive will not be supplied unless you have a very large population in Jamaica?—A considerable population. Will the Committee allow me to put in a contract between 25 Madeira labourers on an estate in St. James's, to show the terms on which such contracts are made. [*The Witness delivered in the same.*]

12964. Mr. Miles.] Do you think it is the interest of the merchants in this country to increase the amount of the mortgages already existing?—In the case I have supposed I should think it was the interest of the merchant to do so.

12965. In the case you have supposed there was a large debt existing upon the property?—Yes; 25,000*l.*

12966. Do you think it is the interest of the merchant to increase his advance upon any property in the British West Indies beyond 25,000*l.*?—I think it might be decidedly his interest to do so.

12967. Do you think there is any chance of his getting that 25,000*l.*?—Not the least under the existing law.

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12968. Under any law?—Certainly; I think if Government adopted a just measure on the recommendation of this Committee, which I hope it will do, for giving protection to the West Indies, the West Indies may be more prosperous from this time forth than they have ever been.

12969. You think also it is the interest of the merchant to increase the supplies sent annually to the plantations?—Yes, that is his interest clearly.

12970. Do you think he does so?—I am afraid if I were put to the question upon that point I could give instances in which such things have been done.

12971. Lately?—Yes, lately.

12972. Do you think it is the general practice?—I know some houses that would not do it willingly and knowingly.

12973. Do you think it is the general practice of West India merchants?—It is very difficult to answer that question. I do not know the practice of West India merchants generally, but I know some cases in which that has been done, and done in a manner which was highly injurious to the interests of the proprietors. I will mention a case which is not hypothetical, but which is real: a gentleman owed his merchants a debt of 30,000*l.* on mortgage. Those merchants sent him supplies more than he wanted every year. I saw them myself.

12974. Is he a resident?—Yes; he has never since emancipation left his property; he is toiling as hard as a man can do with all his energies, and is expending upon himself no more than 300*l.* a year. His estate before emancipation gave him 30,000*l.* He is indebted to his merchants at this moment, therefore, just one year's income of the old time. He has not been able, after a trial of eight years, to stir that mortgage to the extent of 1*s.* Last year he had 150 hogsheads of sugar standing in his curing-house waiting to be shipped; an American merchant promised to buy them of him, and give him hard cash down upon the spot, and the cost at which he was willing to buy them was 5*s.* a cwt. more than the market price of sugar in London at that time. I mean by the "market price," the net price to the grower, independent of the duty. He would have sold it at an advantage of 5*s.*, and he would, of course, have saved all the dues to the merchant, and all commissions, and everything of that kind, and have had the great advantage of getting the money in his hand. He wrote to the agent of his merchant at Kingston, to ask whether he might sell the sugar under those circumstances; the agent at Kingston replied: "No; if you do I shall write home, and by return your mortgage will be foreclosed." He sent a second message to the agent in Kingston, and said: "This is a very hard case, and I think I have done myself injustice in the matter. I do not want to put the money in my pocket, nor do I even wish to expend it on the improvement of the estate, but I will pay it to you, and do you diminish my account to that amount." The answer of the agent was: "No; if you sell one hogshead of it, whether you give us the money or not, we will foreclose the mortgage." He wrote afterwards to the merchants themselves, in London, thinking that their agent was not doing them justice, and they replied by a letter, which was to the effect: "If we let you sell your sugar this way you will get out of our debt, and that will not suit our books at all."

12975. Do you mean to say that the merchant would object to have his 30,000*l.* paid off?—He certainly objected to receive that money in payment of his debt; and, moreover, I have demonstrated already that it was his interest to do so, because upon an estate like that he was getting 1,000*l.* a year.

12976. The agent had no discretionary power?—No.

12977. Has the merchant in this country actually refused to allow him to do such a thing as this?—Yes, decidedly.

12978. Was the price of sugar higher in America at that time than it was in the London market?—The price was higher than it is now, considerably.

12979. Was the price higher in the American market than it was at the same time in London?—No doubt it was. The merchant was willing to give more for the sugar, and the duties would make a difference.

12980. Do you mean to say that those merchants actually sent out larger supplies to the colony than this planter required?—I have no doubt they did, because I saw the supplies unused.

12981. What course did the planter take?—The planter was obliged to let the supplies remain there unused.

12982. Had

12982. Had he no remedy; he is not obliged, is he, to receive what supplies the merchant chooses to send him?—He can only next year say, “I do not want so many supplies, and I beg you will not send them out.” I do not suppose any house would go beyond the express order that the proprietor might give them.

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12983. Is he bound to take them if he has not ordered them?—He is not, but the state of the colonial law is very deficient in that respect; and that is one point upon which I wish the Committee would ask me some questions. The value of property has very much deteriorated in Jamaica on account of legal uncertainties.

12984. What is the effect of the colonial law upon this particular question?—A man would have to apply to the courts in Jamaica, and he would get a decision. The complaint in the colony is that the state of the law in Jamaica is such that he could not rely upon the decision he might get, while the expenses of an appeal would be monstrous in bringing it home to the Privy Council. What they want in that respect is a circuit court of appeal.

12985. Are there not judges appointed at high salaries for the administration of justice in Jamaica?—There are.

12986. There are three or four judges, are not there, at 3,000 *l.* a year?—No judge gets 3,000 *l.* a year, except the chief justice; the others get 2,500 *l.*

12987. The only appeal from that court is to this country?—The only appeal now, which is a very great hardship upon the colony.

12988. To what do you attribute the distress now existing in Jamaica?—I attribute the distress existing in Jamaica exclusively to the mislegislation of the mother country, beginning in 1765, and being consummated in 1846. During all that time there has not been a single law which has not either been unjust in itself, or accompanied by injustice, as in the case of the emancipation law.

12989. What do you think is the immediate cause?—The immediate cause is the lowered price of sugar consequent upon the introduction of foreign slave-grown sugar into the market to compete with English colonial produce.

12990. You attribute the immediate cause of this depression to the Bill of 1846?—The proximate cause is the Bill of 1846. But I am far from saying that if that Bill had not been passed the state of the colonies would have been as flourishing as it ought to have been.

12991. Would you recommend Parliament to retrace its steps, and to prevent slave-grown sugar being introduced into this country?—I would.

12992. You think that is a fatal error?—I think it is a fatal error; it is most injurious to the colonies, and it is most injurious to the mother country. I think it productive of great evil to the negro, who is going backwards to barbarism in consequence.

12993. The gentlemen who advocated that cause were decidedly wrong in their legislation?—Decidedly; every gentleman who voted for it, and advocated it, was decidedly wrong in his legislation.

12994. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You state that the Bill of 1846 has been productive of great evils?—I do.

12995. And that it has been the chief cause of the present distress in Jamaica?—It has been the immediate and proximate cause of the distress in Jamaica; it is unquestionably the chief cause, *rebus sic stantibus*; indeed, the only cause; but before things were brought to the state in which they were when that measure was passed, there had been many previous causes.

12996. Will you define the evils which have followed from the Bill of 1846, beyond the reduction of the price of sugar in this country?—The evils which the Bill of 1846 produced are these, that it has introduced into competition with the produce of the British West Indies produce which ought never to have been admitted, upon the principles upon which we were governing the West Indies antecedently. We had compelled the West Indians to buy from us, for our enrichment, property equal to 150,000,000 *l.* in value. We gave them, also by compulsion, 20,000,000 *l.* in payment for that value. We had refused them permission to put an end to the slave trade; and we put an end to the slave trade ourselves by compulsion, after we had compelled them to bring society into such a state as made the abolition of the slave trade most injurious to them at the time, though it was an evil which they themselves had long before us attempted to remove. In the year 1834, 800,000 human beings were converted from slaves into apprentices, and then were to have seven years' apprenticeship.

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ticeship. In the year 1834 you took no adequate measures to secure the continuous labour of the slave made free: in 1838 you put an end to the apprenticeship suddenly; and I have shown by an instance how that operated to rob the proprietor actually of the money which he had expended in the purchase of goods secured to him by your law. He bought an estate with a certain number of labourers upon it, in order to entitle him to the apprenticed labour of those people, from the year 1837 to the year 1841, according to the terms of your law. He gave 3,000*l.* for that labour. You immediately passed your abolition of the apprentice law; and that which he had paid 3,000*l.* for you took away from him by compulsion. Then in 1844 you introduced the Bill which led to the Bill of 1846. The Bill of 1846 could not have had those mischievous effects, unless there had been previous legislation which reduced the West Indians to the state in which it found them. They say it is the last feather that breaks the horse's back: if you had not put on a previous weight the colony might have sustained that terrible injury which you inflicted upon them; but you had previously afflicted them by continuous and unalterable oppression; and when you had reduced them to that state of exhaustion, in 1846 you finished the matter by passing that Bill, which was more mischievous than any of its predecessors. It has been mischievous in this sense; it has thrown out of cultivation 140 sugar estates in Jamaica, and 400 coffee estates; it has put a stop to the rising wish in the mind of the negro for the education of his children; it has been most injurious to the planters and proprietors, and to the commercial and agricultural interests of the West Indies, and it has been most injurious to the mother country in its reflex influence.

12997. You attribute the throwing out of the 400 coffee estates to the Bills of 1844 and 1846?—The Bill of 1846 was the *causa sine quâ non*.

12998. Is it your opinion that agricultural improvements might be introduced with advantage in Jamaica?—Considering the impediments I have been just describing as existing against the improvements of agriculture, I think that agriculture has arrived at a miraculous pitch in Jamaica; I could show you estates as highly cultivated as any you could find in Berwickshire or in Norfolk.

12999. Is the population of Jamaica increasing?—It is as nearly as possible stationary.

13000. The population of Barbadoes is increasing, is not it; why should not the population of Jamaica be increasing?—I do not know whether the population of Barbadoes is increasing; it is very dense, therefore I suppose it may be increasing; but the cause why the population of Jamaica does not increase is not because births do not occur in sufficient numbers, but because the negro women, not from unkindness but from thoughtless habits, destroy their children very much during the first twelve months of their lives; they are very ill-cared for indeed. Immediately after the birth, for example, the surgical operation necessary for the protection of life, the cutting the umbilical cord, is performed so roughly that a great many children die of tetanus almost immediately. There is a dreadful mortality among very young children in consequence of the absence of proper care, not at all from the want of natural affection, because the negroes are the kindest-hearted people in the world.

13001. Have you turned your attention to the question of protection to the manufacturer of spirits at home against the colonial manufacturer of spirits?—I have. The planters in Jamaica wish for an equalization of the duty on spirits, and they wish for the introduction of their produce into distilleries; my opinion is, that a law might be made which would equalize the duty with the greatest possible advantage both to the English grower of barley and the Jamaica producer of rum. The process of distillation, I think, should be conducted entirely in the colony; you may obtain the juice of molasses in a fresher state for the purpose of fermentation than you will get any cane juice introduced for the purpose of distillation in this country; and there is this advantage attending local distillation that you import labour and you import residents into the country, and the more labour and the more residents the better for the country. There are not only the advantages that I have described as derived from the purity of the matter from which you distil, but there is also the advantage of a decreased expense in the distillation. A ton of ordinary plantation molasses would produce 160 gallons of proof spirit; if those molasses were brought into spirit in Jamaica, and you shipped the spirit imported into England, the necessity would be that
you

you would lessen the cost of freight, and so lessen the price at which they could be profitably sold here.

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13002. Is there any law to prevent that at the present time?—No.

13003. Then it is open to the public to adopt it?—But there are those who recommend the introduction of cane juice in various stages of preparation for the purpose of distillation at home, mixing them with home produce. I have here some notes upon this point, which I beg to deliver in.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Paper:*]

DISTILLATION OF COLONIAL PRODUCE.

By distilling in the colonies, upon the respective plantations, the molasses, offal, and weak juices may be selected and used in a sound state, thereby avoiding all taint and acidity; and protecting the delicate, but important process of fermentation, a pure and valuable quality of spirit will be produced. The manufacture of sugar might thus likewise be cheapened and improved.

Besides the advantages from improved and increased produce by conducting the whole operations of boiling and distilling upon the plantations, a saving of expense would be realized. The utensils and apparatus for distilling, in ordinary cases, are neither required to be numerous nor expensive. A stronger and larger puncheon or spirit cask should be used, shaken, and returned, by which half the present expense would be saved, and the spirit kept free from taint.

A ton of ordinary plantation molasses will produce, if distilled in England, 160 gallons proof spirits; the cask's freight will exceed the cost at which the produce in spirits may be imported, and the quality of spirits made from such molasses, in Britain, has always been inferior to spirits from sugar; molasses, like all saccharine in a liquid state, and especially in a warm temperature, being subject to premature fermentation.

The process of distillation in England would be equally expensive as well as less advantageous than in the colonies, supposing the whole Customs duties upon the sugar or molasses distilled to be remitted. The produce in the colonies, at a temperature of about 85°, under a regulated system of distillation and a practical distiller, would be equal to the yield in England, whilst the spirits imported would be better, and the duty less from the import bond than from the Excise stock.

In colonial distillation a clean pure spirit, without flavour, could be made, and the brandy or other flavour might be added. For brandy, the pure spirit, from fresh and sound materials, will be found particularly applicable; and from this article alone, properly prepared, an extensive home consumption would be found, and also a demand for the Government service, and for the merchant shipping.

The flavouring of colonial spirits in imitation of brandy, gin, &c., would not interfere with the test of strength, nor with the revenue regulations; and these flavours could be applied in the distillation, and would be ameliorated and improved by age, by the passage home, and under bond. This flavouring would, further, give a strengthened claim of relief to the colonial distiller for the full equalization of the spirit duties, and the repeal of the protection given to the English distillers to cover the exorbitant charge made for adding the flavours of brandy and gin by the rectifiers; and also the fallacious advantage to the distiller, in name of malt duty, which last allowance is more than met by local and other dues upon the colonial distiller, and which under the profession of freedom in trade ought not to be tolerated.

The colonies have another claim for relief, which may be adopted with great benefit to them, and with still greater advantage to the whole kingdom. The high rate of duty upon spirits consumed in England, as may be seen from official documents, encourages foreign smuggling to an enormous extent, thereby demoralizing the population, and largely injuring the public revenue.

In Scotland and in Ireland the same evils existed. The revenues were not only reduced, but the police of both countries was endangered, when, in 1823, greater facilities were given to the legal distillers to make spirits of an improved quality, and the duty was reduced from 5 s. 6 d. to 2 s. per gallon; in consequence, smuggling, with its demoralizing effects, was at once abolished, and the amount of revenue in both countries increased.

Apply the same judicious principle of practical legislation to England; reduce the duty from 7 s. 0 d. to 5 s. per gallon; repeal the unnecessary and injurious restrictions upon the sale of spirits; and foreign smuggling, and private distillation, will not only be annihilated, but the amount of revenue will be augmented, not by increasing the consumption of ardent spirits, but by substituting the use of duty-paid for smuggled brandies and illicitly made home spirits.

13004. Have you gathered the opinions of the planters in Jamaica in reference to the classification duties on sugars?—I must answer that question by stating the truth,

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truth, that the people of Jamaica were so depressed and broken-hearted in consequence of the operation of your recent laws that they did not turn their attention to such refined points as the difference in duty between one class of sugar and others; they found that their whole produce was so seriously injured, and all their power of production so limited and destroyed, that I never heard any of them express an opinion upon that point, and I never asked any of them for their opinion; my own opinion is, that, as weighing upon the great question, it is not a point worth much consideration.

13005. You have recently been in Jamaica?—I have.

13006. Is there any strong feeling among the sugar producers there with regard to the Navigation Laws?—There are varieties of opinions upon the Navigation Laws in Jamaica, just as there are in England. I have met with very strong opinions that the abolition of the Navigation Laws would be advantageous to the colony. I have met with others who thought that it would be most injurious to the imperial interests, and not beneficial to the colony.

13007. You are not acquainted with their opinions upon that subject, are you?—I am very well acquainted with them; they hold very various opinions. I heard very few indeed who advocated the repeal of the Navigation Laws upon general principles, but I met some who thought that the repeal of the Navigation Laws would be productive of local advantages to them; and they thought the mother country had used them so ill that she did not deserve any consideration at their hands. However, those were few.

13008. *Chairman.*] Have you a statement of the number of freeholders in Jamaica?—I have not a list of the various electoral districts, but I can state that the proportion over the whole colony is as nearly as may be 20 to 1. There are 20 black freeholders and electors for one voter, taking the whole colony.

13009. Can you state the aggregate number of creoles who have been slaves and are now freeholders?—I cannot get the particulars without communicating with Jamaica.

13010. *Mr. Hope.*] You have not stated to the Committee what amount of protection you think would be satisfactory to the colonists?—I have said already that I speak chiefly with reference to Jamaica, because I know there are some colonies in a better position than Jamaica. I am perfectly satisfied in my own mind, and I know it is the opinion of my constituents, the Chamber of Commerce, that no protection under 14*s.* would be at all beneficial; that any protection under that amount would be productive of that description of injury which results always from the attempt to do good which fails in accomplishing its object. It is always better to leave it unattempted than attempt it and fail.

13011. How would you propose to arrive at that amount of protection?—That would depend upon whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer required revenue, or whether the people of England required cheap sugar. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer requires revenue, I am prepared to show that he might increase the revenue from the sugar duty one million a year if he raised the duty upon British colonial sugar from 14*s.* to 18*s.*, and the duty upon all foreign sugars from 18*s.* to 32*s.* That would give him an addition of more than a million to his revenue, and at the same time it would keep sugar lower in the market by 16*s.* a cwt., or 16*l.* a ton, than it averaged for the 54 years that preceded the year 1846.

13012. Do you calculate on any diminution of the consumption by so large an addition to the duty?—I think there would be no diminution of the consumption, for the price would be lower by 16*s.* a cwt. than during the 54 preceding years. That is one way, supposing that the Chancellor of the Exchequer requires an increased revenue. Supposing, on the other hand, the object of the Government is to cheapen sugar in the market, then let Government abandon altogether the duty upon colonial sugar and retain the duty upon foreign sugar as it is; or let them lower it, which would probably be the more practicable plan. Take the duty as it is at this moment on foreign sugar at 20*s.* and lower the duty upon colonial sugar to 4*s.*, and leave them so; that would cheapen the price of sugar and give a protection of 16*s.* to the West Indian growers.

13013. How would that have the effect of cheapening the price of sugar?—I know there are those who maintain a very subtle argument about the effect upon the English market of one cwt. of sugar going into the foreign market after the colonial

colonial produce of England has reached the point of supplying our own market. I think that point can be met, and I think it is very important to state the fact which does meet it, which is this, that the whole advantage is not price which the West Indians seek; they wish to lower the cost of production as well as to keep the price at a remunerative rate. Of course the effect of a remunerative price is produced as well by a diminished cost in the production as it is by an increased price in the market; it is no matter to the grower which of the two means is adopted to produce the effect.

13014. How would the alteration of the duties have the effect of diminishing the cost of production?—It would do it in this way; by degrees, accompanied by other measures of immigration from Africa and Madeira and Great Britain itself, the negro would be induced to work continuously, which he refuses to do now; and you would get a market of continuous labour always at your command. I have heard little complaint against the actual cost of labour. It is not because they are obliged to pay 1 s. 6 d. a day for labour, but because they cannot get 1 s. 6 d. worth of labour out of the man who gives it. If the law which I have suggested were adopted the effect would be infallibly to improve the condition of labour and to cheapen the cost of production, and directly it must reduce the price of sugar by the amount of duty taken off.

13015. Would you propose that this amount of protection should be temporary or permanent?—In strict justice it ought to continue till slavery is abolished in all sugar-producing countries throughout the world; but I do not think that any West Indian would object to a fair trial upon that ground. If you gave the West Indian that amount of protection to-day, and agreed to continue it for 13 years, and to accompany that protection by such measures as Government might discover for improving the condition of labour and other things, I have not the least doubt that at the end of 10 or 13 years the West Indies would be able, even with free labour, to compete against any producing power which could then exist in the world.

13016. Would you confine your protection to slave-grown sugar, or extend it in any degree to any sugar which was the produce of free labour, or labour so called?—There is no sugar produced in any part of the world, except the British West Indies, which is not the product of slave labour, however we may call it. The labour of Java is unquestionably slave labour, compared with the labour which exists in Jamaica, that is, it is labour produced by coercion; a man has not his choice of labouring or not labouring as he will.

13017. Would you confine your amount of protection to slave-grown sugar or to sugar the produce of free labour?—My answer is, that there is no sugar produced by free labour in the world except in the British West Indies; therefore I intended to say that so diminished a protection as I have suggested ought to operate against all foreign sugars, whether they are free-labour or whether they are slave-labour sugars. I do not admit any distinction between slave-grown sugar and free-grown sugar.

13018. It has been stated that there has been great difficulty raised by the Council to any reduction of the salaries?—I can confirm that. The facts are these: The House of Assembly, which corresponds to the House of Commons in England, passed a Bill in 1847 for the reduction of the salaries which are now enjoyed by many of the public functionaries. Some of them it did not propose to reduce at all. That Bill passed through the House of Assembly and was refused by the Council. The feeling in Jamaica is that the Council, following a very natural impulse, refused to pass the Bill which diminished their own incomes, inasmuch as every one of them would have been affected by it, with the exception of the two *ex-officio* councillors, who are the General commanding the forces and the Bishop. The Council are made up in this way: there are 12 in number who form the Council; the governor can only fill up to seven, the others are *ex-officio*. The Bishop is a member of the Council; his salary is from the Government at home, at 4,000 *l.* a year. Of course he has no receipt from the colony at all, therefore he is exempt from any feeling of that kind. The Lieutenant-governor or General of the Forces has 4,000 *l.* a year, but that also is from the Government at home.

13019. *Chairman.*] What number of troops are there in Jamaica?—Of white troops there is only a portion of one regiment; they are almost all black troops. If the Committee will allow me, I will put in a paper, which will state the particulars.

[The Witness delivered in the same.]

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"I was asked what measures the members of the Chamber of Commerce would recommend for the improvement of the colony; I have a petition which is being signed by, I believe, almost everybody, without exception, black and white, in Jamaica; I have 2,020 signatures forwarded to me already; it was agreed on at a public meeting, at which I was present, in consequence of some suggestions that were made, and it expresses their opinion upon the subject. It assumes that the country has made up its mind not to give them a protection by increased duties; that is of course the plan which the Chamber of Commerce would pursue if they had their own way, but not having its own way, it proposes this: they say, 'That in the opinion of your petitioners, there are measures which, if immediately adopted, would combine great imperial benefits with the salvation of this and the other West India possessions of Her Majesty. That these measures would, amongst others, embrace, first, a reduction to a nominal amount of all duties on colonial produce. Second, Measures for the effectual suppression of the foreign slave trade. Third, A systematic and large increase of African immigration.' I think that Government ought to assist Jamaica and I believe some other colonies besides, but certainly Jamaica, and lay down roads at its own cost; that would diminish the price of carriage, as far as animal labour is concerned, in the proportion of 18 to 4."

John Crawford, Esq. called in; and Examined.

J. Crawford, Esq.

13020. *Mr. Villiers.*] YOU have lived a considerable time in tropical countries, have not you?—A long while; 20 years.

13021. You have given a good deal of attention to tropical husbandry?—A good deal.

13022. What opportunities have you had of doing that?—I resided a good many years in Bengal and Hindostan; I served in a public office in the island of Java for upwards of six years.

13023. You have been employed upon commercial missions, have not you?—I was sent upon a commercial mission by the Governor-general of India to Siam and Cochin China: afterwards I served for some years as governor of Singapore, and finally, the last place I held was a commercial and political mission to the Burmese country.

13024. Those have been chiefly countries where sugar is grown?—In all those countries sugar is grown.

13025. In all those countries have you observed the circumstances under which the cane is grown and the sugar manufactured?—Yes.

13026. When were you in Java?—From 1811 to 1817.

13027. Have you formed any opinion as to what the requisites in a country are to fit it for the production of sugar for the foreign market when there is no favour in that market for the produce of any particular country?—Yes; when it has to come into competition in a distant market with the produce of other sugar countries, the requisites, of course, are, a very rich soil, plenty of it, inexhaustible for all practical purposes, abundance of skill and capital, and above all things, good government, security of life and property.

13028. You attach more importance to those circumstances than to the abundance or great cheapness of labour?—Yes, I do. I do not believe the great cheapness of labour to be of any very essential importance at all.

13029. Is that the result of your observations in those countries of the East where labour is very cheap?—It is.

13030. You find that the soil is the most important circumstance in the growth of sugar?—I find that a rich soil, and abundance of it, is the most essential element for the production of sugar. I have observed that in a very populous country, where rent exists, with few exceptions, the price of every produce of the soil is high, without reference to the price of labour. I find that in every country that is under-peopled, provided the soil be rich, and inexhaustible for practicable purposes; that is, where, when one piece of land is exhausted you can have recourse to another, no rent exists, and the produce of the soil is invariably cheap.

13031. Can you give us any illustration of that in countries in the East?—I ascribe to that principally why, for some years back, and contrary to my own first ideas upon the subject, Bengal has been unable to produce any considerable quantity of sugar for the consumption of Europe, notwithstanding its having participated for a good many years back with the West Indies in the protection given to the sugar of the latter country. I think, for the last four or five years, the average produce of Bengal has not exceeded the amount of 70,000 tons, which, for so vast a country as that, seems to me to be a mere trifle. It does not seem to exceed by more than 20,000 tons the produce of the little island of Mauritius.

Mauritius. Now the country which produces sugar in Bengal is of vast extent. It embraces the whole valley of the Ganges; I should suppose not less than 500,000 square miles.

13032. In that country the labour is very cheap?—Labour is very low. Of course, with respect to low labour, it is not always to be estimated by its money denomination; 2*d.* or 2½*d.* per day, I suppose, is a very handsome rate of wages in Bengal.

13033. Will you state why you think that Bengal or any country similarly circumstanced is incapable of producing cheap sugar for a distant market?—The rent of the land is the cause, and it is no matter whether the rent consists of a tax collected by Government under the name of a land tax, or whether it be a rent received by the proprietor, or both united. In either case it is rent, and the effect of rent in every country is to enhance the price of agricultural produce. It does so in this country. Nobody will say that the fertility of Essex or Kent is not equal to that of any part of America, and we know we can get from an acre of land a much larger quantity of wheat than they can in Illinois and Ohio, but the cost of producing it is twice as great. In the latter countries they are reckless about the mode of cultivation; it almost inevitably follows that where land is in great abundance, it is cultivated in a very slovenly manner. I believe that the evidence before this Committee as to the West Indies itself will afford testimony to that effect. Barbadoes, for example, produces 3,000 lbs. of sugar per acre, whereas Jamaica produces only 2,000 lbs., and Cuba but a little more.

13034. It is the fact that the sugar cultivation has not extended in Bengal, or at least of late years, and that there the rent is very high?—That is the case.

13035. And the labour is very low?—The labour is very low.

13036. You are alluding to the assessment for revenue?—Both to the rent and the assessment. In Bengal, on what are called the permanently settled lands, the revenue or rentcharge is but a small portion of the whole rent now, though it is very large in amount. I think it is upwards of 3,000,000 *l.* sterling.

13037. It amounts to 3,000,000 *l.* annually?—I think so; that is the land tax alone; it was at the time of the permanent settlement reckoned to be nine-tenths of the whole rental, or 18*s.* in the pound, leaving thus one-tenth part to the supposed proprietor, whoever he might be. The revenue settlement assumed a certain party as proprietor, who I believe turns out now not to have been the true proprietor. The land 55 years ago was assessed in perpetuity. You have now, therefore, to add the proprietor's rent that has accumulated since, in order to make up the whole rent that is paid.

13038. Are you alluding to Lord Cornwallis's settlement?—Yes, followed up by his successors down to the termination of the government of the Marquis of Wellesley.

13039. It is about 70,000 tons of sugar which we get from the British possessions in India, you say?—Yes, and that is obtained by the withdrawal of a considerable supply which was furnished by Bengal heretofore to other countries. If I am rightly informed a large quantity which used to be supplied by Bengal to the south of India, especially to the Malabar coast, and to Persia, and to Arabia, is now withdrawn to furnish the British market, encouraged to it by the bounty paid by us under the name of a discriminating duty, those countries being furnished now from Siam, the Philippine Islands, and Manilla. I believe some also comes from Java, and to a small extent from China.

13040. I understand you to say that notwithstanding this protection it has not increased?—It has not increased.

13041. You ascribe that to the high rent of land, but why does not that apply to the other products of India, such as indigo?—It does apply to indigo; it is a very remarkable fact that the produce of indigo in Bengal has scarcely increased in any degree for a period of nearly 30 years. I saw, by a commercial statement in one of the papers the other day, that the time was stated at 20 years; I know from my own personal recollection that it is full 30 years.

13042. Mr. Wilson.] What do you take as the average crop?—There are great fluctuations; from 60,000 maunds up to 150,000.

13043. Has not the crop this last year been 60,000 maunds?—It is very rarely that there is so small a crop as that.

13044. Mr. Villiers.] With respect to Java, where you say you have resided, the rent there is high, is not it, and yet there is a considerable export of sugar?—I have a sort of demi-official statement of the mode in which sugar is produced

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in Java before me; it was written by Mr. Temminck, the celebrated naturalist, and drawn from official sources.

13045. Does that show that the sugar is produced under circumstances which are not opposed to your theory about rent?—It shows that after the hard work of 30 years, all the sugar which the whole island can produce does not exceed 60,000 tons. That was the produce in 1841. The next year it was 6,000 tons less. This statement, though printed in 1847, has reference to 1843 as the latest year. The statement here is that it is hoped it might in due time be raised to 60,000 tons.

13046. Are you speaking of the whole quantity produced in the island, or are you judging of what they produce for export?—Whatever sugar is of a marketable quality is all exported; therefore the exports and the actual production are one and the same thing.

13047. Government take all the sugar which is produced, do not they?—I think generally they do; they take it all at a certain price. I have the entire exports here; it is produced by a kind of forced labour, as far as the Government sugar is concerned, and I do not understand what the distinction is between Government and private sugar; so far as Government sugar, which is the main part of the production, goes, it is produced by a species of forced labour.

13048. What becomes of the sugar?—In the villages or village communities where it is thought necessary to cultivate sugar, the inhabitants have a remission of one-fifth part of the land tax, and they are compelled to give up one-fifth part of the land in consideration of it. These lands are not the ordinary lands of those villages, but the very best lands, the lands which are artificially irrigated, and which in Java are the only lands thought worth appropriating: one-fifth of those are given up; and I have the prices here which are actually paid for sugar. There are certain persons under the government who engage as manufacturers; and they are supposed to be able to do so at the rate of 13 s. per cwt., the government taking it off their hands at something like 14 s. 4 d. per cwt. “The trading company,” I am using the words of Mr. Temminck “(the *Handelmaatschappij*) receives this produce, with all the other articles of which the culture is reserved, in the warehouses established for this purpose in different parts of the island, where they are placed under the surveillance of its agents, who take charge of the loading of the vessels chartered by the company; the constant and regular navigation of these vessels affords a sure gain to the owners.” The land tax of Java is a very considerable one. Having been engaged some six years myself in assessing and collecting it, I know something of the nature of it. I see it here estimated, but I am sure the whole amount of it is not given, at 875,000 l. per annum: this is so far as concerns that portion of the island which belongs to the Dutch; but there is a considerable portion of it still in the hands of the native princes; and I should think, upon the whole, the land tax, exclusive of any small rent which may be left to the proprietors, cannot be less than 1,000,000 l.

13049. The labour is forced, and the sugar exported, is not it, in the regular course of trade?—So far as concerns the cultivation of sugar, there are described to have been here engaged in it, when 60,000 tons were produced, 150,000 persons, that is, heads of families, which, at five inhabitants to a family, would make 750,000 persons. The cultivation of coffee engages a much larger number of persons. I may, here, explain that the population of Java, by the recent census of 1845, is not less than 10,000,000. That has been rapidly increasing of late years. The area of the island is 40,000 miles, and consequently the ratio of population is a square mile to 250 people. Java is therefore a populous country.

13050. The population is dense, the rent is high, and the labour is forced?—They are so.

13051. Do you know what the amount of the export of sugar is from Java?—It is supposed to be 60,000 tons of government produce.

13052. What is the value?—About 130,000 l. Five million pounds is the value of the whole of the exports: that includes the entire exports of every part of the Dutch possessions; for they are all brought together in the island of Java. This is for the year 1843.

13053. Do you know what the imports of Java are?—The imports in the same year, excluding all kinds of civil, military, and naval stores, is 1,800,000 l.

13054. The difference is in the shape of a tribute or remittance to the government?—The coffee, and tin, and other articles, are a clumsy mercantile transaction

tion upon the part of the Dutch government, for the purpose of effecting a remittance of the public revenue. It is, in fact, the public revenue of Java which is advanced for the manufacture of sugar, and for the cultivation of coffee.

13055. Have you ever compared the imports and exports of the small British possessions in the Straits of Malacca with those of the Dutch government?—Yes; I have done so as a matter of curiosity rather than anything else, to show the different effects of freedom and forced culture. The exports of the three settlements in the Straits in the same year were 2,356,000*l.*, while the imports amount to 2,640,000*l.*; that is to say, the exports and imports were pretty nearly the same; whereas, under the Dutch government, the exports exceeded the imports by 3,200,000*l.*

13056. Do you know who the cultivators of the cane are in Java, and the manufacturers?—The cultivators are the natives of the country; a certain number of them labour under the direction of a Chinese, who shows them how to cultivate and manufacture. The Chinese manufacture upon their own account entirely. That may be considered as the free cultivation. Then there are Europeans, who engage with government as contractors to furnish the government with sugar.

13057. Are the Chinese generally the manufacturers in the Indian islands?—I think the Chinese are in many places the sole cultivators and always the manufacturers. It is so in the Philippine Islands, it is so in Siam, and it is so in the Prince of Wales' Island, or what is called Province Wellesley (a small strip of 20 miles, opposite the island of Penang), in Singapore and in Malacca.

13058. In those other countries is there a low rent, or is there a high rent paid?—I am not aware that any one of those countries is sufficiently populous to yield a real rent, and consequently to afford the material for a land tax, except Java.

13059. It is a nominal rent under the East Indian government?—It is.

13060. Who are the labourers in those islands?—The rural labourers at the Prince of Wales' Island and Malacca are all Chinese. I am speaking of the manufacture of sugar, of course.

13061. It is free labour?—It is wholly free.

13062. Do you know what the cost of labour is in those countries?—In this semi-official statement I see that the price of labour of a Javanese is 3*d.* a day.

13063. The question refers to those countries where there is little rent paid, and where the labour is free?—It is rather difficult to tell exactly what is a day's wages of a Chinese, because they are not generally paid by day wages; they are paid monthly, or they are employed by contract. No prudent person ever pays day wages to the Chinese if he can help it; they are not to be trusted in that way. I take it the labour of one Chinese is equal to the labour of three or four Javanese.

13064. And he is paid accordingly?—Yes.

13065. The actual sum paid to the Chinese labourer is four times as much as to the Javanese?—Fully as much; but the labour is four times as valuable.

13066. Have you ever compared a Chinese labourer with an African?—No; but I should suppose the labour of an African is superior to the labour of a Javanese. He is a more vigorous animal, physically, than the Javanese, and still more so than the native of Bengal or Madras.

13067. Have you had an opportunity of observing the character of Chinese labour, and the disposition of the Chinese?—Yes; they are an active, intelligent, shrewd people, very anxious to live comfortably, and to make the most of everything; they are very anxious for gain.

13068. They are well suited to this particular kind of labour, are they?—Perfectly so; they understand it immediately.

13069. They are industrious and skilful?—Yes.

13070. And when they make those contracts they work faithfully?—Yes, working under their own headmen.

13071. As far as I collect, you do not consider that wages enter so much into the cost of production as other things; that you might have a cheaper cost of production, and high wages, and low wages, and yet an unprofitable production?—Yes, that is my opinion. If the Committee will allow me, I will give what I consider to be an illustration. The eastern states of America have generally, as I understand, an indifferent soil, but they have a great deal of activity, and a great deal of enterprize and industry, and a tolerably dense population, compared to the western states; for instance, I find the amount of the population

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tion in Massachusetts was, by the census of 1840, about 100 inhabitants to the square mile; in Illinois or Ohio the rate of population is about nine or ten on the average to a square mile. We all know, however, that it is not Massachusetts which furnishes cheap corn to this country, but the western states, notwithstanding their thin population, and their distance from the markets. According to my view, it does not follow that high labour should produce an enhanced price of agricultural produce, nor that low labour should produce a low price. There is another example in China: most articles of agricultural produce in China, with very low labour, are very high; corn is imported into China, and so is cotton and sugar, and there is very little that China can export except manufactured produce, from the great density of the population and the high rent. A high rent I take to be always equivalent to sterility in the land, so far as regards production.

13072. The land in China is suited to the production of sugar, is it not?—There is a very great quantity produced, because it is largely consumed by an immense population, but there is more imported into China than there is exported.

13073. That is because it can be produced cheaper elsewhere?—Yes.

13074. There are upwards of 300,000,000 of people in China, are there not?—The last census I have seen made it 370,000,000. That appears a monstrous number, certainly, but when we take into account that the area of China is something like about 1,800,000 square miles, we shall not find that a very large population after all; it is not a population by any means equal to that of Great Britain. It is very unequally distributed. The southern parts of China are very populous, and the western and northern provinces are very thinly inhabited.

13075. Is the rent the same?—I do not know what the rent is; I know there is a considerable land tax, which must be taken out of the rent.

13076. From the consideration you have given to the state of the West India islands, would you infer from what you have seen in other countries that an increase of labourers in those islands would not have the effect of lessening the cost of production, or enabling the planter to compete in the open market with lands of more fertility?—The increase of labourers could not have that effect; if the grower and manufacturer of sugar could sell his sugar to a profit in competition with other countries, the effect would be not to cheapen the price of sugar; the effect would be to increase the quantity produced.

13077. Then would not it lower the price?—There would be competition with all foreign countries, and the price could not be lower than it was elsewhere; that would apply, however, only to the most fertile of our West Indian possessions, because the effect upon the small islands of inferior fertility would be very detrimental; such an island as Barbadoes, which appears to be peopled something like a southern or central province of China, could have no such effect produced upon it; on the contrary, it would swamp Barbadoes or Antigua. The effect upon them would not be beneficial, but detrimental.

13078. If more people were introduced?—Yes, if more were brought in; if you were to bring the population up, say to 200 or to 250 to the square mile, the effect would be to produce rent; there is, I suppose, a very handsome rent at this moment in Barbadoes; I cannot say that such is the case from my own knowledge, but I will venture to assert that it must be so.

13079. Have you seen any statement on authority of what is the produce per acre in the different colonies?—I have seen such a statement, but the mere capacity of producing a larger quantity of sugar in the same space, by no means implies that it is produced at a cheap price; it would only imply that it was the result of a more skilful culture, of more labour applied, and of more capital laid out.

13080. Still you believe there is a high rent of land in Barbadoes?—There must be, if there is a population of 600 or 700 to the square mile; if land has not been mismanaged, and if the estates have not been mortgaged and given away, the owners must be receiving a large rent.

13081. Do the Committee understand you to say, that if all those islands were able to produce more sugar, it would not be an advantage to them; but that if the market were thrown open to them, and to all other countries, it would be an advantage of the country which had the most fertile soil?—Certainly.

13082. Have you heard that in Cuba the expense of producing sugar is not more than 12s. the cwt., and in Jamaica it is 27s.?—I have seen that stated
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in a report of the West Indian body. I heard it stated again by the gentleman who was last examined as a witness. If that be a true representation of the case, I take it for granted that the production of sugar in Jamaica, and consequently in every other West India colony, is at an end for ever under the existing system.

13083. You believe there is no amount of immigration that could make up that difference?—No. What immigration would effect would be to inflict an injury upon the smaller islands, and extend the cultivation of sugar in the larger ones, supposing them still to compete with foreign sugar countries, to the detriment of the smaller ones, but not to reduce the cost of production. As soon as immigration was carried to such an extent that the population would become large, then the effect would be to produce rent, and that would greatly enhance the cost of production, because that which would have gone to the day labourer, or gone as profit to the party that invested his capital as a cultivator and manufacturer, would go as rent to the proprietor of the land.

13084. It would take a long time, would not it, to occasion a high rent in an island like Trinidad, where there are 23 to the square mile?—About half a century I think would do it. Supposing the population to increase as rapidly in our West India colonies as it does with the slave negro population of America, the doubling period for Jamaica would be 25 years; I find that the negro population has doubled in about 25 years in the United States.

13085. That is not the rate at which the slave population increases usually?—It was not the case in the West Indies formerly, because there was an inequality of the sexes; but I presume that no longer exists; there is no promiscuous intercourse among them, and the sexes are pretty nearly equal, therefore I take it they will increase as rapidly as the slave negro population of America; and under those circumstances, in a very short period of time, they will be raised to a very considerable population and rent must arise.

13086. Is this a recent opinion you have formed with respect to the introduction of labour in the West Indies as a means of maintaining sugar culture; did you recommend the introduction of Chinese labourers some time since?—No; I was spoken to about it, but I think I did not recommend the introduction of Chinese labourers, nor do I think any beneficial result would follow from it. The Chinese have countries as rich as the West Indies close at hand, within I suppose five or six or ten days' sail, and those countries are thinly peopled. A vast number of them go every year and migrate to those countries and settle as labourers. I have seen brought by the junks of a single season, to Singapore, 15,000 able-bodied men in the course of less than three weeks.

13087. You do not think it impracticable to get Chinese labourers for the West Indies?—No, I do not consider it impracticable to get them; but I consider it impracticable to use them after they are got.

13088. It would not be profitable to the planter to import them?—No.

13089. Do you think they would faithfully observe their contract?—I am not certain of that.

13090. Do you consider that it is a hopeless case for the West Indies, the continuing to cultivate sugar?—I think so, except in particular favoured localities.

13091. Then you consider the restoration of protection as not likely to occur, but that they are thrown upon their own resources?—I am supposing the law of 1846 to continue in existence.

13092. You do not believe our West India islands could continue the cultivation of sugar with any advantage?—I have never seen the West India islands, but my own opinion is founded on what I have seen in other countries.

13093. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] If those figures are correct?—Not only if those figures are correct, not only if the difference in the cost of production be 15 s. a cwt., but even a third part of 15 s.

13094. Mr. *Villiers*.] Have you anything to suggest in respect to those possessions of the British Crown; if they cease to cultivate sugar, do you believe they must lie waste, or have you any system of husbandry to propose which you would consider applicable to them?—I have a system of my own which I mean to propose. The system I would suggest is simply that which has naturally sprung up in every other tropical country in the world. A good system of husbandry in every tropical country depends upon the manner in which the principle of irrigation is applied. The lands in every tropical country are divided into those which are watered or capable of being watered at will, and those which cannot or which

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are not. In Java no land is thought worthy of consideration except the land which is watered, and when you talk of land as property, you use the word watered land. When the sovereign, for instance, who is looked on as the virtual owner of the land, when he gives away land as salary, for that is the shape in which salaries are paid in that country, he says, I give you so much watered land; he never takes the slightest notice of the dry land at all, and it is no wonder, for the produce of the watered land generally runs from five to tenfold more than the produce of dry land. I am speaking of it when it is producing the great staple of all agriculture within the tropics,—rice.

13095. Is rice the chief product of irrigated land?—Yes; it is the principal grain of the tropics, and stands in the same relation to all other agricultural produce that wheat does in the temperate climates of Europe; it is at least as important, perhaps even more so. The very same kind of rice, however, can be cultivated in dry land as in wet land; or, at least, the only difference is like that between spring vetches and winter vetches; but where you get a quarter from a certain quantity of dry land, you will get from five to ten quarters from wet land; you would only get that once a year from the dry land, whereas, you may generally get it, if the land is sufficiently watered, twice a year from the irrigated land; or if you cannot get it twice a year, you are sure to have a second crop of something else. Another great advantage of watered land is that it never requires manure.

13096. How many crops of rice do you get within the year?—Two crops; and sometimes five crops in two years. In fact, the land is perpetually cropped without intermission.

13097-98. What is the second crop?—If the land be of very good quality, and what is of far more consequence, have an ample and perennial supply of water, the second crop is always rice, cotton, pulses; different lands produce different kinds of oleaginous plants, which are cultivated as a second crop when the supply of water is imperfect; in some of the very finest lands of Java, tobacco is grown alternately with rice, without any manure; one year rice and one year tobacco. Tobacco is a very large produce, and it sells well in the market of China, although not suited to that of Europe.

13099. Those irrigated lands are never manured or allowed to lie fallow?—No; it is pretty much the same with a watered meadow in this country, which seldom requires any dressing.

13100. Are there facilities for this irrigation in any of our West India possessions?—I cannot speak to that, never having been there; but I should suppose there must be, from the height of the mountains and the existence of periodical rains.

13101. Do you know that the rivers are often dry in summer?—No doubt, but I know there are periodical rains, and that the water may be preserved in reservoirs; nearly the whole of the agriculture of the South of India depends upon the stored water which is preserved in reservoirs, some of which are 20 miles in extent.

13102. Mr. Villiers.] You mention rice as a product which the planters in our colonies might turn their attention to; is not it produced now in abundance in other countries?—I do not think that it is produced as an article for exportation, except in America. I think from Africa it was originally carried to America. As an article of exportation it is produced only in the Carolinas and Virginia, and the lower parts of Georgia, climates which I should consider much less suitable for it than our West Indian islands.

13103. Is the import considerable into England and Ireland?—I have not looked at the exact amount. I believe this year and last year it was very large.

13104. Where does that come from?—I think only from Bengal and the Carolinas. Rice is a product which does not extend beyond the 24th degree of latitude in any part of Asia that I am aware of. I have seen it cultivated as far as the 30th degree; but it is a rare crop. After the 24th degree wheat begins to be the principal crop.

13105. Do you think that any other articles could be cultivated in the West India islands, supposing sugar to be abandoned?—I think they ought to restore the cultivation of indigo to the West Indies.

13106. Did they use to grow indigo?—It was the West Indians that introduced it to Bengal, in the year 1783, immediately after the conclusion of the peace of Paris.

13107. Why

13107. Why was the growth of indigo discontinued in the West Indies?—I should suppose it was on account of protection being given to sugar and coffee, and no protection of any consequence being given to indigo or cotton.

13108. With respect to coffee cultivation, do you think they could ever compete with Java, for instance?—I do not see any reason why there ought not to be a certain quantity of coffee produced in the West India islands at all times, because the land fit for the cultivation of coffee must be very considerable on mountain sides. In Java coffee is entirely the monopoly of the Dutch government. By the statement which I have already quoted, it is expected that 136,000,000 lbs. a year will be produced; the number of individuals engaged in the forced cultivation of coffee was in the year 1841, 453,000 families, which should make a population of about 2,000,000 of inhabitants, or one-fifth part of the entire population of the island.

13109. Is coffee cultivated anywhere else in the Archipelago than Java?—It has been extended to Sumatra and to Celebes, within the last 30 years, by the natives as a free cultivation.

13110. There is not enough sent to Europe to make you believe it would be unprofitable to extend the cultivation of coffee in the West India islands?—Certainly not to prevent their cultivating it in the West India islands; it occupies the sides of the hills, and in no measure interferes with the more material and important branches of husbandry.

13111. Did you hear the gentleman who preceded you state that the cultivation of coffee had fallen off, while that of sugar had increased of late years?—Yes.

13112. Do you know why that is?—I cannot account for it, unless the protecting duty was larger upon sugar than upon coffee, and I suppose that was really the fact.

13113. Those protecting duties really influence the cultivation of particular products?—That is my opinion.

13114. Many of those products have ceased to be cultivated in the West India islands in consequence of this bounty upon sugar which has been given?—Yes; and I ascribe that cessation to the inferior fertility of the soil in the West India islands, compared to those countries that produce the same article, to come into competition with them in the same markets. I think I heard from the last witness one or two facts stated, which completely corroborated the opinion I have of the inferior fertility of our soils. He stated that there were certain estates in Jamaica of such fertility that, under any circumstances, they would be cultivated; he did not in any way complain that there was a want of labour or anything else as regarded such an estate as Golden Grove; the fertility, he said, was such that, under any circumstances, it would be cultivated. Now my supposition is, that the soils of Cuba and Porto Rico, and of many portions of the Brazils, are something very much like the soil of Golden Grove. He stated that a great number of estates in Jamaica had fallen out of cultivation; no doubt they must have fallen out of cultivation. It was certain that the inferior ones would fall soonest out of cultivation; this would be the case even with coffee; though coffee is grown upon very wide range of lands, compared with sugar, still there must be a selection for the cultivation of coffee. Every hill side is not fit for this cultivation.

13115. Besides the greater fertility of the soil of Cuba, when compared with the land in the West India islands, they do not pay a high rent for land in Cuba?—In many parts of our West Indies, I suppose, there is not rent paid; but the population of Cuba is much smaller than that of any of our West India islands, and where fertile land is still so abundant, I cannot suppose that a true rent is anywhere paid in that island.

13116. The Committee is inquiring what relief we can give to the West Indies; are the Committee to understand you, that if any assistance were given to the West Indies by the mother country, it should be rather to assist public works, such as works of irrigation, than in aid of the importation of labour?—That is my opinion; blunders have been committed upon both sides; I believe this country is to blame for its treatment of the West Indies. Such being the case we must pay for our mistakes. As money therefore must, I think, be paid, the best way is to bestow it upon works of irrigation, which will produce in the West India islands a state of things such as has contributed to the prosperity of every other country which they resemble. I would not exclude the cultivation of coffee

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or sugar, or anything else, but I would facilitate the cultivation of other products which the West Indians could cultivate profitably.

13117. Drainage is as much wanted in some of those islands as irrigation is, is it not?—It is wanted, perhaps, in Demerara; but I am not acquainted with any country like Demerara, except Province Wellesley; Province Wellesley very much resembles Demerara. Such a system of drainage as we practise in this country is certainly not applicable to the West Indies, or any other tropical country.

13118. Did you read Mr. Ray's evidence on the subject of Province Wellesley?—I did.

13119. Do you agree in what he states?—I am not sure that I coincide, in all respects, with Mr. Ray; he takes a view rather *couleur de rose* of some parts of the territory of Malacca; I have not a very good impression of the land either of the peninsula of Malacca or of Borneo, and I cannot bring myself to fancy that there can be much good about a country which has never produced, when left to itself, an indigenous civilization; that is positively the case with respect to Borneo and the Malay peninsula. One wonders why these countries should not have produced a race of civilized men like some other islands in the archipelago. Java particularly, Sumatra, Celebes, have produced men of some amount of civilization, but Borneo and the Malayan peninsula none; all the inhabitants of these two countries that are tolerably civilized are strangers to the country; the native population are little better than barbarians or semi-savages.

13120. Do you agree with him in what he says about the Chinese labourers?—Yes, entirely.

13121. Mr. Wilson.] Does your principle go so far as this, that where a population is dense, and therefore you have a land tax, the produce of sugar cannot be expected to be much increased?—That where such a state of society exists, the rent which follows a dense population enhances the price of every kind of agricultural produce, and sugar among others. I cannot understand any difference between sugar and corn; both are grasses; one is a saccharine grass and the other a farinaceous grass.

13122. You represented Java as being an exceedingly densely populated country?—Not very densely populated; there are 250 inhabitants to a square mile. I have not the least doubt but that the youngest among us may live to see Java with a population double what it has now.

13123. It is one of those countries you would consider sufficiently dense to create rent, and therefore interfere with cheap production?—Yes.

13124. Are you aware that, notwithstanding Java is so extraordinarily situated, production has increased more rapidly in Java than it has in any part of the world that we know of?—I am not aware of the fact respecting the ratio of the increase, but the statement I have made will sufficiently account for the way in which it may have been brought about; it is done at a very heavy sacrifice, being chiefly forced by the Dutch government; anything may be produced in that way.

13125. I understand you to quote the island of Java as an example of the force of your theory?—I do so, and notwithstanding all the violence which has been applied to the cultivation, the production of 60,000 or 80,000 tons is a very trifling proportion for such an island as Java, one of the most fertile in the world, had its social state adapted it to this particular cultivation.

13126. Do you know what the produce of sugar in Java was in 1826 when the Dutch first commenced that system?—Nineteen thousand piculs; but in my recollection, in 1811, it was about 13,000 piculs; at that time the government had not attempted to force the cultivation.

13127. I find by this pamphlet, in 1836 it had risen from 19,000 piculs to no less than 509,000 piculs, and in 1841 to 1,031,000 piculs?—Yes, that is the quantity, at 136 lbs. to the picul.

13128. And that in 1843, of private sugar, independent of the government, there was 314,000 piculs?—Yes, and next year it had fallen to 281,000 piculs.

13129. So that from 1826 up to 1843 the increase is from 19,000 up to 1,366,000 piculs?—Three-fourths of the whole quantity being produced by main force—by the illegitimate application of the government revenue to the growth of sugar. The actual quantities were, of government sugar, about 57,000 tons, and of private, 19,000, but in 1844 the private sugar had fallen off by 2,000 tons.

13130. Are you aware that last year a further increase had taken place till it reached

reached nearly 1,600,000 piculs, or 84,000 tons?—I was not aware of it. Even that largest quantity I should consider a very trifling quantity for such an island as Java, had it been suited to the culture.

13131. You have not been in the island of late years?—No.

13132. Mr. Miles.] Have you any idea what capital would be required to be expended in those reservoirs you speak of in the West Indies?—I can form no notion upon the subject.

13133. Do you imagine it would be a small sum?—A very handsome sum, I should say.

13134. As one of the public, I suppose you would be prepared to sanction such a grant?—Yes.

13135. Are you aware that the colony of British Guiana is watered by large rivers, and that the land is below the level of the sea?—I am quite aware of that; that is just one of the few difficulties.

13136. You do not think irrigation could be managed there?—Not unless the land were to be cultivated towards the foot of the hills. I understand they go no further into the country than four miles; if they were to go 150 miles, I fancy they would find those ranges of hills from which the rivers proceed; there are plenty of means of irrigation.

13137. Do you think it would be profitable for planters to carry their plantations 150 miles back?—No; unless it should be necessary to abandon the present ones.

13138. Therefore that plan, as far as Demerara is concerned, would be inoperative?—It does not seem to be very likely to be carried out, as far as regards Demerara and Essequibo.

13139. Do you know that there are also two rainy seasons in Guiana?—I have heard so, which would make no difference; it would only give a double chance of getting enough rain to fill the reservoirs.

13140. Could they get rain water, do you think, for that purpose?—It is done in the south of India.

13141. You say that the exportation from India has been very small, and that it has not been increased of late?—It is vastly increased from the lowest amount at which it stood at one time, before the equalization of the duties.

13142. Do you attribute the smallness of the production to the soil in the East Indies?—I attribute it to the rate of rent.

13143. Do not you consider the consumption of India has something to do with it?—That would not affect the surplus quantity that would be sent to this country.

13144. Do you think if the price in this country were equal to the price of slave-grown produce, any sugar would come from the East Indies?—If there were a bounty paid, as there was during the protection, of something like 20s. a cwt.

13145. Without the bounty?—I believe very little would come from the East Indies.

13146. That does not depend upon the rent of the land?—The rent of the land will prevent its increasing. What has made it increase heretofore has been the protection it has received; that protection being removed, it will diminish.

13147. The rent of the land is not to be calculated at all in the cost of a cwt. of sugar in India, is it?—Yes; the party that raises the sugar must pay the rent.

13148. What is the rent in India of an acre of land?—It is quite sufficient to affect price: the Dutch estimate theirs in Java at 6s. As far as I can judge, from the statement of Mr. Ray to this Committee, the lands engaged in the culture of sugar in Bengal must be of a very poor description.

13149. Do you think 4s. an acre would make any real difference in a ton of sugar, so as to prevent its coming into competition with slave-grown sugar?—I apprehend 4s. an acre to represent the land tax paid to the Government; the real rent paid to the proprietor must be different from that; I should suppose it was treble that.

13150. Do you think the rent of land, with all the taxes, paid in India is equivalent to 12s.?—That is a conjectural estimate which I made just upon the spur of the moment. There is another cause; the difficulty of exporting from India, and the higher rate of freight to this country.

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13151. *Mr. Moffatt.*] It has been stated by well-informed people upon this subject that the beetroot sugar is likely to supersede the use of sugar from our colonies to a large extent. Have you given any attention to that subject?—A little.

13152. What are your views upon it?—My views are, that if the same duties be everywhere imposed upon beetroot sugar and cane sugar, and trade be free with respect to both, beetroot sugar has not a leg to stand on. I understand the produce of the sugar cane generally ranges from about 50 to 60 per cent. of sugar, and I understand that of the beetroot is only five or six per cent.; and how it is to compete with the other I cannot understand; but the trial has never been fairly made. There is a differential duty in favour of the beet everywhere, or there is a tax upon cane sugar, and no tax upon beetroot sugar.

13153. Are you aware what are the present rates of duty in France?—I have not lately examined the matter, but I once examined it, and found that then there was no duty paid upon beetroot sugar in France; and under those circumstances beet sugar became a very important article in France; it was very nearly, year after year, swamping the cane sugar altogether.

13154. Your opinion is that the colonial producer has no reason to apprehend any very serious rivalry with the producer of beetroot sugar?—No; unless a Government is foolish enough to exempt one from duty, and charge the other with it.

Mr. Robert M'Crae called in; and Examined.

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13155. *Chairman.*] YOU are Surgeon of the Growler?—I was.

13156. How long have you been employed in the Growler?—Since May 1847. I joined her at Woolwich in May 1847.

13157. She was first employed in transporting Kroomen to the West Indies?—Since she left England for that purpose.

13158. How many voyages have you been with her to the West Indies?—Two voyages.

13159. Were they successful, as far as the health of the immigrants was concerned?—No.

13160. Will you inform the Committee what happened on those voyages, as regards the health of the immigrants?—In the first voyage we shipped about 480; of that number 20 died before we arrived at Demerara, from bowel affections, dysentery.

13161. The Africans are very subject to dysentery when first put on board ship, are not they?—It prevails in most slave vessels.

13162. Can you account for it in any way?—It is supposed to arise from their diet in some measure, and from the deteriorated water they receive from the rivers.

13163. That would not be the case on board the Growler, would it?—We had reason to believe they were suffering from the disease previously to their embarkation.

13164. Were those immigrants negroes that had been recently captured?—Very recently liberated out of a slave vessel; some of them had been only two weeks out of the slave vessel.

13165. What was the length of each voyage?—The first voyage from Sierra Leone to Demerara was about 15 days.

13166. When did you take the negroes on board?—Only on the day before we sailed; we sailed the following day.

13167. That was the first voyage?—Yes.

13168. How long was the Growler making her voyage back again?—It was three complete months before she arrived back at Sierra Leone.

13169. How was that?—From detentions in various ways.

13170. What were the causes of those detentions?—We were detained some time at Demerara to receive the return delegates and emigrants, those who had been five years in the colony. We then went into Trinidad to receive some more, and afterwards we proceeded to Grenada to water and coal; neither of those articles were to be had readily at either of the other places.

13171. How many of those emissaries did you take back to the coast of Africa?—About 140.

13172. What was the length of the voyage when you were once fairly at sea?—
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We called at several places, Bermuda was the last, which was a considerable way upon the voyage.

13173. What did you go to Bermuda for?—The machinery broke down, and we were obliged to put in there. We had also called at Barbadoes for the purpose of procuring seamen, for the seamen can only be procured at the commissariat establishment, and we were obliged to put in there. Altogether the voyage back was the longest period of the three months. I cannot speak to dates, not being prepared for this examination, and my luggage having gone on. I have no dates before me to guide me, but I can speak generally.

13174. Had she a bad passage back?—Not bad weather; a tedious passage.

13175. Why was that?—From the delays in the first instance, and from the break down of the machinery, causing the delay again of our going into Bermuda and remaining while it was under repair; and afterwards, instead of steam, the captain being instructed to economize as much as possible, used sails, and that prolonged the voyage very much.

13176. Do the trade winds not serve for Bermuda?—They do, but they happened to be rather light; we were unfortunate in not falling in with the trade winds sufficiently.

13177. Were those African emissaries healthy on board the Growler?—Quite so; they required medical treatment, but there were no deaths, except one who died from diseased heart.

13178. Then you got another cargo of liberated Africans, did you?—Yes.

13179. How many did they consist of?—We took about 450 upon the second occasion.

13180. Was there any ill health among them?—Much greater mortality than on the former voyage.

13181. Did you ascribe that to the weak state in which they were put on board the Growler?—To their broken down state from their previous treatment and their sufferings in their state of captivity.

13182. They were newly liberated, were they?—Yes, some of them not a fortnight.

13183. What was the condition of those people; were they much emaciated?—They were; we selected the best that were in the yard, but their appearance showed the treatment they had experienced; we could not positively say that there was so much organic disease as we found there was ultimately, but their appearance indicated anything but good health.

13184. How many had you to choose from?—There were about 1,000 in the yard.

13185. Out of which you chose 450?—Yes, taking the best that were available.

13186. How many of those died on the passage?—Forty-six.

13187. In what condition were the others when they arrived; were they fit to go to work?—No.

13188. How long would it be before they would be fit to go to work?—A considerable time; it would depend in a great measure upon what care was taken to bring them round.

13189. They had the best possible care on board the Growler?—As much as our limited means would allow.

13190. Were they well fed?—The dietary I did not consider very suitable for their condition.

13191. What was the dietary?—It consisted chiefly of rice.

13192. And they wanted beef, probably?—They had an allowance of four ounces of salt beef for adults, and half that for children.

13193. Were the deaths principally among the men or among the children?—On the second occasion principally among the males; we had very few females on the second voyage.

13194. Did the men appear to have suffered most from their captivity or the children?—Generally speaking, the women are found to be in better condition at all times; they seem to be better taken care of in their state of captivity, at least I have generally noticed they were not so broken down, and their skin was much freer from the ordinary affection which the men suffer from, a species of skin disease.

13195. What disease is that?—It is a species of itch; it is called cran-cran.

13196. Do they get that after their captivity?—No, it is common among them

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them on shore; it is very much increased by their habits on board, not being clean, not washing sufficiently often; but it often prevails before they embark; they may have it in their own country.

13197. Were there any very striking marks of suffering during their captivity on board slave ships?—They do sometimes show marks of ulceration from the shackles, but we would not take such on board; they would be taken to the hospital at Sierra Leone, where there are always about 800 or 1,000 under treatment.

13198. When the Africans are captured are they, generally speaking, covered with ulcerations from wounds from the shackles?—Not generally.

13199. What proportion of the male captives are put in irons?—I should imagine rather a small portion, unless they showed symptoms of mutiny and were troublesome. I do not think, generally speaking, they shackle all of them now. I have seen two or three slavers newly captured, and we only found a very few shackled, and they were represented as being worse characters than ordinary.

13200. How long should you say it would require for a cargo of slaves to recruit themselves sufficiently to go to hard labour when they got to Demerara?—It would be a considerable time before they were fit for labour.

13201. Three months, do you suppose?—I dare say it would not be much under that, from the very emaciated and broken down condition of them when brought into Sierra Leone; I am persuaded it would take months before they would be fit for labour in the field.

13202. How long do you imagine they had been in captivity to bring them to this state; those Africans would be captured principally at the outset of their voyage?—Just on leaving the coast in most instances, but their detention in the barracoons is very uncertain and often very prolonged; from the coast being watched and vessels not being allowed to come in, they are detained frequently for a long time, and the food gets short, and I have heard of slave-owners there even being obliged to sacrifice their lives because they had no means of sustaining them.

13203. You do not consider the sufferings of the slave trade commence on board ship, but they commence in those barracoons?—In the interior; I consider they suffer very much before they arrive on the coast; they are driven hundreds of miles from the interior.

13204. Their principal sufferings are at those barracoons, are they?—They may be detained longer or shorter there; but in many instances they are detained a very long time when the cruisers keep a close blockade on any particular part, and their means of subsistence are very limited.

13205. The closer the watch the cruisers keep the greater the sufferings of the Africans?—Of course.

13206. Have you any opportunity of learning what number of Africans could be obtained as free labourers if access were given to the West Indian planters to the coast of Africa?—I have no idea that they would be permitted to go on all parts of the coast.

13207. Do you mean that the chiefs would not tolerate them?—The people themselves I do not think would voluntarily go into a ship; their idea of a ship and a white man is slavery; they have no other idea but their being about to be sent into slavery.

13208. What coasts are you now speaking of?—The whole of the coast, with the exception of Sierra Leone, perhaps, where the people know better; where the slave trade is carried on I think they would not voluntarily embark as free labourers, not in the present state of their knowledge.

13209. Had you any interpreter with you able to enter into any conversation with those Africans?—We were very inadequately supplied with interpreters; that was one of the greatest inconveniences. We had several nations on board and only two interpreters were allowed on both voyages; many of them we could not understand, and we had to be guided by external signs in order to communicate with them. The language of one tribe is quite different from another.

13210. How many tribes had you on board?—There were five or six; there were several with whom the interpreters we had could not communicate.

13211. You had no opportunity of getting any information from those Africans about their manners, and customs, and feelings?—I have often endeavoured to obtain that information, but it has been so uncertain and indistinct that I could really

really make very little of it; the interpreters themselves seemed to be very inadequate; though they could make themselves understood in a general way, when we came to talk of particulars they could not make themselves understood well.

13212. What was the character of those people; were they but little removed from brute beasts?—They were very indolent, and they certainly displayed very little intellect, most of them. The Acoo people and the Cosso are more intelligent, but the Congo and Angola natives appear to be very low indeed in their mental endowments.

13213. Are they men of powerful frames?—Some of them were tall, but very thin.

13214. Was that from being so emaciated?—Yes; some of them were tall men; the Kroomen are the best in respect of physical power.

13215. The Kroomen are free men, are not they; they have not been subject to this captivity?—We carried no Kroomen to the West Indies; we never had occasion to embark any Kroomen; we were confined to the Queen's Yard.

13216. You consider that the ordinary race of Africans that are kidnapped for slaves are very low in intellect?—I do.

13217. You seem to say not of very athletic strength?—Not very athletic.

13218. What do you say of the women?—The women are generally found in a better condition as regards their health and skill; their habits are better than those of the men.

13219. In what way?—They appear to pay more attention to cleanliness, and they seemed to be the parties who worked most; there is more energy about the women than about the men.

13220. Did you understand that the custom of their own native country is that the women should perform the work?—I think so.

13221. And the men are more indolent?—The men are indolent; they have their food cooked, they eat it, and lie down.

13222. And the women work?—Yes.

13223. Were you able to ascertain how those people gained their livelihood, by what employment, in their native country?—No; I believe their wants are few and very easily supplied in their own country; some kind of yams or roots which grow very easily supply them.

13224. Do you consider them to be in a very abject state?—Very low indeed.

13225. Do you consider they are slaves in their own country?—I have reason to believe they are.

13226. Captain Matson has told us it is quite a mistake to suppose that those slaves are obtained by slave wars and slave hunts; from information he has obtained he says he reckons that one-half are children sold by their parents, one-fourth are debtors who sell themselves to be taken out of debt, and one-fourth are criminals sold by the chiefs?—I have heard similar notions to that, but I have more frequently heard that one chief went to war with another; that they make arrangements that they will go to war, and each take prisoners and sell them as a means of raising a revenue.

13227. Have you obtained this information from the Africans themselves?—I cannot say that I have.

13228. What is your source of information?—The reports upon the coast from among the Europeans who have lived there a length of time, and who are believed to understand something about the matter.

13229. Have you ever been employed upon the coast of Africa except in the Growler?—Yes, I was employed in a cruiser some time.

13230. Where was that?—In the Bight of Benin.

13231. For how long?—From 1844 till 1846.

13232. What cruiser were you on board of?—I was attached to the Cygnet in the first instance.

13233. Did she capture many slavers?—She detained 18 in the course of my servitude in her, but 14 only were condemned; four were released as not being proved to be slavers.

13234. They were equipped, but had not slaves on board?—They had partial equipments, but they were not condemned as not being fully proved to be engaged in the slave trade; the other 14 had not all of them slaves on board.

13235. How many had slaves on board?—Two.

13236. How do you account for so small a proportion of loaded ships being captured?—They are very careful in shipping unless they know that the coast is



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clear of a cruiser; they take great care of not running the risk of being captured, for they would rather wait a considerable time.

13237. The evidence before the Committee goes to this, that there is not above one cargo of slaves in thirty captured?—I am persuaded we miss a great many, that a great many get off.

13238. How do they get off; to what tricks have they recourse?—I am not prepared to answer that. I cannot say how it is, but they certainly have a way of managing to get off in large numbers. They have signals along the coast. They sometimes lie off a great many miles at sea and send a boat in, the sea being there mostly very smooth and calm, so that a boat can be sent a great many miles; if a cruiser is on this part of the coast they can ship at another part a number of miles distant, and march the slaves along the coast.

13239. How many miles do they march the slaves down the coast?—I have heard of their having done so for a great distance.

13240. Do you consider that the privations of the slaves are very much aggravated by the severe blockade service?—I think so; I think it tends to increase their miseries.

13241. They are stinted in water?—Yes, and they are more crowded together.

13242. And worse fed?—Of course; their food runs short when detained long; on many parts of the coast they do not raise the food, it is imported, rice and farina; they are imported from the Brazils; they do not raise them on the coast, so that they frequently run short.

13243. The coast of Africa, where those negroes are taken from, is not a fertile soil; it grows vegetables and food not very prolifically?—In some parts it is very prolific, but they pay no attention to the cultivation of it. Wherever slavery is carried on to any extent any other cultivation is quite neglected; their profits in the slave trade are so much greater, and it is so much more easily performed than labour, and they are not very fond of working, generally speaking.

13244. If the object were to obtain free labourers from the coast of Africa, how would you proceed to get them?—I am not aware of any other source but the Queen's Yard or the Kroo coast.

13245. Do not you think in other parts, if the West India planters were allowed by this Government to obtain them, they would succeed in inducing them to go as free labourers, under some guarantee that they were to be free?—I am afraid, under present circumstances, they must be bought, the chief must be the means of sending them on board; I fear they would not go voluntarily.

13246. Do you know anything of the practice of debtors selling themselves?—I have heard of it; I am not aware that it has been a very extensive system.

13247. Do you know anything of the moral and social relations of Africans in their native country?—My knowledge of them is very limited; it is only from occasionally seeing them on the coast; we had no opportunity of seeing them more inland.

13248. Have you been among them on shore?—I have been on some parts of the coast.

13249. On what parts of the coast?—At Cabenda, to the southward of the Line, I have been on shore, and at Benguela, a place where slavery is carried on to a great extent.

13250. You do not think at either of those places it would be possible to obtain free Africans?—No; the sight of a ship and a white man will give them no other idea than that of slavery.

13251. With respect to Kroomen, have you any notion how many the Kroo and Fish nations number?—I have no idea.

13252. What is the length of the coast; is it 70 or 80 miles long?—I should think it was that.

13253. Is it densely populated?—I have no correct knowledge on that subject.

13254. You have not been ashore on the Kroo coast?—No; I have anchored twice off it. The Growler's instructions were to visit the Kroo coast and show herself, so as to give the people confidence in a Queen's vessel carrying them to the West Indies, but on both occasions our complement had been taken from Sierra Leone, so that we only took the vessel there and lay at anchor two or three hours.

13255. Did any Kroomen come off to offer themselves?—Not to offer themselves; a number of Kroomen came off in canoes and looked at her.

13256. Did they come on board?—Yes.

13257. Did you understand from those who came on board that they would be ready to go?—We understood some people could be got there.

13258. What was the extent of your information as to the number?—Among the return immigrants and delegates we brought back a number of Kroomen. Many of them were headmen, who had filled two or three former vessels employed by merchants, and they held out great hopes of being able to get a complement for the Growler in the event of their not finding any at Sierra Leone; but I do not think the supply would be very great; a few thousands perhaps might be obtained; but my impression is that the supply would not be very extensive.

13259. Do you think it would extend to 2,000 or 3,000?—I am not prepared to say positively, but I should fear not much more than that.

13260. They are a very fine people, are not they?—They are a superior people.

13261. Do they allow their women to go?—No; it is not usual for women to leave the country. There are a great many employed in our cruisers on the coast of Africa, but we seldom see the Kroo women.

13262. You said, "if you had failed to get a good cargo at Sierra Leone;" are all the liberated Africans exhausted that were originally liberated at Sierra Leone?—No; there is a large population.

13263. Then why did you doubt being able to get a full complement there?—They are not willing to leave Sierra Leone. I believe a few would go, but only a few.

13264. Do you think you could have got 5,000 from Sierra Leone, including all the liberated Africans?—I doubt it, from the impressions I have received and what I have learned.

13265. You said you picked out the best; those that you thought too bad to take would not have been fit for service for two months, or more probably?—A great many would die. They are taken to the African hospital, and the mortality there is sometimes 200 a week out of 800 or 1,000 that may be under treatment.

13266. Is Sierra Leone unhealthy for Africans as well as whites?—No; it is quite their own country.

13267. It is a dreadful climate, is not it, for Europeans?—Europeans suffer very much.

13268. Is there any considerable original native population at Sierra Leone?—No.

13269. Is there any trade there?—There is considerable trade in wood.

13270. What sort of wood?—Teak wood, wood for building purposes, and some dye woods.

13271. Where does the palm oil come from?—From the rivers; the rivers Bonny and Calabar.

13272. Mr. Miles.] Do you think a steam ship is a good vessel for conveying emigrants?—I do not think the Growler was a proper vessel.

13273. Do you think the plan of Captain Hall of having a 46-gun frigate, with the maindeck entirely clear, would be more commodious than the Growler?—I think so.

13274. The Growler was lumbered up with bunks, was not she?—Yes; the circulation of the air was very much impeded.

13275. You do not want hammocks, or beds, or anything of that sort?—No; they are not accustomed to it; they lie down on a mat in their own houses.

13276. It is too great a luxury for them in fact?—It was a means of accumulating dirt and impeding the circulation of air.

13277. Do you think that if emigration were carried on in a proper and ordinary way the mortality would be very great?—If our supply is to be taken from the Queen's Yard I think they should be allowed to remain much longer there under superintendence and close medical inspection.

13278. Supposing they were taken from tribes who were willing to emigrate?—I should not suppose the mortality would be great.

13279. There is nothing to make the mortality greater in that than any other emigration?—No; the mortality arose from the condition they were in previous to embarkation, and during the period of their stay on board the nature of the dietary was not such as to improve their condition, but rather on the contrary.

13280. Do you think that if it could be made evident to those people along the

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coast they were not to be enslaved when they got across the water by sending emigrants among them to inform them of that, any considerable supply of labourers could be obtained?—The population of Africa is very dense, and were they willing to leave their country I should imagine great numbers could be obtained, as far as the resources of the country are concerned; I believe they are very numerous.

13281. From 12,000 to 20,000 a year, do you think?—Judging from the number that are taken into slavery, I should say that number might be obtained quite readily.

13282. How long were you going back on your first passage in the Growler?—Three months, from our departure to our arrival.

13283. *Chairman.*] You highly approve of Commander Hall's pulling down the bunks?—It was desirable certainly to do so.

13284. Do you know who recommended those bunks to be put up?—I have no idea. When I joined the ship I found her fitted up. No one that I had any conversation with there but was of the same opinion, that they should never have been erected.

13285. The clearer she was between decks the better?—Certainly.

13286. And the more air?—Yes, and the less likelihood there would be of accumulations of filth, which requires great care among those people.

13287. Are the Africans naturally very filthy?—We found those people to be so; those that had been in captivity, whether naturally or acquired, possessed very filthy habits; those that were brought from the yard.

13288. Not caring to lie in their own filth?—No.

13289. Just like beasts?—Quite so; we had the greatest difficulty to get them out to allow others to clean them when they would not clean themselves. Whether if we had been better supplied with people who could have communicated with them, the result would have been better, I am not sure; but I hope it would.

13290. It is a horrible business carrying over those people?—Most disagreeable.

13291. Disgusting?—Yes.

13292. The stench must be very horrible?—Yes; and suffering from the complaint they did, it aggravated the stench, and the disagreeableness of it.

13293. Did the great majority of them suffer from those diseases?—A very large portion of them.

13294. How many ships during your service did you say had been captured?—Only two full vessels.

13295. How large were the vessels?—The last of them was not above 120 tons.

13296. How many slaves had she on board?—Six hundred; one of them had 560, and another a little more; they had sailed with about 600.

13297. Captain Matson described the people as packed like salt fish in those vessels?—They are packed very close; they are laid down, and built into each other as close as they could lie, generally speaking; sometimes a few on deck. When they have an opportunity of getting away, and the barracoon is full on shore, they are glad to crowd the vessel; the slave-owner on shore is glad to get rid of them, and the captain of the slaver takes them; and if 20 or 30, or any number die, he has a good number remaining.

13298. Captain Matson told us the regular calculation was, that out of every 500, 200 would sicken and die in the first 48 hours?—A very large mortality takes place.

13299. It must be the suffocating heat that kills them so soon?—That must have a great deal to do with it.

13300. He said that dysentery came upon them?—Yes; that was the source of all our mortality, the dysentery on board the Growler, which originates in the slaver, generally speaking, though on our inspection of them we could not tell whether they were suffering from that affection or not, because they were turned out, and we had no time to examine them. We had to take them away as soon as we had looked at them. I think were the system carried on of emigration from Sierra Leone, they should be under medical superintendence for some time, to prevent this great mortality upon embarkation.

13301. You are now speaking of liberated Africans?—And those in the yard.

I should

I should have no hesitation in taking those who had been resident at Sierra Leone, their health being quite established. Mr. R. M. Crae.

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13302. What condition were those in you captured yourselves in the *Cygnets*?—They were a short time from the coast only; and though not in very bad condition, a great many deaths occurred before they were taken to the place of adjudication.

13303. How many days had they been at sea?—One of them could not have been out more than two or three days; she was quite close on the coast; the other was a good way on the passage, and considered she was quite safe. We were not cruising when we took her; we were making a passage from St. Helena to the coast; we were about half-way across.

13304. Generally speaking, at what distance from the coast do they consider themselves safe; 20 miles?—The cruisers generally cruise from 20 to 50 miles off the coast.

13305. When they get 50 miles off the coast, do they consider themselves safe?—Yes, from 50 to 100; as the cruisers are seldom further out than that.

13306. With a fair wind, any vessel that left the coast at night would be safe by the next day?—They take that means of going out in the after part of the day, and evading the cruisers if the wind does not fall calm; but they sometimes find themselves alongside a slaver in the morning, if there is very little wind.

13307. Though they know the cruiser is close by, they do not mind trying to run by her at night?—They must run some risk.

13308. Do you conceive that when they see a cruiser five or six miles off they will venture?—No, I would not suppose that; they are not so venturesome as that. If a cruiser is in sight, I would not suppose they would get under weigh at all, or show themselves if they could avoid it.

13309. On board the slavers do you imagine they are cleaned out every day?—No.

13310. What were the number of the crew on board those vessels you spoke of?—They are generally rather numerous.

13311. Do you recollect in those two vessels how many the crew consisted of?—About 20 hands; from 20 to 25; they generally manned them well, to keep the slaves in subjection in some measure.

13312. Do you conceive that they are very severe with the slaves, or are the slaves very helpless on board ship?—They are very helpless, unless it is some of the stronger men. I have known them endeavouring to relieve themselves, but those they generally shackle; any persons that are likely to be troublesome.

13313. Do you conceive that those Africans are capable of being made to clean themselves out on board?—I think they could be made to do so, but with a great deal of trouble and difficulty, as far as we experienced.

13314. As far as your observations went, did it appear when you captured those slavers that they had ever been cleaned out?—No; so much so that to leeward of one of them you may smell the stench to a very considerable distance.

13315. Something like a quarter of a mile?—A considerable distance; there is a peculiar stench that no one who has ever been on board a slaver but can recognise.

13316. When you board a slaver you know by the smell whether she is a slaver?—Yes, even before she is boarded.

13317. Should you say that 500 or 600 yards off you could smell it?—As close as a vessel could safely go to her.

13318. In that vessel which you took half way across the Atlantic, did the 500 or 600 negroes appear to be lying in their excrement?—They had accommodations to prevent the decks getting covered in that way to those who are able to use them; but for the more helpless and those who lie still some of the crew must endeavour to remove some of it, or they would be enveloped in it.

13319. They are not so bad as that comes to?—They are in a very dirty state; they have tubs which they use for the purpose between decks, but when they get diseased and helpless then they lie in their own filth.

13320. That applies to a very large proportion after the first 48 hours, does not it?—It soon commences, and increases, generally speaking, as they go on; the stench and effluvia arising from the others has a tendency to aggravate and increase the mortality.

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13321. The women are a very fine set, are not they?—Not all of the tribes; some of them are; but I have noticed that they seem to be cleaner in their skins, and freer from this affection of the skin.

13322. Captain Hornby has stated that they are as big as the men generally?—I have seen some of the women even taller and stouter than the men.

13323. They are a very masculine race?—Yes.

13324. As regards provisions and water, how were those slavers off for those supplies?—They had sufficient provisions for the slaves, but the quality of the water was not good; it had generally been taken out of the river, was muddy, and required time to settle before it could be used, without producing disease.

13325. Do you reckon that is another consequence of the severe blockade?—On some parts of the coast it is the only means of getting water; even our cruisers are obliged to go to the rivers to water; to the river Congo the cruisers frequently go, but it is found that if they use the water before it has settled, and purified itself, disease is the consequence, even among Europeans.

13326. You said you thought there might be 3,000 or 4,000 Africans obtained from Sierra Leone?—There might be, but I have no reason to expect a very large number would go.

13327. What is the state of industry of the people there; are they tolerably industrious?—Not very industrious; they endeavour, as soon as they get a little money, to open a store, or they get a basket with a few things to sell, and become little merchants; they prefer that to working in the way of manual labour.

13328. Are they so debased in intellect as you describe to be the case with the liberated Africans?—There are many of the liberated Africans there who read and write and are tolerably intelligent, and have become civilized; they are a very different race from those I have seen recently captured.

13329. What is the state of morality in which they are at Sierra Leone?—I think it is rather low.

13330. There is no such thing as marriage, is there?—To a certain extent there is among those who have been established for a length of time in the colony.

13331. Among the native Africans there is nothing of the kind, is there?—Their system is polygamy in proportion to their means of supporting them; they may have as many wives as they are able to support.

13332. You believe Captain Matson is right in stating that the men sell their own children?—I can believe it perfectly that mothers and fathers would sell their children.

13333. Do you think the mothers would do so too?—I am not prepared to say positively; I do not know that there is much difference in their feelings in that respect.

13334. The result of your observation is that you think there is no great supply of Africans to be obtained either from the Kroo coast, the Fish coast, or Sierra Leone?—I think not an adequate supply for the wants of our British colonies; I do not think that there is anything like an adequate supply to be obtained.

13335. You are disposed to fear that it would not be practicable to obtain free labourers from other parts of Africa?—Not in the present state of the country.

13336. Captain Matson agrees with you in thinking so long as the slave trade was permitted free Africans could not be obtained, but that if treaties were to be made with the chiefs of Congo and Ambriz, then there would be no difficulty in getting them?—That would remove in some measure the difficulty were the natives made acquainted with the system, but at present I should fear they would dislike venturing in a ship away from home; they have no other idea than slavery attached to their being sent away in a ship.

13337. Do you think it would be more easy to get the women away than the men?—I have no idea that one would go in preference to the other; whether it is a dislike on the part of the Kroo women to go I am not quite sure; none of them ever do leave their country.

13338. With respect to other parts of the coast?—I am not aware of any objection to their going; I do not think they would dislike it more than the men.

13339. Does the slave trade prevail on the Portuguese part of the coast?—A larger number of slaves are shipped from the Portuguese possessions; the Portuguese are supposed to set their faces against it, but there are a large number of slaves exported from the Portuguese possessions on the coast.

13340. What

13340. What increase of naval force do you imagine would be necessary to put down the slave trade altogether?—I am afraid it is not in our power; it would be something larger than we are likely to send there.

13341. Do you think if the present force were quadrupled it would be sufficient?—The coast is so extensive that it is almost impracticable to blockade it with vessels.

13342. If there were ten times as many ships that would annihilate the slave trade?—It is very difficult to say; so long as it proves so lucrative there will always be an attempt at carrying it on.

13343. There are above 4,000 miles of coast to be blockaded?—It is a very large extent of coast.

13344. Do you suppose a slaver, if she knew that a cruiser was 20 miles off, would not fear to run her cargo?—It would depend, in a great measure, upon the power of the vessel; if they had a very fast sailing vessel, and knew the cruiser was not, as many of ours at one time were not very fast, they would laugh at them very often and go out right in sight of them, knowing the cruiser could not catch them. I believe they have introduced steam now, which is another facility they have of getting off.

13345. The Growler only made two passages, did she?—She did not complete two; we never returned to the coast the second time. The sickness among our ship's company originated upon our leaving the coast, and we were obliged to run into Bermuda, where we had to land all the crew and clean the vessel out; we landed the cargo at Trinidad.

13346. What fever was that?—The common African fever.

13347. How many men did you lose?—The captain and two men only died, but 75 cases occurred among the crew of 90 Europeans.

13348. When a man once has the African fever does he ever become as good a man again?—Not always; it frequently breaks down the constitution very much; but the climate we were in in Bermuda was favourable to their recovery: the temperature was low, and it was almost equal to returning to England; but if they remain in Africa or the West Indies they do not pick up their strength for a long time, generally speaking.

13349. By the last returns we have, the deaths on board the African squadron appeared to be very few; how do you account for that?—There are some seasons more sickly than others; what they call the epidemic appears perhaps every five or six years in a more aggravated form; there is always a fever, more or less, but the epidemic occurs every five or six years. It has been observed to follow a period of that sort. In Sierra Leone this last year has been the most fatal year of any for the last 10 years.

13350. Do you know how many deaths there have been among the Europeans in Sierra Leone?—I cannot say the number; but a large number in proportion to the number of European residents.

13351. Is there an African regiment there?—Yes.

13352. No European regiment?—No European troops.

13353. One or two African regiments?—There are three African regiments; two, I think, in the West Indies, and one only on the coast; they relieve each other.

13354. Do you know how many strong they are?—About 800 or 1,000 strong; it is about the usual number of the strength of a regiment.

13355. Do you know what the mortality among the cruisers has been this last year on the coast of Africa?—I have no means of knowing the return of that. I am rather disposed to think it has not been very severe the last year, but there are some years when the mortality is great, especially in some particular vessels.

13356. Captain Denman has an idea that by a closer blockade, or by sending the people on shore almost, it would be possible to put down the slave trade?—It might be extirpated at one place, but without an adequate force you could not prevent it going on somewhere else, if you had not the means of suppressing it at all quarters at once.

13357. You feel quite confident that four times the present force would not extirpate the slave trade?—I do not know that we have ships sufficient to do it; at least we are not likely to send in a sufficient number to suppress it.

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13358. You have no doubt that so long as it is only half suppressed the sufferings of the Africans are very much aggravated by the attempt?—They are indeed, I think, very much.

13359. You think it a great mistake?—I do not think the attempt has done any good; I think it has increased the sufferings of the slaves.

13360. Captain Denman is of opinion, and Captain Matson also, that the only mode of putting down the slave trade is to make treaties with the chiefs, and obtain a right to make a descent upon the coast and punish the chief himself if he allows any slave trade to go on?—I think that is as likely a way as any, to negotiate with the chiefs, to obtain their sanction, to get them to suppress it in their possessions, but I fear it would be difficult to get them to give their promise as long as the temptation is so great.

13361. Do not you think that if there were to be an annual subsidy paid to some of those principal chiefs, by such an arrangement as that they would consent to a treaty, agreeing not only to put down the slave trade themselves, but to authorize the British Government to make a descent upon the coast and put it down?—That has been done in some places already, and in the places where it has been attended to, a legal trade has been introduced to a considerable extent. If we could produce a spirit for legal trade and get the chiefs to suppress slavery and encourage some legal trade, that is the best way, I think.

13362. Do you think that it would be possible to make treaties with those chiefs by paying them a few thousand pounds a year?—I think it is possible.

13363. To allow the slave trade to be put down by force, and also to induce them to encourage an emigration of their people?—I think it is practicable, but some consideration must be given to the chiefs.

13364. What consideration do you imagine would be sufficient?—Not very large, I should fancy.

13365. They take a very small payment for those Africans that they sell as slaves?—They have been disposed to receive very small sums; they vary in price according to circumstances. I have been told at one time the price was very low.

13366. Will you state anything you know of the prices at different times?—When on the coast, within the last three years, I have been told by a supercargo of a vessel we captured that they might be procured for a doubloon, which is about three guineas; but I suppose they vary. I am not aware whether they have increased in value now or not; that is generally given in merchandize, so that it does not cost them so much.

13367. Is that doubloon paid to the chief?—No; the chiefs generally have disposed of them to the slave-dealer on the coast, who keeps the barracoon. They are collected on the coast generally.

13368. You mean they are actually sold on the coast for a doubloon?—Yes.

13369. What do you imagine the chief gets for them?—Much less than that, probably a musket; they frequently negotiate with muskets and gunpowder and pieces of cloth. I am not prepared to say what he might receive for them, but they could be obtained on the coast at that time for a doubloon I was told.

13370. Probably a great deal less than a doubloon for every African would satisfy the chief, and make him use all his influence to induce his people to emigrate?—Much less, I should fancy.

13371. Half a doubloon, probably?—A very small sum would satisfy them, I should fancy.

13372. Do you imagine that the slave trade has been very much stimulated in the last two years by the alteration in the laws of this country?—I have every reason to believe, from what I have heard from the cruisers, and the numbers that have been captured, to my knowledge, that it must be very much on the increase.

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Lunæ, 27^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
 Sir Thomas Birch.
 Mr. Cardwell.
 Mr. Milner Gibson.
 Mr. Goulburn.

Mr. Hope.
 Mr. Labouchere.
 Mr. Matheson.
 Mr. Miles.
 Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

John Innes, Esq. called in ; and Examined.

13373. Mr. *Labouchere*.] ARE you connected with the West Indies ?—I am, and have been for upwards of 40 years.

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13374. What is the nature of your connexion with those colonies?—Mer-
 cantile.

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13375. Have you any property there yourself?—No.

13376. Have you ever been there?—I went there in the year 1834, for the purpose of satisfying myself as to the working of the apprenticeship ; on that occasion I offered to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to procure any information he might desire on any subject upon which he thought I could render useful information. He therefore gave me letters of introduction to the Governors, with a request that they would afford every facility to my inquiries. Having obtained these introductions, I felt it to be an obligation upon me to be more minute than I otherwise should have been in my inquiries, and to report to the Government the result on my return, which I did in the year 1835. I visited nearly all the British West India colonies. The rotation in which I visited them was, British Guiana, Barbadoes, Trinidad, St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucie, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Jamaica.

13377. You have never yourself been practically connected with the cultivation of sugar in the West India colonies?—No, I have no practical acquaintance with it ; my knowledge is only by personal observation, and more particularly from the opportunities I had of ascertaining the opinions of practical and intelligent men in the colonies.

13378. You are a West India merchant residing in London?—Yes.

13379. Have you returned to the West Indies since the period referred to?—No ; I only made that tour, which occupied about twelve months.

13380. Your communications with the West Indies since that time have enabled you to know pretty well what has been going on there?—Certainly.

13381. What do you consider to be the present condition of those colonies ? —As I presume others have given very full evidence upon that subject, I shall only take the liberty of mentioning to the Committee a few circumstances. First I shall read a portion of a letter, which I have received this morning by the packet, from one of the most extensive planters in Berbice. His estate is near New Amsterdam ; he says, “ We are all endeavouring to reduce expenditure in every way ; we have met with serious opposition from the labourers, and they are for the most part idle, sullen, and refractory. You will have heard of the frequent cases of incendiarism here and in Georgetown ; this appears to be the means by which the labourers think they revenge their wrongs, and if it be persevered in, must put the crowning stroke to the planter’s misery.” —“ Our situation is certainly one that requires all the fortitude and energy a man can muster to meet the sad breach of faith, in the unequal contest we are engaged in, with slavery, and the internal, discontented population we have here.” I have a letter from one of the leading men in Trinidad, who states that there is a most abundant crop upon the ground, where he fully expects

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two-thirds of it must remain, from utter inability to obtain the means of paying the labourers to take it off. From Grenada the statements I have received are to the effect that the attorneys, who have from their own means carried on the cultivation, are now left without any prospect of being repaid, as the proprietors in this country are unable or unwilling to repay them, or to render any assistance. As to Jamaica: With respect to the only properties my firm is connected with, we have refused to send supplies or to honour any bills, because a most intelligent attorney furnished an estimate, by which it appeared that at the present prices, the expected crop (which is always greater than is realized) would not meet the expenses. If I were to be asked whether the same degree of discredit attaches to the colonies in this country, I should refer to a paper which has been laid before Parliament, by which I see that the island of Trinidad desired to borrow 30,000 *l.* here, upon the security of the colonial revenue, and that gentlemen in this country who were authorized to raise the money, advertised, at the request of Lord Grey; the result is in the 23d page of the Parliamentary Paper No. 62, in a letter signed by Charles Marryatt and Thomas Hankey, jun., addressed to Lord Grey: "We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 27th ultimo, desiring us, as agents for the Trinidad loan, to take immediate steps for raising the sum of 30,000 *l.* In reply, we have now to state that we immediately inserted in all the daily newspapers the advertisement of which we beg leave to transmit a copy, inviting parties to tender for the Trinidad bonds, but we regret to inform your Lordship, that although the advertisement was repeatedly inserted, and yesterday was fixed on as the last day for the purpose, we have not received a single tender for the loan, and we fear, therefore, that there is little probability at present of our being able to carry your Lordship's instructions into effect." I believe it is utterly impossible to raise one shilling in this country on the security of West India property. If the Committee should desire further information upon the distress which exists, there will be no difficulty in producing it.

13382. To what causes do you attribute the state of distress in the West Indies?—Probably the Committee will permit me to state my views upon the subject somewhat in detail, as doing so may save the time of the Committee. I consider that the course pursued towards the West Indies has been altogether different from that pursued towards any other interest whatsoever. In 1823, Resolutions were passed by the House of Commons with a view of preparing for eventual freedom. Immediate steps were taken for the purpose of carrying out those Resolutions, but before the expiration of 10 years the public excitement had proceeded to such an extent, that an immediate abolition was called for. The subject was one of no ordinary difficulty. In 1823, Mr. Canning said, "To change 800,000 slaves into free men is difficult beyond example, almost beyond the power of man; the recasting; as it were, a whole generation of mankind." This subject, which to Mr. Canning appeared so difficult, was by Parliament deemed so exceedingly easy that there was no investigation, with a view of ascertaining the means by which the abolition could be carried into effect most beneficially for the labourers, and with the least prejudice to the planters; the public feeling was at once yielded to without any investigation, and the Abolition Act was passed; an Act showing, as might have been expected, great ignorance of the subject, and a total disregard of justice. When it is proposed to deal with the property of any individual in this country, the customary mode is to have it determined by a jury what compensation shall be given. Instead of that course having been pursued in the present case, the Parliament took upon itself to say what should be the compensation; the Act says, "Reasonable compensation to persons hitherto entitled to the services of such slaves for the loss they will incur by being deprived of the right to such services." It was impossible to tell what loss would be sustained, and there was no attempt made to ascertain it. There was no inquiry of any kind set on foot. First, a sum was named as a loan, and then as a gift; 12 years' apprenticeship was proposed, and then 7 years; these changes showed that the parties who undertook this legislation knew very little of the subject. In the Act of Parliament I find there is no attempt made to prepare the slaves for working efficiently as freemen; there is that which was calculated to prevent their so working. They were by that Act required to work 45 hours in the week instead of 54, which they had previously done; the consequence was, that they had one hour and half a day, or nine hours a week, to work for themselves, and as the planters were all anxious for additional labour,

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they paid the negroes for that one hour and a half nearly as much as they ought to have paid them for a whole day's labour, the consequence of which was, that they undervalued money when the apprenticeship ceased, and thought it very hard that they should not receive a corresponding amount for their day's labour. That corresponding amount would have rendered it unnecessary for them, in some of the colonies, to labour more than one day in a month. Had an investigation taken place previously to the passing of this Act, it would not have exempted the negro from labour for a certain period; it would have provided that the negro should continue to labour for the period he had been accustomed to do, that period not having been oppressive, but that he should receive the first year one-seventh of a day's wages, by which means he might have supplied himself with comforts and luxuries, he being provided with every necessary by his master; in the second year it would have given him two-sevenths; the third year, three sevenths, and so progressively, until the expiration of the apprenticeship. He would in that way have become familiar with the use of money, and have acquired a number of wants, and therefore, at the expiration of the seven years, he would have preferred working for moderate wages to giving up those indulgences for which he had acquired a taste. Then the next great error, or crime I should almost call it, was in making all the children under six years of age free without making the slightest provision for bringing them up as efficient labourers. There is a provision in the Act, indeed, that where the parents are not able to support them they shall be apprenticed, but there is no provision made for bringing them up as useful members of society; and I found, on going to Demerara, that there was an instruction from the Governor (Sir James Carmichael Smith) to the special magistrates to discourage their becoming apprentices. In the instructions he issued to the special justices of the peace on the 1st of August he strongly discountenanced such apprenticeships, and it appeared that his advice had been universally followed. There were 9,873 children made free in British Guiana. In Barbadoes, in St. Vincent, and other places, I found apprenticeships discouraged, and therefore the children were not brought up as useful labourers. The next great defect I conceive to exist in this Act of Parliament is with regard to the predial and non-predial labourers. One hour and a half a day, or nine hours a week, having been given up to the predial labourers, it was thought fair that the non-predials, to whom time could not conveniently be given up, should have their freedom at an earlier period, and two years was taken off their apprenticeship. I think that had the subject been investigated before a committee it would have been discovered that so far from the non-predials requiring this provision, they were in a better situation than the predials, and that when a domestic did not behave properly, the usual punishment was to send him into the field. But supposing he had a claim, the correct plan, I presume, of compensating him would have been by giving him some additional allowance; but to say that one portion of the community should be free in the year 1838, and another in 1840, was neither more nor less than to declare that what was pledged to the planter (a seven years' quiet apprenticeship) should not be carried out. There are many other things which could be stated here to show how exceedingly impolitic it was to pass such an Act of Parliament without due investigation. I wish it to be distinctly understood that I am no advocate for slavery in having expressed myself as I have done with respect to the Abolition Act.

13383. Are there any other causes besides the defects which you state as existing, in your opinion, in the Apprenticeship Act, to which you attribute the existing distress?—Yes. The report which I made to Government on my return from the West Indies stated distinctly, under the heads of British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica, that there was not a planter there who contemplated the possibility of securing continuous free labour after the expiration of apprenticeship, for moderate wages. The Colonial Department, instead of encouraging the planters to procure other labourers to make up for any deficiency, threw every possible obstruction in the way; in fact it is not too strong an expression to use to say, that had the Colonial Department been employed for the purpose of preventing the successful working of the Act, they could not have done so more effectually than they did.

13384. Do you believe that the change of the sugar duties which took place in 1846 has materially affected the condition of the West Indies?—I entertain the opinion that much more has been attributed to that Act, as regards the past, than

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than can fairly be ascribed to it; I hold that the Act having passed in 1846, it is impossible that there can have been any great accession of sugar produced hitherto in consequence of that Act, but I think prospectively it will operate most injuriously,

13385. You do not believe that it would be fair to attribute the state of distress which notoriously exists in the West Indies to the operation of the Act of 1846, but you trace it back to causes which existed before that?—I believe if the Act of 1846 had never been passed the price of sugar would have been nearly as low last year as it was; but I consider that the Act of 1846 having entirely destroyed confidence in West India property, has deprived the planter of support and diminished his power to supply sugar.

13386. What remedial measures are you prepared to suggest to the Committee as calculated to relieve the distress which exists in the West India colonies?—In November last I took the liberty of addressing a letter to Lord Grey, in which I stated the measures which appeared to me to be best calculated to meet the then position of affairs; and finding that in consequence of the failure of the West India Bank, and other adverse circumstances, the position of the colonies had become infinitely worse by the end of January, I took the liberty of addressing him again upon the subject. I understand those two communications may now be given in, if it is the pleasure of the Committee to receive them. I will state what remedies I proposed in these communications. The first was immigration. Upon that subject I said very little, because I considered it had been taken up fully; but with respect to the sugar duties and protection, I say this: "According to the Act regulating these duties, the differential duty on foreign sugar is to diminish annually until entirely extinguished. The first reduction has already taken place. I do not propose to increase the differential duty, or even to restore the first reduction, which has come into operation, as, however strong the claims of the colonists, I could not anticipate the sanction of Parliament. I should merely propose the suspension of further reduction for a period of three years, at the expiration of which time the descending scale to be revived. A reference to the official tables of the Board of Trade will show that the present differential duty has not obstructed consumption, whilst it has afforded a seasonable assistance to the revenue, the continuance of which is not likely to be unacceptable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am aware that a large majority of persons connected with the colonies entertain the opinion that a greater protection than I propose is absolutely necessary to prevent the total abandonment of sugar cultivation in the British West Indies. They say, 'Under the present protection sugar has fallen far below the cost of production, and therefore we must have increased protection.' I freely admit that prices have fallen greatly below the cost of production, but I cannot ascribe that fall exclusively to the lowness of the differential duty; the unprecedented money pressure has forced down the price of every article of which there is not an absolute scarcity (as in the case of coffee, of which there is a diminished stock and increased consumption); and the accumulation of foreign sugar in this country, much of which will eventually find its way to the Continent, has accelerated and increased the fall. Under this pressure the differential duty is found insufficient to sustain prices, but it does not follow that it will be inadequate under ordinary circumstances and accompanied by other measures; if not so accompanied, its total inadequacy cannot be denied." That is with respect to a protecting duty; I consider, upon looking into the subject, that the protection of 6s. does not actually exist; for from a statement which I made out and gave in to the Colonial Office, in January last, I find that the average price of British plantation sugar, including duty, was then 36s. 5½d.; and I find that foreign sugar which has been purchased in this country for consumption here was worth as nearly as possible 6s. more.

13387. *Chairman.*] Is that the average quality of foreign sugar?—The average of foreign sugar brought into consumption here. The duty upon that, presuming it had been an *ad valorem* duty, would have been 16s. 4d., and therefore being 20s., the protection is 3s. 8d. The protection ought to be what it professes, 6s., and not as it is, 3s. 8d.

13388. *Mr. Labouchere.*] What, in your opinion, would be the consequence of Government proposing, as has been suggested by some witnesses to the Committee, to enact a permanent protection of 10s. in favour of British sugar?—I consider that there never can be any satisfaction in holding West India property

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erty while protection of any kind is necessary; that is my opinion. If you were this year to grant 10 s. protection, there is no security that it would not be taken away next year; at all events there would be agitation. I hold, therefore, that what is wanted is, that the West Indians should be placed in a position of doing without protection, and till they are placed in that position West Indian property can never have a fair saleable value.

13389. What do you conceive would be the effect of insuring, as far as it can be done by Act of Parliament, to the West Indies permanent protection of that description, upon the efforts which are making there to economize the cost of production, and upon the rate of wages?—My opinion is, that confidence in Parliament has been so entirely destroyed, that there is no Act which could be passed that would inspire the colonists with the slightest degree of confidence, and I will tell the Committee why: I have here a circular despatch of Lord Glenelg's, dated the 12th October 1835; he says, "The purchaser of a claim under the Slavery Abolition Act does not incur the slightest assignable risk of losing his money; he has for his security the national faith of Great Britain and Ireland, pledged in the most solemn form in which such an engagement was ever yet made. If the seller supposes that any danger really exists, he labours under an illusion so gross, as without further proof to demonstrate that he is not in a state of general information to deal on equal terms with the speculators to whom his right is transferred." I will give the Committee an instance of what occurred in the Mauritius: "A respectable planter in the Mauritius, soon after the commencement of the apprenticeship, engaged the services of 47 apprentices for the whole period of the apprenticeship, at six dollars per month for each, payable monthly. In 1837, the person of whom they were hired having occasion for money sold the contract, 'through a sworn broker, to Mr. Jollivet, a most respectable notary at Port Louis, a Frenchman by birth, but an Englishman by his loyal attachment to our Government.'" A thousand other cases might be given, and therefore I believe an Act of Parliament would have no effect, because nobody could rely on it; we must be placed on a footing of being able to do without an Act of Parliament; that is to say, of raising our sugar at as low a rate as it can be made at elsewhere.

13390. You believe, after the many changes that have taken place, whatever Parliament might enact with regard to protection, it would inspire no confidence, and it would be pretty much as if no such Act had passed?—Precisely so; it is right, probably, that I should state further, in justification of my opinion, that in 1824 there was an Act passed with a view of making it felony for British subjects to be engaged in the foreign slave trade. In 1843 there was an Act of Parliament passed, rendering that Act still more stringent. In 1846 there was an Act of Parliament passed, the preamble of which, in my opinion, ought to have been that "it was deemed requisite to encourage the investment of British capital in foreign slave colonies," because that is the obvious effect of it. The Act of Parliament of 1846 has induced many British capitalists to look to slave colonies for investment. For consistency, the Acts of 1824 and 1843 ought to have been repealed in the Act of 1846.

13391. Supposing the colonies did believe that Parliament was able and willing to secure them a permanent protection of 10 s. upon every cwt. of sugar, what do you believe would be the effect of that conviction upon the colony, upon the cultivation of estates there, and upon the rate of wages?—I believe the effect of it would be, to transfer much of it into the hands of the labourers, and to defeat the endeavours of the planters to reduce wages and other charges.

13392. Why so?—Because the planter always gives as much as he can possibly afford to give, or as his credit will enable him to give, to keep up and extend cultivation.

13393. It has been suggested to this Committee that a protection of 10 s. should be given for two years; what in your opinion would be the effect of that?—I think injury might arise from increasing the protection, and thereby raising false hopes and diverting the attention of the planters from measures of retrenchment.

13394. Upon what ground, then, do you recommend the protraction of the present rate of protection for a period of three years?—Merely to afford to the Government an opportunity of supplying the means which I think may enable the planters to do eventually without protection.

13395. Do you mean, to give time for the importation of labour, and other

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measures of that description?—And the other measures enumerated in my communications to Earl Grey, given in to the Committee.

13396. Are you satisfied with the measures which Government has recently taken to promote immigration into the West Indies?—I believe if previous Secretaries of State had shown the same disposition as is now shown, we should have been at the present moment almost able to do without protection; I think the measures which are now being pursued are calculated to be of advantage, provided the Government will pay for them; the colonists have not now the means.

13397. Are you satisfied with the arrangements which have been proposed with respect to the system of contracts for labour in the West Indies?—Nothing can be more unwise than the early proceedings, and I think what is now done is in the right direction.

13398. Do you conceive that the alteration of the Navigation Laws would confer any benefit on the West Indies?—I consider that occasionally a benefit might arise to the planter. Last year a correspondent of ours had his sugar accumulating in Trinidad; he was obliged to erect temporary buildings to hold it, and at last had to engage a ship at 6*s.* freight, when there were American vessels there which would have brought it to this country at 3*s.* Had there existed at that time permission to bring produce in foreign vessels it would have been an advantage.

13399. At what period of the year was that?—The commencement of the crop the early part of last year.

13400. What is the season of the crop in Trinidad?—The first of the crop is generally shipped in the month of March, and there were not British ships there to take all the produce that was ready.

13401. Were there any American ships there?—There were American ships there at the time.

13402. Do you believe that the cultivation of the sugar cane in the West Indies is as extensive as it ought to be?—I think it is one of the great defects of the West Indies having a more extensive cultivation than can be properly attended to.

13403. You believe it might be reduced with advantage, and that an equal amount of produce might be raised upon a smaller surface of ground?—I believe the most intelligent planters are now universally of that opinion.

13404. That would produce economy of labour?—Yes. I see in a despatch of Lord Harris', that an efficient labourer can attend to from two and a half to three acres of cane land. It is not so much the deficiency of labourers the West Indians have had to complain of, as the inability to call forth the labour. With respect to protection, I wish not to be misunderstood; I consider that were the protection which now exists to be withdrawn or diminished so early as July next, the consequence would be an almost total cessation of sugar cultivation in the West Indies. But the necessity for protracted protection is not a thing which ought to be placed to the account of the planter; it is a necessity produced by British legislation and mismanagement, and it is for the Government to protract the protection to prevent the destruction of the colonies.

13405. Do you believe that so small an alteration of the law as a continuance of the existing duty for three years would make the whole difference in that respect?—I believe if the West Indians were to receive what they are justly entitled to, compensation for what they have lost, for the property which has been taken from them, they would be in a situation (with the other measures I have stated) of growing sugar as cheaply as it can be produced elsewhere. The British West Indies have many advantages of which the planters might avail themselves, with proper support.

13406. Do you believe that in the long run the British West Indies, supposing they had fair play given them, could compete with Cuba, the Brazils, and other foreign sugar-producing countries?—I believe I am somewhat singular in entertaining that opinion, but I am of opinion that if one-third of the money which has been laid out against the slave trade had been employed in the improvement of the West Indies, these colonies would have produced sugar at a price that would have put an end to the slave trade.

13407. Do you believe that the manufacture of sugar in the West Indies is susceptible of improvement?—I believe it is much in the same state as it was

100 years ago; and such is the opinion given in the despatches lately laid before Parliament.

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13408. Do you believe that the great desideratum at present in the West Indies is an increased supply of labour, or are there other measures of still more importance?—The supply of labour unquestionably is of the first necessity, because without labour it is utterly impossible to proceed.

13409. Are there not some of the West Indian colonies where labour is amply supplied at the present moment?—In Barbadoes there is an ample supply of labourers; but whether they labour at as cheap a rate as necessary for the planter I am not prepared to state.

13410. Do you think there is a great neglect of economy in the cultivation of sugar in the West Indies in many instances?—I think there is a great waste of labour. It is a great disappointment to those connected with the West Indies that the differential duty on rum has not been removed without waiting for the result of this Committee.

13411. Do you mean that the duties are not absolutely equalized?—Yes; I conceive that were they even equalized the British distiller would have many advantages over the West India distiller. It has been stated that there are some difficulties with regard to the introduction of molasses into the breweries; I cannot believe there is any real practical difficulty, as the evidence given by the brewers in 1831 made no allusion to such difficulties.

13412. Are there any other suggestions which you desire to offer?—There are none other than those contained in these two papers, which I beg to give in.

[The Papers were delivered in, and are as follow:]

STATEMENT submitted to Earl Grey, on the 10th November 1847.

THE distress of the British West India sugar planter is too notorious to admit of doubt, and therefore it would be superfluous to adduce evidence; but it may be useful to advert to some of the causes, as likely to assist in devising remedies. In the year 1832 there was a Select Committee of the House of Commons, before which evidence was taken on the then distressed condition of the West India Colonies, on reference to which it will be found that the two prominent causes of the distress were declared to be—the lowering the price of labour in the foreign colonies, and raising it in the West India colonies; by the discontinuance of the slave trade by this country while continued by foreign countries; and the excessive duty on sugar, to the undue restriction of consumption. Among the subordinate causes assigned were the differential duty on rum; the exclusion of molasses from breweries and distilleries; the frequent interruption of the direct intercourse between the colonies and the United States of America; the duties imposed on supplies in favour of various home interests, &c.

If, to these causes of distress, competition with foreign sugar in the home market had been added, it must be manifest to the most superficial observer that sugar cultivation in the British West Indies must have ceased. Here the inquiry naturally arises, What has taken place since the year 1832 to enable the British West India planter to enter into a competition to which he was then altogether unequal? Has labour become dearer in the foreign and cheaper in the British colonies? Has rum been placed on an equality with British spirits? Has molasses been admitted into the breweries and distilleries? To all these questions the answer must not only be in the negative, but it must be added that the abolition of slavery in the British colonies has enormously increased the cost of labour to the planter, without raising it to the foreigner. Whilst thus circumstanced, there can be but one result from exposing the British planter to foreign competition on equal duties; he must give place to his rival. Will the cause of humanity be promoted by this sacrifice of the British planter, and consequent extension of slave cultivation? Will even the pecuniary interest of the British public be consulted? The former question requires no answer. The latter will be answered in the negative, when it is considered that the discontinuance, or extensive diminution of sugar cultivation in the West Indies, would inevitably have the effect of raising the price of sugar until a corresponding increase can be provided from other quarters, which increase could not be calculated on in less than from three to five years.

It is said to have been decided by the public voice that the public shall have cheap sugar, and that they are not to pay a perpetual tax for the support of the West India planter. I am no advocate for such tax, for monopoly, or even protection, as it has long been my conviction that there cannot be a fair marketable value for West India property, until it is made to yield a profit without protection. When that day shall arrive (but not sooner), a West India estate may be expected to be available for sale, or as a security, the same as landed property in the mother country. To effect this all-important object, no sacrifice of public interest is requisite. If, as cannot be denied, the void which would be occasioned by an extensive abandonment of West India sugar cultivation could not be filled up from other quarters in less than from three to five years, it is obviously for the public interest to submit to a suspension of the full benefit of foreign competition during the same period, for the

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preservation of the British colonies, in preference to destroying them on the contingency of increased foreign cultivation.

It will be my object to point out briefly the minimum of relief required to preserve the British West Indies as sugar colonies. I shall confine myself to practical measures within the power of the Government.

1. That the Government should afford every assistance to the colonists in procuring labourers, and all proper facilities to just arrangements between the labourers and their masters. Understanding that Government now recognises to the fullest extent the claim of the planter in these respects, it is unnecessary to enlarge on this head.

2. Sugar Duties.—According to the Act regulating these duties, the differential duty on foreign sugar is to diminish annually until entirely extinguished. The first reduction has already taken place. I do not propose to increase the differential duty, or even to restore the first reduction, which has come into operation, as, however strong the claims of the colonists, I could not anticipate the sanction of Parliament. I should merely propose the suspension of further reduction for a period of three years, at the expiration of which time the descending scale to be revived. A reference to the Official Tables of the Board of Trade will show that the present differential duty has not obstructed consumption, whilst it has afforded a seasonable assistance to the revenue, the continuance of which is not likely to be unacceptable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am aware that a large majority of persons connected with the colonies entertain the opinion that a greater protection than I propose is absolutely necessary to prevent the total abandonment of sugar cultivation in the British West Indies. They say, "Under the present protection sugar has fallen far below the cost of production, and, therefore, we must have increased protection." I freely admit that prices have fallen greatly below the cost of production, but I cannot ascribe that fall exclusively to the lowness of the differential duty; the unprecedented money pressure has forced down the price of every article of which there is not an absolute scarcity (as in the case of coffee, of which there is a diminished stock and increased consumption); and the accumulation of foreign sugar in this country, much of which will eventually find its way to the Continent, has accelerated and increased the fall. Under this pressure the differential duty is found insufficient to sustain prices, but it does not follow that it will be inadequate, under ordinary circumstances, and accompanied by other measures; if not so accompanied, its total inadequacy cannot be denied.

3. The differential duty on rum ought to be entirely removed. Its continuance cannot be justified, for, on equality of duty, the home distiller has many advantages over the colonial.

4. The admission of molasses into the breweries and distilleries. This measure has been too long delayed, and it has appeared extraordinary to practical men that it should not have been embraced in the Act of last Session for the admission of sugar. On turning to the evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, in the year 1831, it will be found that molasses may be extensively used in the breweries, to the great benefit of the public. See the answers of practical brewers to Questions 373, 398, 533, 158, 498, 622, 850, 4021, 492, 373, 206, 373, and 200.

5. The removal of unnecessary restrictions on the use of sugar in the distilleries.

6. Permission to refine sugar, syrup, cane juice, and molasses in bond for home consumption, subject to equitable duties.

7. Permission to bring the produce of the colonies to this country in foreign ships. This permission may occasionally be most important. It would have been a great saving in the early part of the present year, when produce was detained for months for want of British ships. In Trinidad as much as 6s. per cwt. was paid, when there were American vessels there that could have been engaged at exactly half that rate.

8. To afford to the colonies every facility in raising money to promote objects of public utility, on the same principle as loans are granted in this country, under Parliamentary sanction, for thorough drainage, &c.

I submit that all the measures I have ventured to suggest can be fairly advocated on public grounds. Should they be carried out, my knowledge of the numerous natural advantages of the British West India colonies, and of the measures of improvement now in progress, as well as those in contemplation, inspires me with the conviction that many years will not elapse before it will be found that the British planter will produce free-labour sugar at less cost than the Cuba planter will be able to do by slaves worked under the lash for 18 hours a day.

(signed) Jno. Innes.

61, Moorgate-street, 10 Nov. 1847.

My Lord,

61, Moorgate-street, 28 January 1848.

On the 10th November last I took the liberty of submitting to your Lordship a statement of my views on the then position of West India affairs, in which I pointed out what I believed to be the minimum of relief required to preserve the British West Indies as sugar colonies, strictly confining myself to measures which could be fairly advocated on public grounds, and which were in accordance with the principles avowed by Her Majesty's Ministers. These measures were,—

1. A supply of labourers.
2. The suspension for a period of three years of the descending scale of differential duty on foreign sugar.

3. The

3. The removal of the differential duty on rum.
4. The admission of molasses into the breweries and distilleries.
5. The removal of unnecessary restriction on the use of sugar in the distilleries.
6. Permission to refine sugar, syrup, cane juice, and molasses in bond, for home consumption, subject to equitable duties.
7. Permission to ship produce in foreign vessels.
8. To afford facilities for raising money to promote objects of public utility, on the same principle as loans are granted in this country, under Parliamentary sanction, for thorough drainage, &c.

Finding that almost every member of the West India body with whom I have discussed these remedies is of opinion that I am not correct in supposing that the mere suspension of the descending scale of differential duty, with all the other measures I have enumerated, would be sufficient to enable the British planter to compete successfully with the slave-sugar grower, I trust your Lordship, in consideration of the importance of the subject, will pardon my again intruding on your attention, especially as the present position of the colonies, from the dishonour of the bills of the West India Bank, and other circumstances, is worse than at the date of my previous communication.

In limiting the claim to relief on the head of sugar duty to the suspension of the descending scale of differential duty, I was influenced partly by the consideration of the difficulty there might be in inducing Her Majesty's Government to propose to Parliament an increase of that duty, but I was influenced still more by the conviction that the permanent prosperity of the British planter can never be secured except through such measures as shall effectually enable him to raise sugar at less cost than can be done by the slave grower. When the British planter looks into the cost at which he is producing sugar (without including any return for capital), and finds that it enormously exceeds the price at which slave-grown sugar has been selling for many successive years past, and that such price has been sufficiently remunerative to stimulate production, it cannot excite surprise that he should be strongly impressed with the belief that free can never contend successfully against slave labour. But I cannot arrive at the same conclusion, as I think I can trace the excess of cost, in a great measure, if not entirely, to errors which do not affect the question. The Abolition Act of 1833 having been passed without due deliberation, was most defective. It contained no adequate provision for qualifying the negroes to make a proper use of their freedom at the end of the apprenticeship; it made all the children free at once, without the slightest provision for having them brought up as useful members of society, and it made a distinction between predial and non-predial in the duration of the apprenticeship, which led to the premature termination of that state before the Colonial Department had framed the precautionary regulations suited for a state of freedom. The planters were thus left entirely dependent for the cultivation of their estates on persons who had not acquired wants to an extent that could be expected to induce them to submit to continuous labour; indeed, in many of the colonies the labour of a few hours was, and continues to be, rewarded by wages sufficient to supply the wants of a week.

In the state of helpless dependence to which the planter was thus reduced by the Acts of the mother country, he naturally looked to the Home Government for aid in procuring other labourers, but he was doomed to look long in vain; instead of aid, he found successive Secretaries of State for the Colonies even opposed to indispensable colonial enactments for securing moderate labour from the liberated negroes on fair wages.

Had the spirit by which the Colonial Department is now animated prevailed from the commencement of the great change in the condition of the labourers, and justice been done in regard to rum and molasses, my belief is, that ere now the necessity for differential duties would have almost ceased, and thousands of families now reduced to beggary been preserved in affluence. But in the state to which the majority of the colonists are now reduced, the aid which at an earlier period would have been effectual would now be utterly unavailing, as both their funds and credit are exhausted. So far from having money to defray the expense of importing labourers and to undertake improvements, they are literally without the means of paying for such labour as is within their reach. Until recently, most planters could borrow of the banks, or draw on merchants in anticipation of the forthcoming crop, but now that the inadequacy of crops to meet expenditure has become known, the banks will not lend except to men of known wealth (who are few in number), nor will they negotiate bills without being accompanied by bills of lading to the full value. It would be unsafe in the banks to act otherwise, as bills not so protected would in all probability be dishonoured by the merchant. Planters thus circumstanced (and I fear they constitute the great majority) can only be saved from irretrievable ruin by a prompt supply of the means of paying for labour, to prevent their estates running into waste; these means can only now be furnished through Government. Should Her Majesty's Government supply these means (which may be done with perfect safety, by making the advances a first lien on the estates), and afford assistance in constructing tramways, and establishing central factories, in addition to the measures I have already ventured to recommend, I am persuaded it will soon be found that the British colonies in the West Indies can produce sugar at as little cost, if not at less than that at which it is now raised in any other part of the world. But should the requisite assistance be withheld, there can be no presumption in predicting the total failure of the great measure of slave emancipation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Jno. Innes.*

The Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

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13413. Mr. *Miles*.] Have you considered how long a period it would take in order that remedial measures might be introduced into the colonies?—I consider that if no remedial measures are to be introduced, and protection is to be withdrawn, according to the Act of 1846, there must be an enormous reduction in the supply of sugar, and therefore an increase in the price; that the deficiency could not be supplied in a less period than three to five years, and therefore it is that I propose the present protecting duty should continue for that period. Three years appear to be the shortest period which would enable the colonists to recover themselves, or rather the Government to assist them, for I fear relief must come from the Government.

13414. Is what you mean the actual suspension of the duty at the present rate, and then that it should decline for the next three years?—Yes.

13415. Do you think in that period sufficient remedial measures might be introduced by Government to put the West Indies in a position to compete with other sugar-growing countries?—Yes.

13416. Mr. *Labouche*.] Is there anything further which you wish to state to the Committee?—In reference to the claim of the West Indians to compensation in consequence of the premature termination of the apprenticeship, and the inadequacy of that granted, I would state that I conceive that the Abolition Act merely gave what was considered at the moment by one party to be compensation, but that there never was any investigation with a view of ascertaining what the real compensation ought to have been, and therefore if the West Indians succeed in proving their loss to be greater than was contemplated, they are fairly entitled to additional compensation. Their claim I think could be easily established. The Act of Parliament which was passed in the year 1838 rendered it impossible to carry on the apprenticeship. It required allowances to be given to the negroes, which the masters were not before bound to give. There is an extraordinary clause authorizing governors to order actions against justices of the peace to be discontinued.

13417. Mr. *Hope*.] Are the Committee to understand that the additional amount of compensation enters into your project?—Most assuredly. I conceive the West Indians are entitled to be compensated for actual losses. If a Railway Bill passes in this country, a jury has to fix the compensations. The loss of the planter could not have been ascertained in 1833, but it may be ascertained now.

13418. Have you made any estimate of the amount of that compensation?—No; I should think it presumption in me to do so, but as to the principle I can entertain no doubt.

13419. Do not you think it would be as difficult to obtain the sanction of Parliament to that as to any great addition to the protecting duty?—I consider there is such a love of justice in the British character that when the case is fairly stated it would be impossible to resist it year after year, though it might be resisted for a time.

13420. Mr. *Labouche*.] You have stated that in your opinion a system of protection would not be beneficial to the West Indian interests themselves?—Yes; I think the system is objectionable.

13421. Mr. *Hope*.] Instead of a permanent protection you propose an indemnity?—I propose that the planters should be paid for their losses, and that measures should be adopted to enable them to raise cheap sugar to compete with slave sugar.

13422. Mr. *Labouche*.] If Parliament were unwilling to give you any further compensation, you think it would be no compensation if they promised to offer to you a system of protection which you think would be positively injurious to the interests which you desire to assist?—If Parliament should persist in the injustice it must be submitted to; but we should feel it to be an injustice to be denied what is granted to every other interest.

13423. Mr. *Miles*.] A gross case of injustice?—Yes.

13424. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] Is it made out that the West Indies would not have been in as bad a condition if the slaves had never been emancipated?—I do not think there has been an inquiry on the subject.

13425. Previous to emancipation it was stated in the House of Assembly that the dissolution of society was threatened from the great amount of disaffection there was among the slaves, and the great danger society was in from going on with such a population. Supposing you had not emancipated the slaves, is it at all clear that the state of things would have been better than it is?—I consider that

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that as agitation formed part of the system against the colonies, an insurrection might have been produced; but under such circumstances there would have been a fair claim on the part of the colonists to be indemnified for losses produced by such an insurrection.

13426. Possibly emancipation may have saved the West Indies from a greater destruction and a greater loss than they might have had to submit to if slavery had been suffered to continue?—When I commenced my evidence, I stated that I was decidedly in favour of the abolition of slavery, and I only objected to the mode in which it was carried out. There was no inquiry instituted, nor was there sufficient compensation granted, and I think that the West Indians now have a fair claim to such compensation.

13427. Mr. Labouchere.] Are you of opinion that the great commercial embarrassment which has recently prevailed has had much to do with the distressed condition of the West Indies?—I am. Under common circumstances, I conceive that if the whole of the sugar for European consumption were to be brought into this country, it would rather be an advantage than otherwise, inasmuch as British capital would be able to keep it here till it was wanted on the Continent; but it came here last year when money was dearer in England than on the Continent, and therefore sugar was forced on the market, and an injurious effect produced. If slave sugar is made, I do not consider it is a disadvantage its coming here, but I object to the encouragement of the growth of it.

13428. Supposing the prohibitive duty against all foreign sugar had been maintained up to this moment, do you believe that the West India islands would have been at this moment in a flourishing condition?—I doubt whether I could say flourishing, because prohibitive duties might have produced injurious competition for labour in the West Indies, and prevented a due attention to economy.

[The Witness delivered in the following Paper:]

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF BEETROOT SUGAR.

	1845.	1846.	1847.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
France - - - - -	28,000	40,000	53,000
Belgium - - - - -	5,000	5,000	7,000
German Commercial Union - - -	10,500	13,000	13,000
Other German States, and Austria - -	6,000	6,000	7,000
Russia - - - - -	7,000	8,000	8,000
	56,500	72,000	88,000

For 1848 the collective estimates are put down at 90,000 tons, as although it is thought the production in the German Commercial Union may show rather a material increase upon 1847, this will be compensated by a corresponding diminution in France.

In Germany the beetroot sugar is at present subject only to the most trifling duty, to defray the government expenses of controlling the manufacture to ascertain the quantity. Common sugar pays at 16s. per cwt. In France beetroot sugar pays the same duty as French colonial produce; say, francs, 20 per cwt. In Belgium cane sugar of all qualities pays about 19s. per cwt.; beetroot only about 13s. per cwt.

Mr. Alexander Reid Scott, called in; and Examined.

13429. Mr. Miles.] YOU are a Merchant in Kingston, Jamaica?—I am.

13430. Have you resided there for some time?—I have been in Jamaica, with the exception of the few months' time I have been off the island, for the last 20 years.

13431. Have you been in any other island as well as Jamaica?—I have been in Cuba and St. Thomas.

13432. Can you state to the Committee what is the state of trade in Jamaica at present?—At the present moment the state of trade in Jamaica is entirely paralysed; it is impossible to find purchasers for anything, and it is impossible to be paid for anything that is sold. I received letters, only by the last packet, from my partners, begging me not to allow a single shipment from this country, stating that they had written to all their correspondents in America not to send down any further supplies.

Mr. A. R. Scott.

Mr. A. R. Scott.

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13433. Are you connected in any way with any sugar estates in the island?—I am unfortunately the owner of a sugar estate in the island, and I have been connected with making advances to others.

13434. Can you confirm the evidence which has been already given before the Committee as to the distressed state of the sugar cultivation?—I can, perfectly.

13435. Can you suggest any remedies to alleviate the distress?—Nothing but a protection against the admission into the English market of slave-grown sugar.

13436. You do not think that free labour can ever compete with slave labour?—I do not think it can.

13437. You have been in Cuba?—Yes.

13438. Upon what do you found your opinion?—I found my opinion upon this; I know that 10*s.* in the island of Cuba affords a very fair return to the planter who is not too much immersed in debt; I have purchased sugars in Cuba at 7*s.* 6*d.*

13439. Of what quality?—A very fair quality of sugar; equal to the middling quality of Jamaica sugar.

13440. Have you any reason to believe that the planter from whom you purchased them obtained a remuneration?—Not at 7*s.* 6*d.*; but I have reason to believe that 9*s.* and 10*s.* will pay the Cuban planters. I may mention to the Committee, as an instance to show what the profits to the sugar planters in Cuba are, that a friend of mine is the owner of an estate, called Carolina Estate, in the neighbourhood of Cien Fuegos; he has 330 slaves upon that estate; he has made this last year 1,800 hogsheads of sugar, equal to about 900 tons; his molasses have paid all the expenses of cultivation, and left him his sugar clear.

13441. And you have reason to believe that he has made a large profit upon his plantation this year?—A very large profit.

13442. Have you any idea at what price his sugar sold?—No, I have not.

13443. It is your opinion that the trade of the island is utterly ruined, as well as the sugar cultivation?—Yes; because the trade of the island, I consider, depends entirely upon the sugar cultivation; if the sugar cultivation ceases, the labourer will not have the means of purchasing the articles which are imported; and it is upon those articles which are imported that nearly the whole of the revenue of the island is raised.

13444. The taxes in Jamaica are very heavy, are not they?—They are.

13445. Do you think it likely, that with this cessation of trade, and the cessation of cultivation, any considerable revenue can be raised from the island?—I think not; I think the revenue, which is now derived under the Import Bill, must cease almost entirely; even during last year there was a deficiency of 36,000*l.* in the revenue over the previous year.

13446. Was the expenditure larger than the receipts last year?—The expenditure exceeded the receipts last year; and I understand, by the last accounts from Jamaica, that the chest in the treasury is perfectly empty; indeed, I am told that they had to borrow 9,000*l.* from the bank to pay the last quarter's salaries.

13447. Do you anticipate that they will be forced to make a considerable reduction in the salaries?—There will not be revenue enough to pay the present rate.

13448. Do you think the expenditure of the island is excessive?—I think it is.

13449. To what amount do you think the salaries might be reduced?—I have not gone into the calculation.

13450. Speaking in round numbers, do you think the expenditure could be reduced by one-half?—No; I should think it might be diminished one-third. Our expenditure during slavery did not amount to 150,000*l.*; it amounts now to upwards of 300,000*l.*; the public expenditure in 1845 was 281,000*l.*; the parochial expenditure 104,000*l.*; making 385,000*l.*

13451. Have you any suggestions to make with respect to the trade or taxation of the island?—I think the whole revenue of the island must be entirely ruined, if we are to raise our revenue, as we have been doing, chiefly by a tax upon imports; I conceive with the cessation of the sugar cultivation, the means of obtaining revenue will cease at the same time with the cultivation.

13452. Mr. Scotland, in his pamphlet, suggests that it should be made a sort of

of free port; do you think that a good plan?—It would be a great assistance to the island of Jamaica, I think; but if the cultivation of the staple commodity is to cease, I do not see that much good would result from it.

13453. Do you know any other article to take its place?—No; sugar and coffee are the only articles which I consider can be successfully cultivated in Jamaica; there used to be some little cotton ground, but I do not think that we can compete with the slave states of America.

13454. It has been given in evidence that it would lead greatly to the advantage of the West India islands if rice were cultivated; has that ever been tried?—No, not in Jamaica; I do not think that it could be cultivated in Jamaica.

13455. Have there been any works of irrigation?—It has been tried on some properties.

13456. Has it answered?—On some properties.

13457. Is it continued?—Yes; I am only aware of one estate in Jamaica where it is regularly adopted.

13458. Do you know what the effect of it is?—It is very beneficial in dry weather.

13459. Has it enabled this property to grow its sugar at a lower cost than others?—No, I do not think it has.

13460. Do they get larger yields per acre?—In dry seasons they would, but in seasonable weather you will get as good a return from the natural rains as from irrigation, and more so; because unless you have irrigation from muddy water, the flowing of clear water over the land rather impoverishes it than otherwise.

13461. Then it is only in one season out of five that irrigation is found to be serviceable?—Only occasionally.

13462. Have you any other statements to make to the Committee?—I would merely observe this, that with respect to the Navigation Laws a general opinion prevails that the alteration of the Navigation Laws would be favourable to Jamaica; but I think that is a fallacy. I think, that while interfering with the Navigation Laws would affect the British shipowner, it would not benefit the situation of the unfortunate West India planter.

13463. You do not think, on an average, they would get their produce brought to this country at a cheaper rate than at present?—No.

13464. But when occasionally freights are likely to rule very high, it might have the advantage of keeping them down?—Yes, in such a case as the scarcity of British shipping, which happened this last year, there might be that disadvantage.

13465. Is not the charge for freight higher on the north side of the island than on the south side?—Generally speaking, it is lower upon the north side. In the port of Kingston, where the produce is shipped immediately from the wharfs, and the vessels incur no expense for drogherage, we sometimes do get sugar shipped at a lower rate than at the outports on the north side.

13466. Do you think the freights which commonly rule from Jamaica are excessive, when you take into consideration the vessels which are employed, and the drogherage they have to pay, and the time they have to wait for their produce?—I do not think so, considering the length of time they are detained; I have known vessels detained in Jamaica four or five months, and looking to the heavy expense they incur for drogherage, I do not think that the freights paid on sugar from Jamaica are excessive.

13467. There is no possibility of any remedy is there, inasmuch as the sugar estates are so wide apart, that it is impossible to bring any great quantity to one particular spot?—It is quite impossible except by drogherage.

13468. If there were tramways it might be more easily accomplished?—Yes, but that can only be done at certain parts of the island.

13469. Mr. M. Gibson.] You say that the revenue will fall off very materially you think?—Yes; almost the whole revenue of Jamaica is derived from import duty. Of the revenue of 286,000 *l.* raised last year, the import duties amounted to 186,000 *l.*

13470. Do you know whether there has been an increasing revenue of late years?—There has been till the last year.

13471. Has the sugar cultivation diminished or increased of late years?—It has, I think, rather increased for the last three or four years.

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13472. Has the revenue always fallen off as the sugar cultivation has diminished?—No, I should say not; for this reason, that although the sugar cultivation may have fallen off in one year, the proprietors continued the expense of cultivation, notwithstanding the falling off in the crop.

13473. Did they increase their expenses of cultivation; if you say it is the expense incurred in the cultivation which causes the increased revenue from the import duties, what is the reason this revenue has gone on increasing while the sugar interest has become more and more depressed?—The sugar interest has not become more and more depressed till the last three or four years.

13474. Since emancipation has not the revenue been a growing one in the West Indies generally?—Because the negroes have been consuming much more of those articles than they used to do; they have been spending all their wages in the purchase of articles imported; previous to emancipation they lived entirely upon what they cultivated themselves.

13475. In what way do you make out that the revenue is to cease altogether?—If the estates ceased to pay wages the people will not have the means of purchasing the articles imported; it is only by getting wages that the negro has the means of purchasing his salt-fish or flour, or anything else; if he gets no wages he cannot have the means of purchasing them.

13476. Do you suppose that the whole sum spent in wages has been an increasing amount?—The increase in the import duties has not been very great of late years; in 1842 they amounted to 127,000 *l.*; in 1843 to 190,000 *l.*; in 1844 to 192,000 *l.*; in 1845 they fell off to 186,000 *l.*

13477. Is it your opinion that we must submit to a higher price of sugar permanently in this country than the people of other countries, which have no colonies, pay for their sugar?—I think the British West India colonies have a very strong claim upon this country; the property, or rather the labour, which produced the return to the West Indies was taken from them by an Act of the British Legislature.

13478. Can you offer any security that the slaves would not have emancipated themselves by a general insurrection?—I cannot.

13479. Was it not so stated in the House of Assembly, that the very dissolution of society was threatened by the existence of slavery?—I believe a dissolution of society, by means of a rebellion, would have been likely to take place by parties being instigated to it in this country.

13480. Are you aware that at the present moment the inhabitants of Cuba are saddled with a very heavy expenditure, which is paid out of the island's resources, for large military establishments, in consequence of their slave population?—I am aware that a large military establishment is kept up in the island of Cuba.

13481. Are you aware that that is paid for out of the resources of the island?—Yes.

13482. Are you aware that that is necessary mainly from the fact of there being so large a slave population?—I should think it is.

13483. Supposing you had continued your slavery in the West Indies, and had been obliged to submit to a very heavy military establishment in order to guard your lives and properties from the negroes, are you sure that your position would have been better than it is now?—I think we should not have been in so bad a position as we are.

13484. Does your acquaintance with Jamaica go back to the years 1830 or 1831?—I was there in that year, 1830.

13485. You recollect it was predicted, and even stated by the Governor to the House of Assembly, that the very dissolution of society was threatened, and that nobody was safe with the present feeling of the negro population?—I do not recollect that; the rebellion which took place was in 1831.

13486. When you say that the British Parliament inflicted a loss upon the West India colonies by emancipation, you are bound to show some reason for supposing that they could have retained their hold over that slave labour?—I do not see any reason to suppose that we could not.

13487. Could you have done so without the enormous cost of a military establishment?—A military establishment of 3,000 men was considered quite sufficient.

13488. With

13488. With respect to the rebellion of 1831, how was it then?—The military force we had in the island was found quite sufficient to repress that rebellion.

13489. Is not it true, that in consequence of the preaching of different persons, and the great pains which were taken to inspire the negro population with a sense of their rights as human beings, the British West Indies were becoming more and more unsafe in the hands of the slave population?—I think that was occasioned by the agitation of the question in this country, which took place after Mr. Canning's Resolutions in 1823.

13490. Was not it inevitable, that had you gone on with a slave population you would have been driven, in your own defence, to emancipate them, from the growing disaffection which existed?—I am not aware of that.

13491. Do you think that you could have kept them down by force?—I think so.

13492. Without much expense?—Yes.

13493. Is that the case in Cuba?—I do not think it requires the large force they have in Cuba; I think a much smaller force would do.

13494. Supposing the remedy is adopted of giving a protection, do you propose that it should be a permanent protection?—Till this country vindicates its treaties and puts down the slave trade.

13495. So long as there is any slave trade there is to be a protection?—So long as the slave trade is carried on as it is at this moment.

13496. Do not you think many of the best estates will be able under any circumstances to realize a fair remuneration?—I think there are a very few very favourably circumstanced estates which may possibly go on, but the number is very small.

13497. Do you consider that the condition of the British West Indies is materially worse now than you have known it in former times?—Materially.

13498. Have you known before great periods of distress?—I have.

13499. But you think that the present one is worse?—During those periods of distress we always looked upon them as merely temporary; but we now see that being placed in competition with slave-grown produce there is no hope of things reviving; the slave-holding countries can supply the markets of the world so much cheaper than we can, that it has destroyed all confidence in the British West Indies.

13500. You think you would never be able to secure a remunerating price, unless the supply was limited to this country?—No.

13501. Do you think it probable that the population of this country would for any lengthened period submit to this limited supply?—I do not think that the population of this country would have to submit to a limited supply. I think the British West Indies would be quite able to afford an abundant supply of cheap sugar.

13502. How then would you be better off than you are now when you receive low prices?—I mean at moderate prices.

13503. In order to secure you a remunerative price, you must limit the supply to this country. Would you think it safe to invest capital upon the speculation that the large and increasing population of this country would submit for any lengthened period to a limited supply of sugar?—I think the population of this country would be quite willing to get sugar at a moderate price. If they had to pay an extravagantly high price for it, then very likely it would create dissatisfaction.

13504. Do you think that they would submit to pay a higher price for the sugar than is paid for sugar in other countries for any lengthened period?—I am not prepared to say.

13505. Would you advise, as a safe investment of capital, that a man should embark upon the sugar cultivation in a costly manner upon the chance of our being able to maintain a system of protection in the United Kingdom?—I consider that this country is bound to afford protection to the British West Indies, or to put down slavery. Put down slavery, and then I think that the British West Indies are quite in a situation to compete with any country.

13506. Supposing that now we were to restore protection, and persons were to be induced to make further advances of money, and to send more capital to the West Indies, and then after that the British Parliament should repeal that protection, do not you think that that would be a new wrong added to the old one?—

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I must confess this, that I think the colonists have so completely lost faith in any measures of the British Parliament that it would be very difficult to get parties to invest money in those colonies. I am afraid the evil has gone too far.

13507. Mr. Hope.] What is the cost of the police in Jamaica?—For 1845 it was 41,000 *l.*; that has been the average cost the last four years.

13508. That may be set against the cost of the military establishments in Cuba, where they have no civil police?—Yes, I should think so.

Philip Miles, Esq., a Member of the Committee; Examined.

P. Miles, Esq.
M.P.

13509. *Chairman.*] YOU are interested in Jamaica and Trinidad?—I am.

13510. In any other colony?—No.

13511. You are interested yourself, and you are also interested as a merchant?—I am interested indirectly, but in a very small way directly; that is to say only in one estate.

13512. And that estate is in Jamaica?—It is.

13513. Have you any statement to make to the Committee, by which you can explain the present position of affairs in Jamaica or Trinidad?—I have two statements, one regarding Trinidad and the other regarding Jamaica. The one relating to Jamaica, is a statement of the average cost of sugar per hogshead, and per cwt., and net proceeds per hogshead, as per sales in England, of seven Jamaica estates, for 16 years, from 1831 to 1846 inclusive. It is divided into four periods; the first period from 1831 to 1834; the next from 1835 to 1838, the next from 1839 to 1842, and the next from 1843 to 1846. In the first period, the cost of labour amounted to 8,703 *l.* 13 *s.* 3 *d.*; all other island contingencies amounted to 43,726 *l.* 2 *s.* 1 *d.*; supplies sent from England to 24,139 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.*; sundry island receipts, 12,526 *l.* 15 *s.* 4 *d.*; net expenses, 64,042 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.*: the crops of sugar were 3,924 hogsheads, and the rum 1,876 puncheons; proceeds of rum, &c., sold in England and Jamaica, amounted to 17,132 *l.* 8 *s.* 5 *d.*; the cost of sugar per hogshead, after deducting proceeds of rum, &c., was 11 *l.* 19 *s.* 1 *d.*; the cost of sugar per cwt., after deducting proceeds of rum, &c., was 14 *s.* 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; the net proceeds of sugar, as per sales, amounted to 48,793 *l.* 9 *s.* In the second period, the labour amounted to 10,560 *l.* 19 *s.* 10 *d.*; all other island contingencies to 41,185 *l.* 9 *s.* 5 *d.*; supplies sent from England to 18,649 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.*; sundry island receipts to 8,303 *l.* 19 *s.* 1 *d.*; net expenses to 62,091 *l.* 18 *s.* 10 *d.*: the crops amounted to 2,963 hogsheads of sugar, and 1,296 puncheons of rum; the proceeds of rum, &c., sold in England and Jamaica, amounted to 19,702 *l.* 19 *s.* 3 *d.*; the cost of sugar per hogshead was 14 *l.* 6 *s.* 4 *d.*; the cost of a cwt. was 17 *s.* 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*; the net proceeds of the sugar was 56,332 *l.* 11 *s.* In the next period, from 1839 to 1842, the labour was 45,738 *l.* 5 *s.* 10 *d.*; all other island contingencies were 42,809 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*; supplies sent from England amounted to 10,042 *l.* 8 *s.* 10 *d.*; sundry island receipts to 15,599 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.*; the net expenses to 82,990 *l.* 15 *s.* 8 *d.*: the crops were 1,886 hogsheads of sugar, and 894 puncheons of rum; the proceeds of rum amounted to 16,711 *l.* 9 *s.* 9 *d.*; the cost of a hogshead of sugar was 35 *l.* 2 *s.* 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; the cost of a cwt. of sugar was 2 *l.* 3 *s.* 11 *d.*; the net proceeds of the sugar amounted to 38,600 *l.* 10 *s.* In the fourth period, from 1843 to 1846, the labour amounted to 35,218 *l.* 18 *s.* 5 *d.*; all other island contingencies to 25,114 *l.* 7 *s.* 1 *d.*; supplies sent from England to 7,734 *l.* 9 *s.* 1 *d.*; sundry island receipts to 12,256 *l.* 10 *s.* 6 *d.*; net expenses to 55,811 *l.* 4 *s.* 1 *d.*: the crops of sugar amounted to 1,924 hogsheads of sugar, and 933 puncheons of rum; the proceeds of rum, &c., sold in England and Jamaica, amounted to 12,073 *l.* 11 *s.* 1 *d.*; the cost of a hogshead of sugar was 22 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*; the cost of a cwt. was 1 *l.* 8 *s.* 5 *d.*; the net proceeds amounted to 35,693 *l.* 9 *s.* This has been divided again into two periods of eight years, which will show the contrast more clearly. The labour for the first eight years amounted to 19,264 *l.* 13 *s.* 1 *d.*, which in the last eight years, from 1839 to 1846, amounted to 80,957 *l.* 4 *s.* 3 *d.* The contingencies were in the first period 84,911 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.*, and in the latter period 67,923 *l.* 19 *s.* 7 *d.* The Committee are aware that the 84,000 *l.* included the whole cost of supplies necessary for slaves, which makes that item very large; the supplies from England were in the first period 42,788 *l.* 12 *s.*, and the last period they were reduced

reduced to 17,766 *l.* 17 *s.* 11 *d.* The sundry island receipts were 20,830 *l.* 14 *s.* 5 *d.* during the first period, and 27,856 *l.* 2 *s.* during the second period; the net expenses in the first period were 126,134 *l.* 2 *s.* 2 *d.*, and in the last period 132,801 *l.* 19 *s.* 9 *d.* The crops in the first period were 6,887 hogsheads, and in the latter period 3,810 hogsheads, making a difference of 3,077 hogsheads less. Of rum there were 3,172 puncheons in the first period, and 1,827 puncheons in the latter period, making a difference of 1,345 puncheons less in the latter period. The proceeds of rum in the first period were 36,835 *l.* 7 *s.* 8 *d.*, in the latter period 28,785 *l.* 0 *s.* 10 *d.* The cost of a hogshead of sugar in the first period was 13 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 ½ *d.*, in the latter period 28 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.* The cost of a cwt. of sugar in the first period was 16 *s.* 5 *d.*, and in the latter period it was 1 *l.* 16 *s.* 2 *d.* The net proceeds of the sugar in the first period were 105,125 *l.*, and in the latter period 74,293 *l.* 19 *s.* It is right to state here, that those estates are what I should call below the average; so much so, that those estates, I should think, will very soon all go out of cultivation; there may be perhaps one of them retained eventually in cultivation. Accompanying the statement, the results of which I have read, I have another, giving a dissected account of the different periods.

P. Miles, Esq.
M. P.
27 March 1848.

[The Witness delivered in the following Tabular Statement:]

STATEMENT of the Average Cost of SUGAR per Hogshead and Hundredweight, and Net Proceeds per Hogshead, as per Sales in England, of Seven Jamaica Estates, for Sixteen Years, from 1831 to 1846 inclusive.

	Labour.			All other Island Contingencies.			Supplies sent from England.			Sundry Island Receipts.			Net Expenses.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Four years, 1831 to 1834 -	8,703	13	3	43,726	2	1	24,139	3	4	12,526	15	4	64,042	3	4
Four years, 1835 to 1838 -	10,560	19	10	41,185	9	5	18,649	8	8	8,303	19	1	62,091	18	10
Four years, 1839 to 1842 -	45,738	5	10	42,809	12	6	10,042	8	10	15,599	11	6	82,990	15	8
Four years, 1843 to 1846 -	35,218	18	5	25,114	7	1	7,734	9	1	12,256	10	6	55,811	4	1
Eight years, 1831 to 1838 -	19,264	13	1	84,911	11	6	42,788	12	-	20,830	14	5	126,134	2	2
Eight years, 1839 to 1846 -	80,957	4	3	67,923	19	7	17,776	17	11	27,856	2	-	138,801	19	9

	Crops.		Proceeds of Rum, &c. Sold in England and Jamaica.	Cost of Sugar per Hhd. after deducting Proceeds of Rum, &c.	Cost of Sugar per Cwt. after deducting Proceeds of Rum, &c.	Net Proceeds of Sugar, as per Sales.									
	Sugar.	Rum.													
	Hhds.	Punch.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Four years, 1831 to 1834 -	3,924	1,876	17,132	8	5	11	19	1	-	14	11	½	48,793	9	-
Four years, 1835 to 1838 -	2,963	1,296	19,702	19	3	14	6	4	-	17	10	¾	56,332	11	-
Four years, 1839 to 1842 -	1,886	894	16,711	9	9	35	2	10 ½	2	3	11		38,600	10	-
Four years, 1843 to 1846 -	1,924	933	12,073	11	1	22	14	7 ¾	1	8	5		35,693	9	-
Eight years, 1831 to 1838 -	6,887	3,172	36,835	7	8	13	2	7 ½	-	16	5		105,125	-	-
Eight years, 1839 to 1846 -	3,810	1,827	28,785	-	10	28	18	9	1	16	2		74,293	19	-

1831 to 1834.

	Negro Hire.		All other Island Contingencies.		Supplies sent from England.		Sundry Island Receipts.		Crops.	
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	Hhds.	Punch.
No. 1 - - - - -	902	9 3	6,721	3 8	2,605	9 7	629	- 2	624	435
No. 2 - - - - -	2,119	10 9	6,292	- 11	3,551	- 10	1,244	12 9	717	317
No. 3 } No. 4 } Estates and pens -	2,469	9 4	18,446	7 3	12,504	11 4	5,799	12 10	1,555	618
No. 5 } No. 6 } No. 7 }	3,212	3 11	12,266	10 3	5,478	1 7	4,853	9 7	1,028	506
£.	8,703	13 3	43,726	2 1	24,139	3 4	12,526	15 4	3,924	1,876
					43,726	2 1				
					8,703	13 3				
					76,568	18 8				
					Deduct Receipts - - -	12,526	15 4			
					Net Expenses - - - £.	64,042	3 4			

1835 to 1838.

	Wages to Apprentices.		All other Contingencies.		Supplies sent from England.		Sundry Island Receipts.		Crops.	
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	Hhds.	Punch.
No. 1 - - - - -	1,642	11 9	8,815	7 10	2,190	13 11	523	9 3	547	314
No. 2 - - - - -	1,892	3 3	6,901	3 7	3,084	10 1	1,040	9 7	575	263
No. 3 } No. 4 } Estates and pens -	2,578	5 1	13,993	7 5	9,236	15 10	2,205	14 5	955	337
No. 5 } No. 6 } No. 7 }	4,357	19 9	11,475	10 7	4,137	8 10	4,534	5 10	886	382
£.	10,560	19 10	41,185	9 5	18,640	8 8	8,303	19 1	2,963	1,296
					41,185	9 5				
					10,560	19 10				
					70,395	17 11				
					Deduct Receipts - - -	8,303	19 1			
					Net Expenses - - - £.	62,091	18 10			

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1839 to 1842.

	Wages to Labourers.			All other Island Contingencies.			Supplies sent from England.			Sundry Island Receipts.			Crops.	
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	Hhds.	Punch.
No. 1 - - - -	8,536	3	2	5,518	19	11	1,305	17	11	1,117	18	11	360	181
No. 2 - - - -	6,816	13	9	5,519	1	2	702	14	4	1,562	13	-	302	155
No. 3 } No. 4 } Estates and pens - No. 5 }	17,171	10	-	17,237	10	1	5,788	1	1	7,448	3	-	458	181
No. 6 } No. 7 } Estates and pens -	13,213	18	11	14,534	1	4	2,545	15	6	5,470	16	7	766	377
£.	45,738	5	10	42,809	12	6	10,042	8	10	15,599	11	6	1,866	894
							42,809	12	6					
							45,738	5	10					
							98,590	7	2					
							Deduct Receipts - - -	15,599	11	6				
							Net Expenses - - - £.	82,990	15	8				

1843 to 1846.

	Wages to Labourers.			All other Island Contingencies.			Supplies sent from England.			Sundry Island Receipts.			Crops.	
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	Hhds.	Punch.
No. 1. - - - -	6,319	9	8	3,648	7	7	600	14	-	884	6	-	336	191
No. 2 - - - -	6,418	3	-	4,216	1	4	1,063	19	9	1,379	9	10	459	234
No. 3 } No. 4 } Estates and pens - No. 5 }	12,010	12	3	9,062	13	-	4,390	15	2	5,993	10	10	547	215
No. 6 } No. 7 } Estates and pens -	10,470	13	6	8,187	5	2	1,679	-	2	3,999	3	10	582	293
£.	35,218	18	5	25,144	7	1	7,734	9	1	12,256	10	6	1,924	933
							25,114	7	1					
							35,218	18	5					
							68,067	14	7					
							Deduct Receipts - - -	12,256	10	6				
							Net Expenses - - - £.	55,811	4	1				

P. Miles, Esq.
M. P.

27 March 1848.

There are two or three remarks which I should wish to state respecting the Jamaica estates, of which I have given a statement. Nos. 4 and 5 were sold last year; I recollect very well hearing the fact, which was sufficiently notorious to be commented on in the Jamaica newspapers; both of them together fetched last autumn 2,200 *l.*; No. 4 was Bachelor's Hall estate, for which in 1825, if I recollect rightly, 30,000 *l.* was offered. I see from the evidence given before the Committee in Jamaica, that the gentleman who bought it, Mr. Jackson, only bought it for the purpose of taking off the present crop, and then abandoning it. I have also three Statements, which were drawn up at the request of the West India body in the winter, and were sent in to them; I merely filled up the forms as they required. The first of these statements is in Jamaica, Parish "Trelawny," "Estate Hyde." The average of the last four crops, 1843 to 1846, was 115 hogsheads of sugar; landing weight, 1,763 cwt.; and 59 puncheons of rum, gauging 5,462 gallons. The sugar would now sell for 39 *s.* per cwt., and the rum for 3 *s.* 8 *d.* per gallon. Therefore 1,763 cwt. of sugar at 39 *s.*, less duty and charges 21 *s.* 7 *d.*, would yield at 17 *s.* 5 *d.* net, 1,535 *l.* 5 *s.* 7 *d.*; and 5,462 gallons of rum, at 3 *s.* 8 *d.*, less freight and charges 8 *d.*, would yield at 3 *s.* net, 819 *l.* 6 *s.*, from which amount of 2,354 *l.* 11 *s.* 7 *d.*, deduct the average annual expenditure as follows:--1. For labour, 1,604 *l.* 10 *s.* 9 *d.* 2. All other colonial expenses, 1,054 *l.* 0 *s.* 4 *d.* 3. Stores from this country, 266 *l.*, amounting to 2,924 *l.* 11 *s.* 1 *d.*: showing a loss of 569 *l.* 19 *s.* 6 *d.* This is upon the average of the price which the sugar fetched this year, taking the average produce of four years back. The second was "Glasgow Estate," drawn up in the same way, which upon the same items shows a loss of 652 *l.* 19 *s.* 2 *d.* The third estate was "Content," showing a loss of 1,235 *l.* 6 *s.*

[The Papers were delivered in, and are as follows:]

HYDE ESTATE, JAMAICA.

Colony—Jamaica.
Parish—Trelawny.
Estate—Hyde.

The average of the last four crops, 1843 to 1846, was 115 hhd. of sugar, landing weight 1,763 cwt.; and 59 puncheons of rum, gauging 5,462 gallons. The sugar would now sell for 39 *s.* per cwt., and the rum for 3 *s.* 8 *d.* per gallon.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Therefore, 1,763 cwt. of sugar, at - - - -	39	-			
Less duty and charges - - - -	21	7			
Would yield, at - - - -	17	5	net	1,535	5 7
And, 5,462 gallons of rum, at - - - -	3	8			
Less freight and charges - - - -	-	8			
Would yield, at - - - -	3	-	net	819	6 -
From which amount of - - - -				2,354	11 7
Deduct the average annual expenditure as follows:					
	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		
1. For labour - - - -	1,604	10	9		
2. All other colonial expenses* -	1,054	-	4		
3. Stores from this country -	266	-	-		
				2,924	11 1
Showing a loss of - - - -			<i>£.</i>	569	19 6

* In 1846, 800 *l.* 4 *s.* was expended in the purchase of stock. The average annual expenditure as regards this item for the five years previous, viz. 1841 to 1845, being 350 *l.* 18 *s.*

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P. Miles, Esq.
M. P.

GLASGOW ESTATE, JAMAICA.

Colony—Jamaica.
Parish—St. James's.
Estate—Glasgow.

27 March 1848.

The average of the last four* crops, 1843 to 1846, was 83 hhd. of sugar, landing weight 1,354 cwts.; and 48 puncheons of rum, gauging 4,368 gallons. The sugar would now sell for 40 s. per cwt., and the rum for 3 s. 10 d. per gallon.

	s. d.	£. s. d.
Therefore, 1,354 cwts. of sugar, at - - - -	40 -	
Less duty and charges - - - -	20 10	
Would yield, at - - - -	19 2	net 1,297 11 8
And, 4,368 gallons of rum, at - - - -	3 10	
Less freight and charges - - - -	- 8	
Would yield, at - - - -	3 2	net 691 12 -
From which amount of - - - -		1,989 3 8
Deduct the average annual expenditure as follows:		
	£. s. d.	
1. For labour - - - -	1,579 17 5	
2. All other colonial expenses - - - -	912 1 11	
3. Stores from this country - - - -	150 3 6	
	2,642 2 10	
Showing a loss of - - - -	£.	652 19 2

* The crops in 1844 and 1846 fell off nearly one-half of the two previous years, viz. 1843 and 1845, from bad seasons.

CONTENT ESTATE, JAMAICA.

Colony—Jamaica.
Parish—Hanover.
Estate—Content.

The average of the last four crops, 1843 to 1846, was 129 hhd. of sugar, landing weight 1,846 cwts.; and 56 puncheons of rum, gauging 4,793 gallons. The sugar would now sell for 40 s. per cwt., and the rum for 3 s. 10 d. per gallon.

	s. d.	£. s. d.
Therefore, 1,846 cwts. of sugar, at - - - -	40 -	
Less duty and charges - - - -	21 5	
Would yield, at - - - -	18 7	net 1,715 4 10
And, 4,793 gallons of rum, at - - - -	3 10	
Less freight and charges - - - -	- 8	
Would yield, at - - - -	3 2	net 758 17 10
From which amount of - - - -		2,474 2 8
Deduct the average annual expenditure as follows:		
	£. s. d.	
1. For labour - - - -	1,690 5 4	
2. All other colonial expenses - - - -	1,389 9 10	
3. Stores from this country - - - -	629 13 6	
	3,709 8 8	
Showing a loss of - - - -	£.	1,235 6 -

P. Miles, Esq.
M. P.

27 March 1848.

I have here a statement of the average cost of sugar per hogshead and hundredweight, and net proceeds per hogshead, as per sales in England, of five Trinidad estates, from 1845 to 1847 inclusive. It is a very fair average, because one year was a bad one, and the other two were tolerably good years. Upon No. 1 the wages were 7,321 *l.* 15 *s.* 1 *d.*; all other island contingencies, 5,060 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.*; supplies sent from England, 2,017 *l.* 12 *s.* 9 *d.*; sundry island receipts, 21 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.*; the net expenses, 14,378 *l.* 14 *s.* 10 *d.*: the crops were 724 hogsheads of sugar, 148 puncheons of rum, and 199 puncheons of molasses. Sales of rum and molasses in England and Trinidad amounted to 1,972 *l.* 16 *s.* 4 *d.*; cost of sugar per hogshead, after deducting sales of rum and molasses, was 17 *l.* 2 *s.* 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; cost of sugar per hundredweight, after deducting sales of rum and molasses, was 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 10 *d.*; the net proceeds of sugar per hogshead were, 13 *l.* 19 *s.* 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* Upon No. 2 the wages were, 6,041 *l.* 5 *s.* 1 *d.*; all other island contingencies, 3,703 *l.* 17 *s.* 3 *d.*; supplies sent from England, 871 *l.* 13 *s.* 5 *d.*; sundry island receipts, 12 *l.* 14 *s.*; net expenses, 10,604 *l.* 1 *s.* 9 *d.*: the crops, 316 hogsheads of sugar, 22 puncheons of rum, and 151 puncheons of molasses. The sales of rum and molasses amounted to 874 *l.* 15 *s.* 8 *d.*; the cost of a hogshead of sugar was 30 *l.* 16 *s.*; the cost of a hundredweight was 2 *l.* 1 *s.* 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*; the net proceeds of sugar per hogshead were, 15 *l.* 7 *s.* 2 *d.* I ought to state that No. 2 was what I may call an unfortunate property; it was very nearly being abandoned at one time, and also the managers were changed several times upon it, and therefore I do not think it can be fairly taken as an average. Upon No. 3 the wages were, 7,208 *l.* 17 *s.* 1 *d.*; all other island contingencies, 3,997 *l.* 9 *s.* 3 *d.*; supplies sent from England, 1,522 *l.* 15 *s.* 10 *d.*; sundry island receipts, 69 *l.* 19 *s.* 7 *d.*; the net expenses, 12,659 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 *d.*: the crops were 628 hogsheads of sugar, and 405 puncheons of molasses. The sales of rum and molasses amounted to 2,132 *l.* 14 *s.* 1 *d.*; the cost of a hogshead of sugar was, 16 *l.* 15 *s.* 4 *d.*; the cost per hundredweight was, 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; and the net proceeds of the sugar were, 14 *l.* 19 *s.* 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* Upon No. 4 the wages were 7,092 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.*; all other island contingencies, 3,306 *l.* 19 *s.* 9 *d.*; supplies sent from England, 1,513 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 *d.*; sundry island receipts, 64 *l.* 15 *s.* 1 *d.*; the net expenses were, 11,847 *l.* 15 *s.* 11 *d.*: the crops were 453 hogsheads of sugar, 31 puncheons of rum, and 191 puncheons of molasses. The sales of rum and molasses were, 1,261 *l.* 15 *s.* 10 *d.*; the cost of sugar per hogshead was 23 *l.* 7 *s.* 5 *d.*; the cost of sugar per hundredweight was 1 *l.* 11 *s.* 2 *d.*; the proceeds were 15 *l.* 14 *s.* 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* Upon No. 5 the wages were 6,119 *l.* 15 *s.* 4 *d.*; all other island contingencies, 2,703 *l.* 13 *s.* 11 *d.*; supplies sent from England, 906 *l.* 16 *s.* 7 *d.*; sundry island receipts, 219 *l.* 6 *s.* 6 *d.*: the net expenses were, 9,510 *l.* 19 *s.* 4 *d.*: the crops were 457 hogsheads of sugar, 16 puncheons of rum, and 311 puncheons of molasses. The rum and molasses sold for 1,763 *l.* 0 *s.* 5 *d.*; the cost of the sugar was 16 *l.* 19 *s.* 1 *d.* per hogshead, and 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per hundredweight; the net proceeds of the sugar per hogshead, 14 *l.* 8 *s.* 4 *d.*, which makes the average of the whole by the hogshead, 21 *l.* 0 *s.* 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*: the average cost of a hundredweight of sugar was 1 *l.* 8 *s.*; the average net proceeds from the sugar were 14 *l.* 17 *s.* 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* The cost would be very much reduced if I left out the high cost of production on No. 2 of 2 *l.* 1 *s.* 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*

[The Statement was delivered in, and is as follows:]

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P. Miles, Esq.
M. P.

ANNUAL CROPS of Five Trinidad Estates, 1845 to 1847.

27 March 1848.

	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	<i>Hhds.</i>	<i>Punch.</i>	<i>Punch.</i>	<i>Hhds.</i>	<i>Punch.</i>	<i>Punch.</i>
No. 1.—Year 1845 -	227	51	66	724	148	199
„ 1846 -	198	30	80			
„ 1847 -	299	67	53			
No. 2.—Year 1845 -	146	11	70	316	22	151
„ 1846 -	53	-	32			
„ 1847 -	117	11	49			
No. 3.—Year 1845 -	186	-	106	628	-	405
„ 1846 -	196	-	142			
„ 1847 -	246	-	157			
No. 4.—Year 1845 -	183	-	76	453	31	191
„ 1846 -	127	-	65			
„ 1847 -	143	31	50			
No. 5.—Year 1845 -	160	6	72	457	16	311
„ 1846 -	130	3	107			
„ 1847 -	167	7	132			
				2,578	217	1,257

10s. per cwt. would have added nearly 17,000*l.* to the gross proceeds, and would have converted the loss of 13,000*l.* into a profit of 4,000*l.*; but as the above period includes 1845 and half 1846, the loss cannot be ascribed to the Act of 1846.

STATEMENT of the Average Cost of SUGAR, per Hhd. and Cwt., and Net Proceeds per Hhd., as per Sales in England, of Five Trinidad Estates, from 1845 to 1847 inclusive.

	Wages.	All other Island Contingencies.	Supplies sent from England.	Sundry Island Receipts.	Net Expenses.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
No. 1.—1845 to 1847 -	7,321 15 1	5,060 8 8	2,017 12 9	21 1 8	14,378 14 10
No. 2.—1845 to 1847 -	6,041 5 1	3,703 17 3	871 13 5	12 14 -	10,604 1 9
No. 3.—1845 to 1847 -	7,208 17 1	3,997 9 3	1,522 15 10	69 19 7	12,659 2 7
No. 4.—1845 to 1847 -	7,092 8 8	3,306 19 9	1,513 2 7	64 15 1	11,847 15 11
No. 5.—1845 to 1847 -	6,119 15 4	2,703 13 11	906 16 7	219 6 6	9,510 19 4

	Crops.			Sales of Rum and Molasses in England and Trinidad.	Cost of Sugar, per Hhd., after deducting Sales of Rum and Molasses.	Cost of Sugar, per Cwt., after deducting Sales of Rum and Molasses.	Net Proceeds of Sugar, per Hhd., per Sales.
	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.				
	<i>Hhds.</i>	<i>Punch.</i>	<i>Punch.</i>	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
No. 1.—1845 to 1847 -	724	148	199	1,972 16 4	17 2 8½	1 2 10	13 19 3¾
No. 2.—1845 to 1847 -	316	22	151	874 15 8	30 16 -	2 1 -¾	15 7 2
No. 3.—1845 to 1847 -	628	-	405	2,132 14 1	16 15 4	1 2 4¼	14 19 9¼
No. 4.—1845 to 1847 -	453	31	191	1,261 15 10	23 7 5	1 11 2	15 14 4¼
No. 5.—1845 to 1847 -	457	16	311	1,763 - 5	16 19 1	1 2 7¼	14 8 4
				Average - - - £.	21 - 1¼	1 8 -	14 17 9½

AVERAGE RESULTS of Five Trinidad Estates, for Three Years, from 1845 to 1847 inclusive.

—	WAGES.			All other Island Contingencies.			Supplies sent from England.			Sundry Island Receipts.			TOTAL EXPENDITURE.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
No. 1.—1845 to 1847 -	7,321	15	1	5,060	8	8	2,017	12	9	21	1	8	14,378	14	10
No. 2.—1845 to 1847 -	6,041	5	1	3,703	17	3	871	13	5	12	14	-	10,604	1	9
No. 3.—1845 to 1847 -	7,208	17	1	3,997	9	3	1,522	15	10	69	19	7	12,659	2	7
No. 4.—1845 to 1847 -	7,092	8	8	3,306	19	9	1,513	2	7	64	15	1	11,847	15	11
No. 5.—1845 to 1847 -	6,119	15	4	2,703	13	11	906	16	7	219	6	6	9,510	19	4
TOTAL - - £.												59,000	14	5	

—	Crops.			Sales of Rum and Molasses in England and Trinidad.	Net Proceeds of Sugar.	TOTAL RECEIPTS.			LOSS.									
	Sugar.	Rum.				Molasses.	£.	s.		d.	£.	s.	d.					
		Hhds.	Punch.											Punch.				
No. 1.—1845 to 1847 -	724	148	199	1,972	16	4	10,110	17	-	12,083	13	4	2,295	1	6			
No. 2.—1845 to 1847 -	316	22	151	874	15	8	4,799	14	9	5,674	10	5	4,929	11	4			
No. 3.—1845 to 1847 -	628	-	405	2,132	14	1	9,412	16	8	11,545	10	9	1,113	11	10			
No. 4.—1845 to 1847 -	453	31	191	1,261	15	10	7,119	18	4	8,381	14	2	3,466	1	9			
No. 5.—1845 to 1847 -	457	16	311	1,763	-	5	6,589	-	2	8,352	-	7	1,158	18	9			
										2,578	217	1,257						
													Balance, Loss - - £.			12,963	5	2
																59,000	14	5

Suppose a reduction here of 33 per cent. in the wages of labour, viz., 11,260*l.*, these estates would still remain debtor in the sum of 1,703*l.*

I have before me the returns of three estates in Trinidad, made up on the same principles as those which I have given in from Jamaica. These six returns from the several estates are made up upon the average crop and outlay of the last three years, with the price at which the sugar actually sold last year.

[The same were delivered in, and are as follow:]

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UPPER CARONI ESTATE, TRINIDAD.

P. Miles, Esq.
M.P.

Colony—Trinidad.
Quarter—
Estate—Upper Caroni.

27 March 1848.

The average of the last two crops, 1845 to 1846, was 191 hogsheads of sugar, landing weight, 2,970 cwts., and 123 puncheons of molasses, landing weight, 1,290 cwts. The sugar would now sell for 36 s. per cwt., and the molasses for 17 s. per cwt.

	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Therefore 2,970 cwts. of sugar, at - - - -	36 -		
Less duty and charges - - - -	21 4		
Would yield, at - - - -	14 8	net 2,178	- -
And 1,290 cwts. of molasses, at - - - -	17 -		
Less duty and charges - - - -	11 5		
Would yield, at - - - -	5 7	net 360	2 6
From which amount of - - - -		2,538	2 6
Deduct the average annual expenditure, as follows :			
	£.	s. d.	
1. For labour - - - -	2,172	18 5	
2. All other colonial expenses -	1,098	10 10	
3. Stores from this country -	657	7 4	
		3,928	16 7
Showing a loss of - - - -	- £.	1,390	14 1

FELICITÉ ESTATE, TRINIDAD.

Colony—Trinidad.
Quarter—Chaguanas.
Estate—Felicité.

The average of the last four crops, 1843 to 1846, was 207 hogsheads of sugar, landing weight, 2,994 cwts.; 83 puncheons of molasses, landing weight, 878 cwts., and 32 puncheons of rum, gauging 2,888 gallons. The sugar would now sell for 38 s. per cwt., the molasses for 17 s. per cwt., and the rum for 1 s. 10 d. per gallon.

	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Therefore 2,994 cwts. of sugar, at - - - -	38 -		
Less duty and charges - - - -	21 11		
Would yield, at - - - -	16 1	net 2,407	13 6
And 878 cwts. of molasses, at - - - -	17 -		
Less duty and charges - - - -	11 5		
Would yield, at - - - -	5 7	net 245	2 2
And 2,888 gallons of rum, at - - - -	1 10		
Less freight and charges - - - -	- 8		
Would yield, at - - - -	1 2	net 168	9 4
From which amount of - - - -		2,821	5 -
Deduct the average annual expenditure, as follows :			
	£.	s. d.	
1. For labour - - - -	2,336	10 6	
2. All other colonial expenses -	1,594	19 2	
3. Stores from this country -	646	8 9	
		4,577	18 5
Showing a loss of - - - -	- £.	1,756	13 5

P. Miles, Esq.
M. P.

GOLDEN GROVE ESTATE, TRINIDAD.

27 March 1848.

Colony—Trinidad.
Quarter—
Estate—Golden Grove.

The average of the last two crops, 1845 and 1846, was 145 hhd. of sugar, landing weight, 2,081 cwts. ; 90 puncheons of molasses, landing weight, 939 cwts ; and 4 puncheons of rum, gauging 376 gallons. The sugar would now sell for 38 s. per cwt. ; the molasses for 17 s. per cwt., and the rum for 1 s. 10 d. per gallon.

	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Therefore 2,081 cwts. of sugar, at - - - -	38	-			
Less duty and charges - - - -	21	8			
Would yield, at - - - -	16	4	net 1,699	9	8
And 939 cwts. of molasses, at - - - -	17	-			
Less duty and charges - - - -	11	5			
Would yield, at - - - -	5	7	net 262	2	9
And 376 gallons of rum, at - - - -	1	10			
Less freight and charges - - - -	-	8			
Would yield at - - - -	1	2	net 21	18	8
From which amount of - - - -			1,983	11	1
Deduct the average annual expenditure, as follows:					
	£.	s.	d.		
1. For labour - - - -	1,897	11	2		
2. All other colonial expenses - - - -	887	3	9		
3. Stores from this country - - - -	473	2	1		
			3,257	17	-
Showing a loss of - - - -			£.	1,274	5 11

I have here a statement of changes which have taken place in the possession and cultivation of properties, in the parish of Trelawny, Jamaica, from the year 1834 to the 30th September 1847.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

STATEMENT of Changes which have taken place in the Possession and Cultivation of Properties, in the parish of *Trelawny*, from the Year 1834 to September 1847.

Names of Properties on which Sugar Cultivation has ceased.	Names of Properties that have been taken for Debt, or Sold at very low Prices.	Names of Properties Leased.
Carrickfoyle.	Bunker's Hill.	Friendship (Reid's).
Southfield.	Stonehenge.	Phoenix.
Grange.	Dromilly.	Unity.
Gravesend.	Florence Hall.	Belmont.
Wakefield.	Lysworney.	Stewart Castle.
Peru.	Lottery.	Kinloss.
Acton.	Friendship (Fowler's).	York.
Barnstaple, { now in the	Windsor Castle.	Gales Valley.
Merrywood, { course of being	Steefield.	Vale Royal.
Clifton, combined with Hague.	Weston Favel.	Lancaster.
Retreat, with Hampstead.	Chester.	Tilston.
Greenside, with Maxfield.	Water Valley.	
Covey, with Good Hope.	Dry Valley.	
	Jock's Lodge.	

Number

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P. Miles, Esq.
M. P.
27 March 1848.

Number of properties which are not now cultivated as sugar estates	- - -	13
Ditto taken for debt, or sold at low prices	- - - - -	14
Ditto leased	- - - - -	11
Ditto the possession of which has not yet been changed, but some are soon expected to be so	- - - - -	50
In Sugar Cultivation, in the Year 1834		88

Of those estates which still remain in possession of proprietors, many are now carried on at a loss, and under the present circumstances must also soon be abandoned.

There were a few coffee settlements in the interior of the parish, but they are thrown up as such, and the owners of many of them, and of other mountain settlements, are now in a state of great destitution.

13514. It appears that the balance of the loss upon the five estates in Trinidad for the three years, from 1845 to 1847, was 12,963 *l.*; and that the wages amounted to 33,780 *l.*; a deduction of 33 per cent. in the wages, which would be about 11,260 *l.*, would still leave the estates debtor to the amount of 1,700 *l.*?—Yes; but it must be recollected that wages have been reduced this last winter; whether they will be continued at the reduced rate or not, I cannot say.

13515. Have they been reduced to the amount of 33 per cent.?—No. By the last advices I received, they were reduced to the amount of about 25 per cent.

13516-17. A reduction of wages of labour to the amount of 33 per cent. would still leave the estate a loser of 1,700 *l.*, while an improved price of 10 *s.* a cwt. without such a reduction of wages, would show a profit of 4,000 *l.*, instead of a loss of 13,000 *l.*?—Yes.

13518. *Chairman.*] Do you think it is within the limit of practicability to reduce the wages 33 per cent. in Trinidad?—I do not think it is very likely; I should be very glad to find that they are contented with the 25 per cent. reduction, which I do not expect to continue.

13519. With a reduction of 25 per cent. in all the wages and salaries, unless you can get a better price for your produce, the estates must still remain very large losers?—Yes; I have already sent out orders not to have another cane planted on any estate with which I am connected.

13520. Meaning not only the estates in which you have a personal interest, but those in which you have any interest in the management?—Yes, generally; the only difference in that is, that I fix the price at which the planters are to draw their bills at 13 *l.* a hogshead and puncheon of rum, which is from 1 *l.* to 2 *l.* higher than the amount it would probably fetch in the London market; simply from the fact of our Bristol market being a better market than London for sugar, otherwise I should not have fixed it higher than 11 *l.*

13521. Have you seen a statement addressed to me, and to the Committee, with respect to Trinidad, in which it is set forth, that so long as certain industrial regulations in respect to the employment of coolies were in force, drawn up by Major Fagan, with the sanction of Lord Harris, the coolies proved very advantageous to the island?—I have; and I believe that that statement, as far as my own knowledge goes, confirmed by letters received at the time, is substantially correct; I have no reason to doubt it.

13522. As long as those regulations were in force, it is represented that there were no labourers in the island who worked better or more beneficially for the estates than those coolies?—Yes.

13523. But that code of regulations was disallowed by Lord Grey?—Yes, I believe it was; and, as I am informed, at the instigation of the Anti-Slavery Society. I think perhaps it would be desirable that those regulations should be reprinted, in order that the public may see what the nature of them was; I may also state in regard to them, that some of the gentlemen who have attested the efficiency of those regulations at the end I have some little knowledge of, and I have every confidence in them that they would write only what is strictly true.

[The Regulations were read, and are as follow:]

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1. Applications for coolie labourers from proprietors and agents of estates to be made to the agent-general of immigrants, specifying the number required, and conveying an assurance that all the rules passed, or to be passed, in reference to them by the Government, while under limitation of service, or until they become amalgamated, through permanent settlement in the island, with the rest of its labouring population, will be strictly conformed to.

2. The coolies are to be provided, at the sole cost of the planters, with a dwelling-house of wood, strongly floored, well ventilated with doors and windows, and in every respect so constructed as to afford them, in the worst weather, a dry and comfortable shelter. Separate huts, so that every man may have a house to himself, to be constructed for these people, instead of large open barracks as at present, to each of which should be annexed an enclosure of land sufficient for a garden and the rearing of domestic animals, such as pigs, goats, and poultry, which they should be encouraged to undertake, the first supply being gratuitously given them by their employers.

3. In order to secure to the cocoa planters, and smaller sugar proprietors, an equal share in the general benefit to be derived from the labour of the coolie immigrants, they (the coolies) will be divided into gangs of 50 and 25. The appointment of sirdars, or coolie overseers, being, in the opinion of his Excellency the Governor, of rather questionable expediency, is left discretionary with resident proprietors and managers, as the best judges how far it may be useful or otherwise.

4. The wages, food, and clothing to be given to the coolie immigrants during the first year of engagement with their employers, to be thus regulated:—

	Rupees.	Dolls.	Cents.
To each sirdar - - - - -	7	or 3	50 per mensem.
To each male coolie - - - - -	5	,, 2	40 ,,
To each female ditto - - - - -	3	,, 1	45 ,,
To each boy under 12 years - - - - -	3	,, 1	45 ,,

Food.

Rice (per day, 1 ½ lb.) - - - - -	-	-	-	or 45 lbs. per month.
Dholl or peas - - - - -	-	-	-	9 lbs. ,,
Ghee or oil - - - - -	-	-	-	0 ½ gall. ,,
Salt - - - - -	-	-	-	1 ½ lb. ,,
Salt-fish - - - - -	-	-	-	4 ½ lbs. ,,
Musalahs { Turmeric or tamarinds - - - - -	-	-	-	4 ½ lbs. ,,
{ Onions and chillies - - - - -	-	-	-	1 lb. ,,

One small tin or iron pot to each coolie.

N. B. The above rations being ample, indeed, more than one coolie can consume, are to be those issued to every coolie throughout the colony, without any deviation whatsoever therefrom; whatever else (tobacco, for instance,) the coolie may wish, must be purchased by himself. Much importance is attached to the strict and uniform observance of this recommendatory rule.

Clothing.

To each male coolie and labouring boy are to be given, during the first year of service, two good blankets, as protection from rain and cold; two pairs of strong trousers; one woollen cap; one durable jacket.

To each coolie woman, two blankets; one chudder, or sheet of six yards, to serve as wrapper; one head-dress or female's turban, and one good petticoat.

All children too young to labour must be provided with clothing and food by their respective parents.

5. His Excellency, Lord Harris, having reason to think that coolies are frequently met on the public roads, and in the neighbourhood of estates, in almost a state of nudity, notwithstanding the ample covering provided for them under the foregoing rule, managers of estates, as well as all police authorities, are earnestly enjoined to exert themselves for the abatement of a practice as offensive to decency as it is disgusting in a civilized community, and demoralizing in example to the other labouring classes of the island. Here, where the coolie's money savings may be said to be a clear gain to him, his food and clothing being supplied to him from the manager's stores, no excuse for such inadequate covering of his person can be allowed; and it will accordingly be the duty of the superintending magistrate, whenever he visits estates, to inquire into the state of the clothing of the coolies, and to authorize the renewal of such articles as they may appear deficient in, from having either lost or sold them; managers repaying themselves the cost by deductions from the next subsequent pay issued to them, carefully preserving the bills as vouchers of the expenditure.

6. The hours of labour, when the coolies are not employed at task-work, allowing one intermediate hour for breakfast, are fixed as follows: From 6 a. m. to 4 p. m. during the *entre*

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entre coupe, or out of crop season; and during the crop time, or whenever any extra labour has to be performed, the coolies are to work as long as the other labourers on the estate; and as an essential means to ensure prompt and punctual attendance at work at the appointed hour on the part of the labourers, the absence of which must be so detrimental to the successful management of a property, it is recommended that all labourers on estates be summoned at the same time to work, and by sound of bell; and in order to secure the estate against the loss which a wilfully lazy and drawing performance of work on the part of the coolies must occasion, as well as to put an effectual check to what, if persevered in, must be replete with annoyance and vexation to managers, distracting their attention from their immediate duties, it is recommended that a register (to be sworn to, if necessary,) of all coolies guilty of such dereliction of engagement, and of all particulars necessary to its clear establishment against them, be kept, so that at the expiry of their contract they may be made to make good the days which the register may clearly show the estate had lost by such wilful failure to fulfil the same. No one requires a stricter surveillance of conduct while at work than the Indian labourer, whose propensity to lie down, and smoke while at work, and to seize every available opening for evading it, is proverbial.

7. More efficient arrangements than have at present generally obtained must be made, to ensure the regular visitation of the coolies, at least once a week, by a qualified medical gentleman, who will be required to keep a register of the coolies under medical treatment; copy of such register to be furnished quarterly, through the coolie magistrate, for the information of his Excellency the Governor. And as it must tend to the greater comfort and surer recovery of the sick, that they should, during illness, not be disturbed by the noise and bustle of the general barrack, a house sufficiently spacious, and well ventilated by doors and windows, and having a rain-proof roof, to be provided on each estate, for exclusive use of a coolie hospital. Coolies, while on the sick list, to receive no wages; and in regard to diet, and everything else, to be subject to the regulating orders of the attending medical officer. Coolies falling sick are never to be permitted to remain in barrack or their huts, but are immediately to be removed to hospital; their wives and children, while ill, to receive every care and attention their case may demand.

8. As the practice of engaging contract-expired coolies offering themselves for hire, without being able to produce from their late employers certificates of regular discharge, &c., might be productive of much inconvenience and trouble, and have besides a prejudicial effect on the conduct of the coolies, superintendents of estates are not to consider themselves at liberty to entertain any Indian immigrants presenting themselves for service under such circumstances, nor until they can produce the required documents, or the superintendents have communicated in reference to them with their late employers, by whose statements they will be guided in entertaining them or otherwise. And that this regulation may come at once into operation, printed skeleton certificates are now in course of issue to estates, at the cost, in this first instance, of Government; one, duly signed by the manager, is to be given to each coolie on his finally leaving the estate, being affixed by gum or other glutinous liquid to one of the inner sides of his pass-book.

9. It is recommended that no manager should allow coolies to go on leave without furnishing them with a ticket, signed by himself, specifying the name, period of leave, and locality to be visited; and to give more effectual operation to this rule, police constables are required to take charge of and send back to their respective estates any coolies they may find wandering over the country unprovided with the above-mentioned tickets of leave, charging their respective managers with any expense the execution of these orders may occasion; the managers indemnifying themselves on the next ensuing issue of pay.

10. Coolies to be regularly paid throughout the colony at the termination of each month, and never on any account at a later period, and by the managers themselves, and never, under any circumstances, through the sirdars. This rule to be considered applicable to the issue of rations, clothing, &c.

11. Pay-books, distinct from the accounts of all other labourers, to be kept, in which must be specified, opposite each man's name, his rate of pay, the allowance of food, clothing, &c. issued to him; and when pay is disbursed at the end of the month, the account must be closed and authenticated by the signature of the manager, and to be produced whenever called for by the stipendiary magistrate, or other competent authority. And in order to render the keeping of accounts between coolies and managers more easy and satisfactory, weekly pass-books are to be supplied to each working coolie: in this pass-book, at the close of every Saturday's work, the coolie is to be credited with the number of days of the past week (from Monday to Saturday) for which he gave his labour; in like manner he is to be charged with whatever expenses he may have incurred from advances made to him, or on any other just account, in regard to which he must, at the time, be fully satisfied by clear explanation; and on quitting the estate, from refusal to renew, or other allowable cause, the pass-book is to be given to him, duly filled up and authenticated as required.

12. Half-yearly reports of the number of Indian and negro women with each coolie gang, stating number of male and female children, with their ages, to be forwarded to the magistrate for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

13. It having been brought under the cognizance of his Excellency the Governor that

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the coolies on several of the estates have begun to indulge in rum-drinking, in many instances selling their clothes and even their rations to procure for themselves this deleterious liquid, resident proprietors and managers are earnestly called upon to exert themselves, by every means in their power, to arrest at once the growth of what must tend to the nullification of every exertion that may be made for the religious and social improvement of these coolie labourers, a people who have such strong claims on the philanthropy, as well as on the sense of self-interest, of their employers.

14. One liberal but uniform system of pay and treatment in respect to the coolie labourers ought to be observed throughout the colony, those of one estate never on any account receiving an advantage above the rest. Such an understanding amongst the resident proprietors and managers of estates is, it is obvious, indispensable, as an effectual guard against the engendering of dissatisfaction on the part of the coolies, and of disputes which invariably result from the cessation of what men, from being long in receipt of, regard as rights. In reference to this important subject, and after it has received fuller consideration, resident proprietors and managers will be more definitively communicated with.

By command of his Excellency the Governor,

(signed) James Fagan, C. S. M.

13524. Have you seen those various testimonials to the success of this coolie immigration that are signed by Mr. Taylor, the manager of the Glencory estate, and by Mr. Wylie, acting manager of Williams Ville estate?—I have read them all; I know several of the names, and one of the gentlemen I have seen myself in this country, and was a correspondent of mine some little time back. (*The same were delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix.

13525. Do you conceive that the principal value of those regulations consisted in the circumstance that there was an inspector appointed who understood the language of the coolies, and other regulations, obliging them to labour, and denying them payment, and inflicting penalties upon them if they did not perform their contracts?—I think the former was one of the best modes that could possibly be adopted, because I have repeatedly heard from my own correspondents in Trinidad and Jamaica that the main difficulty with the coolies consisted in their not understanding the orders given to them; the people who came over with them were not sufficient interpreters for either party clearly to understand the other, therefore any regulations of that sort must have been a great benefit to both parties.

13526. The effect of those regulations was to do away with the vagabondage which previously existed?—From reading them I see that that is the tenor of them, and I should think it would be a very great boon to all parties. One circumstance which I see noticed there, which I should think must be very offensive to the colonies, is that it is said that the people go about almost in a state of nudity; and it was in consequence of this that Lord Harris thought it necessary to restrict them to their plantation, in order that they might be sufficiently clothed and looked after, at any rate for some period after their arrival.

13527. Among other salutary regulations, it was ordered that the coolies, so long as they were on the sick list, should receive no wages, and that they should be confined to the hospital?—Yes.

13528. This was a recommendation which was also given to the Committee by Mr. Raymond, as regarded the Mauritius?—It was.

13529. The object of another regulation appears to be to counteract the mischiefs of rival planters attempting to seduce coolies from one estate to another; the coolies were not permitted to engage themselves in the hire of any other planters, unless they could produce a certificate to the effect that they had received a regular discharge from their late employer?—Yes, I believe that was one of the regulations; and I can only say that I think unless there is some system of this sort introduced, it will be utterly impossible to prevent the wandering about of which so many complaints are made.

13530. It was recommended by Lord Harris, that no coolie who was under contract should be permitted to abandon the estate upon which he had been previously employed, without having a certificate signed by his late manager, affixed with gum to a certain passport, which the coolie had to produce?—Yes; and I may also say that in my opinion no evil could by possibility arise from this, where you have able and competent governors, persons in whom you could put trust, and where at the same time they have responsible people under

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under them, to visit those different estates at all times, to see that no injury is done to the people. But all those questions entirely depend upon the efficiency of the man; and I believe that Lord Harris might be safely entrusted with any scheme of this sort.

13531. Among other regulations was this, that the police magistrates were obliged to take up any coolies which they might find wandering about the island, unfurnished with a ticket of leave; that the magistrate was authorized to charge against the manager of the estate the expense which he might have been put to, and the manager again was entitled to deduct all those costs from the wages of the coolie?—I believe that is part of the regulation; the practical working of all those things, of course, is very difficult for me to speak to, not having been in Trinidad at the time when those immigrants were introduced; but I should conceive that no injustice could be committed on any of those labourers, and I think it is very unwise to imagine that this unrestricted liberty to come one night and go the next morning, or to stay one day, and to go about from estate to estate, could benefit the immigrants. My belief is, that if you oblige them to stay a certain time, you in reality benefit the immigrant by impressing them with a sense of the importance of becoming civilized, and you enable them to become so.

13532. Another regulation appears to be, that the coolies should be paid monthly at the expiration of their month's work; but that if they have failed to fulfil their contracts during any part of the month, the manager should be entitled to deduct from his men's wages the value of the work left undone?—Yes; unless you get some system of that sort, it will be perfectly impossible for the planters to continue cultivating their estates. It has been stated in evidence by almost every witness before this Committee that it is continuous labour which is wanted, and not so much the actual amount of labour. My belief is, that if we had continuous labour, and the labourers already in the colonies were induced to work by some regulation, the amount of immigration required would be very small indeed.

13533. It appears, according to this statement, that Lord Grey, in 1847, disallowed this ordinance, and that the result has been that there has been a revival of the disturbance and irregularity, which caused so many remonstrances in the years 1841 and 1842, as regards the conduct of the coolies?—I believe that is perfectly true. My own letters from different managers state precisely what has been stated here; they say that they had no power over the coolies whatever; that they were running about in all directions, and that they no sooner got them, than they wandered to some different estates or feigned sickness. There is one paragraph from a report I should wish to read, respecting the roads in Trinidad, which are notoriously very bad, for the purpose of calling attention to them; it is impossible when the rainy season sets in to get any produce at all to the wharf. The gentleman who writes to me is Mr. Kennedy; this is his first impression after he reached the island; he says, "The public roads over which I have ridden, or rather floundered, in the Chaguanas and Naparina districts more particularly, are painful evidences of the extreme absurdity of the system under which those works are mismanaged; there is no competent public officer, or department, charged with their construction or repair; but under an ingenious ordinance, constructed, it would seem, for the purpose of torturing all good men and mules, they have been confided to the tender mercies of the resident managers, gentry, &c., who enjoy the happy immunity of calling themselves commissioners, and being therefore gloriously irresponsible, as well as ignorant of the subject, the consequence is, that there is no such thing as roads during the wet season fit either for the transit of man or beast; as the commissioners, feeling they have full occupation in other pursuits, and enjoying the consciousness that when the sun (which they rightly call here 'the best roadmaker') takes the matter up, all our abuse of them will vanish in vapour, and we shall roll on smoothly again until the next shower. This might be more bearable, were it not that we are liable to a very heavy road tax, and very heavy and continuous rain. Whilst the system of public road mismanagement continues, the efforts of private proprietors to improve their estate roads, which are certainly as abominable as you can possibly conceive, would be of comparatively little benefit, except in such cases as in the Felicite and Caronis, where in your own demesne you can cut your way to your own port. In the Naparina district I think we might be able, if money were not "so tight," to get up a general

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line of tramway running through several estates to the river port; this would suit admirably, and then there would be some use in our laying down cheap trams through the estate itself; everything however would depend upon our being able to lay them down economically; and though I think Mr. Anderson's suggestions in this respect admirable, I have not had the power of ascertaining what would be the probable expense here. Of this I have no doubt, that even our existing traces, as well as our public roads, might easily be very much improved with even the defective materials which we possess, were proper attention paid to their formation and drainage. At present they are wholly undrained, and generally hollow in the centre, instead of being convex; this, where a heavy clay is the material chiefly to be met with, ensures their being utterly impassable after a good shower of rain." I have another letter here, which was sent to me by Mr. Wolley, after he had given his evidence, which, as it may throw some light upon West India matters, I think I had better read: "My dear Sir, I have, as you requested, put on paper the ideas I entertain as to the large sums received by the labourers in the West Indies from the sale of grass, taken, certainly against the wish, if not against the consent, of the owners. You are well aware of the very large portion of the population in the West India islands that keep horses; in the evening are seen numbers of people walking into the towns with bundles of grass, upon which the horses are in part fed; on a moderate calculation those who keep horses do not pay less than 4*s.* a week for grass for each horse, say in round numbers 10*l.* per annum. To show the amount received, take as an example the town of St. John's in Antigua; 9,000 are about the number of inhabitants; it may, I think, be considered that about 1,000 horses are kept in and about the town; if I am correct in these facts, it shows that 10,000*l.* is paid for stolen grass; but even take it at half that amount, the evil is considerable. It may naturally be asked why is it permitted; I believe it may be traced to the demand for labour being so much greater than the supply, that those in charge of estates fear, by offending, to lose their labourers altogether; another reason may be, that the lawyers, medical men, merchants, &c., who are generally leading members in the legislatures, are the parties who purchase the grass, and benefit by the system. I observe the Committee on Sugar and Coffee Planting seem anxious to arrive at the cost of producing sugar in the different colonies, and that in estimating the cost, the witnesses deduct the proceeds of rum and molasses from island expenses; that being the case, the cost of production must depend materially on the price obtained for those articles. I doubt if that has been sufficiently considered by the Committee. I know instances of the proceeds from rum and molasses having paid the island expenses; it was the case in 1834 on one of Mr. Gordon's Antigua estates. The cost of producing sugar estimated on the above plan would be nothing; this may not have been lost sight of, but as I am writing, I think I can do no harm to mention it."

13534. Will you state to the Committee what your view is with respect to immigration?—My own opinion of immigration is, that its value has been overrated by a great many people. If I look at the population of the West India islands, I find that it is something like a million; but from the whole of the West Indies not above 140,000 hogsheads of sugar are imported into England; supposing you estimate the population employed in producing this at only one hogshead per man, which is, in comparison with the slave colonies, very small, it gives only about 140,000 people engaged in making sugar; supposing you import 140,000 immigrants you would double your producing power at once, which would be an immense increase, and have a great effect. My own opinion is, that you do not require it. I think if the negroes knew, however, that not only the island government but every planter had the power of introducing a certain number of immigrants every year, and if they actually saw them come for one or two years, it would produce a very great effect upon them. I see that the despatches from nearly every governor say that the immigration they have already had has been attended with very great benefit, not so much in the amount of labour obtained from those immigrants, as in the effect it has also had upon the people of the colonies.

13535. What governors do you especially refer to?—I can mention almost every one: Lord Harris, Sir Charles Grey, Governor Light, and one or two of the governors of the smaller islands. They all speak favourably of immigration, and the effect it has had; at the same time, I think if good laws accompanied

panied such a measure, the effect of immigration would be very great indeed; of course it depends very much upon the possession of capital, not only capital to bring them, but also capital to employ them; and the effect must be determined in a great measure by that; but very few thousands, I think, introduced the first few years into either Trinidad or Jamaica, would be attended with very great effect. I will now read a few extracts from the despatches of the different Governors on this subject.

[The following Papers were delivered in, and read by the Witness:]

EXTRACT from Lord *Harris's* despatch; dated 28th of December 1846.

The coolie immigration has undoubtedly had a most valuable moral effect on the creole labourer, and has shown him that he cannot do quite as he likes. This effect will of course be increased by the addition of 4,000 during the next year; it then becomes the question, whether a sufficient augmentation to the supply of labour will not have been made; if not, it may be further asked, whether many of the estates now in cultivation could ever recover from such an enormous charge on them as this system of immigration must entail. I must say, when I consider the competition they are now exposed to, the incumbrances with which they are burthened, and the expenses of cultivation; and these are such, that I possess a detailed account of the produce and expenses of the same estate before and since emancipation (previously sugar was made for 55 cents. (2 s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) the 100 lbs.; it now costs 5 s., or 1 l. 0 s. 10 d.), that I think it is time to pause, to look matters thoroughly in the face, and to have the affair rigorously investigated before a larger debt is incurred. In the meantime, it is to be hoped that the coast of Africa will be opened, so as to supply the gap which the return of the coolies to their own country will make in the numbers of the labouring population.

RESOLUTION adopted at a Public Meeting of Planters, Merchants, and Others, of the Naparima District, *Trinidad*, 12th May 1847.

“Resolved,—That although the average price of labour has not been hitherto reduced, yet the inhabitants of the district of Naparima have already derived advantage from the increased facilities of obtaining more careful and more continuous performance of agricultural work, consequent on the introduction of the coolies; and a marked improvement in the condition of the plantations is consequently visible throughout the district.”

EXTRACT from Despatch of Governor *Higginson* to Earl *Grey*; dated Antigua, 17th April 1847.

I have on a former occasion expressed my views in regard to the benefits of immigration, and I was glad to learn that the Portuguese labourer had everywhere given satisfaction; but few have as yet been introduced. They do not appear to suffer from the heat of the climate, and were represented to be frugal, industrious, and sober. The outlay for their labour is greater than the cost for the negroes, but being at all times available, is considered much more valuable. I also understood, that on many of those estates where the Portuguese are employed native labour was more readily obtained than heretofore, which may be considered one of the most important and desirable results of immigration.

EXTRACT from Despatch of Governor *Higginson* to Earl *Grey*; dated Antigua, 25th May 1847.

The rates of wages have not been affected; but it is said that native labour is more readily obtained since the introduction of foreign aid.

COPY of a Despatch from Governor *Light* to Mr. Secretary *Gladstone*; dated Demerara, 30th July 1846.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of despatch, No. 80, dated 27th June, requiring explanation of the concluding paragraph of my despatch, No. 92, dated 16th May, which states, “that the moral effect on the creole labouring population, by the introduction of coolies, has been marked.”

In explanation, I beg to observe, that while there was a great deficiency of hands, the creole population could command the labour market; they refused work they did not like, and were often irregular in their labour.

The introduction of emigrants has arrested this; the creole population have seen that strangers are ready to perform work, and with regularity, which employers had difficulty in obtaining previous to the arrival of the strangers. The former, viz. the creoles, now have

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to compete with the latter; and therefore are not only less irregular in their hours of labour, but are eager to obtain it.

I consider I was justified in using the terms "moral influence," inasmuch as "morals" may be considered the practice of the duties of life, amongst which, in a labourer, are industry in various shapes. The neglect of this, in a greater or less degree, is a breach of that practice. Whatever tends to close that breach may fairly be said to exercise a moral influence; it was with this impression that I said the arrival of the coolies had had a moral effect on the creole population.

EXTRACT from Despatch of Governor *Light* to Lord *Grey*; dated Demerara,
16th April 1847.

But the great majority of the coolies are most valuable additions to the population, increasing the cultivation of the staples, and amassing wealth for themselves.

13536. A very small proportion of labourers from whom you could insure continuous labour would secure the planter against his crop being ruined or his rum spoiled during the manufacture?—I think so, from all the evidence I have heard, and from the statements of the people I have conversed with. At the same time, it is a question very much like confidence in any other country; the negro knows the planter has not the power of going elsewhere to get labourers if he does not work.

13537. At present the planter is perfectly at the mercy of the negro?—Perfectly.

13538. And the negro knows that?—He does; he knows that the planter cannot go to the coast of Africa and get labourers as he chooses.

13539. Have you considered at all the cost at which Africans might be imported if there was no interference on the part of the Government?—I think the Africans might be imported at a very cheap rate. I will only state what occurred to myself when Lord Grey's despatch came out. I went to the Colonial Office to inquire if a vessel I had sailing then might call at the coast of Africa for negroes. I did so, not on my own account, but on the account of a resident proprietor who was very anxious to get some. From the Colonial Office, however, I could get no satisfactory answer, and it finally ended in my being told that they had taken two ships up, and they did not intend to allow any more. I could have done it that week, but I could not have done it since. The cost of getting those Africans would have been very small. I do not believe that it would have been a fortnight's longer voyage for the vessel to have gone round there than to have gone direct. The vessel had her supplies for the estates on board, and had plenty of room for the immigrants.

13540. It would have been only the cost of feeding the Africans in carrying them over, and the month's additional wages to the crew of the ship?—That would have been all.

13541. Do you know what the number of the crew was?—I think the crew was 20; it happened to be a large vessel of 400 tons.

13542. £. 3 a month to each of the crew would have been 60 *l.*?—Fifty shillings are the wages.

13543. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] You might have had to pay something for the Africans?—You might have had to pay something certainly. I was informed that there were a great many liberated Africans at Sierra Leone, and I wished to try the experiment for this gentleman. But in that way, I think, by outward-bound ships, which have only a portion of their cargo in, and very few of the West India ships go out more than half full, immigration might be carried on very successfully at a very cheap rate; but the shipowner must have unlimited power to go where he chooses, and when he chooses, because, of course, he could then make his arrangements on behalf of the planter to get the labourers.

13544. *Chairman.*] We have reason to believe all the accommodation which the African desires, or which is good for him, is a mat to lie down on?—That was stated by the surgeon of the "Growler"; and in those latitudes, I should imagine, it would be quite sufficient. I entirely agree with him in the opinion, that putting the half-savage African into a berth is the greatest humbug I ever heard of.

13545. Are there any other suggestions that you have to make in the way of advances for irrigation or the construction of railways?—With regard to irrigation,

irrigation, it is a subject to which I had not turned my attention till I heard the evidence given by Mr. Crawford the other day. With me, however, it is a great question how far it would be valuable to the West Indies. I think in this consists the difference between the West Indies and India: India is dry for six or seven months at a time, whereas the West Indies have two rainy seasons, generally speaking, and occasional showers besides; and though I do not by any means undervalue irrigation, because I think that in many districts it might be very serviceable, yet as to expecting the planters or the colonists to do it for themselves, it is out of the question; if it comes, and is valuable, it must come from this country, or they will not have it at all. With respect to drainage, I believe that is very essential indeed in a great many districts; in Jamaica I should doubt whether it is so very much so as in Trinidad.

13546. Taking into consideration the evidence given of the success of the coolies in Trinidad, do you think that it would answer to the colonies to pay the expenses of bringing the coolies so far?—I do not think it would. I think the price is too high for the coolies; but I think if coolie emigration were to be carried on, it might be done at a much cheaper rate. I think too high a freight was charged altogether; and also I think that the Africans, from the accounts given of them, are a more valuable class of labourers than the coolies. I can only speak of course from what I hear other people say.

13547. Do you think that the colonists would be very willing to be placed under an obligation to bring as many women as men from the coast of Africa?—I think they would for their own interests; and not only that, but I believe the women work quite as well as men, and generally better. With respect to immigrants, I think a very incorrect opinion is taken up by the Colonial Office, as well as the governors, when they insist upon the immigrants being paid the highest rate of wages directly they arrive. I think it is the most unfair thing possible that you should pay an uneducated and unskilled man the same as you pay a labourer thoroughly accustomed to his work.

13548. An exact scale was given into the Committee by one of the witnesses from the Mauritius with respect to the value of the services of the immigrants at different periods after their arrival; you would propose that there should be a rising scale of that description for labourers and imported immigrants?—Some scale of that sort. If you only go into the manufacturing districts you will find that a new hand never receives anything like the proportion of wages which any old hand does who has been there six months or a year; and I do not see why that should be applicable to the colonies which is not applicable to the manufacturing districts.

13549. Taking an uncivilized barbarian from the coast of Africa, it would not be very unreasonable to put him under the same conditions that a youth in this country is under?—Precisely. What has been done, has been to imagine that directly we get hold of a labourer in the West Indies we wish to treat him badly, and, in fact, to make a slave of him again, forgetting that it is our interest to make him comfortable, and to do everything we can to induce him to work efficiently.

13550. With a view to getting the labourers settled upon the estates, you would propose that the planter should have a right to go to the coast of Africa and elsewhere, and contract with the immigrant in his native country to serve the planter for five years, or, at all events, till he should emancipate himself by repaying all the expenses and risk, and a fair compensation for the cost of bringing him?—It is very difficult for me to state the precise nature of what should be allowed, but what I think, generally speaking, is, that there should be free and unrestricted immigration, and that the planter should be allowed to go where he chooses. Of course there should be some limit to the contract, but it is difficult to say whether it should be for three or five years, till you see how either plan works. My opinion decidedly is, that all these questions should be left to the governor in the island. If you have a fit man in that office, he ought to be responsible for any abuse existing under his administration; if you have not fit people, they ought not to be governors. I believe if it were practically left to the governor to see what was good and efficient, you would be able to arrive at a satisfactory system in a much easier way than if you were to make laws in this country at a distance of several thousand miles.

13551. As in the Crown colonies the governors are only the creatures of the

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Colonial Office, do you think the interest of the planter would be certain to be fairly represented by them?—I do not imagine it would; but then I think the governor ought to have that power, and I would make him responsible.

13552. You would not make him responsible in the colonies where there is a legislative assembly?—No, you could not do so there; it must be left to the Governor in Council and to the Legislative Assembly.

13553. What, in your opinion, would be the effect of the repeal of the Navigation Laws, as far as the West Indies are concerned?—I do not think it would be any real benefit to the West Indies. The effect which I conceive would arise would be, that the West Indians would have much inferior ships to what they have now; any vessel would then be sent out, because the ship-owner would not be able to carry the produce so cheaply with the same arrangement.

13554. The island of Trinidad has thrown off what is called the thralldom of the merchants, has not it, within the last year?—I know that the freights have been very high. The common rule with merchants connected with the West India islands is, that they have one uniform rate of freight, and they charge the same every year. Last year I brought home sugar in my vessels at 4*s.* 6*d.*, when I actually refused sugar at 6*s.* from Jamaica; and the same thing occurs in the other islands. That was for my own correspondents. If I took any sugar from people with whom I had no connexion at all, I charged them the current rate, of course.

13555. The last witness stated that he understood the freights in May last were 6*s.* a cwt. by British ships, and 3*s.* by American ships; did you ever hear that at the same time freights were offered at 3*s.* by American ships, and 6*s.* by British ships?—I never heard that; but I am not competent to speak to it, from not being in the island.

13556. Do you think it very probable, that in the month of May, when freights from New York were 12*s.* a barrel for flour, which would be equivalent to about 7*s.* a cwt., American ships should be willing to take sugar at 3*s.* a cwt. from Trinidad?—I was certainly very much astonished to hear it; I know there was a great scarcity of shipping there last year.

13557. You did not hear that any American ships were carrying sugar from Porto Rico, from Cuba, or from Bahia or Pernambuco, for 7*s.* a cwt.?—I did not, except from Porto Rico, where I heard that the rate was 6*s.* per cwt.; it might be so from other ports, but I cannot state it.

13558. Mr *M. Gibson.*] You would not say, as a producer, that it is any benefit to you to be limited in your choice of ships, would you?—Certainly not.

13559. Suppose the Navigation Laws should succeed in effecting the purpose for which they were intended, and raise the rate of freight, it would be a disadvantage to you?—Decidedly, as a planter.

13560. It is only because the Navigation Law does not effect the purpose for which it was intended that you come harmless from its operation?—Yes; the effect of it would be, that every now and then, when freights ruled very high, ships would come in and lower the rate of freights; otherwise I think it would have no great effect.

13561. You are for having freights as low as you can get them?—As a planter.

13562. And cheap ships?—Consistent with security.

13563. The subject of the Navigation Laws has been mentioned as a grievance in the memorial which has been addressed from the West Indies?—I believe it has.

13564. You stated that you had sent out orders to abandon the cultivation of your estates?—Not exactly to abandon the cultivation; the orders are not to plant any more canes; the cultivation will run out.

13565. Did you ever abandon an estate in the same way before?—Yes; the parties I am connected with have abandoned two or three.

13566. Is it the custom in the West Indies to be abandoning estates from time to time?—I know several which have been abandoned. I handed in a list of what estates had been abandoned, and what had changed hands, in Trelawney, since 1830; but many of those were estates which ought never to have been under cultivation, even during slavery, I should think. One or two I abandoned immediately after I went to Jamaica in 1840, because I saw what indifferent soil

soil they were, and what a small chance there was of their being able to pay their way.

13567. Even in former periods, I dare say it is within your knowledge that when slavery existed estates were sometimes abandoned?—Yes, I believe there were instances of the kind.

13568. How many estates have you abandoned?—There were two belonging to myself and brother. In Jamaica, I see by the newspaper of this morning, that 15 large estates have been completely abandoned within the last six months.

13569. Is that a greater number than has been abandoned within the same time during former periods of distress?—I should think a much larger number.

13570. I suppose every year there is a great number of estates abandoned?—I cannot say that.

13571. Can you say that it is not so; that there has not always been a shifting of the cultivation to fresh lands?—I do not think that that has generally been the case.

13572. Has not it been the case to some considerable extent?—I think not; good level land is not so plentiful in Jamaica as to induce people to do it; if a person moves his cultivation, he moves it at a great expense; he has to move all his buildings.

13573. What induced you to abandon those properties in 1840?—Simply because I saw that this estate, called Hopewell, for example, was subject to dry weather, and was a very inferior soil. I saw canes four or five feet high, which ought to have been 15 or 16; my brother sold three estates last winter, because they got into debt; I sold one myself, because it got me into debt.

13574. The same circumstances which occurred to you in 1840, would be likely to occur to other persons. There must be other estates in a similar condition to your own?—Yes; but at the same time, I must observe, that this estate to which I allude, was profitable under slavery, and sold at a very large sum.

13575. Some calculation was entered into, to show that 33 per cent. reduction in the wages, would leave you still a loser, and that 10*s.* addition to the price would make you a gainer?—That was a calculation which was made with respect to Trinidad.

13576. Is not it true that 10*s.* a cwt. would cover the cost of all the labour?—Not in Trinidad.

13577. How far short of it would it fall?—Upon the estate of Golden Grove, in the island of Trinidad, the labour account is 1,897*l.*; the net proceeds amounted to 1,983*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

13578. Mr. Wilson.] What was the quantity of sugar?—2,081 cwt. Here is another instance in which the net proceeds of the whole produce were 1,983*l.*, that is, for the sugar, molasses, and rum; the account for labour alone was 1,897*l.*, independent of other charges.

13579. Then the labour cost as much as the gross receipts of the whole produce, short 86*l.*?—Exactly so.

13580. Can you undertake to say that the cost of labour to a cwt. of sugar, is 20*s.*?—I can only tell you what the amount of labour has been for the last four crops, according to this return; the produce of the last four years is based upon the price at which it was actually sold last winter. According to this calculation, it would make the labour amount to nearly as much as the net proceeds of the whole produce. Since that time wages have been reduced 25 per cent.; whether they will continue so or not, remains to be seen, of course. But in those former years, this produce sold for 10*s.* a cwt. more, therefore the labour did not amount to that proportion; but if I were to go on with the wages, as they were at the time when this return was made up, as the price will never be above what it was in the last year, the wages would amount to the whole net proceeds, and we should have given up instantly; we should have let the canes rot upon the ground.

13581. Do you consider that the population of the West Indies is increasing by natural means?—I believe it is.

13582. But not very fast?—There has been no census since 1842, but the general impression is that it is increasing; I cannot speak positively upon the point.

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13583. Do you think that if the good estates are kept in cultivation with a gradually increasing population, cultivation will extend itself slowly but surely?—It is almost impossible to state what the effect of the present state of things may be.

13584. Which should you think most likely to bring about a permanent state of prosperity in the British West Indies, trusting to the sudden influx of people you must have in the way of immigration, and so bringing new lands into cultivation, or trusting to the gradual extension of cultivation from the natural growth of the population?—Undoubtedly the latter is the better course. I think it would be exceedingly foolish to extend the population by any enormous amount of immigration.

13585. Would you undertake to recommend my friend to invest capital in the West Indies upon the chance of protection being maintained, even if it were now given?—I agree very much with what Mr. Innes said just now, you must put the West Indies in a position to compete with other countries; till you do so they want protection.

13586. The object in view is to restore confidence, so that people may be enabled safely to send out capital to the colonies, and to make advances; do you think that it would be at all a safe mode of proceeding, after all we have seen in reference to these questions, to advise the investment of capital upon the faith of any system of protection which might be established?—It would restore confidence if Parliament were at the same time to pass the remedial measures which are required.

13587. What remedial measures do you propose?—One of them is that we should have free immigration. I cannot say at the instant what sort of laws should be passed, but that there should be a system adopted which should ensure an ample supply of labour to the colony. At the same time, you must have protection for a certain time; but if I am asked of what duration it should be, my reply is that it would be difficult for anybody to fix the precise period, as it must depend upon the success of the remedial measures which I think necessary to be adopted. The duration depends upon a great many circumstances, but that protection must be continued till you have put the West Indies in a fair position to compete with foreign countries, I think is certain, if you wish to ensure the continuance of sugar cultivation.

13588. Do not you think there has been lately something of a panic among the proprietors of West India estates?—I do not exactly know what you call a panic; it has been brought home to their minds that they cannot grow sugar to a profit; and I think it is the general feeling of the West India proprietors that they are determined not to lose any more money in attempting it.

13589. Have not you observed that various interests from time to time are subject to panics?—I am quite aware that all trades and manufactures are subject to panics, and the West India colonies may be supposed to be in the midst of a panic at the present moment. If they could see any way out of their different difficulties, I do not think it would be so; but the only thing they see is that they must have a low price for their produce for ever.

13590. Would not it have been a matter of surprise, if, amidst the general depreciation of produce, and the depression of the general interests, the West India interest had been an exception to the rule?—I do not mean to say that some part of the existing depression may not be attributed to the panic which took place last year, but that it was caused by it to any great extent, I do not think; first of all, the consumption of sugar increased very largely last year, and I do not think that the consumption of any other article did increase. Part of it may be attributed to the panic, but a much greater part to the amount of foreign sugar which was thrown upon the market, and a great part of that foreign sugar was sent by people who were obliged to sell instantly; as far as that latter circumstance was concerned, it may have knocked down the market, but that was not the legitimate cause for the prices of our sugar being so low as they were; it was in consequence of this admission of foreign sugar.

13591. In order to produce this permanent depression, there must be an increasing supply of slave sugar, must not there?—I think there undoubtedly will be a very large supply.

13592. In order to effect that, there must be an extended cultivation of land by the slaves?—Yes, and there is a very large increase.

13593. Are we sure that that may not be attended with great difficulties to the importers of slaves, and to those who are extending their cultivation of slave produce; is it sure that they will be able to do it at the same cost as they have done?—I see no reason to doubt that the supply of slaves is equal to the demand. By making it certain that a large profit can be made in slave-holding countries, you have attracted there a great part of the disposable capital, not only of Englishmen, but of Americans, and all other nations.

13594. The Committee have been informed that in Cuba there has been a considerable cessation of the importation of slaves, and that the old proprietors are very averse to the extension of the cultivation, and to having new land brought into competition with theirs?—Undoubtedly, I believe that has been the case; but you must recollect that the old planter in Cuba is a very different person from the new and enterprising American who settles in Cuba. The old planter has in all probability taken the best part of his estate; he is a person who has made that his residence, and who would not be disposed to move, whereas the American comes and chooses the best spot he can fix on, and sets to work to cultivate sugar as extensively and as cheaply as he can.

13595. The Committee has been informed that they have been making efforts in Cuba to import free labourers. Even supposing they have not been attended with success, does not that show that there is an uneasy feeling with respect to the slavery system existing there, and that they think it is necessary to introduce labour of another kind?—But those efforts for the introduction of free labour took place early in 1846, and they were merely made to get possession of this market, I am informed. I have heard of no steps being taken latterly.

13596. Has not there been for some time an association existing for the express purpose of promoting the introduction of free labour into Cuba, by whom steps have been taken practically to effect that object; does not that show that there is a party there who do not feel their position to be a very secure one?—I should be very glad to find that it was not.

13597. Does not it afford some reason to hope that the slavery system will break down?—I do not see how that is to ameliorate our case; we are ruined in the meantime.

13598. If your supplies of sugar were very abundant, how could you be sure of a price which would be remunerative, considering the cost of your cultivation?—You are supposing our cost of cultivation to continue precisely as it is. I say, if you pass remedial measures and give us time to bring them into operation, we could produce our sugar much cheaper; but to enable us to do so we must have a protection for a certain time.

13599. Do you believe that the understanding between the Creoles and the employers of labour is of a better kind than it was formerly?—I believe so. The experiment of emancipation has gone on very well as far as the people themselves are concerned. I do not mean to say that it might not have gone on much better, because my information latterly has been, that the negroes are going back; whether it is true or not I cannot state, but I have had many letters to that effect.

13600. Mr. Goulburn.] You stated that you thought that you might have American ships as cheaply, supposing the Navigation Laws were repealed, as you have British ships?—I believe so.

13601. Are you conversant with shipping from Jamaica?—Yes.

13602. Is not there great difficulty in Jamaica in getting ships to go to particular parts of the island, where sugars are to be shipped?—A very great difficulty indeed, and that is the principal thing with which the shipowner has to contend; the ship cannot get her cargo of sugar from one particular place, that cargo being brought from various districts; of course that subjects her to great detention, and great expense. If I could get my cargo at a particular spot, at a particular time, and I could put it on board in two or three weeks, I should be very happy to reduce my freights, and sail as cheaply as any American.

13603. Those ships go to those particular parts of the island in consequence of the produce there being in connexion with the mercantile house which provides the ships?—Yes.

13604. Do you suppose that in the ordinary course of trade the American would go to those spots to seek for freights, unless the produce was consigned

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to America?—I do not think he would; I think the American would only step in where he could load his vessel at once.

13605. Supposing a ship were only to go to the principal harbours, can you form an idea of what would be the enhanced cost to the producer to convey his produce from particular estates to those principal harbours?—It would be very considerable; in fact it would be incalculable, supposing there were no railroad or tramroad; it is only the leading estates from which it would pay in that case to send sugar. I have made some calculations myself as to the cost of transit, and it is very heavy. I can instance one very large estate, situated in the middle of the island, about 30 miles from a shipping place; it makes as good sugar as any in the island; that estate was in Chancery, and last year I applied to the Court of Chancery for power to abandon that estate; one of the principal reasons on which they granted permission being, that it was situated 30 miles from a shipping place, which rendered the expense of bringing the sugar down so very heavy.

13606. That was an estate distant from any shipping place?—Yes.

13607. Are not there sugar estates upon the coast distant from the ports to which the ships at present go?—There are, and the effect would be precisely the same; they would have to bring the sugar by boat or by land down to the shipping place.

13608. You have stated that, in your opinion, as many as 15 estates have been abandoned within the last six months?—I read that statement from the "Times" of this morning.

13609. Did you ever know the same number of estates abandoned before within the same period?—Never. Since 1840 I have heard of estates being abandoned; but it has been at the rate of one or two in a year.

13610. You have been asked whether there was not a panic prevailing in the West Indies?—I believe there is a very great panic.

13611. Does that panic arise from any sudden loss, or from successive losses during a period of years?—From successive losses during a period of years. I may say that ever since emancipation, at least since the cessation of apprenticeship, it has been a question with all West India proprietors what they should do with their estates; and they have chiefly gone on with the feeling that this country would never permit the West Indies to be ruined. There was such a feeling upon my own mind. I have thought some course might and would eventually be struck out, by which our property would be rendered of some value.

13612. The effect of an unfavourable state of trade for such a number of years, has, I presume, greatly impoverished all the proprietors of estates?—I should think there was hardly one of them worth sixpence, as far as their estates are concerned.

13613. Therefore there is very little chance, even if the panic at present prevailing were removed, unless some decided encouragement be given them, that they will be able to continue their cultivation?—It will be impossible for them; I do not believe there is any capital in the island, nor will anybody advance capital; therefore it would be useless to attempt carrying on the cultivation.

13614. Do not you apprehend that the mere fact of the change from slavery to freedom must have tended to disorganise society?—Very much.

13615. Do you think the effect of that was sufficiently appreciated in this country when slavery was abolished?—I think very far from it: this country emancipated the slaves, and said, "You may now take care of yourselves;" or rather they did everything they could against the well-working of the measure.

13616. There was a general impression in this country that if you once made a man free, he would immediately work better than a slave?—Yes, there was.

13617. Do you trace any part of the present results to that cause?—They may mainly be attributed to the want of labour; it is quite a question of labour.

13618. Do you think that the measures taken were adequate to reorganise society after it had been so disorganised by that sudden change?—I do not think so. From all accounts the stipendiary magistrates at first took the part of the negro against the planter almost invariably; of late years justice has
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been fairly administered between both parties, and the thing has settled down very quietly.

13619. Do not you think, under that state of society, that a certain deviation from general principles for a certain number of years is essentially necessary in justice to all parties?—I think so, decidedly. I cannot conceive that you can treat those colonies upon any known system, because they are entirely in a new state of society perfectly unparalleled, and therefore they ought to have more care and more time allowed them in order to reorganise society.

13620. Do you apprehend that the payment that was made of 20,000,000 *l.* was an adequate compensation for the loss of what was actually found to be the result of the change?—Very far from it; I believe the calculation was that 45,000,000 *l.* would have been nearer the value of the property taken away. The compensation money generally has all gone into the hands of the negroes, or very nearly so, and without that I believe the fate of the West Indies would have been over long ago.

13621. Was the other promise that was given, of apprenticeship for seven years, adhered to?—No, it continued only for three years.

13622. In so far as it was abandoned, it did not fulfil the intention of Government as to the remuneration to be given to the planter?—Decidedly not.

13623. Do you know any cases in which it involved the planter in great pecuniary difficulty?—Yes; I believe there were several properties which were very much involved in consequence of the emancipation.

13624. You have been asked as to the charge for labour; what do you include in the charge for labour; do you merely include the cultivation and manufacture of sugar and rum?—I only include the cultivation and manufacture.

13625. Does not the want of efficient labour materially increase the other charges of the estate?—It is a very great element in them; you are obliged to have people looking after them, and to employ more white people than you otherwise would do.

13626. In estimating the effect of a deficiency of labour, it is not fair to confine it exclusively to the labour which is employed in the cultivation of the land and the manufacture of the commodity?—Certainly not.

13627. It affects the repairs of buildings, and cartage, and all other charges?—Every other charge connected with the estate.

13628. It has been supposed that you may simply rely upon the increase or population in the West Indies; do you happen to know what has been the increase of the population within the last ten years?—No, I do not. I believe there has been no census since 1842.

13629. That means of supplying labour must necessarily be very gradual?—Very gradual indeed.

13630. What number of years do you think it would be before the population would attain a sufficient amount?—It could not be for the next 15 or 20 years.

13631. Do you think it is much consolation to advise the West Indian planters at the present moment to wait for the gradual increase of the population?—I expect the estates would be a forest before that could take place.

13632. You were asked also as to the possibility of an insurrection in Cuba?—I think the same answer would apply to that question.

13633. It has been said that there has been an additional cultivation in Cuba?—I believe there has.

13634. You apprehend that in order to keep up that additional cultivation, a great number of slaves must be imported?—They must get more slaves undoubtedly. I believe, in consequence of the Act of 1846, a much larger amount of slaves was brought in in the autumn of that year; at least I have been informed so.

13635. Previous to that year exertions had been made in Cuba to secure free labour?—Yes.

13636. Subsequently to that those exertions have been abandoned?—I have not heard of their continuance at all.

13637. Subsequently to that attempts have been made to increase the produce of sugar by means of slave labour?—Certainly.

13638. Do not you think that this general abandonment of property in the West Indies will give a still further stimulus to the cultivation of sugar in Cuba?—

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Cuba?—Undoubtedly, I think they will go on increasing their crops every year, and they will be able to do so at a considerable reduction, as far as the possession of materials and machinery goes, because I know there have been several shipments of coppers and materials taken from Jamaica to Cuba.

13639. That would necessarily give an additional inducement to carry on the slave trade?—Undoubtedly.

13640. The same thing would also apply to Brazil?—Yes; and in the Parliamentary returns you will find there is a very large export of machinery and manufactures to Brazil.

13641. To the producer of sugar in Brazil would there not be a still stronger inducement to carry on the slave trade, from the greater facility of landing slaves on the coast of Brazil than exists in Cuba?—It has been given in evidence by a Brazilian, that there were 72,000 landed last year, he thinks, on the coast of Brazil.

13642. Mr. Wilson.] The Chairman asked you a question with regard to the loss upon this number of estates, a statement of which you gave in, to the effect that even if the wages were reduced by 33 per cent., there still would be a loss upon the net produce?—Yes.

13643. If I understand the effect which is expected from a greater competition of labour, you not only expect by the introduction of more immigrants to reduce the rate of wages, but to make the work of each man more effective?—I hope so; I think it would be more effective.

13644. Therefore it is not exactly fair, in contemplating a reduction of wages consequent upon a greater number of labourers, to make a proportionate reduction from the present quantity of work, and the present rate of wages paid for that work?—It is not exactly fair, certainly, to do that, but the getting a greater amount of work for the same amount of money, depends on other circumstances which we cannot determine here, but which must be a matter of practice.

13645. The great complaint before this Committee has not been the rate of the wages, but the want of continuous labour?—Yes; that is the complaint.

13646. Therefore, when you speak of the rate of wages being reduced 33 per cent., which could only be done by a large quantity of labour being supplied, it would not only be a reduction of wages that would be contemplated, but also more continuous work?—Certainly.

13647. Therefore in the reduction of wages 33 per cent., consequent upon the introduction of additional labourers, there would not only be a reduction of wages in the money amount, but also an increased quantity of labour during the same period?—Yes. I should state that I intend to effect a reduction in the salaries of the managers, as well as the wages of the labourers. The orders I have sent out to my agent have been to effect a reduction upon all the salaries; he is to tell the managers that we can only get so much for our produce; that they must submit to the same reduction; and they are to say the same thing to the labourers, so that all parties shall have the per-centage applied to them.

13648. With the same amount of labourers as you have now, do you anticipate that that would induce them to work for lower wages, and for a greater time?—It depends upon circumstances whether it would or not; the orders I have given are, if that is not effected, to abandon the estates at once.

13649. It would only be by increased competition for labour that you would induce them to work more faithfully?—That would be the only way.

13650. You think, also, if those regulations which Lord Harris established were enforced, they would be more effectual in producing continuous labour than any other arrangement which could be made?—Decidedly, if the reports which I see in that pamphlet are true, of the effect of Lord Harris's regulations. I do not know any ordinance which has been ever passed which has been so effective without being hard upon the labourers.

13651. From the papers which you have read to the Committee to-day, it appears that the quantity produced on the estates in Jamaica now is less than one half what it was during the first eight years?—About one half.

13652. What would be the effect, supposing you could increase your quantity of labour so much at the present time, and your command over the labourers, so that you could raise the produce of the West India islands to the same quantity that was produced in the first eight years; have you any calculation

lation which will show what increased quantity that would throw upon the British markets?—As far as my own estates are concerned, I have not the slightest idea in the world, under any system, of ever getting them to produce the same quantity that they did under slavery. Those estates that I mentioned are below the average, and if they had 10 s. or 15 s. protection to-morrow, several of them I should not attempt to cultivate. Whether others would do so I do not know.

13653. Then they would still go out of cultivation, whether you had protection or not?—Some of them might, but as to others, I should endeavour to go on with them.

13654. Unless the increased labour, and the increased encouragement to be given in the various ways that have been pointed out, produced an increased quantity, there would be no beneficial effect produced; would there?—It does not depend entirely upon the quantity. Taking an estate which makes 100 hogsheads of sugar, and just pays its expenses, if it made 150 hogsheads, in all probability there would be some profit upon it. There is a limit, of course, to all these things, and it just depends upon a man's capital, and a man's ability to increase it. One proprietor might endeavour to increase it beyond 150 hogsheads, and another might say, "I have no more capital to spend. I am satisfied to take what I can out of my 150 hogsheads." I certainly should not at once set to work to increase my production.

13655. It appears according to the accounts, that a reduction of wages equal to one-third would leave the loss shown in that account; but you expect that by an increased amount, you would not only have a reduction of wages, but you would have an increased quantity of labour during each day, by the increased number of labourers causing the present amount of labourers to work more continuously. In order to produce this effect, the quantity of sugar produced in the aggregate would be much larger?—It would be larger, but not so very much larger; I do not intend to increase my cultivation. I think that those particular estates which you mention, are as largely productive as their fixed machinery and the capital upon them are capable of making productive.

13656. If there is to be no increased cultivation, and if your present labourers are to be rendered more effective than they are at present, by the addition of new labourers, the immediate consequence will be, if there is an increased cultivation, that you will find yourselves with double the number of labourers you can employ; because the competition, in the first place, renders the present number more effectual, and where 200 labourers are employed to cultivate a certain amount of ground, 150 would then be able to do it; so that you would have a surplus of 50 out of the present number, and all you have imported in the meantime, in order to bring about this effect?—You are imagining that I am going to import labourers, and cultivate those estates under present circumstances. That is not precisely the case. I say I do not mean to continue my cultivation as things are at present; if Government will introduce measures, so that I can cultivate my estate successfully, and of course that must depend upon the price here, I will go on; but unless I see such measures introduced, I will not; I say we only want a protection till those measures are introduced; but if they were introduced, I believe we should produce sugar at a price to compete in the markets of the world.

13657. The whole tendency of the measures you desire is to increase the efficiency of the present labour, or to increase the quantity of labour?—Yes.

13658. How do you get over the difficulty that if the whole effect of the measures you propose is to render the present amount of labour more efficient, and to increase the quantity of labour, the tendency must be to increase the quantity produced?—I admit that.

13659. If you do so you immediately lower the price here?—You would lower the price here; but you are assuming that I am not to cultivate my estate cheaper than I do at present. I say I hope to cultivate it, and if there is any truth in my opinion, as cheaply as estates can be cultivated in other places; whether I shall cultivate as cheaply as they can under slave labour I do not know; I do not think I can.

13660. Your production in the West Indies I believe is very nearly equal to the consumption here?—Our production is, but we are not able to do it cheaply.

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13661. If you have no hope of cultivating in competition with slave-labour sugar, it is clear that the measures you propose would bring you into competition with that sugar in spite of any Act of the British Legislature?—I say we ought to be protected entirely from slave-labour sugar.

13662. The British Legislature cannot do that unless it can get all the continental countries of Europe to exclude slave sugar. If you have to send a portion of your sugar to the Continent it is impossible that any Act of the British Legislature can protect you against slave-labour sugar?—Certainly not; but you presume that we are to produce a quantity every year which shall go to the Continent of Europe. The consumption of this country will no doubt greatly increase, and if we could see the consumption of this country arrive at 300,000 or 400,000 tons, Government could then afford to reduce the duties.

13663. In order to increase the consumption in this country, you must have a low price; the effect of a temporary protection would be to raise the price, and therefore the tendency would be to check the consumption instead of increasing it?—The measures I propose are not permanently to increase the price, but to increase it temporarily; but my hope is to reduce the cost of cultivation ultimately; and if we can reduce that cost so as to get it down to the cost of slave labour, so much the better; whether we can do so or not depends upon circumstances. You cannot theorise about such a matter as that; nothing but experience can guide you, and then it is for the Government to take their measures accordingly.

13664. Supposing there were a temporary protection of 10 s. or 15 s. per cwt., which should raise the price, how far do you think such a measure would have the effect of suspending or checking the arrangements which are at present being made in the West Indies to reduce wages, and reduce the general cost of cultivation?—It would be difficult for me to say what amount of protection there should be. I think those changes which are now going on, in relation to the reduction of wages, do not depend so much upon whether this country gives a protection or not. I think it depends upon how the law is administered, and the quantity of immigrants which you introduce; I do not mean to say that we are at all perfect in the West Indies; I think in various ways there might be reductions made.

13665. Have you read a letter, dated from Trinidad, in the Colonial Magazine?—Yes.

13666. Did you notice a proposal there with respect to planting under a sort of contract?—Yes.

13667. Do you think the suggestion of any value?—I can hardly say of what value it would be in practice. The plan would require very considerable capital to carry it out, because if the negro is to grow canes, his cottage must be placed immediately upon his plot of ground, and, in all probability, you would have to find a large number of cottages, and to place them there; then you would have to determine whether they will really behave well. If such a system could be accomplished, undoubtedly anything of that kind would be a great benefit to the West Indies.

13668. Do not you think that it is by some means of that kind, similar to the contract system which exists in Java, and Penang, and Singapore, as described by several of the witnesses, you will be most likely to hold out a permanent inducement to the existing labourers in the West Indies to cultivate the cane at the lowest price?—I think it would be very beneficial, if you could accomplish it, but we have a different peasantry to deal with in the West Indies. In Java, and those other countries, there are chiefs of clans, whereas in the West Indies we have no head people whatever. If among the cooly emigrants you could get chiefs, or anything of that kind, it might be advantageous; but I know of no responsible person among the working population at present, who has authority over them, to insist upon their working, even for their own benefit.

13669. The proposition in Trinidad is rather an attempt to apply the existing circumstances of the West Indies to free labourers?—I do not think you will get any private individual to try such an experiment, because there are so many chances of failure. I think it is precisely one of those experiments which the Governor of the island, under the sanction of the Government of this country, might try.

13670. With respect to those regulations which are noticed in that pamphlet,

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phlet, as existing in Trinidad, you would be of opinion, probably, that the same regulations which were applied to the coolies so successfully, should be applied to the new immigrants from Africa?—I think something of the sort should be done, decidedly. What you want to get is some control over the new immigrant as soon as he arrives, to implant habits of industry, and, in fact, to civilize him as early as possible. I do not think that that is to be accomplished under a year or two.

13671. A contract of five years or seven years' apprenticeship, similar to what apprentices in this country have to undergo in learning a trade, with a fair wage during the period, would be beneficial to the labourer himself, and to his employer, in your opinion?—Very beneficial, indeed; it would teach him habits of industry and skill; the scale of wages would rise in proportion to the supply.

13672. With respect to the scale of wages, does not it strike you that if you were to fix a much lower wage in the first instance, it would lessen the inducement to the immigrant for leaving his country, and consenting to go to the colonies?—It is difficult to say that, because I can hardly tell what a savage imagines the rate to be, whether he really understands the value of money. A sixpence and a shilling in Africa amounts to about the same thing; he can only appreciate it by the amount he can buy for it.

13673. Would not it be better if the planter, instead of suggesting that there should be a lower scale of wages in the first instance, should rather reckon upon a longer contract with the average wages, so that he might obtain his profit during that longer period; would not it tend to make the labourer in the first instance less dissatisfied, if he were receiving something very near the ordinary rate of wages?—It would amount to the same thing, in fact, provided the contract were faithfully carried out; but sometimes the labourer might say, "I am become much more valuable now; I more thoroughly understand my work than when I came, therefore I ought to have higher wages;" and it might produce some dissatisfaction upon that score. But those are all questions as to which nothing but practice can tell which is the best mode.

13674. You say, that unless some special encouragement be given, you think that the West Indies will go out of cultivation; what should you say was the special encouragement which you would desire?—It is very difficult to legislate for a whole class of colonies in an instant. I can only say that, generally speaking, the colonies must have some laws relative to immigration; they must have laws to insure continuous labour, and some money must be found by the Government of this country to carry that into effect; what the amount may be, I can hardly say. At the same time, and along with those laws, they must have some protection, until these remedies can be fairly brought into operation.

13675. Do not you think that by far the greatest advantage which could be conferred upon the colonies now, would be for the Government to pass some strict laws against squatting and vagrancy, which should render more effective the present amount of labour; would not that be more efficient, and less costly, than any large amount of immigration?—That is the principal thing, but it must be accompanied by a certain amount of immigration, or it will not produce the desired effect upon the labouring population.

13676. You think any stringent measures which this country might instruct the Assemblies to pass, would be more easily carried into operation, provided they were accompanied with a certain amount of immigration?—Yes; so that there should be a general opinion that the planter had the power to go and get labourers independently of the creoles, if he chose.

13677. Is not it the case that the great bulk of the ships which go out to the West Indies to bring produce, go out either empty or nearly empty?—All the late ships do. The early ships generally take out supplies, which they in many instances take out free; at the same time there would be plenty of room for immigrants, even in those ships.

13678. Is not it the case that the quantity of tonnage required to bring home the produce of the islands, is so much greater than the tonnage required to carry out the stores required in the islands, that freight may be got as cheaply to Jamaica as to Hull or to Leith?—It is quite nominal.

13679. Many ships go in ballast because they cannot get cargo enough to

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pay the lights?—Yes; that is only the case since emancipation; they get large supplies now from America.

13680. If those ships went round by the coast of Africa it would add exceeding little to the cost of their voyage and they could take a cargo of labourers with them?—Very little indeed, generally speaking.

13681. That, however, would not provide any means by which the labourers could get back to Africa?—No.

13682. All the witnesses appear to attach great importance to the fact, that you shall give facilities to the labourers going back themselves, in order to impart confidence to the people to go to the West Indies?—I believe that might be very easily obtained; it would be worth any colony's while to hire a couple of vessels in the course of the year, to secure that; I am informed that they do not like to go back because the chiefs fleece them of all their money.

13683. Can you tell the Committee anything respecting the extent to which new agricultural implements have been introduced of late years?—They have been introduced very generally indeed; I can say that I have sent out a sub-soil plough, and it is at work, and there are five or ten acres of cane being cut upon one estate as to which I am to know the result, and what the advantage has been this year; I can also say that a very large number of agricultural implements have been sent out. I have taken the trouble to collect the number sent out by some few implement makers in this country; I think in the last few years, they have amounted to about 2,500; one return I showed to the Chairman by which it appears that 900 ploughs alone had been sent out since 1838, from one implement maker.

13684. In your experience has much benefit been derived from them?—I think considerable benefit; the reports I get are, generally speaking, satisfactory.

13685. Is it your opinion that all has been done that can be done in that way, or may we hope for a still further reduction of the cost of cultivation?—I should be sorry to say that all has been done which can be done; you may always make improvements in everything, and people cannot be expected to use agricultural implements at once, as efficiently as they will after they have been at work a little time; I think they may be introduced still further, to some little amount, but not to any great degree.

13686. You think the different governors of the islands ought to be invested with much more powers than they have at present?—I think so. It is almost impossible for the Colonial Office in this country to legislate for islands some thousands of miles off. If your governor is a good governor, and I believe most of those in the islands now are supposed to be good governors, it ought to be a sufficient guarantee to this country that he will allow no injustice, nor cruelty, nor anything approaching to slavery, to exist under him.

13687. If I understand you with reference to the general regulations of the islands, you would invest the governors with almost supreme authority?—I think it should be done either by the legislature or the councils, together with the governors. I think the people themselves should have some voice in the matter; and if those persons are fairly chosen, I do not think there would be any great abuse possible.

13688. You would not propose that those regulations should be checked by the Colonial Office here?—They must be checked to some extent, but as to checking such regulations as these which were proved to answer their purpose, I think that is a sort of control which the Colonial Office ought not to exercise, because, as I understand the reason of these regulations being disallowed, was that the immigrant was not supposed to be free to go from one plantation to another. You may as well say that a collier in this country is chained to a mine for a year because he has a contract to work there during that period.

13689. There is no doubt he is chained to the colliery, and there is no doubt he is so by his own free will?—Exactly; and it is the same with any apprentice in this country. Lord Harris states that he has seen coolies walking about in a state of nudity. He says this must not be allowed, for the sake of public decency; he issues an ordinance forbidding it, and that ordinance is disallowed by the Colonial Office, and the consequence is that the people walk about without any clothes at all.

13690. Does not that rather resolve itself into a question of the judgment of the Colonial Minister, than a general system?—Yes, but I speak of the Colonial Office

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Office generally, without reference to the particular individuals who have been successively at the head of it. But at the same time I think the Colonial Office has too much to do, and that the colonies suffer in a great measure from the perpetual change of the heads of that office. I believe, fully, that some improvement might be effected there.

13691. Is not it the fact, as respects those coolies, that Lord Harris passed those regulations in order to keep them in better order, that their employers were bound to furnish them with certain clothing, and that as soon as they became possessed of that clothing they were in the habit of selling it and obtaining rum, and the next day were found in a state of nudity upon the roads?—Certainly, I believe that that was the case; but those people being uneducated, they ought to have had more attention paid them, and a little more control exercised over them.

13692. Your opinion is that we have attempted to carry out with regard to the population in the West Indies regulations which really apply to a very much more civilized state of society than the West Indies possess?—I believe that is the real fact.

13693. That we have attempted to apply to half-civilized people, who have not the ordinary motives for industry, principles which we have found applicable to our own state of society at home, which exists in a very different state, and to which the same principles are by no means applicable?—I think that has been the case; it all arises from the legislators in this country not having been practically acquainted with the colonies themselves.

13694. Has the policy of the Colonial Office, with regard to the West India labourers, been very materially interfered with by public opinion in this country?—I think public opinion has pressed upon the Colonial Office, but I may limit, in a great measure, that public opinion to the Anti-slavery Society. I believe that they are the people who have pressed upon the Colonial Office, and that they are the people whom we have to thank for the bad working of the laws consequent upon emancipation. If the Colonial Office had been a little more independent of the anti-slavery party, they might have done much more good to the islands, and they might have benefited the negroes in a much greater degree. I know the Anti-slavery Society have taken up the matter from purely philanthropic motives, but I think they are mistaken in the views they have taken of the subject.

13695. You think it would have been equally to the interests of the labourers themselves, as well as of the planters, if a more stringent policy had been pursued all through, and were to be resorted to now as quickly as prudent considerations might permit?—I think so.

13696. You heard Mr. Dennison's evidence with regard to the state of Java; a very different policy appears to have been pursued by the Dutch government towards that colony to that which we have exercised towards the West Indies. Has not the evidence, however, gone to show that the moral and physical welfare of the Javanese has been promoted more by the conduct of the Dutch government, than has been the result of our more strict policy towards the West Indies?—My own impression may be different from that of others, but I believe the Dutch government have done more for the labouring population of Java than we have done for the West India islands; but we have not had specific information as to the extent of civilization among the Javanese, nor as to the way in which they are treated by the government. We know it is in a great degree forced labour, but at the same time I believe the labourers are in a very good state, and by no means oppressed.

13697. Do not you remember that Mr. Dennison said that the population of the part of the country into which he first went when he settled, consisted of robbers and marauders?—Yes; but that is not a test of the civilized and cultivated portion. Mr. Dennison went into the woods.

13698. Are not you aware that a great part of Java existed in the same state at that time, and that Mr. Dennison's was a case in common with almost all the cases of cultivation that were then undertaken?—I do not quite recollect that.

13699. Upon the whole, you are of opinion that the social regulations existing with regard to our colonies are as much to be blamed for the condition of the West Indies, as anything else at the present moment?—I think a great deal is owing to that. It is just a question now, whether you shall have any

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sugar from the West Indies at all. If nothing is done, you will have no sugar, or but a very small quantity.

13700. Whatever might be the measure adopted to save the colonies in the interim, what you would ultimately look to would be a thorough change in the general state of society?—Yes, and a decrease in the cost of production.

13701. *Chairman.*] You have stated that the coolies in Trinidad have been found frequently in a state of nudity, from the circumstance that they have sold their clothes to purchase rum?—It is so stated here.

13702. Was not one of the regulations of Lord Harris of this kind, that if a coolie were found in a state of nudity, the police should be authorized to provide him clothes, and charge the cost of them against his wages?—I believe so.

13703. In the same way as if a soldier in this country sells his necessaries, fresh necessaries are purchased for him, and they are charged against his pay?—That undoubtedly would have the effect of curing the evil at once.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

No. 1. Papers delivered in by Dr. Ranken, 23 March 1848:

- (H.) British Guiana.—Abstract from the Records of the Assistant Commissioners of Compensation, showing the Number of Slaves in each County, the appraised Value of each Class of Slaves, the Total Valuation thereof, and also the Amount of Compensation awarded for each Slave in each class, and the Proportion of the Compensation Fund of 20,000,000 l. sterling allotted to this colony - - - - - p. 264
- (I.) Appendix No. 1, to "Lectures on Colonization and Colonies," by Herman Merivale, A. M. - - - - - p. 265
- (K.) Extract from the Pamphlet entitled "Thoughts on British Guiana," published in 1847, p. 265
- (M.) A Statement showing the Number of Estates in British Guiana, mortgaged between 1st August 1838, and 31st December 1847, the Number of Proprietors, whether Resident or Non-resident, and the Amount for which Mortgages were passed in each Year - - - - - p. 266
- (N.) A statement showing the Sales of Estates by Execution in the Counties of Demerara and Essequibo, from 1 August 1838 to 31 December 1847, with the Names of Purchasers, the Amount of Sale, the Date of Letters of Decree, and the Date and Amount of Re-sales of such Estates, &c., &c. - - - - - p. 266

No. 2. Paper delivered in by Peter Borthwick, Esq., and referred to in his Evidence, 25 March 1848 - - - - - p. 270

No. 3. Paper delivered in by Philip Miles, Esq. M. P., 27 March 1848:
 Memorandum by the Acting Committee of West India Planters and Merchants - p. 272

A P P E N D I X.

Appendix, No. 1.

PAPERS delivered in by Dr. Ranken, 23 March 1848.

(H.)

BRITISH GUIANA.

ABSTRACT from the Records of the ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF COMPENSATION, showing the Number of Slaves in each County, the appraised Value of each Class of Slaves, the total Valuation thereof, and also the Amount of Compensation awarded for each Slave in each Class, and the proportion of the Compensation Fund of £. 20,000,000 sterling allotted to this Colony.

Description of Slaves.	Classes.	Number of Slaves in each County.			Total of Slaves.	Appraised Value of Slaves.	Total Valuation of Slaves.	Amount of Compensation Awarded.	Proportion of Compensation Fund of 20,000,000 £. Sterling allotted to this Colony.
		Demerara.	Essequibo.	Berbice.					
					£.	£.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Prædial Attached	Males, No. 1	1,508	993	812	3,313	230	761,090	87 8 - $\frac{3}{4}$	4,297,117 10 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	„ No. 2	691	456	463	1,610	180	289,800	68 8 - $\frac{1}{2}$	
	„ No. 3	227	224	167	618	100	61,800	38 - - $\frac{1}{4}$	
	„ No. 4	8,783	5,662	4,209	18,654	180	3,357,720	64 8 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	
	Females, No. 4	9,488	6,231	4,820	20,539	160	3,286,240	36 - 5	
	Males, No. 5	2,903	1,891	1,465	6,259	100	625,900		
	Females, No. 5	3,127	2,056	1,631	6,814	90	613,260		
	Males, No. 1	94	17	42	153	230	35,190	87 8 - $\frac{3}{4}$	
	„ No. 2	30	14	18	62	180	11,160	68 8 - $\frac{1}{2}$	
	„ No. 3	17	3	6	26	100	2,600	38 - - $\frac{1}{4}$	
Prædial Unattached	„ No. 4	1,315	257	519	9,091	180	376,380	65 4 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Females, No. 4	921	212	354	1,487	160	237,920	36 7 - $\frac{1}{4}$	
	Males, No. 5	571	158	228	937	100	93,700		
	Females, No. 5	413	147	159	719	90	64,710		
	Males, No. 1	691	79	102	872	180	156,960	68 8 - $\frac{1}{2}$	
	„ No. 2	209	22	44	275	100	27,500	38 - - $\frac{1}{4}$	
	„ No. 3	37	11	1	49	230	11,270	87 8 - $\frac{3}{4}$	
	„ No. 4	131	20	5	156	100	15,600	36 15 7	
	Females, No. 4	41	33	-	74	90	6,660	63 - 1	
	Males, No. 5	607	51	205	863	180	155,340		
Females, No. 5	1,675	110	331	2,116	160	338,560	35 9 10 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Males, No. 6	415	47	182	644	100	64,400			
Females, No. 6	955	58	235	1,248	90	112,320			
Children	Under 6 Years	5,114	2,488	2,291	9,893	50	494,650	19 - -	
Invalids	-	1,471	969	912	3,352	30	100,560	11 8 -	
TOTAL		41,434	22,189	19,201	82,824	-	11,302,190	- -	

(I.)

Appendix, No. 1. to "Lectures on Colonization and Colonies," by *Herman Merivale*, A. M.

PRICE of SLAVES, of the Class called "Prædial Attached," in the undermentioned Colonies, from the Returns made for the Purpose of assessing Compensation under the Emancipation Act.

	£.	s.	d.
Honduras - - - - -	190	19	3*
Guiana - - - - -	169	10	4
Trinidad - - - - -	110	2	11
Grenada - - - - -	100	-	-
St. Vincent - - - - -	97	6	9
Antigua - - - - -	94	8	11
Mauritius - - - - -	93	15	4
Montserrat - - - - -	90	-	-
St. Lucia - - - - -	80	-	-
Barbados - - - - -	75	-	-
Dominica - - - - -	70	-	-
Jamaica - - - - -	67	1	8
St. Kitt's - - - - -	59	15	9
Nevis - - - - -	57	-	-
Tobago - - - - -	55	-	-
Virgin Islands - - - - -	55	-	-
Bermuda - - - - -	51	18	-
Bahamas - - - - -	35	10	-

* I have not seen any statement which accounts for the extraordinary value of slaves in Honduras.

Demerara, 17 January 1848.

Thos. A. Finlayson.

(K.)

EXTRACT from the Pamphlet entitled "Thoughts on British Guiana," published in 1847.

Years.	Names of Estates sold by Private Bargain in the County of Demerara, from 1838 to 1846.	Price.	Value during Slavery.
		£.	£.
1838	Anna Catherina - - - - -	30,000	50,000
	Providence - - - - -	38,000	80,000
	Thomas - - - - -	20,000	40,000
1840	Windsor Forest - - - - -	45,000	85,000
	Rome and Houston - - - - -	40,000	100,000
	Montrose - - - - -	38,000	55,000
	Ogle - - - - -	26,000	45,000
	La Resouvenir - - - - -	30,000	50,000
	Success - - - - -	30,000	55,000
	Bel Air - - - - -	20,000	40,000
	Kitty - - - - -	26,000	60,000
	Wales - - - - -	26,000	50,000
	Vreed en Hoop - - - - -	36,000	60,000
	William - - - - -	18,000	40,000
1844	Groenveldt - - - - -	10,000	35,000
1845	Baillies Hope - - - - -	7,000	50,000
	Vredeskin - - - - -	4,000	30,000
1846	Haarlem - - - - -	3,500	50,000
	Goed Fortuin (Coffee) - - - - -	1,700	35,000

Demerara, 17 January 1848.

Thos. A. Finlayson.

Appendix, No. 1.

(M.)

A STATEMENT showing the Number of Estates in *British Guiana* MORTGAGED between 1st August 1838, and 31st December 1847, the Number of Proprietors, whether resident or non resident, and the Amount for which Mortgages were passed in each Year.

YEARS.	Estates Mortgaged.	Resident Proprietors.	Non-Resident Proprietors.	Amount of Mortgage.	REMARKS.
				£.	
1838 - -	10	11	- - -	59,500	
1839 - -	9	9	1	49,357	
1840 - -	16	19	4	238,940	
1841 - -	19	16	2	205,133	- - and a mortgage for an annuity of 300 l. sterling.
1842 - -	12	14	1	125,450	
1843 - -	9	5	4	147,191	
1844 - -	9	9	- - -	36,410	
1845 - -	6	7	- - -	45,498	
1846 - -	7	5	2	46,804	
1847 - -	5	3	2	52,500	
	102	98	16	1,006,783	

Demerara, 17 January 1848.

Thos. A. Finlayson.

(N.)

A STATEMENT showing the Sales of ESTATES by EXECUTION in the Counties of *Demerara* and *Essequibo*, from 1st August 1838 to the 31st December 1847, with the Names of Purchasers, the Amount of Sale, the date of Letters of Decree, and the date and Amount of Re-sales of such Estates.

Date of Sale.	Name of Estate.	Name of Purchaser.	Amount.	Date of Letters of Decree.	REMARKS.
			\$.		
			c.		
24 Nov. 1838	Vrouw Anna - -	S. H. Goodman - -	145,000 -	- - -	
26 - - -	Den Amstell - -	- - J. A. Holmes and T. C. Bagot.	26,486 64	- - -	- Resold 3 Mar. 1847, for \$ 10,150.
20 Mar. 1839	Two Brothers - -	Moses Jacobs - -	9,020 -	- - -	
3 Oct. - -	Vries en Hoop - -	John Stewart - -	98,500 -	17 Sept. 1842	
10 Feb. 1840	La Desir - - -	J. A. Holmes - - -	9,000 - -	- - - -	- Resold 8 Mar. 1843, for \$ 1,260.
23 Mar. 1841	St. Christopher - -	Boddaert & Co. - -	10,000 -	18 Feb. 1842	
4 May - -	Mon Bijou - - -	A. C. Newbigging - -	6,675 - -	- - - -	- Resold 5 Dec. 1842, for \$ 900.
7 - - -	Peter's Hall - -	- - J. T. Osborne and T. C. Bagot.	113,000 -	- - - -	- Resold 3 Nov. 1847, for \$ 26,500.
25 - - -	New Bee Hive - -	Thomas Daniel & Sons - -	50,000 -	12 May 1843	
9 June - -	Sans Souci - - -	G. Parry - - - -	3,030 - -	5 Feb. 1842	
6 Oct. - -	Cullen - - - -	Thomas Murray - -	78,000 -	7 Aug. 1843	
11 - - -	- - John, Cove, and Craig Milne.	Jonathan Hopkinson - -	81,500 -	9 May 1846	
14 - - -	Half Prosperity - -	Walmsley and Blacklocks - -	1,200 - -	19 June 1844	
9 Nov. - -	Strathavon - - -	William Byar - - -	6,000 - -	9 May 1844	
23 Mar. 1842	Diamond - - - -	W. A. and F. Campbell - -	1,260 - -	- - - -	
12 Oct. - -	Ostend - - - -	H. and W. Howes & Co. - -	635 - -	11 Nov. 1842	
5 Dec. - -	Mon Bijou - - -	H. L. Allicock - - -	900 - -	- - - -	
19 Jan. 1843	Half Meten Meerzorg	Gavin Fullarton - - -	48,050 -	- - - -	
2 Feb. - -	Vive la Force - -	Thomas Blake - - -	67,200 -	20 Oct. 1846	
8 Mar. - -	La Desir - - - -	Ann C. Beete - - -	1,260 - -	21 Dec. 1843	
6 April - -	Chantilly - - -	W. S. Hamilton & Co. - -	6,500 - -	9 Sept. 1844	
25 - - -	Industry - - - -	- - C. S. Parker & W. R. Sandbach.	38,000 -	22 July 1844	
27 - - -	Belle Plaine - -	- - Cruickshank Melville & Co.	15,500 -	22 Mar. 1845	
28 - - -	Sans Soucie - - -	Walter Napier - - -	18,500 -	15 Mar. 1845	

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

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Date of Sale.	Name of Estate.	Name of Purchaser.	Amount.	Date of Letters of Decree.	REMARKS.
1 May 1843	Hibernia - - -	H. G. Veitch - - -	\$ 25,000 -	16 May 1846	
9 - - -	Sophia - - -	Wm. Grant - - -	12,100 -	15 Mar. 1845	
12 - - -	Retrieve - - -	- C. S. Parker, and W. R. Sandbach.	22,500 -	22 July 1844	
16 - - -	Java - - -	- - T. and H. Murray, M. Steele, and G. Loxdale.	4,800 -	- - -	
13 June - -	Recht-door-zee - -	S. B. L. Backer - -	2,000 -	3 June 1845	
- - -	Withorst - - -	- - C. F. Visser, and W. J. Dempster.	270 -	3 - - -	
14 Sept. - -	Philadelphia - - -	Thomas Daniel & Sons - -	2,000 -	13 May -	
4 Oct. - -	Malgre Tont - - -	W. S. Hamilton & Co. - -	114,000 -	- - -	
21 Nov. - -	- - Best, Phoenix and Waller's Delight.	John Forte - - -	41,000 -	- - -	
23 - - -	New Hope - - -	Murray Brothers & Co. - -	2,600 -	7 July 1846	
8 Jan. 1844	De Kinderen - - -	Henry Brand - - -	2,400 -	16 May -	
- - -	West Half Drill - -	L. E. Heyliger - - -	800 -	- - -	
- - -	Mes Delices - - -	James Frankland - - -	1,000 -	16 Nov. -	
15 - - -	- - Pt Dantzic and West Half Content.	Janet M. Alstein - - -	1,355 -	- - -	- - Resold, 29 Sept- 1845, for \$ 380.
7 Feb. - -	Half Prosperity - -	Walmsley and Blacklock - -	605 -	19 June 1844	
31 May - -	Thomas - - -	Cavan Brothers & Co. - -	36,000 -	28 June 1847	
5 June - -	- - Ann's Grove and Two Friends.	John Croal - - -	3,550 -	25 Sept. 1844	
8 Aug. - -	Mary Ville - - -	Alexander Wishart - - -	18,000 -	10 July 1846	
4 Nov. - -	Neufchatel - - -	James Forbes - - -	50 -	17 June 1847	
16 Sept. - -	- - One-sixth Interest, in Vryheid's Lust.	Mr. Inroy, Sandbach, & Co.	410 -	- - -	
27 Nov. - -	Belmont - - -	J. T. and A. Douglas & Co.	12,100 -	10 July 1846	
27 Jan. 1845	East Part Content - -	J. F. Bee - - -	365 -	- - -	
7 April - -	Ostend - - -	C. Goodman - - -	365 -	- - -	
14 - - -	Woodlands - - -	J. S. Stutchbury - - -	40 -	- - -	
5 May - -	Walton Hall - - -	John Kingston - - -	8,200 -	12 Oct. -	
8 - - -	Non Pareil - - -	David Baillie - - -	55,500 -	29 July -	
9 - - -	Good Hope - - -	J. T. and A. Douglas & Co.	18,100 -	10 - - -	
26 - - -	Pt. Huntley - - -	Wm. Davison - - -	705 -	10 - - -	
9 June - -	Sans Souci - - -	- - Geo. Tighe and Jas. Alexander.	300 -	5 July 1845	
16 - - -	Haslenton - - -	Henry Brand - - -	1,750 -	12 Aug. 1846	
4 Aug. - -	Unity - - -	The Colony - - -	500 -	14 Jan. 1847	
11 - - -	Caledonia - - -	John Lane - - -	520 -	16 May 1846	
8 Sept. - -	The Third Island - -	William Grant - - -	102 -	5 June -	
- - -	East Half Perseverance	James Gordon - - -	230 -	- - -	
29 - - -	Grove Front - - -	William Davison - - -	30 -	28 Feb. -	
29 - - -	- - part Dantzic, and West Half Content.	George Chapman - - -	380 -	- - -	
- - -	Half Union - - -	Henry Brand - - -	365 -	5 June -	
13 Oct. - -	- - Jacobas Lust, and La Jalousie.	J. Forbes and J. Kennedy	1,390 -	17 April -	
8 Dec. - -	Woodlands - - -	J. F. Bee - - -	125 -	- - -	
15 - - -	Fellowship - - -	William Davison - - -	5,750 -	10 July 1847	
12 Jan. 1846	L'Esperance - - -	Ann Parry - - -	80 -	- - -	
16 Feb. - -	L'Amitie - - -	H. E. F. Young and Dr. Blair	400 -	24 Aug. -	
11 May - -	Retreat - - -	Geo. Booker - - -	1,010 -	- - -	
9 June - -	Kitty - - -	Daniel Blair - - -	14,100 -	6 July -	
15 - - -	Waterloo - - -	James Forbes - - -	100 -	14 Jan. -	
- - -	Friendship - - -	R. Henderson - - -	20 -	- - -	
31 Aug. - -	Nismes - - -	John Campbell, sen. & Co.	25,000 -	- - -	
2 Nov. - -	Bellefield - - -	A. T. Hubbard - - -	2,000 -	17 Aug. -	
- - -	- Vauxhall and Westminster.	- - C. Libeau and G. F. Proctor.	5,000 -	- - -	
30 - - -	Neufchatel - - -	James Forbes - - -	51 -	17 June -	
21 Dec. - -	- Vryheid's Lust and Sheet Anchor.	W. R. Sandbach - - -	32,500 -	10 May -	
1 Feb. 1847	Kleyn en Rein - - -	Helen Hancock - - -	160 -	- - -	
1 - - -	Patentia - - -	- - W. Deeges and L. Bruninghausen.	425 -	20 Feb. -	
3 Mar. - -	Den Amstell - - -	William Lyng - - -	10,150 -	13 Mar. -	
15 - - -	Felicity - - -	J. F. Bee - - -	50 -	17 June -	
20 - - -	Sarapapa - - -	A. E. Luthers - - -	500 -	- - -	
26 April - -	East Half Strangroen	Jas. Forbes - - -	245 -	- - -	
26 - - -	Belvidere - - -	Alexander Duff - - -	265 -	- - -	
26 - - -	Manilla - - -	Alexander Duff - - -	295 -	- - -	
3 Nov. - -	Peter's Hall - - -	- H. D. and J. E. Baillie, and G. H. Amos.	26,500 -	- - -	- - Paid in Cash, 27 November 1847.

RECAPITULATION.

	No.	£.		No.	£.
Letter (A) - - - -	2,767	373,200	Letter (S) - - - -	3,972	540,500
" (B) - - - -	11,927	1,625,890	" (T) - - - -	1,640	219,200
" (C) - - - -	8,576	1,180,140	" (U) - - - -	128	18,350
" (D) - - - -	5,316	718,190	" (V) - - - -	1,233	166,630
" (E) - - - -	642	87,040	" (W) - - - -	2,874	386,780
" (F) - - - -	3,433	470,300	" (Y) - - - -	64	8,870
" (G) - - - -	3,983	547,810	" (Z) - - - -	5	630
" (H) - - - -	10,090	1,370,200			
" (I), (J) - - - -	2,218	303,380	TOTAL - - - -	82,824	11,302,190
" (K) - - - -	3,537	490,160			
" (L) - - - -	1,656	222,890	Appraised in the district of Berbice, per abstract - - - -	19,201	2,604,190
" (M) - - - -	9,707	1,332,380	Appraised in the district of Demerary, per abstract - - - -	41,434	5,646,840
" (N) - - - -	1,062	151,020	Appraised in the district of Essequibo, per abstract - - - -	22,189	3,051,160
" (O) - - - -	291	39,300			
" (P) - - - -	2,669	365,120	TOTAL - - - -	82,824	11,302,190
" (R) - - - -	5,004	684,150			

BRITISH GUIANA.	PRÆDIAL ATTACHED.							PRÆDIAL UNATTACHED.						
	CLASSES													
	1.	2.	3.	4.		5.		1.	2.	3.	4.		5.	
Males, £. 230.	Males, £. 180.	Males, £. 100.	Males, £. 180.	Females, £. 160.	Males, £. 100.	Females, £. 90.	Males, £. 230.	Males, £. 180.	Males, £. 100.	Males, £. 180.	Females, £. 160.	Males, £. 100.	Females, £. 100.	
Berbice District -	812	463	167	4,209	4,820	1,465	1,631	42	18	6	519	354	228	150
Demerary District -	1,508	691	227	8,783	9,488	2,903	3,127	94	30	17	1,315	921	571	413
Essequibo District -	993	456	224	5,662	6,231	1,891	2,056	17	14	3	257	212	158	147
TOTALS - - - -	3,313	1,610	618	18,654	20,539	6,259	6,814	153	62	26	2,091	1,487	937	719
Proof - - - -	£. 761,990	289,800	61,800	3,357,720	3,286,240	625,900	613,260	35,190	11,160	2,600	376,380	237,920	93,700	64,710

BRITISH GUIANA.	NON-PRÆDIAL.										Children under Six Years	Invalids, &c. £. 50.	Total Number of People Appraised.	Amount of Appraisal in Sterling Money.
	CLASSES													
	1.	2.	3.	4.		5.		6.						
Males, £. 180.	Males, £. 100.	Males, £. 230.	Males, £. 100.	Females, £. 90.	Males, £. 180.	Females, £. 160.	Males, £. 100.	Females, £. 90.						
Berbice District -	102	44	1	5	-	205	331	182	235	2,291	912	19,201	2,604,190	
Demerary District -	691	209	37	131	41	607	1,675	415	955	5,114	1,471	41,434	5,646,840	
Essequib District -	79	22	11	20	33	51	110	47	58	2,488	969	22,189	3,051,160	
TOTALS - - - -	872	275	49	156	74	863	2,116	644	1,248	9,893	3,352	82,824	11,302,190	
Proof - - - -	£. 156,960	27,500	11,270	15,600	6,660	155,340	398,560	64,400	112,320	494,650	100,560	-	11,302,190	

Demerary, 8th August 1835.

J. Carmichael Smyth,
Henry Gloster,
John Croal,
J. G. Reed,
Edvard Dawson,

} Assistant Commissioners of Compensation,
British Guiana.

The above is a true copy from the original remaining on record in the Registrar's Office, of the counties of Demerary and Essequibo, in the colony of British Guiana, this 17th day of January in the year 1848.

Not. Dept. No. 8770. Sch. B. § 5.

(L.S.) *M. J. Retemeyer,* Colonial Receiver-General.

Quod Attester,
H. Corster, Set Notary Public.

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Office of Commissioners of Compensation,
British Guiana.

Proportion of the Compensation Fund of £.20,000,000. } £. 4,297,117. 10 s. 6 ½ d. 30
allotted to this Colony - - - - - }

The COMPENSATION for a Slave in each Class in this Colony will be as follows.

DIVISIONS.	No.	CLASSES.	Compensation for a Slave in each Class.
			£. s. d.
Prædial attached - -	1	Head People - - - -	87 8 - ¾
	2	Tradesmen - - - -	68 8 - ½
	3	Inferior Tradesmen - - -	38 - - ¼
	4	Field Labourers - - - -	64 8 4 ¾
	5	Inferior Field Labourers - -	36 - 5
Prædial unattached - -	1	Head People - - - -	87 8 - ¾
	2	Tradesmen - - - -	68 8 - ½
	3	Inferior Tradesmen - - -	38 - - ¼
	4	Field Labourers - - - -	65 4 10 ½
	5	Inferior Field Labourers - -	36 7 - ¼
Children under six years of age, on the 1st August 1834	1	Head Tradesmen - - - -	68 8 - ½
	2	Inferior Tradesmen - - -	38 - - ¼
	3	Head People employed on wharfs, shipping, or other avocations -	87 8 - ¾
	4	Inferior People of the same description - - - -	36 15 7
	5	Head Domestic Servants - -	63 - 1
	6	Inferior Domestic - - - -	35 9 10 ¾
Aged, diseased, or otherwise non-effective - - - -	-	- - - - -	19 - -
			11 8 -

The foregoing is a true copy from the original remaining on record in the Registrar's Office of the counties of Demerary and Essequibo in the colony of British Guiana, this 17th day of January in the year 1848.

Notary Department, No. 8,769. Sch. B. § 5.

M. J. Retemayer,
Colonial Receiver-General.

Quod Attestor,
J. H. Corster,
Set Notary Public.

Appendix, No. 3.

PAPER delivered in by *Philip Miles*, Esq. M. P., 27 March 1848.

MEMORANDUM by the Acting Committee of WEST INDIA PLANTERS and
MERCHANTS.

(Transmitted on the 26th October 1847, to Her Majesty's Government.)

Appendix, No. 3.

Memorandum by
the Acting Com-
mittee of the West
India Planters, &c.

1. THE Committee cannot doubt that the alarming state of the West India colonies has attracted the attention of Her Majesty's Government, yet they feel constrained to represent that it is such as to demand the most serious and prompt consideration. So grievous is the depression to which they are reduced, and so little confidence is entertained of any amendment, that their credit is utterly destroyed.

2. This deplorable crisis has been entirely occasioned by the Acts of the Imperial Parliament. Within the last fifteen years these colonies have been subjected to a series of measures, social and fiscal, which have effected a complete revolution in their condition. The transition from bondage to perfect freedom, which in Europe was the work of ages, and only accomplished by the greater cheapness of free labour, was there precipitated without due preparation.

3. The landed proprietors had scarcely commenced their attempt to overcome the inevitable difficulties of their new position, when they were required to compete with the immense possessions of the East India Company, enjoying the advantage of the cheapest free labour in the world; their trade with foreign nations being at the same time free from the restrictions imposed upon the West India Colonies.

4. A few years more only had elapsed, during which many proprietors sunk into ruin, and all had to maintain a most arduous and unprofitable struggle, when they were exposed to further competition with every country having the semblance of freedom, while they were themselves prohibited from endeavouring to procure an accession of suitable labourers.

5. This measure was, indeed, accompanied by a strong public assurance that the produce of all countries cultivated would continue to be excluded—Parliament having adopted it on that ground by a large majority. And, relying upon this assurance, great efforts were made, and large additional capital was invested, in order to diminish the fixed charges of cultivation by increased production.

6. All who thus confided in the stability of the Imperial policy towards the colonies were, however, doomed to suffer severe disappointment. In less than fifteen months the same Parliament that had been so careful to mark the distinction between freedom and slavery, and to proclaim their solemn decision for the encouragement of supplies from the free countries, disregarded their own Act, and suddenly resolved to admit the produce of slaves and free men on equal terms.

7. The difficulties and charges which these successive measures have inflicted upon the West India colonies have at length brought them to a state of depression bordering on despair. All their efforts have been rendered fruitless by the unexpected admission of slave-grown sugar, and they have even tended, by augmenting the supply, to aggravate their loss. And now, seeing the slave trade rapidly extending, as evinced by the greater number of captures, and the testimony of those employed to suppress it, they cannot discover encouragement, or find means, to continue the struggle they have so long maintained, unless Her Majesty's Government shall immediately interpose a vigorous legislation for their relief and support.

8. The Committee are aware that, notwithstanding the great decline in the value of West India property, and the discredit in which it is held, some public men profess to doubt these notorious facts, and to insist that the colonies, without being further relieved from restriction or supported by favour of any kind, are able to contend successfully with all their competitors. This opinion must rest upon the assumption, that the proprietors, who are almost all dependent on their colonial estates, have made no exertion to render them productive; and it also implies that the merchants who are deeply concerned in the results of their cultivation are indifferent to their success,—premises so improbable that, if they were not frequently set forth, the Committee would not even seem to believe that they can have any influence with Her Majesty's Government.

9. The proofs of their failure are, unfortunately, too palpable to admit of any question with an unprejudiced observer. Property cannot be sold—securities cannot be assigned—mortgages cannot realize interest. There can be no doubt as to the condition of any country of which these averments may be truly made. The merchants, without whose support much of that property could not be cultivated, find themselves drawn from year to year into increased advances. With the utmost reluctance to augment their amount, and yet unwilling to abandon all hope of retrieval, both proprietors and merchants are involved in accumulating embarrassment. Under this wasting conflict their fortunes disappear—their numbers diminish—and the estates they have made such sacrifices to uphold are gradually abandoned.

10. This unnatural state of the colonies cannot continue, and events must soon bring it forcibly to a close. If the extraneous resources by which they have been sustained be at length exhausted, the ruin of the proprietors and their consignees will not be the only consequence. All classes of the population must suffer from their fall—for all are alike concerned in the successful culture of their staple products, and especially sugar. They are destitute of manufactures, even the most simple—and dependent also upon foreign supplies for many objects which they have been accustomed to regard as necessities of life. The peasantry may raise food for mere subsistence, but without exports they cannot have imports; and, deprived of the capital and intelligence of the proprietors, they would not have the means of producing any exchangeable commodity of the least importance. Although they have hitherto been eminently prosperous, because they have been able to exact more for their labour than its produce has yielded, they cannot be exempted from all participation in the fate of those by whom they are employed. The interests of both are, in fact, identical, though for a time their adjustment may be deferred.

11. In these lamentable circumstances the Committee most anxiously appeal to Her Majesty's Government. Although the representations they made on a former occasion, with regard to the injustice and impolicy of admitting slave-grown sugar on equal terms with the produce of free countries, were unheeded, they cannot but hope that the truth of the statements which were then submitted will be recognized in the disastrous effects which that measure has already produced. With the further experience they have had, they beg leave now to declare their conviction, that the West India colonies cannot be maintained in cultivation without a differential duty of at least 10s. per cwt. on slave-grown sugar, to be continued for such a period as shall enable them to be fully supplied with labour. With this support assured to them, and other measures adopted for their relief and advancement, confidence might be restored, and capital found not only to maintain cultivation, but also to carry forward every improvement. This policy, the Committee firmly believe, would at once save the colonies from ruin, and prove the most certain as well as the most desirable means of securing an abundant and cheap supply of sugar. The admission of slave-labour produce has, in the mean time, greatly reduced the price, but it is obvious that the advantages of abundance and cheapness can only be permanently obtained from profitable cultivation. Equal rates of duty cannot, however, ensure fair competition between countries cultivated by free men receiving high wages for moderate work, and those which are cultivated by the forced and unrequited labour of slaves. The Committee trust that the very critical position, in which they and their constituents are placed will afford a sufficient apology for their importunity in again pressing these considerations most earnestly upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

12. The Committee have for many years urged in vain the necessity of removing every kind of restriction upon immigration into the colonies. They once more respectfully repeat their claim for perfect freedom of intercourse, and for the right of hiring labourers wherever they can be found willing to enter into their service. Without an abundant supply of free labour, it is impossible to contend with an unlimited supply of slaves. In order to secure that abundance, it will not suffice merely to permit immigration from Africa; it must be openly and zealously encouraged. For that purpose the Committee trust that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to employ a part of the funds appropriated to the suppression of the slave trade; and, instead of shrinking with timid apprehension before the bold defiance and calumnies of the slave trader, that they will use all their influence to substitute free emigration for his cruel traffic.

13. Another source of supply of free labour might be found in an improved arrangement for the liberation and settlement of captured Africans. They have hitherto been sent chiefly to Sierra Leone, but it was proved before a Committee of the House of Commons, so long ago as 1842, that these people could not there find any means of comfortable subsistence, and were not even certain of their freedom; and the Committee of Inquiry accordingly reported, that "it would be well for the African, in every point of view, to find himself a free labourer in the free British West India colonies, enjoying there, as he would, higher advantages of every kind than have fallen to the lot of the negro race in any other portion of the globe."

14. The Committee hope that more effectual measures will be devised for the coercive suppression of the slave trade; and they would respectfully suggest that a portion of the naval force engaged in that service, especially steamers, should be stationed off the coasts of the transatlantic countries to which the slaves are conveyed. Captures made there

Appendix, No. 3. — there would still further aggravate the loss of the slave trader, and so discourage the traffic.

Memorandum of
the Acting Com-
mittee of West
India Planters, &c.

15. The Committee also trust that Her Majesty's Government will be disposed to extend to the West India colonies the same sympathy which was last year manifested towards the agriculturists of the mother country; and that they will seek authority from Parliament to guarantee loans, upon satisfactory provision being made for their liquidation, to encourage drainage and other agricultural improvements, on terms analogous to those of the Acts passed for similar purposes during the last session.

16. The Committee further confidently expect that the duties on rum will be reduced to equality with the duties on home-made spirits; and that the Act 10 Vict. c. 6, permitting the distillation of sugar will be so amended as to render the drawback of duty sufficient, and also permit the use of sugar along with grain as well as separately. They cannot admit that the scruples of excise officers, or the alleged restrictions imposed upon distillers are valid objections to their claims. To the colonies these seem only pretexts to cover concessions of protection to their disadvantage, for it is obvious that arrangements can be made for ascertaining the actual quantity of spirits distilled, and levying the revenue thereon, as securely without these restrictions as with them.

17. The Committee beg likewise to renew their request to be permitted to bring the produce of the colonies to market in any form which may be found most convenient, and to refine it in bond before entering it for home consumption.

18. The measures here suggested are not only in perfect accordance with just policy, but almost all of them are necessary to render the legislation of Parliament consistent. The necessities of the colonies have, however, become so urgent, that, unless their credit can be restored by a prompt declaration of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, extensive disasters must immediately ensue. Already many proprietors are unable to raise funds to pay wages; every packet carries back a large amount of bills protested; the resources which have for years enabled them to cultivate their estates are exhausted or withheld; all parties connected with them have lost the hope which has hitherto sustained their exertions; without extraneous aid the growing crop cannot be reaped, and that aid will not be given except upon an assurance that the crop will yield more than the cost of producing it.

West India Committee Rooms, }
London, 25 October 1847. }

(signed) Charles Cave, Chairman.

S I X T H

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R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,

3 April 1848.

Veneris, 4^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Present Condition and Prospects of the Interests connected with, and dependent on, SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief.

Lunæ, 7^o die Februarii, 1848.

Committee nominated :

Lord George Bentinck.	Mr. Philip Miles.
Mr. Labouchere.	Mr. James Wilson.
Mr. Goulburn.	Lord George Manners.
Mr. Milner Gibson.	Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Cardwell.	Sir John Pakington.
Sir Thomas Birch.	Mr. James Matheson.
Mr. Henry Hope.	Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Charles Villiers.	

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.

Martis, 15^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Ewart be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Moffatt be added thereto.

Jovis, 24^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to Report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, from time to time, to The House.

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SIXTH REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the present Condition and Prospects of the Interests connected with, and dependent on, SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief, and who were empowered to Report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, from time to time, to The House ;

HAVE made a farther Progress in the Inquiry referred to them.

3 April 1848.

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 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 29^o die Martii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
 Mr. Cardwell.
 Mr. Goulburn.
 Mr. Labouchere.
 Mr. Matheson.

Mr. Miles.
 Mr. Moffatt.
 Mr. Villiers.
 Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Edwin Pickwood*, called in; and Examined.

13704. Mr. *Wilson*.] YOU are a resident and a proprietor in the island of St. Kitts?—I am the son of a proprietor; I do not own any property myself. Mr. *E. Pickwood*.

13705. Is your father still alive?—My father is not; my mother is. 29 March 1848.

13706. You have resided in the island a number of years?—I have resided there for the last 18 years.

13707. You left Harrow School and went direct to St. Kitts?—Two years after I left Harrow I went to join my father, who presided in the courts of the island of St. Kitts; he was chief judge.

13708. How many years have you resided at St. Kitts?—With the exception of three years, I have been there the whole time.

13709. You have had many opportunities of forming an opinion as to the general state of St. Kitts, and the affairs of that island?—Yes; after my father's death I had the sole control and management of our family property, one of the largest in the island.

13710. In what year was that?—From the year 1830, when I went out to the West Indies. My father died in 1834, but owing to the many public duties he had to discharge I was director of the estate even before his death, but after his death I became my mother's attorney, and I had the entire control of that estate.

13711. That was before the period of emancipation?—Four years before the period of emancipation.

13712. Therefore you are able to speak to the condition of the island, and of your own property in particular, for four years prior to emancipation, during the whole period of apprenticeship, and during the period that has elapsed since apprenticeship?—As regards other opportunities I have had of forming an opinion, I have been during the whole of that time a member of the Legislative Assembly of St. Kitts, during the time of slavery, during apprenticeship, and under the present existing system.

13713. Will you state to the Committee what, in your opinion, are the chief causes which have led to the failure of the planting interests in that island, which has been so much complained of, of late years?—I think it may be traced to a great variety of causes, but, in my own mind, I have no hesitation in saying that the principal evil with which the West Indians have had to contend has been that of absenteeism, the total withdrawal of nearly the whole of the proprietary body. I speak particularly with respect to St. Kitts and the neighbouring small islands, and I speak from information derived from other sources not within my own knowledge as regards the larger islands.

13714. In the island of St. Kitts to what extent does absenteeism prevail; what portion of the estates are managed by resident proprietors and what by attorneys or agents of absentees?—In the island of St. Kitts absenteeism prevails to a most fearful extent. I am bound to say, as far as St. Kitts is concerned,

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cerned, and as regards what we should term, out there, the higher orders of people, by which is understood the proprietary body (because we have none higher there except the governor of the colony), there is no such class; there are exceptions, men of education and family and men of enlightened minds, but those are merely exceptions.

13715. Have you any idea of the proportion of estates which are managed by resident proprietors and those managed by the agents of absentees; should you say three-fourths of the estates are managed by the agents of absentees?—A considerably larger portion than that. I have been so recently from the island that I could almost mention every one.

13716. Would you say seven-eighths?—I should say seven-eighths. I think there are not more than 15 resident proprietors in the management and possession of their own properties.

13717. In seeing that there are only 15 resident proprietors in the possession of their own properties, you do not exclude from that number those proprietors whose estates are mortgaged to merchants in England, do you?—No, clearly not; because I do not think there is one in that position.

13718. When you speak of resident proprietors, you include those who are nominally the proprietors of the estates?—Yes; in whom the fee-simple still remains. It may be mortgaged to any amount you please.

13719. Will you tell the Committee what, in your estimation, are the chief evils arising from absenteeism?—It will be hardly necessary to observe that it acts by lowering the tone of society in general, and therefore has a most pernicious influence upon the land in that way. But the system, as regards attorneyships, is what I would particularly allude to.

13720. The necessity of employing attorneys to manage estates is one of the causes of the evils to which your refer?—Yes.

13721. Will you explain the evils that arise from that necessity?—The proprietary body are not represented individually. It is a misfortune, perhaps, that one man having established a reputation as an attorney, represents the interests of many others. It has always been the case that there has been some one person who very deservedly, no doubt, from peculiar circumstances, has been entrusted with the management and control of nearly one-third of the actual estates in the island.

13722. One single attorney?—Yes.

13723. Is that single attorney competent to pay personal attention to the estates the management of which he has under his care, or is he obliged to employ agents under him?—He is necessarily forced to employ managers, and those managers, for the most part, are persons selected from the lower grade of society; and whatever his activity, and whatever his power may be, he must be dependent, in a great measure, upon those persons.

13724. Generally speaking, would you say that those persons are competent to the task to the same degree that the proprietor would be were he looking over his own property?—It may so happen. There are instances, as far as agriculture is concerned, where it may be so; but that is not where the evil, in my mind, exists. It may so happen that men brought up to this particular business are more competent to carry on the agricultural department of an estate than the actual proprietor.

13725. The parties you are now speaking of are the overseers of estates?—Managers and overseers. As regards the managers of estates, they cannot be actuated by the same motives as the proprietor would be. The object of a manager of an estate, in the first instance, is to build himself up a character to get a large crop. He goes upon an estate which is producing little or nothing; and if he succeeds in getting a large crop, no one knows except the merchant at home at what cost that crop is produced. If in the course of the year it is thought expedient to remove him, there is no difficulty in his getting employment the next day on any other estate. Such a person cannot be supposed to have those inducements which a resident proprietor would have in keeping down the expenses of the estate.

13726. One of the faults of overseers or managers of estates is, that they want personally to get a reputation for getting a large crop, regardless of the expenditure of the proprietor?—Yes. I do not include in this the whole body of men, nor do I mean to say that they are necessarily regardless, but in no portion of the world would a man's property succeed so well in his absence, and particu-
larly

larly in the West Indies, from certain peculiarities which belong to West India property alone; whereas there is no property that I am aware of, in any part of the world, which has given per acre such a gigantic return, so there is no property which has required such an outlay to procure that return, and also that return is very uncertain. If instances were wanted, it has been the case, within the last three years, that an acre of land has produced four tons of sugar; and I do not mean one solitary acre, but a piece of cane land of 10 acres. I by no means give that as an average, but I am only stating what has been done. If sugar were bringing 25 *l.* sterling a hogshead, the Committee will at once see what an enormous return it would be for that particular 10 acres. In the event of a dry year, that same land would not produce 10 barrels. I have seen that within my own experience; it would produce nothing sometimes.

13727. Your observations now are to show rather the uncertainty of the crop?—Yes; but where an estate requires such an outlay, it would require particularly the supervision of the person directly interested in the expenditure.

13728. The object of your present remarks is, to show that the circumstances are so different at different periods, that they required especially the presence and judgment of the proprietor, in order to act differently under the variety of circumstances to which the estates are exposed?—Certainly.

13729. And that it is difficult, therefore, to delegate such instructions to a mere agent as would enable him to act wisely and prudently under all the peculiar circumstances to which West India property is exposed?—Yes; and from those circumstances there is no property so soon ruined as West India property. In one year, from bad management, a property may be plunged into the greatest difficulties and distress.

13730. Which it may cost a great sum of money to restore?—Clearly.

13731. You are of opinion that, looking to that peculiar characteristic of West India property, the presence of the proprietor who can exercise full control, and exercise his own judgment upon the spot, under peculiar circumstances, is the more necessary, in consequence of those accidental circumstances, than on any other property in the world?—Yes.

13732. Do you think that it would be safe or prudent for a West India proprietor to invest an overseer with such an amount of power as to enable him to do anything, or to follow any course which might be necessary under all those peculiar circumstances?—The overseer is never entrusted with such power by absent proprietors; there is always an attorney; the attorney visits that estate, of course; and on that estate there is generally a manager, and an overseer under him.

13733. It is peculiarly the duty of the manager and the overseer to be conversant with, and to be able to inform the attorney of all the peculiar circumstances, the accidents of seasons, or the accidents of cultivation which may arise, and to advise the attorney as to the course which shall be pursued, as to any special estate in the island?—The attorney is the responsible man, of course; the manager is under his control, and is subject entirely to his orders; but a person who has the command of so many properties must necessarily be very dependent upon his managers.

13734. What you mean is, that the manager of an estate, or the overseer of an estate, representing a particular circumstance to an attorney, the responsible agent for the estate in the island, the attorney under such circumstances would not be likely to attend to his instructions or his representations so much as the proprietor himself, were he resident upon the spot, and able to investigate into the representations which the overseer made, and to judge for himself upon the spot as to the propriety of following such advice?—The proprietor would be resident upon his estate, and the circumstances would be passing before his own eyes. I am now taking a case where he does not think himself capable of managing it, or where he fancies some one else more competent to direct the agricultural part of the estate than himself.

13735. How far, according to your practical observation and experience, have you seen the success of estates apparently dependent, or arising out of proprietors being resident upon their estates, and the want of success dependent upon non-residence?—As far as the island in which I have resided is concerned, I can speak very strongly upon this point. When I speak of the proprietors who have been residing in the island, I do not mean at the present moment, for I have been eight months away from St. Kitts, and during that time sugar

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has fallen very much; but since the year 1830, most of the proprietors living in the island have survived every crisis, and there have been a good many during that time; I cannot say this from any documentary evidence, but in all small communities the circumstances of persons are pretty generally known, therefore I can take upon myself to say that many of those persons have not only kept possession of their estates, and holding no appointment, have lived out of their properties, but they have succeeded in paying off family and other claims; I speak of those persons whom I know personally, and who have been resident within my own time, since the year 1830.

13736. Would you say of the present proprietors in the island of St. Kitts, their condition since 1830 has been decidedly improved, and that they have upon the whole succeeded in the cultivation of their estates, and succeeded not only in maintaining themselves in comfort, but in many cases, or in the generality of cases, have succeeded in relieving their properties of charges to which they were then subject?—Yes. It is difficult to enter into the circumstances of other people. They have received during that time the amount of compensation money, but it is well known that previous to that time there was not an estate which was not mortgaged to more than its value; I speak of several islands.

13737. Since the emancipation of the slaves in 1834, is it your opinion that the condition of those estates has improved, and a portion of those claims have been paid off by the resident proprietors, and that they have during the same period maintained themselves out of the estates?—Many of the proprietors have lost their estates since that; but there are men with whom I am personally acquainted, and who have survived every crisis since 1830; they are now in possession of estates, having lived out of the estates; perhaps not well, but they have had no other means of existence.

13738. Is it your opinion, that upon the whole those estates to which you refer, belonging to resident proprietors, are less encumbered by charges than they were at the period of the emancipation of the slaves?—Certainly; but that would be accounted for in some measure by the compensation money.

13739. The compensation money went in the first instance to the mortgagees?—Unhappily it did; that is a question which it is useless to discuss now, because it is past, but unhappily it did, the whole of it.

13740. Irrespective of the portion of claims paid off in consequence of the compensation money, is it your own opinion that those estates have otherwise been cleared from a portion of the claims which then existed upon them?—Yes, within my own knowledge several have; as regards the compensation money, it would only reduce the time from 1830 to 1834 as to which I would speak.

13741. Since the compensation money was paid, is it your opinion those proprietors have succeeded in still further diminishing their charges?—Within my knowledge a great many have. I am not prepared to say at this moment how many, and I give the authority upon which I make these statements. The estates of those who have not succeeded have passed out of their possession, and those who have succeeded have been living out of their estates, and, in many instances, they have paid off family claims, and have reduced others, because at the time of emancipation the mortgagee took all the compensation money, and you made your own terms with him, depending upon the person with whom you had to deal, and he reduced his mortgage to something within the value of the estate; that was the case in nine instances out of ten.

13742. In your opinion, speaking comparatively, what would you say of the prosperity of the island of St. Kitts since 1834, and for the period prior to that; I could not form a very accurate opinion. I have heard of an outcry since 1807; but that is going beyond the period to which I can speak.

13743. What, in your opinion, if those people have been enabled to improve their condition by the payment of a portion of the claims which existed upon the estates previously, has led to the present complaint of the West India body, as far as you are acquainted with them, and to the distress which exists now among the planters?—I would not wish to state that the proprietors have been enjoying an uninterrupted flow of prosperity, but sugars have been at very remunerating prices since that time. As regards other causes of distress I have a note of some here. I was not aware till very recently of the exact increase in the production of sugar, but from the statements which I have seen, and which I take as the data from which to reason, I think it will account in a very great measure,

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measure, for the last 20 years, for the gradual fall in price; the increase all over the world.

13744. The Committee have had a very able and intelligent witness examined before them, who spoke particularly to the condition of the island of St. Kitts, who had himself been resident as a manager of an estate, Mr. Greene; he put in a table showing the cost of producing sugar upon an estate with which he was connected for six years prior to the emancipation of the slaves, showing that it cost 4*l.* 18*s.* per ton during those six years; that for four years, during the period of apprenticeship, it cost 6*l.* 11*s.* a ton; that for the next succeeding four years after apprenticeship, it cost 6*l.* 19*s.* per ton; and that for the last four years, ending 1846, it cost 21*l.* 11*s.* per ton. Are you acquainted with any of the circumstances connected with the cultivation of this estate, or are you acquainted with Mr. Greene himself, or do you remember his residing upon the island?—I am personally acquainted with Mr. Greene, and with that estate. I knew Mr. Greene when he managed the estate.

13745. Is not it the case that Mr. Greene was considered, and in reality was, one of the most successful and able managers of an estate whom you have ever known to be in the island of St. Kitts?—No doubt of it; I have not the slightest doubt that he was considered so; and it was the more astonishing as he was a very young man, but though very young he was particularly steady and very successful.

13746. Do you attribute to the personal attention and superior management of Mr. Greene the peculiar success which attended that estate while he was resident upon the island?—I do so.

13747. Other statements which we have had before this Committee, and other statements made before other Committees appointed to inquire into the subject of the West Indies, have shown that the average cost of producing sugar during that period was more like 16*s.* or 17*s.* a cwt. than 5*s.*, as would appear from this account; do you attribute the great difference in any measure to Mr. Greene's personal attention and residence upon the spot?—I was not aware till this morning what evidence was given by Mr. Greene before the Committee, and I at once said that could be attributed only to a difference of management.

13748. Mr. Greene states he left the island in the early part of 1837, consequently the crop of 1836 would be the last over which he had the personal superintendence?—I returned to St. Kitts in 1837; Mr. Greene had left then.

13749. Mr. Greene states in his evidence that he returned to England in the early part of 1837, consequently the crop of 1836, as given in this table, must have been the last which had the advantage of his personal superintendence. I find, and it agrees with your observations, that the item "Other plantation expenses" rose in one single year from 1,257*l.*, that being the last year of Mr. Greene's management, to 1,910*l.* in the first year of his successor's management; will you tell the Committee, from your recollection, what the character of that change was, and what the character of his successor was?—I was personally acquainted with Mr. Greene and also with his successor; the one earned a great reputation as a planter, and the other was dismissed from that employment after some years by Mr. Greene's father, who is the owner of this very property, and it is to be presumed for mismanagement.

13750. His character was notoriously that of a bad manager?—I will not take upon myself to say that, but Mr. Greene evidently thought so.

13751. Was that understood to be the cause of his dismissal?—I will not take upon myself to decide upon another man's merits. I only know that Mr. Greene's father, who is now alive, removed him after some years, and it is to be presumed, from mismanagement.

13752. From your recollection, was it understood in the island that he was a very inferior manager to Mr. Greene?—Certainly.

13753. Do you recollect how long he was intrusted with the management of the estate?—He was there some years; I think four or five years.

13754. In the last year of Mr. Greene's management the net expenditure of the estate was 979*l.*, and the crop was 210 tons; the following year when Mr. Greene left, and the estate was put into the hands of an attorney, the net expenditure was 1,459*l.*, and the crop was only 211 tons, being one ton more; do you account for that difference solely from the cause of a different management, or is there any other reason that you can suggest?—I can only repeat what I said before; the moment it was mentioned to me, and before I knew the period of Mr. Greene's

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departure, I said it can only be accounted for by a change in the management. It is a very seasonable estate and a very fine estate; perhaps one of the finest in the island.

13755. Can you tell the Committee when the apprenticeship was concluded?—In 1838.

13756. In 1838, which was still under the same circumstances with regard to the state of labour, the net expenditure which, under Mr. Greene's management, was 979*l.* had risen to 1,459*l.*, the crop being only a ton more; the second year of the new management shows a further increase from 1,459*l.* to 1,796*l.* Do you account for that further increase upon a smaller crop from the same cause?—Wages rose in that year.

13757. In 1836, under Mr. Greene's own management, the total expenses of the estate amounted to 2,057*l.*; the very first year Mr. Greene leaves, and gives it to an attorney to manage, the total expenses rise immediately to 2,710*l.* without any increase in the crop except one ton; in the following year the total expense of the estate rises to 2,896*l.*, but in the latter part of that year the change from the state of apprenticeship may account for that increase. Is that your opinion?—I cannot account for the increase of any one individual year; all I would say as regards that table is, that it is impossible for me, not having access to the facts of the estate or to the books of the estate, to account for the great increase except by a change in the management. I cannot say more. If I were asked whether this would have been the state of things if Mr. Greene had managed the estate, I should say certainly it would not.

13758. Confining your attention to the difference between the year 1836 and the year 1837, you do not know any reason for that difference excepting the change of management?—No. I will not take upon myself to say that the whole of this increase was to be attributed to the change of management, but when I was first asked to account for it, I said that I could not account for it in any way except by the change of management.

13759. You recollect, as a matter of fact, that Mr. Greene was himself considered one of the best managers that was ever in the island of St. Kitts, while his successor was considered an inferior one?—Yes; I can say, without exception, that Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene was considered one of the best managers in the island of St. Kitts, and the most successful.

13760. I will call your attention to the last year; the difference in the amount of labour paid in 1845 and in 1846. Mr. Greene in his evidence stated that he attributed that to the introduction of implements; can you give the Committee any opinion as to the improvement or economy which has been effected in the cultivation of the island by the introduction of implements during the last three or four years?—It has been very great indeed. Upon this very estate it commenced under Mr. Greene's auspices; upon that estate was erected the first steam-engine, I believe, which came out from Mr. Bligh's manufactory, and subsequently to that period we have had 40 or 50 others.

13761. Mr. Goulburn.] In what year was that?—I suppose about the year 1833.

13762. Mr. Wilson.] I spoke rather of the introduction of implements of late years?—In every case where they have been introduced it has had the greatest effect.

13763. Do you believe that there has been a great economy from the introduction of implements within the last few years?—On a great many estates there has been a great introduction of implements; some men will, however, oppose all improvements.

13764. Have you observed that the resident proprietors have shown any greater readiness to adopt improvements than the attorneys who have represented the non-resident proprietors?—All resident proprietors in the island have done so; I cannot say to what extent the non-residents have instructed their attorneys; but of course labour has been economized to a certain extent, and very greatly, because the estates could not go on under the old system.

13765. Is that process of economizing labour by that means still going forward?—It was up to my leaving; I do not suppose that the prices of sugar now would justify any further outlay.

13766. Do you anticipate a still further reduction in the cost of sugar from the use of those implements?—I should hope so.

13767. Have you formed any opinion as to how far the present West India distress is attributable to the admission of foreign sugar into this market?—It would

would appear that opening any large supply to this country would cause a corresponding depression; but if I am to argue from results, it did not appear to be so last year; when I left St. Kitts in June last, sugars were, in the month before, or in the month of May, at a very fair price, as far as we knew, in the colonies.

13768. Was there a speculation in sugar in the colonies at that period?—Not in our sugar, because very little is sold in the island.

13769. How far do you think the West India body have been affected at different periods by the acts of the Government, and in what way?—I believe they think that the very uncertain policy which has been adopted has, in a great measure, tended to injure the West India interests. I was in England in the year 1834, and I am perfectly aware of the feeling which prevailed at that period as regards slavery; and I think that the Government was so hampered that they had not power to act. I am not one of those who fancy that the Government has determined to ruin any part of the British dominions, but I am quite aware that a party-feeling prevailed at that time, and that the governors whom they appointed partook of that feeling; and the stipendiary magistrates, who were appointed, generally speaking, from persons in this country, partook of that feeling still more strongly, and that it was too much the practice to induce the labourer to regard his employer as his natural enemy, so to speak. But whilst making this declaration, I am bound to say that the evil here spoken of has ceased to exist for some time past. It is within my knowledge, from the appointment of Sir Charles FitzRoy to the Leeward government, and of the late lamented Mr. Cunningham to St. Kitts, that, from their high example, this unhappy state of things was succeeded by more liberal and enlightened views, and that, at the present moment, the law as between the employer and the employed is fairly administered. From public sources it can also be learnt, that, about the same period, a better feeling sprung up under the wise rule of Lord Metcalfe in Jamaica, and I believe throughout the colonies.

13770. Are you of opinion, from what you observed, that a very unnecessary suspicion existed?—Yes, and I think one of the causes of the present distress has been the absence of all legislation tending to stimulate labour at the time of the apprenticeship; and I think that the acts of the colonial legislatures were looked on with extreme suspicion at that time.

13771. You refer to the colonial legislatures in the islands?—Yes. The feeling evidently was, that after so great a sacrifice slavery was not to be tolerated in any form whatever. I think that feeling was carried to a most fearful height, as regards the interests of both classes.

13772. You think that it was prejudicial to the labourers as well as to the proprietors?—Yes.

13773. It is your opinion that the acts of the Government imposed such restrictions upon the planters, and disallowed so much the judgment or the exercise of the discretion of the colonial legislature with regard to the regulations of labour, that they acted prejudicially to the interests of both parties?—Certainly; which is one of the causes which I think has led to the present state of things.

13774. Is it your opinion that the process of emancipation was much too sudden, and that a longer period of apprenticeship, going over such a length of time as would have accustomed the slaves to habits of industry, and have brought up the new generation with feelings of liberty, but with habits of industry, would have been better calculated to promote the interests of both parties?—I think so; and I think it must be admitted by all parties now.

13775. You think that it was a fatal error on the part of the Legislature of this country to abolish the system of apprenticeship, but that it ought rather, in due consideration of the interests of both the planter and the labourer, to have been extended to a longer period rather than curtailed to a shorter period?—Yes, that they should have sanctioned such laws as were framed in the spirit of English laws; of course they must have been suited to the local circumstances; but such laws should have been passed for restraining the labourer as were altogether within the spirit of those laws existing in England.

13776. Is it your opinion that such restrictions as you have alluded to having been imposed upon the labourer at that period, would have added as well to his moral as to his physical comforts and interests?—I have no hesitation in saying so.

13777. Is it your opinion that the sudden change from slavery to apprenticeship, and then from apprenticeship to perfect freedom, had the effect of demoralizing,

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izing, and rendering idle, and giving vagrant habits to the population, which were prejudicial to their moral as well as to their physical comforts?—So much so, that I am quite astonished that the negro works as much as he does, and is as good a subject as he is; his natural wants in that magnificent climate are very few indeed, and easily supplied.

13778. Have you found, on the part of the Colonial Office at home, any disposition to co-operate with the local Assembly of your island in passing laws which you consider sufficient to restrain vagrancy and squatting, and otherwise to restrain the population from habits of indolence?—I do not think so.

13779. You do not think that you have been supported by the Colonial Office in that effort?—I do not think so. I think every Government has been so pressed by public feeling here, and the tender regard they have had for the interests of the slave, that not till very recently, when from the reports of their own governors it is known that in no part of the world are any labouring population in such an independent position as the negro is now, that that feeling has subsided. I think that feeling prevailed to such an extent that it hampered every Government, and their subordinates partook of that feeling.

13780. Do you consider that the public in Great Britain, from the ignorance which prevailed as to the actual condition of those islands and the condition of the slave population, and in consequence of prejudices which they had imbibed during the anti-slavery agitation, influenced and pressed upon every Government from time to time in such a way that they were not able to co-operate with local Assemblies in placing such restraint upon the negroes as would have been really beneficial to them?—Certainly. I was in England in 1834 myself; I am proud to say I have been brought up in England; I came from a public school, and I hope, as regards slavery, I entertained the dislike to it which all English persons did; but I was in England in 1834, and I attended public meetings, and I know the feeling that raged then; for it was an epidemic that raged. The people of England had not the slightest idea of the change that was about to take place; they had certain images of slavery and chains before them, and from those circumstances they determined, after the enormous sacrifice that was made, to gain unrestricted freedom, that it should not be continued in the shape of apprenticeship; and they looked with suspicion upon every act of the local legislature which they thought would effect that object; and every Government, I think, from that time has been so hampered as to have caused them to act in a manner which has been equally detrimental to the labouring population and to the proprietary body.

13781. You carry the great fault back to the prejudices and the ignorance of the English public?—As regards that particular charge.

13782. Have you found that that same prejudice and ignorance which you have described on the part of the English public acting upon the Government here from time to time, has influenced prejudicially the introduction of fresh labourers, as well as the control of the labourers existing in the islands?—I think it has. As regards St. Kitts we have imported a great many free labourers into the island.

13783. At what period?—Within the last three or four years.

13784. Prior to the last three or four years, immediately after the abolition of apprenticeship, were there not such restrictions against the introduction of labourers of any kind as rendered it quite impossible?—Clearly. I do not think it was ever attempted in St. Kitts.

13785. And it has been only within the last three or four years that such restrictions have been practically removed?—I think so.

13786. Therefore you had really fallen back, and had not the opportunity of introducing fresh labourers during that period?—No.

13787. You are a member of the Legislative Assembly in St. Kitts; will you inform the Committee what enactment you at present have to compel the performance of contracts, and to prevent vagrancy and squatting in your island?—I believe they have all been disallowed; contract and vagrancy Acts have been passed, but they have been disallowed. There was one contract Act passed, I think, for three years, which was allowed.

13788. Can you furnish the Committee with copies or with the particulars of any of those Acts passed by your Assembly in St. Kitts for the compelling the performance of contracts or the suppression of vagrancy and squatting which have been disallowed, or can you furnish the Committee with the dates of them?—I cannot to-day.

13792. Will you furnish the Committee with the dates and the particulars as far as you can of all the Acts which have been passed by your local Assembly for the purpose of enforcing the performance of contracts, and for the purpose of suppressing vagrancy and squatting, which have been disallowed by the Colonial Office?—I find that, without a reference to the colony, I should be unable to do this.

13790. Is it your opinion that the disallowance of those Acts passed by the Colonial Assembly has been extremely prejudicial, not alone to the interests of the planters, but also to the best interests of the labouring classes themselves?—I think so; but I am hardly competent to give an opinion, because I have taken a part, perhaps a very immaterial one, in passing those very Acts.

13791. You have had an opportunity of observing the habits of the labouring classes in the island, and you have had an opportunity of observing the consequences which have resulted from the non-allowance of those various Acts; is it your opinion, after what you have seen, that the non-allowance of those Acts has proved prejudicial to the moral and physical condition of the labourers, as well as to the interest of the planters?—I think so; the negroes are seen walking into the town with articles which we know cannot belong to them; they supply the inhabitants with wood, and grass, and milk, and they possess no land, and own no forests, and have no cows. It is a well-known fact that they are stolen, but there is no one to question the right of those persons to vend those articles.

13792. Are the Committee to understand, that as a member of the Legislative Assembly of the island, it is distinctly your opinion that you have not at the present moment a sufficient stringency of law to prevent those improprieties on the part of the labouring population, or to maintain good order, and to check vagrancy, stealing, and squatting, and other improprieties?—I am of opinion that we not only have not sufficient, but we are without any.

13793. You attribute that to the disallowance of those Acts which you have passed from time to time, by the Colonial Office?—I do not know how faulty those Acts were; I can only say such Acts have been passed with a view of controlling these matters, and that they have been disallowed.

13794. You were educated at Harrow; you went out to the West Indies immediately on leaving Harrow, and you joined the Assembly in the island; you know the character of the parties who belong to that Assembly, and you must be pretty well aware of the feelings which influenced them in passing those various Acts; is it your opinion, as a private individual, disconnecting yourself for a moment from the Assembly, that those gentlemen were influenced by true regard to the interests of the labourers, or is it your opinion that they were influenced by a selfish reference to their own special interest as planters only?—I think that when they found that emancipation could no longer be avoided, the majority of them sought heart and soul to endeavour to make it work well; they believed that their own interests were identical with those of the labouring population. That they must have partaken somewhat freely of the prejudices which grew with their growth, I cannot deny, but I believe they went to work with a desire of meeting the objects which they knew to be entertained at home.

13795. You think that those Acts to which you have referred as having been disallowed, and which has left the island in a state of anarchy as far as regards the police of the island, were passed with a regard only to the general interests of the community, and not out of any special regard to the particular interests of the planters?—I think not; I think they legislated with the knowledge that those Acts would be viewed with a very scrutinizing eye on the part of the Government, and that whatever their private views might be, they so framed them as to avoid any such suspicion.

13796. How is the Legislative Assembly in St. Kitts constituted?—It is an annual parliament.

13797. What is the character of the constituency; who are the electors?—Every renter of a house of a certain value, 10 *l.*, and every person owning a house of 10 *l.* has a vote. It is framed very nearly in the spirit of the English law.

13798. It is a 10 *l.* franchise, is it?—Yes.

13799. Practically, is there any considerable portion of the black population who are electors?—Now there is.

13800. Are there any of them elected as members?—Yes, six or seven out of the 25 are coloured people.

13801. Is there any considerable portion of the electors coloured people?—Nearly all of them, from the absence of a white population.

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13802. Are the majority of the electors of the island coloured people?—A very great majority.

13803. Those Acts which have been disallowed by the Colonial Office have been actually Acts passed by the House of Assembly, consisting of a portion of coloured people, and elected by a majority of coloured people?—No question about it.

13804. Therefore, those Acts which have been passed in relation to vagrancy and squatting, and the performance of contracts, may be said to have really had the sanction of the whole of the constituency of the island, a large majority of whom were coloured people?—Yes, and Government, I believe, were very well satisfied at the time with the very liberal Act that was passed for the extension of the franchise.

13805. Can you give the Committee any information with regard to the lands which are in the occupation of the labouring population, other than those belonging to private individuals?—In the absence of any laws to restrain vagrancy and squatting, the negroes occupied lands in every part of the island where they could find them, and in the old colonies there are several large portions of land belonging to the Crown, old forts, and fortifications which were thought necessary; those were in the occupation of the negroes; no one molested them, they built their houses by mutual consent, and divided the land which they found.

13806. They have taken possession of those lands of their own accord?—Yes. In all those old islands at every point there is a fort enclosed, and in some cases a very large portion of land belonging to the Crown. Since the war they have not been used; they are not in the occupation of any one, but taken possession of by the negroes; wherever they can get a bit of land there they will build a house.

13807. Has there been no means taken by the representatives of the Crown to prevent the forcible occupation of the lands belonging to them by the labouring population?—Within the last 12 months a step has been taken, but up to that time they have been in quiet possession since the time of freedom. The colony gave the land over to the Crown, and it is now in the occupation of the commander of the forces.

13808. Is there no rent paid for those grounds which have been taken possession of by the labouring population?—Not the slightest during the time they occupied them.

13809. Do they still occupy them?—They have been dislodged within the last 18 months, but up to that period they had them.

13810. Have you any other observations to make with regard to the effect which the occupation of those lands by the labouring population has had upon their own habits or the interests of the island?—It must occur to every one that it is very prejudicial in a climate of that sort, where the natural wants are so few, where vegetation is constantly progressing, and where the crops follow one another in a succession which is truly wonderful; if the negroes were not very fond of fine dress we should not have any inducement to compel them to work more than two days in a week. That has in a great measure caused this want of labour. I conceive we have nearly labourers enough in the island of St. Kitts to cultivate the island.

13811. How far does the want of effective labour exist, and from what causes does it exist?—From the absence of all laws to restrain those people and to direct their energies; the want of labour has arisen in that way. Many of them do not labour at all, and those who do, do not perform their full proportion of labour. When sugar was at high prices the managers of estates walked out into the high roads and outbid one another; then came the Agricultural Association.

13812. What was the object of that association?—For the purpose of agriculture, but one of their rules was to restrain persons from such practices; all the members were bound to give a certain price. There were a certain number of rules which they were bound to observe, but they were evaded in every possible way. If the manager agreed to give only 1s. a day on his employer's property, in the evening the gang came and received a pint of molasses and half a pint of rum each in addition to the 1s. a day. That, too, is one of the evils of absenteeism; the manager would outbid his neighbours as regards waste lands, and the higher the price of sugar was the more they would outbid each other.

13813. Although one of the regulations of this agricultural society was partly for the purpose of restraining each other against taking away each other's labourers, yet that regulation was very materially evaded, as well as the arrangement among the planters not to pay more than a certain rate of wages?—Yes; I know that

that to be a general ground of complaint; it is a common topic of conversation in the colonies the acts of neighbours with regard to each other.

13814. Is it your opinion that the wages in the island are too high?—I understand, from public accounts, they have been reduced one-third. I was surprised to hear it, because we know how easy it is to raise the standard of wages, and how difficult it is to reduce it; but I understand they have been reduced one-third. I think they were too high.

13815. Was it always the case in years when high prices of sugar prevailed that a great effort was made by different planters to procure each others' labourers?—Of course the temptation was so much the greater; inducements of every kind were held out to them. The labourer was more independent; he not only got more wages, but he did less work as a matter of course.

13816. That was in consequence of a competition existing among the planters?—Yes.

13817. In order to avail themselves of the very high price of sugar which prevailed at the time?—Yes.

13818. In proportion as the price of sugar was high that temptation increased, and they paid higher wages, and used increased means to obtain each others' labourers?—There is no question about it.

13819. Is it a notorious fact, that a great part of the conversation among yourselves in the island is devoted to the tricks of each other for the purpose of obtaining each others' labourers?—It is the principal theme, I think.

13820. What gave rise in the first place to this extraordinary high rate of wages that you paid till a late period?—Several circumstances contributed to it; the negroes began, I think, at as low as 6 *d.* a day, but certainly not more than 8 *d.* It was generally admitted that when wages rose to their maximum, sugar could be cultivated at a profit.

13821. What was the maximum?—It has never gone higher than 1 *s.*; but it is not 1 *s.* a day for a day's work; the negroes were never seen in the field after 10 or 11 o'clock in the day.

13822. What proportion of labour do you think a man gave for that 1 *s.*; in comparison with what he did in the time of apprenticeship; how many hours did he work in the one case, and how many in the other case?—In the one case his time was proportioned; he worked either 7½ hours for six days, or nine hours for five days, giving him the sixth day for cultivating his own ground.

13823. How many hours did he work for this 1 *s.* a day afterwards?—When they became free, the people began to work by task-work, and when labour rose, one of the inducements was to give them less work. I have seen a statement Mr. Greene made as regards the cost of his labour, in a deputation to Lord Grey. It was thought a very singular fact that as the labourer got more money he should do less work, but it is very clear it was so; 1 *s.* a day was the maximum of his inducement; say one estate was doing 300 cane-holes for 1 *s.* a day; in the next estate they would only call upon the labourers to do 250; that was by way of out-bidding his neighbour; though he did not give more money, he did less work.

13824. Are there any perquisites which labourers have given to them or take of their own accord, in addition to their wages, since the period of apprenticeship expired?—Yes; they make use of all the waste ground upon the estate without asking leave.

13825. Is not it the case that labourers generally have either horses or ponies and goats?—They have all that. I believe nearly every grown-up working man, or two-thirds of them, have ponies. It is only the first cost they have to meet; they tether them upon your land without asking you.

13826. In addition to the wages that you give to your labourers, each estate furnishes a labourer with keep for his horse, and keep for his goats and his sheep?—Yes.

13827. Is that any part of the agreement with the labourers?—It is to keep them on the estate; it is not a part of the agreement.

13828. It is a thing which the labourer takes of his own accord?—Yes; if he does not come to work for you, the only thing you can do is to say, "You shall not make use of my land;" he will tell you, "I will go to the next estate; I should be very well received there."

13829. He knows if you will not let him tether his animals upon your grass your next neighbour, in order to get his labour, will be very glad to do it?—Very glad to do it indeed.

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13830. That may be considered as an addition, practically, to the wages which he receives?—It must be so.

13831. Have you formed any opinion as to the comparative cheapness or dearness of slave labour and free labour in the British colonies?—I have paid some attention to that fact.

13832. What is your opinion as to the comparative dearness or cheapness of labour prior to the emancipation of the slaves and since?—I consider that those resident proprietors (and their number is exceedingly few) who in time of slavery complied with all the requisites of the Act which is known in the West Indies as the Amelioration Act, were subject to an expense which was very considerable; and without any reference to the price of sugar, it is cheaper to cultivate an estate by free labour, provided it is continuous labour, for that is essential, than under the old system. The only estate I can speak of is our own family estate; it is as fair a sample as can be adduced as regards that island; it is not the largest, but it is one of the best, and it had a gang of negroes not more than sufficient for its cultivation. It has not more than 200 acres of land, and on it we had 264 negroes; that was not more than sufficient to cultivate the estate. Slave labour may have been considered cheaper than free labour from some circumstances. I am bound to say, upon the death of my father documents came into my hands by which the then governor admitted that the provisions of that Act were openly violated by the planters; with respect to my father, who held a high official appointment, and who was an English gentleman, and who cultivated his estate or superintended the expenditure of it, I can say that the money paid for the support of those gangs then would not be much more than equal to the amount required for the cultivation of the estate by free labour now.

13833. Will you describe to the Committee the different kind of expenses to which your were subject during slavery, which you are not subject to now?—Under the provisions of the Amelioration Act the slave was entitled to eight pints of meal a week, and a pound and a quarter of salt fish. In bringing forward this estate I am prepared to say it is not an overdrawn statement; it was neither overhanded, as it is called, nor underhanded. That would be two puncheons of meal, at 60 dollars, or 12*l.* 10*s.*; two and a half barrels of herrings would be 15 dollars; that would bring it to a weekly consumption of 15*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The provisions would be 81*l.* 10*s.*; clothing and implements I have put at 100*l.*; medical attendance, at 9*s.* currency a head, say 50*l.*; and I have put down the expenses of the hospital, 25*l.* This sum would be the cost of that gang. It is true that in after years a system was generally pursued of giving the negroes ground provisions instead, but that could not be done on every estate, and it is very problematical whether it was eventually beneficial to the interests of the proprietors or not; some held one thing, and some another; it was generally preferred, however, than going into the market and becoming indebted to the merchants; but the peculiar nature of those farinaceous roots impoverish the land exceedingly. It was more easy for the proprietor to go into the market to purchase and pay for those provisions to the merchants than to find a certain amount of capital every week in wages. But for this sum of money, which from our estate-books I can show we were forced to expend annually, that estate could be cultivated from one end to another, if we could get continuous labour.

13834. Out of that gang of 264 slaves how many were actually employed in labour, and how many were invalided, or infants, or old people?—They were put in different gangs: there were 70 on the first gang, about 60 on the second, and then there were little people; then there were tradesmen, house servants, drivers, overlookers, carters, and mechanics.

13835. The cost of that gang of slaves, which your father considered necessary to manage the estate, was as great as you would require to pay for free labour, according to the present current rate of wages, to cultivate that estate well from one end to the other at the present time?—Yes, if you could get the labour.

13836. Can you tell the Committee as to the proportionate produce of an estate under those circumstances of slavery, and what it would be under the free labour which you at present speak of?—When I said this sum of money would be sufficient if you could go into the market and get labour, I meant to put it in the highest state of cultivation. I have not had access for some years to the books of the estate, because it is under the management of Mr. Greene; but I mean to say that this sum of money is sufficient, if you could get the labour, to put that estate in the highest possible condition of cultivation.

13837. You

13837. You would expect to get the same produce from it that you did in the time of slavery?—Quite as much, if you had corresponding seasons.

13838. Upon what do you found your calculation that that amount of wages would be sufficient to cultivate the estate?—I have expended 300*l.* less than this, because I could not get more labourers. When I had the management of the estate it was difficult to get labourers; I never expended this sum of money.

13839. With free labour, under your management, you have never been able to expend as much as you did during slavery?—No; it is within my knowledge that within the last three years as great a return was made from the lands of that estate as it had ever been known to produce. I cannot say at what cost, because it was not under my management.

13840. When it was under your management, you say you never expended so much, within 300*l.*, for labour, as the cost of that gang was during the period of slavery; but can you tell the Committee, from what you remember, of your own knowledge, whether you produced under your management with free labour as large a crop as you did with the additional expenditure under slavery?—The crops are not so large; there is not so much land in cultivation; every one found it necessary to abandon their mountain land. It was more laborious, and not so productive.

13841. What was the produce of the estate at the period of slavery to which you have referred, when that sum was laid out upon it; how many hogsheads of sugar did the estate make in those days?—About 150 hogsheads.

13842. How many hogsheads did it make under the management to which you refer, and with free labour, when you had the management of the estate?—In the absence of the accounts of the estate I can only speak generally; I can only say that the amount of sugar has decreased.

13843. What was the crop usually under free labour as long as you had the management of the estate?—During the time of my management it has varied from 40 hogsheads to 196.

13844. Did that variation from 40 to 196 take place under the free labour you refer to?—No, under slave labour; it is difficult to strike the average without seeing the books.

13845. You say 150 would be the average under slavery; what would be the average under free labour?—I do not think it has ever amounted to 100 hogsheads. Mr. Greene has had it since 1840. As a planter engaged on that particular estate, I would say that this sum of money, 1,000*l.*, would be ample for the purpose of putting every arable acre of the estate into first-rate cane cultivation, and if it pleased God to send the usual rains upon that property it would give as large an amount of sugar as it ever gave in the period of slavery.

13846. Mr. Miles.] How many arable acres are there?—Two hundred and thirty acres, but that includes mountain land, which has been out of cultivation many years ago; I will put it at 200 acres.

13847. Mr. Wilson.] What was the general state of agriculture in the island in the time of slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom?—In the time of slavery everything was done by the thews and sinews of the labourers; they had no idea of economizing labour, and in a great measure there was no need for it. If lands were to be opened instead of being ploughed they were opened by means of the cane hoe; if a mountain was to be removed it was all carried away upon the head, piecemeal.

13848. You had no implements which facilitated labour?—In no way whatever; it was not till the want of labour was felt persons began to discover that want of labour must be supplied in some way, and then it was that ploughs were imported; and after that other mechanical contrivances were invented, I believe.

13849. Were wheelbarrows in use during the time of slavery?—I do not believe it to be at all fabulous that those light wheelbarrows were carried upon the head in the first instance.

13850. Since the time of freedom there has been a large introduction of implements, and with great success?—Yes, with acknowledged success. As this want of labour grew more apparent, implements were invented which were never in existence before; implements for weeding, for example.

13851. Necessity has been the mother of invention in the West Indies as well as elsewhere, and the want of labour has led to the invention of many means of economizing labour which were not thought of before?—No doubt about it; the plough is working now in most of the fields, and it was supposed at one time canes would not grow upon ploughed land, that it was not deep enough.

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13852. Have you any confidence in the continuation of the economy, and in its being still further pushed in your colony by the additional introduction of implements?—I have no doubt of it. One of two things must take place; sugar must materially rise, or they must reduce their expenses.

13852*. Can you point out by what means the cost of sugar could be reduced by the introduction of improved implements?—I can only say that those resident proprietors who have gone further than others in the introduction of those implements have expressed themselves highly pleased with them, and to all appearance they are successful planters.

13853. And you think they will go still further?—I have no doubt of it.

13854. At what do you estimate the produce of the different qualities of the land in the island; you stated that at one period the mountain land was cultivated, and you stated that it has latterly been in a great measure abandoned?—In all those islands, with the exception of Barbadoes and Antigua, there are mountains rising from the sea. The estates slope on each side to the sea. In St. Kitts there is a range of mountain lands. All those mountain lands had been abandoned years before the emancipation of the negroes.

13855. Do you know what the difference of the return in the mountain lands and in the flat lands is?—The lower lands, what are called the middle lands of the estates, are capable of producing as much again. The mountain lands have this advantage, that they are more seasonable, and our lower lands are subject to dry weather. One year they will produce you two hogsheads of sugar an acre, and the next year I have seen upon the same piece of cane nothing got from it at all.

13856. The mountain lands, I presume, can only be stimulated under the system of very high prices?—No.

13857. Is distillation understood or practised much in your colony?—It is practised upon every estate, but I believe it is acknowledged we do not understand it; it is left in a great measure to the overseers. We know that a certain quantity of scum and a certain quantity of molasses, and a certain quantity of wash which have been set up in a vat, after a certain time, will produce spirit, but as a body we know nothing of distillation.

13858. Do you think the interests of the estates have been prejudiced by the ignorance of the parties to whom this distillation has been committed?—No question of it; I never heard any planter pretend to know anything about distillation.

13859. Do you know what proportion of spirit is made from the refuse of a given proportion of sugar?—Yes. On this very estate which I speak of the vats were particularly large. The stills in the island are generally 300 gallons, but this was a 600-gallon still, and that produced an average of 12 cans of five gallons of spirits, and nearly the same quantity of another spirit, which is called "low wines." The wash undergoes fermentation; that is drawn off into the still, and it is distilled, and from the produce of that you get 60 gallons of a strong rum, and about a similar quantity of a very weak spirit, called "low wines." The low wines are put into vats by themselves; and when you get 600 gallons, or enough to fill your still, you re-distil it, perhaps once in a month, or once in six weeks, and from that you get a strong spirit of wine, and with that spirit of wine you add to your rum to make it the market proof.

13860. Mr. Goulburn.] Six hundred gallons of wash make 60 gallons of spirit?—Yes.

13861. What quantity of molasses goes to make the 600 gallons of wash?—Forty pails of the skimmings, 60 pails of the lees, the residue of the previous still, and 10 pails of molasses.

13862. You speak of five-gallon pails all through?—Yes; then the vat is not quite full, and some add a few gallons of water, but that is the wash; a very active fermentation takes place, and in a certain number of days the wash is distilled, and from that you get the spirit which I have mentioned.

13863. Mr. Miles.] What is considered the average return of rum in proportion to 100 hogsheads of sugar: how many puncheons?—It was considered a very great return to have a number of puncheons of rum and molasses corresponding to the number of hogsheads of sugar made. It depends very much, as far as rum is concerned, upon the price of those articles; you can make rum from molasses alone.

13864. Is not that the case in St. Kitts usually?—No. If rum is very high they will use up their molasses. Two years ago rum was more remunerative than sugar;

sugar; and in that case the planter would use up as much molasses as he had room for in his loft. In every estate in St. Kitt's the molasses form a separate item in the account.

13865. Mr. *Goulburn*.] When you do make the rum of molasses do you know what quantity of spirit is obtained from a cwt. of molasses?—No; you expect to get the same quantity of rum that you use of molasses, or nearly so. So little is distillation understood, that to make rum of molasses alone, without the assistance of the scum, is not very often done, because they fail in getting a good return. The negro makes all the rum; he can neither read nor write; he chucks up 60 pails of one and 40 of another and 10 of another; and as he brings the pail upon his head he takes his finger and in a very original way he rubs out one chalk, and if the manager interferes with him he generally spoils the whole.

13866. Then it is not in the manager's power to make any improvement?—It is in his power if he is a good distiller; but I do not know such a person, and the return is pretty much the same throughout the island.

13867. Mr. *Wilson*.] Do you think it is a practical inconvenience or injury to the interests of the planters in St. Kitts that so little is understood of distillation?—I cannot think otherwise.

13868. How far has immigration been resorted to in the island of St. Kitts, and with what success has it been attended?—It was generally felt in the Legislature that immigration would be beneficial, and with that view large sums were expended. Agents were employed in England to send out English labourers, but, in a great degree, they failed. I suspect we did not get a very fair sample; they generally failed, though not entirely, because many were men of good character, and they taught the negro the use of the plough and many other agricultural implements, of which before he knew little or nothing. We got about 150 from Madeira, and those answered remarkably well; and I know that the attorney of the largest estate in the island at present cultivates his estate, and the neighbouring one, of which he is lessee, entirely by Portuguese labourers.

13869. What was the cause of the failure of the English labourers?—It was not an entire failure.

13870. In the cases where it was a failure, what was the cause?—The Englishman falls an early victim to the produce of those stills just spoken of, but when he is sober he is the best man that can be had.

13871. Was there anything in the island which was prejudicial to the English labourer; do you believe that an English or Irish labourer, provided he were sober, would labour beneficially in the island?—Very beneficially; there are many offices upon the estates in which he would be very useful. I do not think, however, the climate is fit for Europeans, and if he gives himself up to ardent spirits, it will destroy him in a very short time; but in attending plough horses no negro can be compared to him. There is no doubt that though their importation has been attended with some evils, yet, upon the whole, it has been beneficial. He takes care of your cart, though when he comes into the town, if he gets hold of any rum, it is ten chances to one that the cart will be taken up by the police, without its driver.

13872. It would be very beneficial, you think, if European labourers could be found to go to the island; there are many processes in which they could be usefully employed provided they were sober?—Yes. It was felt by every one that the negroes would see that we were not entirely dependent on them, but that if the country had the means of introducing those labourers, a great many unprofitable servants would be thrown out of employment in the manufacturing department. If you supplied those offices with white labourers, it would throw more of the negroes into the field.

13873. Would not it also have the effect of exercising a certain moral control over the other labourers if you had a few Englishmen?—I have some doubt of that. I think where those men have gone astray the example has been prejudicial.

13874. Provided you could get sober men, that would be the case?—Certainly there are many families there now who went out many years ago; there is no question but that to a certain extent it has succeeded.

13875. Have you had any description of immigration besides English and Portuguese?—No; we have had nearly 150 Portuguese.

13876. Constitutionally, do you think the European in that climate is afflicted with great thirst, and therefore has a greater temptation to become an habitual drunkard?—

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drunkard?—Certainly; it was considered by an Irishman as a most glorious country, on the ground that he was always drinking and always dry. I do not think the climate adapted to the European; in fact, if he indulge in rum he is a lost man.

13877. You think, even in the case of sober men, there is something connected with the climate that induces habits of thirst, which would naturally lead to habits of intemperance?—I think so.

13878. You have had no coolies nor African immigrants?—No; they have been swallowed up by the larger and more important colonies, Trinidad, Demerara, and Berbice.

13879. Do you suppose, if the Navigation Laws were altered in this country, so as to give you an opportunity of employing any ships you pleased, it would confer on you any benefit?—As far as the Navigation Laws are concerned, I have only looked at the question upon one side, namely, how the repeal would affect the West Indians. It would have the effect, I think, of lowering our freight, which is at a most cruel height. For many years freight from St. Kitts was 5 s. a cwt., or 5 l. a ton; this was felt to be so great a grievance that previously to emancipation a public meeting, at the instance of my father, was called in the year 1832, and the question was discussed, and he proposed to reduce it 1 s.; an arrangement, however, was carried that it should be reduced 6 d., with a view to a gradual reduction, feeling that our interests were identical with those of the shipowners, on whom we were dependent. All I can say is, that the parties who acted then have now passed away, and they have been succeeded by another and less influential body. A public meeting now, from the circumstances which I stated in the commencement of my examination, would not be responded to, because the attorney of a large mercantile house would not give his support to a measure which would destroy the supposed interest of his employers, because the merchants are shipowners as well, and therefore it remains at 4 s. 6 d. If from Demerara they get a freight at 2 s. 6 d., and from Jamaica for 3 s. or 3 s. 6 d., I do not think they can have any cause of complaint.

13880. You are aware that the Navigation Laws influence Demerara as much as they do St. Kitts; they apply as much to the one place as to the other?—Clearly.

13881. If you pay higher for your freight in St. Kitts than they do in Demerara, it cannot be in consequence of the Navigation Laws?—No. There is no doubt the freight might be reduced, and would have been reduced, if there were anything like an independent body in the island; but I am of opinion that a repeal of the Navigation Laws, as far as we are concerned, would have the effect of reducing the freight in our island.

13882. Have you any reason for believing that foreign ships would bring home your produce cheaper than British ships do now?—Yes; I think it would be of very little consequence to the grower of sugar whether the sailors that navigated the vessel that contained his produce were fed upon the smallest quantity of stock fish, or whether they had prime pork and beef to eat, if we could get our sugar home at a cheap rate.

13883. If you pay at the present rate a higher freight than is paid from Demerara, and both colonies are subject to the Navigation Laws, it cannot be the Navigation Laws alone which create your large rate of freight. If it be that you pay a higher rate of freight now than you would do to a foreign vessel, provided foreign vessels could go to your island, how would you be affected, with your present arrangements with mercantile houses in London, to whom your estates are mortgaged; would that fact enable you to release yourselves from your obligations to those houses; is not your rate of freight now fixed by arrangements with the mortgagee in England?—No; I am forced to give him my sugar. If I were to take out a ship upon an independent interest, and say I will receive all sugar at 3 s. 6 d., that would regulate, for a time at least, the freights of all the others. I am not bound to the merchant for any particular rate of freight; he is to take the ordinary rate of freight.

13884. Is there any peculiarity in the shipping from St. Kitts, any heavy drogherage or boat hire, more than there is in Trinidad or Demerara?—I suppose there is; I do not speak from my own knowledge of the freight from Demerara.

13885. Are not you of opinion that if the present rate of 4 l. 10 s. is higher than in proportion to the other colonies, the interests of the shipowners would lead them to send their ships to St. Kitts, and would reduce it to a level with the

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the others?—Take the case of Mr. Greene; he has many estates; he employs as many ships as he can freight from that island; it so happened that rather than come down in their freight, he and another house coalesced; he says, I have double the number of estates that you have; I will send out twice the number of ships that you do.

13886. The limited quantity of produce which you have to send home would not require a large number of ships, and those who have the estates under their management have therefore in some measure the control of the produce?—Yes.

13887. Is not this high freight rather the consequence of the estates having actually been dependent upon the arrangements of certain merchants and ship-owners in some degree?—I think it may be. But the planter says, Now you have placed me on a footing to grow sugar in competition with the whole world; let me have the option of seeing if I cannot get my sugar home a little cheaper.

13888. You think that the Navigation Laws, as far as they confine you at present to employing British ships to send your produce to Europe, must either be prejudicial to you in imposing a higher rate of freight upon you, or must be useless to the shipowner if he does not get a higher rate of freight than he otherwise would do?—Yes.

13889. To what extent do you think a differential duty of 10 s. a cwt. in favour of our colonies would benefit the proprietors of estates?—Unless it were permanent I do not think it would be beneficial at all.

13890. On what ground do you form that opinion?—One of the great evils with which we have had to contend hitherto, is the very uncertain and vacillating policy of the Government at home towards the West Indians; it has been stated that if 10 s. a cwt. were put on, the proprietor would get 10 l. a hogshead more.

13891. Do you think he would?—Certainly not: if the British Government were to consent to exclude all foreign-grown sugar, and to give the West Indians an exclusive market, the price of sugar would rise till the supply far exceeded the demand, but till that happy day shall arrive for the West Indians I do not think that 10 s. duty, unless it is permanent, would benefit them at all; the 10 s. would tend, in the first place, greatly to increase the rate of wages, unless we ever get a sufficient supply of labourers.

13892. Unless you were to get so many labourers as would press upon the means of subsistence in the island, and compel them to continuous and active labour?—Yes, such a supply of labour in the market as would reduce the wages to a fair level without oppressing in any way the negro.

13893. Is it your opinion that the increased price, under the present circumstances, would only have the effect of proportionately increasing the cost of producing the sugar?—That would be the case, to a great extent. I am astonished to hear that the rate of labour has been lessened, and it has happened, I believe, from the very disastrous state of prices; persons have sent out to their attorneys positive orders, which the managers cannot disobey, restraining them as regards wages, and they have been forced to be unanimous; therefore the labourer has been obliged to submit to that which he would have had to submit to were there an abundance of labour in the island.

13894. The reduction in the price of sugar has so far had the same effect upon wages which an increased supply of labour would have?—Certainly; it is an odd way of gaining an advantage, but it has been one.

13895. Supposing the price of sugar were to advance now by a continuance or by an addition to the present amount of protection, would the effect of such an advance be to take it out of the power of the planters to insist on this reduction, which they have already obtained, and to prevent any further reduction taking place?—I am perfectly certain that wages would rise as the news reached the island.

13896. Supposing we were to pass an Act to-day increasing the protection upon sugar for the next three years, or to continue the present rate of protection for the next three years, and the news were to go out to the island of St. Kitts, do you believe that the immediate influence of the rise of price consequent upon the passing of that Act would have the effect of increasing the rate of wages?—Yes; I cannot take upon myself to say how far, but I am persuaded that a great proportion of the duty would be swallowed up in that way; it would raise the rate of wages I am certain.

13897. Do you believe that the fall which has taken place has been not only

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in consequence of the present low price of sugar, but the fact, which is known to every West Indian, that the protection which he now enjoys is to decline in each of the next three years?—He feels that he cannot produce sugar at the present price; I do not know whether he looks to the cause or not; it is sufficiently low to induce those who have the control to be all of one mind; there is no inducement to outbid another; wages have fallen of necessity; they are now of one mind; formerly when prices were a little higher they made more sacrifices to the labourer.

13898. Mr. *Miles*.] Do you think that the continuance of the present rate of duty for three years would have the same effect?—If it did not affect the price of sugar it would not affect the price of labour; the continuance of the present 6 s. duty, perhaps, would cause a rise in the price; if the sugar market were to be affected favourably in consequence of such an alteration of the law, the same result would take place that I anticipated from any other cause.

13899. Mr. *Wilson*.] Independently of the effect which the increased price of sugar and the increased amount of the present protective duty would have upon the price of labour, do you see any other means by which it would operate to increase the cost of sugar to the planters; would the increased protection add to the cost of the cultivation in any other way besides the increase of wages?—I think it would act generally in that way.

13900. You think that the managers and overseers of the estates would be made less careful and less economical in their course of cultivation?—If such a person were not controlled as he is at the present moment, the same state of things would return which I have already alluded to.

13901. Which occasioned greater expense in the production of sugar?—Yes; the ordinary expenses of the estates have been reduced of late years.

13902. Do you think that the improved processes and the additional application of implements would be suspended or interfered with by an additional protection?—I do not think so; persons are so convinced of their utility now that I do not think so; on the contrary, I think it would rather enable them to go on with such improvements.

13903. What measures of relief could you suggest to the Committee as measures which it would be wise for Parliament to afford to the West India interest in its present state?—As far as I have seen, immigration has worked well, and if that has been established, it would be for the Government to afford every facility that they possibly can to immigration. It is a matter for their consideration, of course; but I mean to the extent of pecuniary aid, either by loan or otherwise. I think they should provide every facility within their power.

13904. Supposing the Government were to come to the conclusion that it would be wise to make an advance of money to the West Indies, similar to the advances made to Ireland and to Canada, for the purposes of improvement, do you think the security of the West Indies would be sufficient for the Government to rely on for the repayment of those loans in the course of years, and the repayment of a high rate of interest, say six per cent.?—I think it would add great confidence to the West Indians, because what an interest the Government would have in their welfare if they were slightly mortgaged to them! I do not think I have closed my eyes to the evils which have already arisen from immigration, but it is acknowledged by all who have had an opportunity of forming an opinion, that it has done good to a certain extent. It is a tree which will not bear fruit immediately; you cannot expect to throw into the islands such a vast quantity of labourers as to affect the price immediately.

13905. Do you think it would be wise in the Government to go to any expense to increase the number of labourers, and advance immigration, unless they were at the same time to pay attention to the Acts of our Colonial Legislatures, and to enforce laws for the prevention of squatting and vagrancy?—If there is a serious defect in the machine you cannot expect it to go on. I think the Government is bound, especially as they are responsible for the present state of things, to see that the whole of the machinery is in as perfect order as possible. If they neglect the interests of the colonies in other respects, they cannot hope to cure the evil by immigration alone.

13906. Do not you think that it would be absolutely necessary that in anything which the Government did to encourage immigration the Government should not only agree to any suggestions which the colony might make, but invite the atten-

tion of the Colonial Assemblies to the enactment and enforcement of laws for that purpose?—Clearly; I think the Government ought to take the lead.

13907. Do you think that increasing the number of labourers by immigration, unless that were accompanied by such increased stringency of the laws, would be a disadvantage instead of an advantage?—I think nothing could be more obvious.

13908. You are clearly of opinion that immigration, in order to be beneficial, must be accompanied by a much stricter description of law for the performance of contracts, and the prevention of squatting and vagrancy, than you have hitherto had?—There can be no doubt about it.

13909. If the Home Government were to persist in disallowing the Acts which you have passed, immigration, instead of being a benefit, would be an aggravation of their present difficulties?—No question about it.

13910. Are there any other measures of relief which you would propose besides immigration?—We do not call for anything beyond such laws as are in existence in the mother country; and I think that the feeling that I mentioned which was so abroad some years ago has so far subsided that the Government now are in a different position from what they were then. I think they are in a position to sanction such laws as are in the spirit of the laws existing in England. They might, for example, sanction such laws for the prevention of vagrancy and squatting as are framed within the spirit of the English laws.

13911. In fact, you want no more power over your labourers than the law of England gives to the employer over the employed in England?—Certainly not. No Colonial Assembly would be so mad as to sit down and frame an enactment which would be at variance with the spirit of similar laws in England.

13912. With the introduction of fresh labourers by immigration, would not it be an important thing that there should be contracts made with them prior to their coming to the island, or immediately upon their arrival?—Yes, clearly.

13913. For what length of time do you think such contracts ought to be made with immigrants?—Even in that instance I would be guided by what prevails in England: youths here are apprenticed for seven years.

13914. What restrictions would you propose during that period of apprenticeship; would you propose to pay them wages according to an ascending scale, year after year, in proportion as their labour became more valuable?—Yes. In the cultivation of canes a considerable degree of knowledge is required, which can only be gained by practice; and the man's work would be more valuable the second year than it would be the first.

13915. Would you propose to place any social check upon his liberty, or would you propose to give him the same liberty as any other labourer, only compelling him to perform his contract, and to receive his wages according to that contract?—He would enter into the contract with his eyes open; and having done that, I would compel him to perform his part of the contract, and I would see that the other party did the same. I think immigrants taken from Africa would suit better than any other.

13916. With regard to those immigrants, you would give them every privilege and every liberty which other labourers have, excepting that you would hold them bound to work to a given employer for a given period, at an ascending scale of wages, during the existence of the contracts agreed on freely by them in the first instance; and you would enforce the performance of their contracts on the one hand, and the contract of their employers upon the other?—If you take a savage from Africa, he would not be in a position to enjoy the same privileges which others would. I would not impose any restrictions upon him.

13917. You would impose no restrictions which the law does not impose upon others?—No.

13918. You would not impose any restriction as to where he should live, rendering it necessary that he should live in the house of his master; you would give him the same liberty as every other labourer had, only you would require a performance of his contract?—Yes.

13919. Is there any part of the island of St. Kitts where you think irrigation would be particularly beneficial?—No, certainly not; there are no means for it.

13920. Have you no rivers?—There are three running streams, but they cannot be made available for the purposes of irrigation.

13921. At what cost can a hogshead of sugar be made in the island of St.

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Kitts at present?—It is a matter of opinion; it may vary from 10*l.* to 12*l.* Mr. Benjamin Greene, I think, would make it cheaper than any one else.

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13922. You have been long connected with and acquainted with St. Kitts; can you give the Committee any account of the character and prospects of the rising generation in the colony?—A very great improvement has taken place and is taking place; as far as the rising generation is concerned, sufficient time has not elapsed to enable me to form an opinion from any results. I can only judge from the different schools; I went round with the late Mr. Cunningham, in his annual inspection in the different parts of the island, and it was very gratifying to see the state in which they were; I am bound to say that, especially as regards the Moravians and Wesleyans, their schools were in a very high and forward state indeed; a state very creditable to themselves.

13923. The scholars being all the black population?—Yes. The question was pressed very much upon the Legislature by Mr. Cunningham, and they gave a grant, which was considered, for the circumstances, a very liberal one; they granted 700*l.* a year in aid of those schools; they apportioned the grant according to the number and the wants of the different classes, without making any distinction between the Church of England and others. The principal sects are the Wesleyans and Moravians, exclusive of the Church of England.

13924. Have you any hope from the people that one of the effects of those schools upon the rising generation may be increased wants consequent upon their increased education, and an increased standard of comfort, which may be necessary for the population, in consequence of the increased standard of mind?—I have very great hope; if there is any virtue in education to improve the social position of a country, we have every reason to hope.

13925. Do you already see symptoms of the wants of the population increasing in such a way as to form an inducement, in the course of a short time, to additional and more continuous efforts to obtain those enjoyments which more civilized people desire?—Yes; their wants have increased very much since emancipation; but that will hardly refer to the rising generation.

13926. Probably the first want the supply of which the negro sought after emancipation would be the imitation of those he had hitherto considered his superiors in point of dress and ornaments?—Yes; that has taken place in the most astonishing manner; the surest proof of that is in the number of dry-goods merchants which have grown up: it is difficult to describe them; they are not shopkeepers, but they sell everything.

13927. The storekeepers in the island have increased very rapidly, have they?—Yes, they are three or four to one since emancipation.

13928. Do those storekeepers deal almost exclusively in articles of British manufacture?—Not exclusively; they deal in everything, and they sell to the negro population principally.

13929. The negro population are consumers of articles of dress of British manufacture to an enormous extent in proportion to what they were during the period of slavery?—Yes; and it is from that source that we derive our revenue principally; three per cent. *ad valorem* import duty is the principal part of our island revenue, and that is paid by the merchants in the first instance.

13930. Have you any means of showing the Committee how that revenue has progressed for a number of years past?—I have no accounts by me; it has increased very much.

13931. You have a tax upon the import of goods of all descriptions?—Yes.

13932. During the period of slavery the imports consisted chiefly of articles of food for the estates?—Yes, which we got from America.

13933. During that period the largest portion of the tax would be derived from those articles, but since that period would not a large portion of the tax be derived from articles of attire?—Yes.

13934. In your revenue accounts are the sources of the tax distinguished, so that you could tell the Committee the relative amounts?—Yes; every article is mentioned in a schedule, but trusting to memory I can only give general information as regards them. It is a tax upon imports of three per cent. *ad valorem*.

13935. You do not distinguish between one kind of imports and another?—Yes, we do.

13936. Can you give the Committee any example of the way in which the artificial wants of the negroes have increased in articles of dress?—I attribute to the pride of the negro in possessing articles of finery, and his great demand for

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for them, the success of the scheme of emancipation altogether, so far as it has succeeded. He works till he can supply those wants.

13937. What are those wants; he will have a doubloon coat, will not he?—The coat is supplied to him at an enormous profit; the highest price for a ready-made one would be a doubloon, 3 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* It is the character of the negro to desire to obtain a coat of that kind, to say he gave a doubloon for his coat; the coat may not have cost as many shillings in England.

13938. His distinction is not according to its quality or value, but according to its price?—Yes.

13939. With the existing race, or the race of negroes who were emancipated, the first symptoms they show of artificial wants exhibit themselves through articles of apparel and dress, but with regard to the rising generation, who are receiving this better education, have you any reason for hoping that their wants will be of a more dignified and civilized kind, more appropriate to an informed and free people, and therefore that they may, in order to possess better houses and enjoy better society, or in order to purchase books, have an increased stimulus to labour?—I have no doubt that will be the case; sufficient time has not elapsed to enable me to speak with confidence to a point of that sort.

13940. Is there any taste beginning to exhibit itself for better houses and better furnished houses among the population?—I think there is; they now have shingled houses instead of thatched houses.

13941. With respect to the furniture inside?—I cannot speak as regards the fact.

13942. As far as regards the experiment of emancipation and freedom, with respect to the labourers, and the trade of the island, and the storekeepers, would you say that, generally speaking, it has been successful?—Yes.

13943. Supposing that the emancipation of the negro had been guarded by a much longer apprenticeship, and that the Acts of restraint which the colonial Legislature have passed from time to time, for the purpose of enforcing contracts, and preventing squatting and vagrancy, all of which have been disallowed by the Colonial Office, had been adopted, so as to make an industrious population, is it your opinion that the experiment of emancipation would, upon the whole, have been more successful, and that the condition, as well of the labouring classes as of the proprietary classes, would have been consulted thereby, and have been much better than it now is?—Yes, I can entertain no doubt but that that would have been the case.

13944. Therefore you think, as far as the experiment may be said to have failed, so far as the interests of the proprietary body of the island are concerned, a great deal may be attributed to the hasty and inconsiderate way in which emancipation was conducted in the first instance, in which apprenticeship was abandoned, in the second instance, and in which your colonial Acts have been disallowed, in the third instance?—Yes, as regards those and many other things; those are among the principal circumstances which have led to it.

13945. Are there any other circumstances besides those which you would wish to mention?—There is one as regards the compensation money, but that can only be referred to as one of the causes; it is of no use discussing a matter which has passed. That was one of the evils in the first instance, the way in which the whole of the compensation money was given over to the mortgagee.

13946. What you mean by that is, that the compensation money, which was intended by the British Legislature and the British people to compensate rather for the change of the character of the labour than to furnish a fund for the purpose of paying off the charges upon the estates, was not appropriated to the cultivation of the estate, and therefore that the effect of the grant in continuing the cultivation of the islands was destroyed?—Yes; the only effect it had was this: before it was known how Government meant to dispose of the money it was generally believed by the mortgagees themselves that a greater portion of it would have been reserved to enable the proprietor to carry on the cultivation of his estate and improve it. Some persons were fortunate enough to make arrangements with their mortgagees before the intentions of Government became known: they said I will give you up the whole compensation if you will reduce my debt to a certain amount; but the moment it was known that the mortgagee was to become the possessor of the whole fund, he made his own terms.

13947. You cannot complain that the money really was handed over and apportioned

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apportioned to the mortgagee, who had a prior claim upon the estate?—It is very true that it was in part payment of a debt.

13948. Mr. Goulburn.] You stated that you considered the West Indies at present rather in a state of transition, and that under proper laws their situation was likely to improve hereafter?—That is my feeling; it is impossible they can remain as they are; I look upon them as in a state of transition.

13949. I understood you also to say, that you did not consider any protection would be useful unless it were permanent; how do you reconcile that opinion?—I said I did not like to undertake to say how far the proprietors would benefit by a 10 s. duty; that I thought it would give rise to the state of things which I pointed out in the beginning of my examination; if it were to affect the price of sugar to anything like the extent of 10 s., of course he would be materially a gainer by it. I also stated that I thought the West Indians suffered from an entire ignorance of what was coming next upon them, and from the uncertain policy which had been adopted by the Colonial Office towards them. A protection of 10 s. for a limited period would have the effect of increasing the price of sugar in the sugar market, and that effect would be most direct upon the article of wages in the colony. I think the one would be consequent upon the other, the next week after the news arrived in the West Indies.

13950. The rise in the price of sugar, as in other commodities, would then be divided between the proprietor of the sugar and the workmen who made it?—Yes, if it were a material advance it would.

13951. As you apprehend the period may arrive in which, under proper legislation, the island may conduct cultivation successfully, do not you think a temporary assistance during that period might be serviceable?—The question is whether it would be an assistance; I have already stated it is one of those questions which I could not undertake to answer as to the proportion; I could not say what proportion of the 10 s. would go into the pockets of the proprietors, but a very immaterial portion in my opinion.

13952. I was rather addressing myself to your objection to anything but permanent protection; do not you consider, as you contemplate a great improvement in the state of society hereafter, that a temporary assistance might be beneficial?—It would lead to speculation; it would lead to a state of things which we have just seen, in a great measure, abandoned; if it led to an increased price of sugar it would lead immediately to that destructive state of things which has been in existence ever since the total abolition of slavery, namely, a great expenditure in labour, which is the great item we have to contend against; unless it was known to be permanent we should have no security whatever; there would be no confidence in the mercantile body in England, and we should not be able to avail ourselves of those resources which must come from England in the first instance.

13953. Any rise in the price of sugar, from whatever cause, would necessarily produce the same effect upon sugar as a rise caused by protection would?—I think so. If it be asserted that a duty of 10 s. would put 10 l. a hogshead into the pockets of the proprietor, such persons are deceiving themselves. It is impossible to say what portion would go to him, but in my opinion a very immaterial part would do so. If Government were to create a monopoly and exclude all foreign sugar, whether free or slave, the question is as plain as possible.

13954. You apprehend that if the price of sugar were to be increased, from whatever cause, the price of wages would eat up the greater part of that increase?—I do not think I said that; I think it would eat up a great proportion of it, as it is very difficult to answer a question of that sort to say what the proportion would be.

13955. The state of this particular island, according to your opinion, is this, that the prices at present are ruinously low, but if anything should occur to raise the prices the profit would not be to the proprietor, but it would be to the negro population?—By no means to the extent of the protection would the proprietor be benefited.

13956. The relief would not be so much to the proprietor as to the person who receives wages?—Certainly the proprietor would be benefited by a rise in the price to a certain extent. I do not think the increase in wages would be so great as to swallow up the whole, but a great portion of it I think would go in that way.

13957. I am speaking of an increased price of sugar, whether derived from protection or any other cause?—The result would be the same.

13958. You

13958. You have drawn a contrast between a particular estate in St. Kitts when under the management of the proprietor, Mr. Greene, and under the management of a person whom he left in charge of it; do you know any estates where the case is the converse of that; that is, estates which have been managed by the managers of absentees, and which have suffered by the presence of the proprietor?—I have not any such instance before me.

13959. Do persons who come out as residents generally manage their properties better than those that are managed by attorneys?—I do not think an English person coming out, knowing nothing of the cultivation of sugar, would manage that department of his estate better than a person who has been brought up to it; but where he would benefit would be in the supervision of the expenses of the estate.

13960. Mr. Greene was a very able man in every respect as a manager of property, was not he?—He was very much so; he was singularly successful in St. Kitts.

13961. And his manager was not an average specimen of the persons who manage properties?—He was not considered so by Mr. Greene's father. Mr. Greene had two attorneys, and it is quite clear that he did not think so.

13962. It appears that the expenses of the estate under Mr. Greene's management amounted to 1,236*l.*, and that in the following year they amounted to 1,910*l.*?—It would appear so from documents I have seen to-day for the first time.

13963. Mr. Greene's absence necessarily imposed upon him, among those charges, the charge of paying an attorney and manager probably?—Yes; Mr. Greene's attorneys received, it was said, 500*l.* a year each.

13964. You do not happen to know whether Mr. Greene was paid by his father in that charge of 1,236*l.*, do you?—I should suppose that it was so; I do not know; I suppose he would look upon his son in a pure matter of business light.

13965. Mr. Greene being resident, acted, I presume, both as attorney and manager also?—Yes.

13966. Therefore his absence entailed an additional servant to be paid for at all events?—Clearly.

13967. Do you happen to know what has been the increase of population since the time that slavery was abolished in St. Kitts?—It has been nearly stationary; it would have increased, had not it been for the unusually large number of deaths of infants; and that was one of the subjects which occupied the attention of the Legislature at the time, the necessity of employing medical attendants after apprenticeship ceased. It is not to be expected that medical men would attend without receiving a fee, and a great number of deaths occurred, and those deaths were brought under our notice by the number of inquests that were held; it was a matter which occupied the attention, to a considerable degree, of persons anxious about West India affairs. Had not it been for that, the population would have increased.

13968. Notwithstanding the interval of 14 years, no material increase has actually taken place in the original negro population?—No material increase certainly; it has been nearly stationary.

13969. Have you any return of the births which have taken place since that time?—I have none with me.

13970. You think the number of deaths among young children has been more considerable since emancipation than it was before?—I am quite clear upon the point, inasmuch as it has occupied our attention as a matter of very serious import.

13971. You ascribe that either to the negligence of parents or to the want of medical assistance?—To both; to the absence of all medical attendance, because they were provided with medical attendance by their owner in the first instance, but when that ceased the negro seldom brought his own child to the medical man.

13972. Is there considerable inattention on the part of mothers to their children?—As far as I have observed, a great deal; they are careless of their offspring.

13973. There is very little prospect, then, of any rapid increase of population in the island from natural causes?—I think not; I think the effect would be much more disastrous if it were not such a magnificent and favourable climate.

13974. The boys that are about 16 or 17 must have known nothing of slavery;

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—I think so.

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13975. They work more willingly?—Yes; they are more intelligent, and they understand the nature of the orders you give better.

13976. You have not in St. Kitts any great number of persons, have you, who lead a roving life, without any occupation whatever?—No, I think not; they have all some place of residence, and they remain there because it is the interest of the employers to keep them.

13977. *Chairman.*] Speaking of the Navigation Laws, you said that the average freight was from 4 *l.* 10 *s.* to 5 *l.*?—Yes.

13978. According to the evidence taken before the Committee the freight this year is only 4 *l.* 10 *s.* to 5 *l.* Was not last year a year of unusually high freights?—From the island of St. Kitts it has never been otherwise since the public meeting to which I alluded, with the regular trading ships: it does not vary, unfortunately, according to the prices or quantity of sugar.

13979. You draw a comparison between St. Kitts and Demerara; are not you aware that while there is a very heavy drogherage in St. Kitts there is none in Demerara?—I am not aware that there is a very heavy drogherage in St. Kitts.

13980. Do you know what that drogherage is?—Four shillings and twopence per hogshead, on an average. The island is only 15 miles long; but as an evidence of the high rate of freight, there is always a premium given to independent estates, estates which are not bound to ship to any particular interest, by transient ships; they will send 10 miles for your sugar, and give you a guinea a hogshead.

13981. Charging you the usual freight, they will pay you, under the rose, a guinea premium?—Not under the rose; they proclaim it; the more it is known the more customers they have. Mr. Greene will not give that, because he has a supply of his own.

13982. The seeking ships will offer 1 *l.* a ton for freights?—Yes; their bill of lading is made out at 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a cwt., and they will pay the drogherage. I have received it 20 times, and so has every proprietor of an independent estate; those transient ships will pay the drogherage, and give you a guinea a hogshead for as many hogsheads as you choose to give them.

13983. As many as you choose to give them at 5 *l.*?—At 4 *s.* 6 *d.* a cwt.

13984. As the ordinary freight?—Yes.

13985. Merchant ships bring out to you your supplies without charging you any freight, do not they?—Yes, it is merely a nominal freight; it is the home freight which they look to reimburse them.

13986. Seeking ships do not do so?—No.

13987. When you are paying 4 *l.* 10 *s.* sugar freight to England, it is virtually a sugar freight to England and a nominal freight back of all your supplies from England?—Yes.

13988. Which does not apply to the case of seeking ships?—No.

13989. It would not apply to foreign ships?—No.

13990. Therefore you are comparing things to one another which are dissimilar?—To a great extent; but I do not think we are compensated by that; I do not think it is a compensation.

13991. Do you imagine if the Navigation Laws were to lower your freights, they would not also lower equally the freights of Brazil and Cuba in competition with you?—I think not; if they get their freights home at what I see them stated there, they cannot expect them to be carried across the Atlantic for less.

13992. What do you see them stated at?—The freight from Demerara is 2 *s.* 6 *d.* Demerara is 700 miles to the southward of St. Kitts, further off from England, and I do not think they can in any way complain of that as the freight; suppose our freight were 2 *s.* 6 *d.* instead of 4 *s.* 6 *d.*, that on a small estate shipping 100 hogsheads of sugar would pay the interest of the value of the estate.

13993. As far as the Navigation Laws are concerned, you are precisely on the same footing as Demerara?—Yes.

13994. The Navigation Laws do not prevent the Demerara planters from getting their freights at as low a rate as you say it is possible for any ships to carry sugar?—It is the want of competition in St. Kitts, I think; they have a monopoly there, and that is the reason why we cannot get our sugar brought home cheaper.

13995. Is there not another reason, namely, from the small quantity of sugar shipped from St. Kitts, the ships are detained a long time at the island?—I know the

the trading vessels there make two voyages annually; they cannot make more than that. Mr. E. Pickwood.

13996. The Committee has had evidence showing that from the other colonies ships make three and sometimes four voyages in the course of the year; that is because they are not detained in the island?—If such evidence has been given, all I can say is it cannot be done.

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13997. How long are ships detained at St. Kitts?—That of course depends upon the crops; a ship cannot very well load under six weeks, but they may be detained three months.

13998. The Committee has it in evidence that three Danes made their voyages out of the port of London and back again with sugar in 66 days. If you detain your ships two or three months in St. Kitts, it is not very possible that British ships should be able to perform their voyage, load their sugar, and get back in 66 days?—Just so; I think we certainly at present pay too high a freight, but I did not state that I looked upon the repeal of the Navigation Laws as a sovereign remedy. I do, however, think that the outcry for some modification of the Navigation Laws at all events is unanswerable. Men say, "We are suffering from a gross wrong, and if you deprive us of protection leave it open for us to judge; let us taste some of the fancied sweets of free trade." I do not think that the delay, which it is admitted takes place in St. Kitts and those islands, accounts for the very enormous rate of freight, though it may do so to a certain extent.

83999. Is not it common sense, that if in an island where there is none of this detention ships are able to make a voyage and back again in 66 days, while you detain them 90 days at St. Kitts, you should pay a higher freight where you detain them in the island at a considerable cost for 90 days than the others should who only detain them six days?—I quite admit that.

14000. Do not you think that the shipowner may with great propriety say, "You are unreasonable, and do me a great wrong, when you ascribe to me or to the Navigation Laws this extravagant freight, when it is you who are causing it by not having your sugar ready for me to take at the wharf at St. Kitts"?—I have no doubt he might say so, and I would answer him in this way: Last year there were 3,000 hogsheads lying on the beach; when your ship comes and finds our sugar there you may take it away in 48 hours, if you please; but do you consent to take off 1s. in consequence? If there are delays in St. Kitts which do not occur in Santa Cruz or in Cuba, that will account for some difference in freight; but I see no reason why it should make the difference between 5*l.* and 2*l.* 10s.

14001. Cannot you estimate that if in one case a ship only occupies 66 days in one voyage and in the other she is detained 90 days, exclusive of her voyage, she ought to charge double the freight in the one case to what she does in the other?—Certainly not.

14002. Will you give a reason for that answer?—You speak of a detention of 90 days. I say, in the first place, the vessel may be detained 90 days, not that she must be detained 90 days; if it can be shown that the expenses there for the 90 days, in any proportion, amount to a sum which shall equal the 2s. 6*d.* I speak of, I yield the point; but expensive as a ship is, that loss to the shipowner will in nowise meet the difficulty I complain of.

14003. What has expense to do with the matter; the question is whether the expense while she is lying idle at St. Kitts is greater or less than the expense would be while she was running across the Atlantic. Will you answer to this Committee what difference it can make to a shipowner, whether he is paying his ship's crew, and for the capital invested in the ship, while she is lying idle at St. Kitts, or while the ship is crossing the Atlantic?—It can make no difference except in the wear and tear of his vessel.

14004. Which probably in those tropical climates would go on nearly as fast, if not faster, than if she were crossing the Atlantic. You have stated that the universal freight for St. Kitts was 4*l.* 10s. a ton. I hold in my hand a paper, signed by Mr. Liggins, stating that he has for a great many years received consignments from St. Kitts, and never yet paid more than 4*l.* a ton?—It has been 4*l.* 10s., and I will pledge my word as a resident at St. Kitts that it has never been under that amount. I will appeal to every bill of lading, and to every West India merchant. I cannot undertake to say that the contrary has never happened, but a bill of lading has never been filled up with less than that amount.

14005. Have you any bills of lading with you?—No; but I can get thousands from different merchants whom I have consigned to. It was 5*l.* from St. Kitts,

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and it was reduced at a public meeting convened by my father and another member of the Council, two independent shippers.

14006. Is not Mr. Liggins a West India merchant?—I do not know the name in connexion with St. Kitts. I am personally acquainted with that island, and I am prepared to state, and will establish the fact, that freight does not vary, and that it has never been under 4*l.* 10*s.*, except that it has been invariably the practice for transient ships to give you a guinea a hogshead, and pay the drogherage too.

14007. Adverting to your theory, that resident proprietors manage their estates a great deal better than others, Mr. Greene was an exception to that rule, was he not?—I do not know that he was.

14008. You have admitted that there was no example of any person having managed his estate so well as Mr. Greene had managed the estate under his charge?—Yes.

14009. And you said the only way in which you could account for the total expenses of the estates increasing in the year 1839 was, that Mr. Greene left in 1838, and that then there was appointed for four years an agent, who was at the end of that time dismissed by Mr. Greene's father, as you presume, for mismanagement and misconduct?—Yes.

14010. You know nothing of the facts of the case?—Nothing whatever.

14011. It is mere surmise?—From the facts before me.

14012. What are the facts before you?—Will your Lordship allow me to state, in a very few words, how that arose? This schedule which I have before me was shown to me this morning for the first time. I was asked, "How do you account for the increase here?" When it was shown to me I did not know when Mr. Greene left the island. My reply was, "I cannot account for it in any way but in a change of management." Then we said, "Let us go to the accounts, and see whether my surmise is borne out by the fact;" and, oddly enough, on looking at this document in evidence before the Committee, it does appear that it is so. When I gave that opinion I had no idea when Mr. Greene left, or that the change of management took place in 1837. In my own mind now, I attribute it to the change of management in a great measure; but I cannot take upon myself to say that the whole difference is to be attributed to that.

14013. Because you see that in the year 1837 the expenses increased, as compared with the year 1836, from 2,057*l.* to 2,710*l.*, you come to the conclusion that there was gross mismanagement on the part of the new manager?—When that new manager has been discharged for alleged mismanagement.

14014. What authority have you for stating that he was discharged for gross mismanagement?—It was the common report of the day; unless I had Mr. Greene's confidence, who was the person who discharged him, I could not undertake to say; if Mr. Greene has 20 estates, and he discharges this man, and it is known that those estates have gone wrong, I am justified in saying, as far as common rumour is concerned, that that person is discharged for mismanagement.

14015. Are you aware that in the year 1835, during Mr. Greene's management, the total expenses amounted to 2,931*l.*, being 220*l.* more than this very year when this gross mismanagement, as you now allege upon common rumour, occurred on the part of this new agent who came into the occupation?—No, I know nothing of it.

14016. Do you know who was the agent who succeeded Mr. Greene?—Yes.

14017. Who was he?—Mr. Davy.

14018. Was not it Mr. Greene's own brother?—No.

14019. Did not Mr. Greene's brother go out in 1837-38?—Mr. Greene had a younger brother upon that estate.

14020. You do not even know whether it was Mr. Greene's brother or not, do you?—Yes, I do; but it is very immaterial whether it was Mr. Greene's brother or not. Mr. Greene was a gentleman who had established in the island the greatest reputation as a planter. Mr. Greene's brother, I am sure, cannot be quoted as a planter; his father recalled him also, I suppose not because he was very successful in the estates. I did not, however, myself, allude to those documents. They were brought before my notice for the first time to-day; whoever the person was, whether it was Mr. Greene's brother or Mr. Davy, both of whom were recalled, neither of them enjoyed anything like the reputation of Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene; and there can be no doubt that if he had continued in the management of that estate the result would have been very different.

14021. Do you not think that Mr. Greene is a better judge of his own affairs than

than you seem to be, and that when Mr. Greene accounts for the increase in the cost by the conclusion of the apprenticeship and the commencement of freedom, he is more likely to be right than you?—I think Mr. Greene is not so competent a judge. A man may be too near, as well as too far from an object, to see correctly: and in this particular instance I may be permitted to observe that Mr. Greene is rather too near to see as correctly as might be wished.

14022. You think you know more about Mr. Greene's affairs than he knows himself?—No, I do not pretend to that knowledge.

14023. Are you aware that Mr. Greene states that he managed from 16 to 18 estates, constituting one-third part of all the estates in the island?—I am not aware that he stated so; I am aware he did do so in his character his father's attorney.

14024. Then so far as one-third of all the estates in the island of St. Kitts are concerned, those that were managed by the deputy of the resident proprietor in England were the best-managed estates in the island?—I spoke of Mr. Greene's success as regards the estate in question.

14025. Is it not a third part of the estates in the island?—I deny that; it is impossible for one man, even with all Mr. Greene's capabilities, to manage one-third of the estates in St. Kitts with success; a great deal must be attributed to—

14026. In some way or other it was by this wonderful management under Mr. Greene that one-third part of all the estates in the island were better managed than any other estates upon the island, Mr. Greene being resident in the island, representing the absent proprietor in England?—He was so.

14027. Though Mr. Greene permitted this agent to remain four years upon the estate, his mismanagement the first year did not extend to others?—I am not aware that I have made any charge of mismanagement. I have stated that I thought the increase in this particular year might be attributed to a change of management, and when I said that, I was not aware that Mr. Greene had ceased to be the manager at that time; as regards the charge of mismanagement, Mr. Greene removed the person who had been in charge for many years, and it was generally reported, and in a small community those things are known, and known pretty correctly, that he was dismissed upon account of bad management. I could not state it on any stronger evidence than that.

14028. You say he was dismissed in the year 1841, did not you?—I stated it from my memory.

14029. You do not know accurately to a year or two when he was dismissed, and yet you conclude, because it appears that in the year 1837 the expenditure exceeded by 650 *l.* the expenditure of the previous year, though it did not come up to the expenditure of the year before, that all this is mismanagement, and one of the proofs that absentee proprietors cannot manage their estates in St. Kitts to advantage by deputy?—I must take the liberty to deny that I ever made such a statement in the first place; it was not in consequence of seeing this document that I came to any such conclusion; I do not quote this document; it was asked me by a member of the Committee, "Is not this a singular fact? What do you think of it?" I said I cannot account for it in any other way than by a change of management, and when I was shown this document it occurred to me that I was very right in the opinion I had formed; but that opinion was not founded upon the document; it was rather strengthened by it.

14030. You said that the present price of sugar would not justify anybody in sending out implements; how do you expect the island to continue to be cultivated without implements?—I do not expect it to be cultivated.

14031. You do not expect, that if the present prices continue, the island will be cultivated?—I think not, with the exception of some very favourable estates. I confess that I think things cannot be much worse.

14032. Is it your expectation that the whole island will go out of cultivation if the present prices continue?—I do not think sugar can be cultivated at the present prices. As far as my own individual opinion goes, it may prove my sincerity, when I say that I am myself engaging now to a small extent. By the last packet I sent out the lease of an estate, in which I covenant to put all available lands in the sugar cultivation belonging to the Earl of Romney.

14033. You are going to continue your cultivation?—Yes; and I think that as soon as confidence is restored to the money market, and the present depression is removed, though sugars will not rise to a high price, yet I cannot think they will remain as low as they are.

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14034. To what price do you imagine sugar must rise to enable you to carry on the cultivation of your estates?—I have already said that I think sugar may be made at from 10 *l.* to 12 *l.* a hoghead; anything beyond that will be profit.

14035. That is equivalent with 7 *s.* a cwt. charges, to 19 *l.* a hoghead in this country?—Yes.

14036. Can you state what price per cwt. will pay you in the island?—No.

14037. What is the average weight of your hogheads?—The hoghead I speak of would weigh 20 cwt. in the colony.

14038. What extent of estate do you manage yourself, and how many hogheads of sugar do you manufacture?—None at the present moment. I refer to our family estate, which I stated has been in Mr. Greene's possession since the year 1840.

14039. In his possession, or managed by him?—The estate owed a debt to Mr. Greene; my mother's life interest was sold to Mr. Greene for a debt; it is entirely within his management; we have no control over it now; there are no proceeds, as far as the family are concerned.

14040. Did not you say that the resident proprietors in the island had prospered; your father was a resident proprietor, was not he?—Yes, and he did prosper to the extent I have mentioned.

14041. Four years after your father's death this property got into the possession of the mortgagee?—Yes, when it lost its proprietor.

14042. Who became the proprietor of the estate upon the death of your father?—My mother.

14043. Did she remain in the island?—No; she was in England at the time.

14044. Did you know what was your father's net income up to 1834?—I cannot state; I can state generally the amount of the original mortgage, and the amount he left after his death; that is all I can state.

14045. When your father died was not he in debt to his merchants?—Yes.

14046. £. 16,000 or 17,000 *l.*?—The estate belonged to my mother and aunt; when it came into the possession of my father by marriage it had upon it a mortgage of 16,000 *l.*; when he died it was 9,000 *l.*, in the year 1812 it was 16,000 *l.*; and in the year of his death, in 1834, it had been reduced to 9,000 *l.*

14047. Are you sure that he did not die in debt to his merchants, Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co., between 16,000 *l.* and 17,000 *l.*?—I am certain that he owed Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. nothing but the current expenses of the year in which he died; they never held the mortgage; these are facts which I state from my own knowledge. At the time of emancipation, after my father's death, I got Mr. Paul, of the island of St. Kitts, to advance the sum to Messrs. Bailey which was requisite to pay them off that mortgage; we paid them the compensation money, 5,000 *l.*, and Mr. Paul advanced bills for 4,500 *l.*, making 9,500 *l.*; Messrs. Bailey consented to forego the interest on the mortgage, which had been accumulated three or four years since my father's death; subsequently to that Mr. Greene and Mr. Paul came into an arrangement; Mr. Greene now holds the mortgage; but so far from owing Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. 16,000 *l.*, they never had the mortgage at all.

14048. Was not your father in debt to them?—Nothing more than the current expenses of the year.

14049. What were the current expenses of the year?—Not 1,000 *l.*; in fact, I do not believe my father owed them 1 *s.* at the time of his death.

14050. It appears your father died before emancipation, so that he died when everybody was prospering in the island?—My father died in the beginning of 1834; the emancipation took place in August. I know my father was not prospering in 1830, 1831, nor 1832, because sugars were quite as low, if they were not lower than they are now.

14051. Was not the produce of the island greater?—Yes, generally speaking.

14052. If you get twice the produce at 21 *s.* 10 *d.* in 1830, may that not be much more profitable than getting half the produce at 24 *s.* in 1828?—If it was making any profitable return at all; if not it was doubling the loss.

14053. We have heard from you that the resident proprietors managed their estates so much better than the non-residents proprietors, while the estates managed by Mr. Greene in 1830 and 1831 appeared to have averaged 4 *l.* 18 *s.* a ton as the cost of production?—I merely said that they had survived every crisis. I have not said that those estates were flourishing then in spite of their being present, but

I said

I said that they had remained in the occupation of their estates; that they had paid off family claims and had survived every crisis.

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14054. I understand you to say that there were 15 proprietors who had survived every crisis; "but perhaps not well," were the words you used?—I stated that they were still in possession of their estates, and I stated from what source I derived my information; namely, that in the case of persons who had no obvious mode of living but the estates upon which they lived, it was fair to suppose that they lived out of those estates; and I stated that in small communities those things were known.

14055. Mr. Miles.] You managed the estate in question yourself up to a certain period, did not you?—Yes.

14056. Mr. Greene took possession of it in the year 1840?—Yes.

14057. Then it was four years under your management?—Yes.

14058. Was that management successful?—It was not. I lost many thousand pounds during that time.

14059. That was in the time of the apprenticeship, when you had a certain amount of labour?—Yes, and all during freedom.

14060. Therefore your management was not at all successful?—Certainly not. I have the accounts for two years by me. When I came out in 1837, the hurricane in 1835 had laid all the works of the estate flat, and I can show from the estates' account that the most enormous charges in this account grew out of that fact. I went out there and found the estate dismantled. The result of my management was unsuccessful, but a great part of the charge arose from that fact and from the fact that during that time I erected two steam-engines. At the same time I by no means refer to my management as a successful management.

14061. Mr. Greene, you say, left the island in 1837; do not you think that the same fact may have arisen in the change of management of Mr. Greene's estates which arose upon yours, that larger works and a larger outlay were required in consequence of this hurricane?—Mr. Greene may be able to show that fact; I cannot speak to it.

14062. You do not think it unreasonable to suppose that some larger outlay may have been incurred by the successor to Mr. Greene from this cause?—I do not deny the possibility of it.

14063. You seemed to be surprised at Mr. Greene producing sugar at so low a cost at the period he was out there, and you attributed his being able to do so to his successful management?—Yes, from the fact that Mr. Greene was always considered one of the best managers.

14064. Are you aware that his evidence is corroborated by several statements which have been made before this Committee, and also by a despatch from Lord Harris, in which he states that sugar in the time of slavery was grown at 3 s. 2 d., and that now it is grown for 1 l. 0 s. 10 d.?—I am not aware of that fact; I do not know one single matter of evidence which has been before this Committee.

14065. You are not generally aware that his evidence is corroborated by other witnesses?—No.

14066. Have you had any estate of your own since 1840?—No.

14067. Have you rented an estate?—No.

14068. You have had no management of an estate since the year 1840?—None whatever.

14069. Nor have you been connected in any way with estates?—No.

14070. Your duties have been at the head of the police in St. Kitt's?—Yes, since the year 1840.

14071. In the course of your evidence you stated that the overseers or managers of estates were in the habit of not strictly adhering to the rate of wages which they had agreed upon among themselves, but were in the habit of giving allowances besides; are you aware whether the resident proprietors, any of them, have adopted this course, or has it been exclusively confined to the overseers?—I know one instance of a gentleman, a friend of mine, who owns two estates at directly opposite points of the island one from the other; one is on the westward side of the island and one on the eastward. Giving the produce was done without his sanction. He resided upon the estate alternately, and he has been invariably successful during the time of his own management.

14072. Do you know of its being the practice of any of the resident proprietors in the island to give those allowances, or was it exclusively confined to the managers of the absentee proprietors?—I do not think it was exclusively confined



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to them, nor do I know that the practice was general. I mentioned it as a fact which came to my knowledge; it was the topic of every day's conversation in the colony there, so and so had been giving rum and molasses, contrary to the general understanding.

14073. You would think that it was not done a bit more by one than by the other?—Yes; it was left optional to a person. A manager gave it to the labourer as an inducement.

14074. You think this practice was continued much more by the managers of absentee proprietors than by resident proprietors?—That is my opinion.

14075. You do not think it was the force of circumstances that compelled them to endeavour to obtain labour which induced them to give that particular produce?—It was done in a clandestine manner, and it was a cause of complaint. The manager is left with power to do it, because it is supposed he can have but one object, the interest of his employer. I have heard resident proprietors say they would not do it.

14076. You stated that you could keep 200 acres of land in a high state of cultivation for 1,000 *l.* a year, provided you could get continuous labour?—Not 200 acres in constant cultivation; one-third of it would be kept in cane land, one-third would be in a fallow, and one-third in green dressing. I spoke of this estate of 200 acres of land, and I said it could be put in the highest possible state of cultivation, in my opinion, for that sum.

14077. Have you estimated at all, when you make this calculation, what price you should give for your labour, and how many hours your labourers should work? I suppose the rate of wages which has prevailed; 1 *s.* a day.

14078. How many hours are they to work?—I do not know; I should require a day's work.

14079. What do you call a day's work?—So many hundred holes; we never work by the day.

14080. How many holes do you want?—I cannot say; I might plough.

14081. You cannot tell me the number of hours' labour you should require?—No; we never employ labour in that way, it is all done by measurement. I take the day's work to be what is considered in the colony a fair day's work.

14082. You have lived for 14 years in the colony, and you can give the committee no idea of what may be considered a fair day's work, either as regards measurement or the number of cane holes, or as to the work of any particular task?—I cannot; I do not wish to trust my memory to do so at this moment.

14083. What return would you expect to get from that estate cultivated at a cost of 1,000 *l.*?—I would expect to get a hogshhead and a half of sugar to every acre, and two hogshheads with ratoons.

14084. Would you expect to get 140 hogshheads from the estate?—Yes.

14085. And you think you could produce that for 1,000 *l.* as far as labour is concerned?—I should not take that as the average.

14086. What average crop should you expect to get?—You must take an average of so many years. I say the highest return would be two hogshheads an acre; but I will admit that two hogshheads an acre is not the average.

14087. What should you expect to be the lowest return?—I have already said that we have got from the estate as a whole, when the gang was effective, 196 hogshheads of sugar, and as low as 40; what the average between those two in any given number of years would be I cannot state without reference to the books; say 120 hogshheads for 200 acres.

14088. From your experience in the island of St. Kitts you think you could make 120 hogshheads of sugar for 1,000 *l.* a year?—Yes, upon the labour list alone.

14089. Provided you could get continuous labour?—Yes.

14090. You state that it would be of no use having any protection at all; because it would only create a rise of wages in the island, and therefore the planter would get nothing from it?—I said it had been asserted that 10 *s.* a cwt. would put 10 *l.* into the pocket of the proprietor; and I said that such an assertion to me appeared exaggerated to a great extent. I could not undertake to say how far the proprietor would be benefited, but I felt in my own mind that by far the greater part of it would in no way reach the proprietor.

14091. That it would rather go to the labourer?—Yes.

14092. Has the reduction in the price of the sugar hitherto considerably affected the reduction of wages?—Never till recently.

14093. Are

14093. Are you sure that this reduction in wages is thoroughly established in the island?—It appears so.

14094. Are you aware of what has taken place in Demerara?—From the public papers I am.

14095. That the reduction has not been established?—It either has not been established, or has not been established without great opposition; I expressed my surprise that the negroes would consent to it at first.

14096. Do you think there is any hope for the proprietors in the colonies that as sugar falls so they will be able to reduce their wages?—I do not think so; I have no reason for believing that they will. They have succeeded in reducing it one-third, which is a very great amount. If you had asked me six months ago whether I should be enabled to reduce my wages by sugar falling in the way it has done I should have said no; but I think if there were not this want of labour, having got the negroes to take a fair amount of wages, they would be contented with it for the future.

14097. You have also stated that if sugar continues at the present price all the estates, except a few favoured ones, must go out of cultivation; do you think it probable that any other product would take the place of sugar in St. Kitts?—I do not know any other; it appears to me that sugar is the one most suitable; there are a great many others, but they have all been abandoned for sugar.

14098. What do you think will become of the island of St. Kitts when all those labourers are thrown entirely out of employment and the estates have become ruined?—I suppose something will arise in the course of events to make a balance and adjust matters; I cannot foresee what it will be; I only say if people cannot produce sugar except at a greater cost than what it sells at in the English market, it stands to reason that the land must go out of cultivation, except in a few favoured instances: as evidence, however, that I do not think so, I am only waiting in England now pay off the incumbrances upon my father-in-law's two estates, which I hope to do upon very favourable terms. I have not completed that, but the lease of Lord Romney's estate I have completed, and I have covenanted in that lease to cultivate all the lands that are available for sugar cultivation.

14099. Did not you say you were not interested in West India cultivation at all?—Up to the present moment.

14100. You have only taken that recently?—By the last packet; from the year 1840 up to the present moment I have not been engaged in sugar cultivation.

14101. Your plans have been formed entirely upon the hope of a rise in the price of sugars?—A moderate rise; I never expect to see them very high again.

14102. Do you think that is likely to take place when the protection will fall in 1850 by 6s.?—It will be a gradual fall; I hope we shall be able to meet it.

14103. Do you think that the price is likely to rise in the face of a diminished protection?—Yes, I think so; I think the depression in the money market contributes greatly to the depression in the price of sugar.

14104. That depression in the money market has taken place before?—Yes; matters were improving, but recent events on the Continent have rather kept alive the feeling of distrust in the money market.

14105. You still think, in the face of a diminishing protection to the amount of 6s., the price will rise in this country enough to enable you to carry on successfully the cultivation of those estates?—I do so, and as evidence of that I state these two facts, that I have covenanted to carry out the agreements of that lease on a rented estate, and I am very anxious to get possession of two estates of my father's in the island of St. Kitts.

14106. Since the year 1840 have you been making agriculture your study, or has your opinion changed as to your own capabilities?—I have already said I do not think it necessary for a gentleman to manage his own estate if his inclination does not lead him that way; I certainly should not invest any capital in West India estates, and yet live in England; if I go out there I am bound to that island, and I think I have sufficient time upon my hands to give sufficient supervision to that part of the management of an estate which I think the essential part, namely, the financial department. If I owned the largest estates there, and I could get the services of a very efficient manager, I should not interfere in the agricultural department, but I should never think of parting with the financial one.

14107. If proprietors were to go out to the colony you would not recommend

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that they should manage their own estates, but confide them to the manager?—If they could do it. It would depend upon the person; if he had no talent that way, and he found other persons could do it better for him, I should not recommend him to interfere in that department.

14108. Do you think you are likely to get a large resident proprietary throughout the West India colonies?—I can see no hope of it; I would make any sacrifice to stay in England myself.

14109. Do not you think that that feeling exists among other people as well as yourself?—Yes.

14110. Therefore if a proprietor made a little money in the island, his first idea would be to come home to England and enjoy himself?—Yes.

14111. Therefore we never can expect that we shall have a large proprietary body in the West Indies?—I do not think so.

14112. It is needful, as long as we possess the West India colonies, that that must be submitted to?—As long as a man has English property he is quite right to live in England; but if he thinks he can do so, and enjoy a revenue from his estates in the West Indies, I humbly imagine he is mistaken.

Mr. Richard Farrer, called in; and Examined.

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14113. Mr. *Moffatt*.] YOU are engaged in trade in Liverpool?—I am.

14114. You have some experience of Brazilian commerce?—Yes, principally in coffee.

14115. You have been in Brazil?—Yes.

14116. At what period were you there?—I went in May 1839, and returned about October or November 1846; about seven years I was there.

14117. What was your principal occupation while in Brazil?—My principal occupation was in getting the planters to prepare and superintend the preparation of coffee suitable for the English market.

14118. Did you reside principally in the country at Brazil?—In Rio Janeiro, and part of the time in the coffee district, about 10 miles off.

14119. The object you had in going to Brazil was, to see whether the cultivation of coffee could be increased and improved there, so as to render it a profitable article of import to this country?—No: I went simply with the intention of purchasing a few cargoes of coffee to bring to England in the year 1839, in consequence of the very inadequate supply from the British colonies, and then to return; but when I arrived there I found that such coffee as I wanted could not be bought; that it was not prepared in the right manner. Though I expected to get out of a crop of 80,000 tons a reasonable quantity of coffee for England, it was not perhaps more than 20 tons.

14120. Upon that did you return to this country or continue in Brazil?—I continued there; and believing it could be accomplished, and that the prices would remain high for some years, I persuaded several planters to adopt the West Indian mode of preparation.

14121. What was the result?—The result was very satisfactory. When a few had done it, many others were very willing to follow, so that in the course of, I think, the year 1845, the import had amounted to about 4,000 tons of coffee, suitable for consumption in England.

14122. Does coffee form a very material article of production in the Brazils?—The most material by far.

14123. A considerable proportion of the capital in Brazil is invested in coffee plantations?—Yes, and in the slaves.

14124. Is there a larger amount of slave labour employed in the production of coffee or sugar?—I am not quite certain about that, but I should think in coffee.

14125. Is it usual that the parties who invest their capital in coffee plantations are also engaged in the production of sugar?—Not usually; there are some instances of it, but it is not usual. For the most part, in the districts where coffee is best grown, there are no lands suitable for sugar.

14126. You view the coffee planters as being the most influential class in the Brazilian empire?—The most influential, certainly. The coffee plantations are almost entirely in the province where the capital is situated; the sugar district is to the north.

14127. Are

14127. Are many of those gentlemen engaged in coffee planting engaged also in the affairs of government?—Yes.

14128. As a body, are they satisfied with our legislation in reference to coffee?—Not at all.

14129. What is their cause of dissatisfaction?—They complain that though such an immense amount of British manufactures is taken by Brazil from England, we take in return so very small a quantity of their produce; they consider themselves very unfairly treated.

14130. What proportion do the exports from England to Brazil bear to the exports from Brazil to England?—I should think about one-fifth, as nearly as I can tell without documents. There is a very great disproportion.

14131. That is to say, we export five times to Brazil what we receive from it?—I should think we do.

14132. Can you assign any reason to the Committee for that great disproportion in the balance of trade between the two countries?—The reason has been clear enough, that both sugar and coffee have been almost entirely excluded by us. We shall now, with the arrangements for sugar, no doubt approximate more nearly, but still the sugar cannot supply the whole of the deficiency.

14133. Has there been any large quantity of sugar exported from Brazil to this country, in consequence of the admission of slave sugar in 1846?—I am not aware that any large quantity of Brazilian sugar has been actually used by grocers; but it has been admitted for several years under bond for refining. Indeed, before the Act of 1846 there was a vast deal passed through the refiners' hands for re-exportation.

14134. Do you think that the production of sugar has been largely stimulated in Brazil by the legislation in 1846 in reference to sugar?—No; I came through Bahia and Pernambuco at the end of September 1846; indeed I was in Bahia the day the news arrived from England of the passing of the Act, and they were then getting the largest crop which has ever been known in Brazil; so that it could not influence that crop.

14135. Are you able to give the Committee any information as to what has occurred subsequently to that, in reference to the production of sugar?—No.

14136. Your practical knowledge in Brazil is confined to coffee?—Yes.

14137. When you were in Bahia, was there any advance in the price, in consequence of the news of the permission to bring slave sugar to this country?—Yes.

14138. To what extent?—It was not much; sugar was already very high then; there was some small advance. It was one of those things which take place because people at the moment think it may be a good thing; but there was not room for a great advance.

14139. Can you give the Committee any information regarding the cost of labour in Brazil; what is the annual value of the labour of slaves?—There are a great many people in Rio Janeiro and other parts of the country who let blacks for hire; for those, if they let them for agricultural purposes in large numbers to people, they reckon they get 10 millreas a month, that is about 22s. 6d.

14140. The current value of slaves for hire is 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per month?—That is the lowest rate. The rate at which they are let for other purposes than agriculture; for instance, there are now employed in my store at Rio Janeiro some to whom we give 12 millreas. That is the ordinary rate when they are let out for anything except agricultural purposes.

14141. It appears, according to this statement, that the price of slaves for agricultural purposes is lower than for other uses?—Yes.

14142. Why is that?—It is a more uniform occupation; there is not so much straining of the system; they are in a more healthy atmosphere, and they are not so hardly used.

14143. In stating so considerable a difference in the value of labour, will you state to the Committee what causes that difference?—The difference is, because being on an estate is an easier and more healthy occupation. The black will live longer than if he is put to all kinds of porter's work.

14144. What is the price of the hire of slaves for mining operations?—I do not know. The mining companies have generally bought all their slaves, excepting since the Act of Parliament which forbade Englishmen purchasing slaves, since which they have hired them for 50 years, or something of that kind.

14145. The Act does not limit the period for which the slave may be hired?—

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I am speaking of the English Act, passed three or four years ago, which forbids all Englishmen from purchasing any additional slaves.

14146. And that Act is evaded by the English in Brazil hiring their slaves for 50 years?—It is evaded by anybody who works slaves in Brazil in that way. They pay a certain sum to have the use of the black men for a certain number of years; 50 years was the time specified.

14147. Does this price of hire include the food of the slave?—The hirer pays the food of the slave.

14148. That is to be taken in addition?—Yes.

14149. What cost does it take to maintain a slave?—To maintain a slave with food, taking a number of them together (for instance, an average of 70, including clothes, food, medicines, and so on), costs 5*d.* a day.

14150. How many days in a month do they work?—We reckon 26 days a month.

14151. You reckon six days in the week?—Yes.

14152. The Sunday is respected in Brazil, is it?—They are never expected to work for their master on the Sabbath.

14153. The average price of labour per diem for a slave in Brazil, according to that calculation, would be about 1*s.* 4½*d.* per diem, averaging agricultural with in-door labour?—Just about that, where they are hired.

14154. That you would state as a fair estimate of the average cost of healthy slaves in Brazil?—Yes; the 5*d.* which I have given is what it actually costs upon the estate of a friend of mine, who has 70 blacks, and that is the result of his yearly expenditure, as I have in my book, taken three or four years ago.

14155. How many hours a day do those people work?—They will work from daylight till nearly dark, having about half an hour to breakfast, and perhaps an hour to dinner.

14156. Do you estimate that they work for 10 hours in a day?—Thereabouts.

14157. It is 10 hours continuous labour?—Yes, except for meals.

14158. During your residence in Brazil how many instances came within your cognizance of the slave working for a very much longer period than that?—There are cases in which the proprietor works him for special purposes in the evening, but that is not a constant thing. We will suppose he is on a coffee estate, they have their troop of mules coming from the city; there are troops of mules constantly passing to and fro between their estates and the city with the coffee, and they always have cargoes ready for them when they arrive; but if they have not got sufficient coffee milled and picked at the time, they pretty frequently on some estates have to prepare it in the evening after the field work is done.

14159. That occurs only at one season of the year, does it?—Principally at the gathering time.

14160. At other times the custom is to work the slaves not more than 10 hours a day?—I am not aware that generally they are worked more than that.

14161. As far as your experience goes, are the slaves willing labourers, or do they require the coercion of the lash?—They are very seldom whipped.

14162. Whipping is a thing very unusual?—It is. The overseer is there with them, but in most cases there is very little use of the whip; nothing at all has occurred within my knowledge, and I have been to a great many estates in Brazil, like the accounts I have seen of the West Indies.

14163. Your impression is that it is not a very severe day's labour which a slave ordinarily performs?—I should think not.

14164. Not more than, considering the difference of climate, an English agricultural labourer performs?—I do not think there is any hardship about it, if a man is to labour at all.

14165. Is there a plentiful supply of labour at the present time in Brazil?—The people are always short. They could always do with more than they have.

14166. Is it your impression that the Brazilian planters are a wealthy body?—Some of them undoubtedly have considerable wealth, but the bulk of them are considerably in debt for the slaves which they have bought. They have always been under a kind of apprehension that the time would come, and they could not tell how soon, when the importation might stop; and this has kept floating on until a kind of anxiety rests upon their minds, and induces them to try and get as many as they can.

14167. In consequence of that, many of them are in debt for the value of their slaves?—Yes.

14168. Would

14168. Would you say that there were more in debt than there were free from debt?—Yes.

14169. What is the rate of interest in Brazil?—It varies from 12 to 24 and sometimes 30 per cent.; 24 per cent. is frequently paid.

14170. What is the current rate of interest a planter pays who gets advances upon his slaves on his estates?—There is no current rate; so much depends upon the man himself.

14171. What is the rate of interest usually paid; you have stated that the planters are many of them in debt?—It will rarely be less than 12 per cent. I should think, as far as I have heard, that in reference to money advanced upon blacks, it will be 1½ per cent. per month very frequently; and frequently, but perhaps not so frequently, it may be two per cent., which is equivalent to 24 per cent. per annum.

14172. In the case of the 1½ per cent. per month, is it required that it should be paid monthly?—It is reckoned to be paid every three months.

14173. If that is not done is it generally carried to the capital account?—That is very frequently the case.

14174. So that it is interest paid upon interest?—Yes.

14175. What is the average price of slaves in the Brazils?—When I left it was, and had been for some time, about 500 millreas, which is about 60*l.* sterling, for a good black; good blacks who have been at work, and have obtained good characters, would sell, according to their qualifications, for perhaps 600 or 700 or 800 millreas; 500 is about the average market price.

14176. What is the price of imported slaves?—They, perhaps, would be about 10*l.* less.

14177. What proportion do the male slaves bear to the female slaves in the Brazils?—There are much fewer female slaves than males.

14178. Do you consider the slave population in the Brazils to be on the increase or decrease?—I should think, from the births, they are not on the increase. I should think the increase would be from importation, but not much from any source.

14179. During the year you were in the Brazils what was the average importation of slaves?—I do not know.

14180. There was no means of getting any accurate return?—No; we did hear statements made, but they were conjectures.

14181. Have you ever seen one of those slave ships upon its arrival?—I was not on board when the slaves were on board, but I have seen vessels in the bay.

14182. Do you think them very fit for passenger vessels?—Certainly not. There was a little thing came in one day which had several hundreds in her; she was not as long as this room: they were in a shocking condition.

14183. You have seen the slaves shortly after their landing?—Yes.

14184. What sort of condition are they in?—I have seen them in an excellent condition, as fat and flourishing as they could be after a favourable voyage, but others you would think probably could not live.

14185. Generally do they arrive in a tolerably good condition?—Latterly they have not done so; but we do not see much of them, they are landed at the outports; those we have seen generally are those who have been taken by the cruisers.

14186. Their sufferings are somewhat aggravated?—Those taken by cruisers are not the slaves that arrive in the best condition. The English do not understand managing them half so well as the Portuguese do at sea.

14187. Is it your impression that the import of slaves is on the increase in the Brazils?—I do not know; I should think it is very likely, from the feeling that was prevailing when I left the Brazils.

14188. Mr. Villiers.] What do you mean, by the feeling that prevailed?—People seemed then resolved to get as many slaves as they could.

14189. For what purpose?—For the purpose of working still more land.

14190. For coffee?—Coffee and sugar; there are a great many other cultivations besides sugar and coffee.

14191. Is there a general want of labour?—Yes.

14192. Mr. Moffatt.] Is there any free labour employed in the Brazils?—It is almost entirely slave labour.

14193. Is it your opinion that free labour might be advantageously employed, seeing slave labour is so costly?—I should think it might.

14194. Can

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14194. Can you explain how it is that it is not so used?—I suppose it is because they have got the blacks.
14195. They do not appear to get enough labour from the blacks?—In a country where there is a black population, whites will not go and be occupied in the same menial way. They have taken from Germany several thousands of poor people, but they are obliged to keep them in separate districts altogether from where the blacks are.
14196. Did they find that speculation to answer?—I do not think they did.
14197. What proportion of the population is slave, and what is free?—I do not know.
14198. The slave population bears a very large proportion, does not it?—It must preponderate immensely.
14199. Are you able to inform the Committee whether the production of coffee is profitable in the Brazils?—Looking at coffee in the abstract, as we as Englishmen should look at money invested with a view to a return, I should say it was very unprofitable, but those Brazilians do not enter upon it with that view at all; they get land and they get blacks because they wish to have an estate and to make themselves, as far as they can, independent men, and men of consequence. They reckon upon cultivating an estate, so as to find food and everything requisite for themselves and the blacks in the first instance from the estate, and that they shall have nothing to buy except clothing for themselves and the blacks, and some other trifling articles; and for all those things, and for the payment of interest for their own money and upon the money they borrow, they reckon upon coffee or something of that sort. The Brazilians are an indolent sort of people, and they are perfectly content if they can manage that.
14200. They feel no great desire for the acquisition of large properties?—Their desire is not so strong as to render them particularly industrious about it.
14201. Can you state the result of the production of coffee in any year on various estates?—The first I have upon the paper before me is the best coffee estate in the Brazils, though not the largest; the investment, including blacks and land, is about 7,200 *l.* sterling; the best production they ever had, and they are never likely to have such another, yielded them 1,860 *l.*
14202. That was sold in the market at Rio Janeiro?—I bought it.
14203. Did that leave a very large profit?—The expenses of the estate and the keep of the blacks would be about 460 *l.*; the interest upon the blacks would be, reckoning it upon that kind of property at 20 per cent., which is customary for advances upon blacks, about 778 *l.*; the land is not mortgaged; if it were mortgaged, the interest would be 10 or 12 per cent., that would be about 400 *l.*; the interest and the expenses would make 1,638 *l.*; the produce was 1,860 *l.*; so that there was 222 *l.* left for profit, out of which they would have to maintain the family, if they had not a large interest to receive for themselves, and that is the best estate in the Brazils.
14204. In an unusually prosperous year?—Yes.
14205. Can you give the result of any other instances?—The next estate I have is an estate in which 3,300 *l.* is invested; the coffee produced 530 *l.*, the expenses were 250 *l.*, leaving 180 *l.* for the keep of the family, and to pay interest upon that 3,300 *l.*; there is a dead loss upon that estate. The next I have is an investment of 10,000 *l.*; the result is that they have 790 *l.* to keep the family and to pay interest upon 10,000 *l.*; that also is a loss. Those are estates which I know, and from which I have bought the coffee.
14206. What year do you refer to?—1845; I am not sure whether one or two of them may not be 1846, but they are about that time. The next case I have here is one for two years together, 1845 and 1846; in 1845 the produce was 63 tons, and the next year it only produced 29 tons.
14207. What is the result of the average?—The outlay upon that estate was 10,600 *l.* I know all the particulars of the property; the loss was 170 *l.*; the owner had to keep himself out of some other means.
14208. Are the planters expensive in their habits in Brazil?—Not at all; they are remarkably frugal and very abstemious; they spend nothing scarcely, except now and then on festival days, and that is in a rough sort of way.
14209. To what do you attribute their willingness to go on with the cultivation of coffee with those losses year by year?—There are a great many people who

are much better off; but the bulk of them are content to continue existing, and trying to get out of debt.

14210. The result of your experience is, that the production of coffee in the Brazils yields no profit, on the average, to its producers?—No, except in the way of an estate which I have now got here. I have given four estates, which are worked within four or five leagues of Rio Janeiro, where they have to buy their provisions. I have now one which is managed in a different fashion; it produces everything required upon the estate itself; that shows a rather better result.

14211. What is the total investment there?—When I say it will produce a better result, the account I have here does not show a good result, though it is for two years, but it was an improving estate; the man is a clever man, and will ultimately make money of it; he gave for that estate, five years ago, 20,000*l.*; that included the estate itself and 117 blacks of all ages; the first crop he took off was 172 tons; the next was 72 tons; there was a blight that year; the result of those two years is, that he would be a loser to pretty nearly the extent of the carriage to Rio Janeiro, which is 6*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

14212. What is the weight of an arroba?—Three and a half arrobas make one cwt. I made this account when I was there in the summer of 1846; the trees were then loaded so prodigiously that he would make money by it that year; he would keep all his people from the estate, and he would sell enough coffee to maintain his family and to pay his interest, and perhaps get back a return for the loss of the previous years; upon the whole, however, it is a most unprofitable speculation.

14213. With all those circumstances of the high price of labour in Brazil, and the uncertainty of the seasons, do you see any reason why the West Indian planters should not successfully compete with the Brazilian?—I cannot conceive it possible that they should compete with them unless they adopt the same habits which prevail in Brazil, of personal residence, economy, and care. Those people in Brazil eat in a way that would astonish persons who have not seen it.

14214. What kind of food do they eat?—Almost the entire of their food, and that which is most liked too, is black beans and jerked beef, boiled along with a little bacon and some pepper; that is the universal food through Brazil. The most respectable planters all over the country never have, except on some special occasion, wheaten bread; they eat Indian corn flour; so that I cannot see how it is possible that the West Indians can compete with people who live in this fashion, unless they will also live in the same way.

14215. The more expensive mode of living by the West Indian planters you believe to be the chief cause of their being unable to compete successfully with the Brazilian planters?—I should think whatever supply of labour they had in the West Indies, unless they also changed their habits and mode of management, they could not compete; as to the mere rate of wages, I do not know anything about what it is in the West Indies, but I do not consider wages the most important item in the cost of production.

14216. Is it the result of your experience that continuously a larger amount of labour can be obtained from the slave than the 10 hours which he ordinarily gives?—No.

14217. You believe that no compulsion would compel him to work more than that?—No; there is a doggedness about him, which, to use the expression of one of those whose estates I have quoted here, “wears you out.”

14218. Is it your impression that the interference of this country in the slave trade has been beneficial in tending to extinguish it, as regards the Brazilians?—Quite the contrary; and I do not give merely my own opinion but that of other persons upon whose judgment in that matter I have greater reliance than upon my own; their opinion is that our interference has prolonged the existence of the trade indefinitely.

14219. Is it the opinion of those gentlemen to whom you refer, that the slave trade would gradually have diminished had not it been for the interference of Great Britain, and other nations who agreed with Great Britain, respecting the slave trade?—There is a great deal of the spirit of opposition about it; they will not be compelled to do a thing, and the Brazilian government at that time went before the people; and therefore the people do not feel themselves bound in honour to carry it out.

14220. The Committee may gather that in your opinion the slave trade cannot

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cannot be put down by the means we now adopt for its suppression?—I do not think it can.

14221. Your opinion is, that it is now on the increase rather than the decrease in Brazil?—It was when I left.

14222. What is the current opinion in Brazil with reference to the interference of England?—They cannot think that England is sincere.

14223. She spends a large amount of money in her efforts?—Yes; and yet you will find the Brazilians almost universally of opinion that England has some sinister motive; they hear it talked of as a means of making money by naval officers, and so forth; and while they see and hear so much of that, it is difficult to persuade them that there is not something in it more than appears.

14224. When in 1844 we admitted the coffee of Brazil at a lower rate of duty than had previously existed, did that give general satisfaction in Brazil?—Yes; they liked it.

14225. The allegation upon which slave-labour sugar was then excluded was, that coffee planting was very light labour?—Yes.

14226. Was that generally accepted in Brazil as a good and sufficient reason for excluding sugar?—No. I can remember, perfectly well, the scoffs of the people in Rio Janeiro when that news arrived.

14227. In what proportions would you estimate the labour in the production of coffee and of sugar?—I scarcely know. Sugar is a more disagreeable kind of work.

14228. Is there a greater amount of labour employed in the production of a ton of sugar or a ton of coffee?—A greater amount of labour in the production of a ton of coffee; I should think nearly double.

14229. Therefore the cost of labour in the production of a ton of coffee is much larger than the production of a ton of sugar?—Yes.

14230. The difference is not in so large a ratio as the difference in the value of the article when manufactured?—It is difficult to say.

14231. You estimate the value of a ton of Brazil coffee to be about 25 *l.* in Brazil, do not you?—From 25 *l.* to 30 *l.* a ton. The quality varies very much.

14232. What is the cost of the sugar?—I do not remember.

14233. About 14 *l.* a ton, should you say?—I cannot say.

14234. Are slaves openly bought and sold in the Brazils?—There is not a slave market, but they do it as openly as they do anything else.

14235. It is a legalized transaction?—Yes; it is not legal for anybody to buy new slaves.

14236. What proof do they require of their being old blacks?—They do not require much; they manage all that very nicely.

14237. There is no discredit attached to it?—Not the slightest.

14238. Are there some English planters in the Brazils who have slaves?—Yes.

14239. They have them under 50 years' contracts, have not they?—I only heard of one or two persons in Rio Janeiro having them under 50 years' contracts; the bulk of the English people who are there, who have blacks, had them before this Act was passed.

14240. Has the cultivation of sugar much increased in Brazil of late?—I do not know what it has done since 1846. In 1846 I believe there was the largest crop they had ever known.

14241. Do you find any difficulty in the Brazilian custom-house?—There is a great deal of difficulty; the custom-house is very large, but the quantities of goods that are sent out, from England principally, are so great that they are puzzled to find room for them often. The captain who brought us a cargo of coffee three months ago has been in the habit of going to Rio Janeiro for 20 years, and he said that he had never in his life seen in Rio Janeiro such a quantity of goods as there were then; he thought there must be enough to last them three or four years.

14242. How are the British goods paid for ordinarily?—They profess to pay in about eight months, but they think themselves very well off if they get the money in a year, and a great many accounts go for two years.

14243. Can you inform the Committee how the slaves are paid for generally when imported?—It is generally understood that a good many of the slaves are paid

paid for with the money that ought to go to pay for the goods. I should think by far the greater number of slaves are sold for credits; there are a great many people in Rio Janeiro who have got money, and they invest 3,000 *l.* or 4,000 *l.* perhaps in blacks, and sell them at three, four, or five years' credit to people who have estates, taking a sort of mortgage and getting a great amount of interest till the principal is paid.

14244. The principal is paid off by gradual liquidation, with a very heavy rate of interest?—Yes.

14245. Have you in the course of your experience in Brazil found any difficulty in consequence of the Navigation Laws of this country; do they impede your commercial affairs?—To Liverpool, for instance, where I have taken most of the coffee I have shipped, I have had to keep it three or four months before there can be got together, either by myself or other persons in the place, a sufficient quantity to send to Liverpool, from so many qualities being excluded by your duties.

14246. You find, as a dealer, that but a small portion of coffee can be obtained fit for this market; and you find a great obstruction in sending home those coffees, by reason of not being able to send them home in any vessel?—No; not in consequence of not sending in any vessel, but because a sufficient quantity could not be obtained suitable for the English market to fill a vessel.

14247. If you had had the privilege of sending those coffees home in any ship that was leaving for Liverpool, would it not have been a great advantage to you in your business?—If there had been any vessel coming, it would have been a great advantage to us to send them; but the nature of the case prevented any foreign vessels taking them on board, any more than English vessels, because there was no cargo to bring. If the duties on coffee were equalized, I could have had plenty; but we could send none but the finest now.

14248. Are you speaking of the old duties or the present ones?—The present duties.

14249. Of the 4 *d.* and 6 *d.*?—Yes.

14250. You have stated to the Committee that you have not had a sufficient bulk to freight a ship entirely, and that you have been compelled to keep your coffee many months in store; if you had had the privilege of sending your coffee home in a ship of any nation, would not that have been a great advantage to you in your commercial transactions?—Certainly it would; to have had a vessel to bring it of any nation would have suited our purpose.

14251. Are there vessels of other nations frequently there by which you would have had such opportunities, if our Navigation Laws had not intervened?—I do not know; there was no cargo to come, whether in foreign vessels or English vessels; that appears to me the absurdity of the Brazil trade, that we can send a vessel or two every week from Liverpool to Rio Janeiro, but the bulk of those vessels must go to Hamburg, or Bremen, or Constantinople, anywhere but England, with the return of the funds they have taken out from England.

14252. That evil you do not attribute to the Navigation Laws?—No.

14253. Then there is always an abundance of British tonnage home from Brazil?—There is not a vessel that goes from Liverpool to Rio Janeiro but would like to come back to Liverpool. Where the Navigation Laws interfere with coffee is, that when coffee gets on to the Continent in any vessel, whatever its quality may be, you cannot bring it from there to England.

14254. It would frequently be advantageous to you to have the privilege of sending your choice parcels in a ship going to Hamburg or Bremen, and then to send it on to Liverpool by another vessel, did not our Navigation Laws intervene?—I do not know that we should go to the expense of that; if we could select from Hamburg, or could select from Amsterdam, Java coffee, for instance, or in any other continental ports, in the same manner that continental ports can select in England, we should have a much better chance of doing business; there is a great deal of coffee which I have seen lately, which ought to come to England for consumption. The duty being high, we should have the finest we can get.

14255. You believe that upon the general trade of this country the Navigation Laws act very prejudicially?—So far as they affect the article in which I deal, I do not like them.

14256. You believe that they are disadvantageous to you as an extensive trader in coffee in Liverpool?—Yes. I can give instances of that kind from Rio Janeiro; it is so notorious there that the foreign vessels take more care of their

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cargoes of coffee, that, generally speaking, while there is a foreign vessel that can be chartered to take coffee to any part, she is preferred to an Englishman, and we should frequently do the same to England. They take a vast deal more care of their cargoes.

14257. Referring to the question of the customs' regulations in Brazil, is it the case that ships are frequently detained there from there not being room in the bonded stores to admit of the goods being taken in?—Yes.

14258. That is a frequent occurrence?—Yes.

14259. And those ships so detained are generally ships with cargoes from Great Britain?—With cargoes principally of bale goods.

14260. They will not extend their building accommodation for the storing of goods?—They have extended them from time to time, but when there come in a great number of vessels all together it is a very awkward thing to know what to do with them; sometimes in Rio Janeiro you will have 20 vessels a day come in.

14261. Can you inform the Committee whether at the present time, or according to your most recent advices, many ships are lying with cargoes on board, being, as it were, floating warehouses?—I do not know; I have known a great many vessels lie a week or three weeks before they could get their cargoes discharged.

14262. Before there was room in the bonded stores to store their cargoes?—Yes.

14263. How is the revenue of Brazil raised?—It is principally raised by fixed duties.

14264. What is the per-centage imposed upon British goods?—It varies a great deal according to the sort of goods.

14265. Upon cotton goods?—I do not remember.

14266. Is there any export duty upon their produce?—Yes, upon coffee there is a duty of 11 per cent.; upon sugar it is seven per cent. In January next the English goods are to be made one-third more than the goods of those countries in which Brazilian goods are received for consumption.

14267. They are received for consumption in this country?—I mean upon favourable terms; for instance, in America they have no duty upon coffee at all.

14268. Is there a large export of sugar from Brazil to the United States?—I believe not.

14269. Have you any further information to give to the Committee?—No.

14270. Mr. Wilson.] Is not it the fact that that contemplated advance in the duties upon English goods has reference to a law which was passed in 1846, giving to our Court of Admiralty a jurisdiction over the Brazilian slavers?—I am not aware that that was the reason why the law was passed.

14271. Are not you cognizant that that was stated as the reason in the House of Assembly?—I am not. I know the law you speak of has given them great umbrage.

14272. Were you there when the news came out?—Yes.

14273. Did it excite great indignation?—Yes.

14274. Was it an indignation in which the government went along with the people?—I am not aware of that, but I have no doubt of it.

14275. Are you aware that there was a commission sitting at the time for the purpose of making a commercial treaty with England?—I do not know.

14276. Do you remember that that commission was broken up in consequence of it?—I am not certain in my recollection about it.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Hope.

Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffat.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Christian, Esq., called in; and Examined.

14277. *Chairman.*] YOU are very largely interested in the island of Ceylon? R. Christian, Esq.

—I was, rather.

14278. And you have been personally intimately acquainted with it for some years?—I resided there for about six years.

14279. You are a partner in the firm of A. and R. Crowe & Company, in Colombo?—Yes.

14280. And Alexander Crowe & Company, in London?—The corresponding firm.

14281. Some years ago you made large purchases of land in the island of Ceylon, did you not?—Between the years 1838 and 1844 we purchased in all nearly 30,000 acres; it was purchased from the government, and cost about 6*s.* an acre upon an average, including the surveying charges. We have sold a great part of that; we retain a very small portion now of that land.

14282. The government afterwards increased the upset price of their lands from 6*s.* to a minimum of 1*l.* an acre?—Yes.

14283. Which immediately raised the value of land in the island, of course?—Yes, the previous purchases.

14284. And you availed yourself of that opportunity to sell off a considerable portion of your first purchase?—By far the greater portion.

14285. Can you state what extent of land you now hold in Ceylon?—I cannot state the exact quantity we hold, but including waste land, I do not think we hold 5,000 acres altogether. When I say we hold it, we are only co-proprietors of some estates; I mean that we are interested in about that quantity in some way, rather than the actual owners of it.

14286. Can you state to the Committee what your inducements were at the period you speak of to plant coffee in Ceylon?—I perhaps should first state, that when I left Ceylon we were interested in 21 different estates altogether, but now we retain only an interest, either as agents or proprietors, in six of those.

14287. It takes five years, does not it, for a coffee tree to arrive at full maturity, and three years before it bears fruit at all?—It does.

14288. You reckon that a coffee plant wears out in about 20 years?—That is rather uncertain, because Ceylon is not a sufficiently old colony as regards coffee planting to know from experience there; but from the best information we have obtained, that may be assumed as the average.

14289. It is not sufficient to plant a coffee tree and leave it to grow, prior to its bearing fruit, but it is necessary to weed and take care of it?—That is one of the great expenses of a coffee estate.

14290. Before you get any return at all there is a constant annual expenditure for three years?—Yes.

14291. Is not it the fact that the weeds and the jungle are of such quick and rank growth in that climate that if left to themselves the jungle would grow up

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and smother the coffee tree in about a month?—I do not know that in a month it would produce that effect; the longer the jungle was left uncut the trees would be deteriorated very rapidly, much more rapidly than a person who has not resided in the country would suppose; creeping plants twine round the coffee plant, and destroy it. Those lands which were cultivated with coffee were all in a state of forest and jungle when purchased from the government, and there was a great expense in cutting it down. The remains of the trees and shrubs require constant grubbing up; the roots throw out shoots again.

14292. Were you able to plant the same year that you cleared the lands?—I think the general calculation was that if they were able to cut down the forest and jungle, collect it into heaps, and burn it in the dry season, about January or February, they could plant in the next rainy season, in June.

14293. Will you state to the Committee what were the inducements which caused the firms with which you were concerned to embark in coffee cultivation?—It was about 1837 when we first embarked; the inducements were in a great measure the falling off of the production of coffee in the West India islands, and the large protective duty which British plantation coffee then enjoyed; and the high price, of course, consequent upon those circumstances.

14294. It was the high price of coffee brought about by the reduction of the cultivation of coffee in the West Indies, consequent upon emancipation, was it?—I presume it was consequent upon emancipation.

14295. And the high protective duty, the continuance of which you calculated on?—We generally calculated upon it.

14296. What was the protective duty which you enjoyed in 1837, when you embarked your capital?—Up to the year 1842, after Ceylon was put upon the same footing as the other colonies, the duties were upon colonial coffee 6*d.*; on what was called East India coffee, 9*d.*; and on foreign coffee, 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.

14297. Did you rank as East India coffee?—We ranked as colonial coffee, at 6*d.*; East India coffee was supposed to be coffee imported from any part of the East India Company's possessions; the duty was altered in 1842 to 4*d.* on colonial, and 8*d.* on all foreign coffee, from whatever port it came; the last alteration was in 1844, when the duty on colonial coffee was left at 4*d.*, and on foreign coffee was reduced to 6*d.*

14298. Though the duty on foreign coffee was reduced from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 8*d.* in 1842, apparently reducing your protection of 9*d.*, you esteemed, practically, that it was no such thing, inasmuch as advantage was taken of the wording of the Act of Parliament to bring Brazilian coffee round by the Cape of Good Hope, and entitle it to come in at 9*d.* duty?—There was a great quantity of foreign coffee, I think chiefly Rio Janeiro, but I am not sure of what description, landed at the Cape, and from the Cape imported as coffee the produce of India, which really reduced the protective duty to little more than 3*d.* a lb. They had extra expense, of course, in landing at the Cape; they had to pay double freight, and a little more insurance.

14299. The freight would not exceed half-a-farthing, would it?—I do not know what all the extra charges amounted to by that evasion, but I should think a halfpenny covered the whole freight and other charges.

14300. A half-farthing would be equal to about 20*s.* per ton for the extra freight?—The whole of the coffee had to be taken out of the ship, and landed at the Cape, and probably there would be some commissions and port-charges at the Cape. I have not made any calculation as to what it is, but I think it is very likely the whole extra freights and charges would be about a halfpenny per lb.

14301. In point of fact, a fraud was committed upon the spirit of the Act, of which the wording was, "coffee imported from British plantations;" the words, "British plantation growth" being omitted?—I believe it was the omission of the word "growth" or "produce" in the Act, which enabled it to be so imported. I cannot positively state how the evasion was managed.

14302. The spirit and intention of the Act was defeated for want of that trifling amendment?—That was the interpretation which the colonists put upon it.

14303. The colonists remonstrated, did not they?—I think they did.

14304. Practically you considered yourselves, after the Act of 1842, in as good

good a position as you were before?—Fully in as good a position, as regarded the duty. *R. Christian, Esq.*

14305. What was the price you got for your coffee in 1842?—I have a statement of the price of native Ceylon coffee in March, from 1838 to 1848. The coffee of native growth is not so good as that grown by Europeans, but it is a more correct indication of the general price in this market, being of a more uniform quality. In 1842 I find that the coffee was worth about 78 s.; in 1838 it was about 80 s.; in 1839 about 102 s.; in 1840 it was 99 s.; in 1841 it had fallen to 61 s.; in 1842 it rose to 78 s.; in 1843 it was at 55 s.; in the early part of 1844, up to March, it was at 68 s.; it fell in that year, about the months of May and June, to 50 s.

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14306. That was after the reduction of duty?—Yes; after the reduction of duty on foreign coffee from 8 d. to 6 d., in 1845 it fell to 46 s.; in 1846 it also was about 46 s.; in 1847 it was at 43 s.; and at the present time it is worth about 32 s.

14307. At 32 s. does it pay the cost of production?—That coffee is grown by the natives, so that it is very difficult to know whether it pays or not; but I should think, judging from the small portion of the price which goes to them, it does not pay.

14308. In consequence of those very high prices which prevailed in 1838, 1839, and 1841, there was a very large capital invested in the cultivation of coffee in Ceylon?—There was; and I may also state, that as an inducement, every facility was given by the local government of Ceylon to the planters; every possible encouragement was held out to purchase land from the government, and to invest capital in cultivating coffee or any other produce.

14309. The coffee lands were exempted from any land-tax, were not they?—There was no land-tax except on the cultivation of rice; but various promises of making roads and other improvements in the country were given to the planters, and in fact the governors of the island themselves were among the first growers of coffee; the secretaries to the governor, all the government agents, and many of the judges, the archdeacon, and a number of the clergy; in fact, everybody in Ceylon purchased land at the time, and began growing coffee. The late archdeacon was one of the largest growers of coffee in the island.

14310. If the prices had continued what they were some years past it would have been a most profitable speculation?—It would have been very profitable if prices had remained at what they were from 1838 to 1844. The amount of capital expended in cultivation I have no means of ascertaining, further than a mere estimate. I have seen various estimates, making it from two and a half to three millions sterling invested in coffee plantations in Ceylon. Those figures must be considered as very uncertain.

14311. You know what you invested yourselves, and what amount of coffee you grew, and you may probably derive some sort of conclusion from that knowledge?—I know the amount that passed through the books of our house, and from that I estimate the total sum invested in Ceylon at about 3,000,000 sterling.

14312. Can you state what the consequent increase in the production of the island of Ceylon was?—I find that in the year 1838, about which time there was scarcely any European coffee grown, the natives sent home 2,500 tons of coffee from Ceylon. The production of the last crop which has been received in this country, the crop of 1846 and 1847, consisted of 7,173 tons grown by the natives, and 5,309 tons the produce of European cultivation; making together 12,482 tons. I have a statement of the imports of coffee from Ceylon to this country, but that does not show the whole crop; this statement gives the importation of Ceylon coffee to the port of London, to which the great bulk of the crop always comes, from 1838 to 1847; it shows a gradual increase. In 1838 the exact quantity received in London was 2,426 tons; the next year, 1839, it was less, 1,852 tons; in 1840 it was 3,969 tons; in 1841, 3,175 tons; in 1842, 5,144 tons; in 1843, 4,471 tons; in 1844, 6,941 tons; in 1845, 7,595 tons; in 1846, 8,819 tons; and in 1847, 11,275 tons. The difference between 11,275 and 12,482, which I stated, is coffee sent to Liverpool and to the Mauritius.

14313. The consumption of Ceylon coffee in England is not equal to the production of Ceylon?—It is not; the consumption in 1847 of Ceylon coffee was between 9,500 and 10,000 tons; I cannot state it exactly, because the published accounts of the Board of Trade do not distinguish between Ceylon coffee and West Indian coffee, so that the consumption can only be contrasted between

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British-grown coffee and foreign coffee, but I believe the proportion of Ceylon coffee was about 10,000 tons in 1847.

14314. The total consumption of coffee of British possessions in 1847 was 27,000,000 lbs. ?—I have it converted into tons. The consumption of British coffee was 12,067 tons; of foreign coffee, 4,610 tons; making the total consumption of Great Britain 16,677 tons.

14315. The British possessions do not grow coffee quite sufficient for the consumption of the country?—I observe that in 1847 the importation of British-grown coffee was 15,285 tons, the consumption being 16,677 tons.

14316. Therefore you argue that if you had never been interfered with by foreign coffee, the market would not have been glutted as it now is with more coffee than the country can consume?—The admission of foreign coffee at a lower duty in 1844, no doubt encouraged the consumption of it in this country. I think that the excess of production of Ceylon coffee over the consumption, when we still have a protecting duty, arises from the difference in the quality of the coffees which are required in this country from the quality we chiefly produce. I think the consumption of this country is, in a great measure, of the better classes of coffee.

14317. And the Ceylon coffee is not so?—All Ceylon coffee is not of the better kinds, nor is all the coffee of any other country, but I think the best sorts of coffee of all growths are taken for consumption in this country.

14318. The foreign coffee of a superior quality is that which is taken for consumption in this country, while all the Ceylon coffee comes here?—Almost all.

14319. Can you state what the crop and the expenditure on a coffee estate, favourably situated, would be in Ceylon?—I have no objection to hand in a statement which was prepared some time ago, not for production here, but for the information of the proprietors of the estate. The only part of the statement which I omit is the name of the property, not that individually I wish it kept back, but our firm has only a very small share as proprietors in it, and the other proprietors might not wish the name of the estate to be published. The extent of that cultivation is about 650 or 700 acres; 700 acres were planted, but they have partly gone out of cultivation, from various causes. The cost on the 1st of January 1846 was 27,651*l.*; the crop of 1846–47 was collected at an expense, including the salaries of all superintendents and all the expenses for stores for that year, of 6,608*l.* As the produce is realized in London, of course the exchange is to be added to it, to compare the cost to the London proprietor with the price he gets here; adding 357*l.* for the loss of the exchange, that makes the expenditure 6,966*l.* The crop of that year was 4,314 cwt. of coffee. Dividing the cost by the number of cwts., it gives a cost, on board ship, of 32*s.* 3*d.* Before that can be sold there are charges paid in London of freight, and insurance, and dock rates, brokerage, petty expenses, the commission of 2½ per cent., which is the usual merchants' commission, the allowance for loss in weight, and the allowances paid by custom to the buyer of the coffee; all those charges amount to 12*s.* 4*d.*, which makes the cost 44*s.* 7*d.* To that I add, for interest upon capital invested, five per cent., and five per cent. also for depreciation of the property, as a coffee estate only lasts a certain number of years.

14320. Fifteen years in full bearing?—It is very uncertain how many years it may be; it may be less than 15, or it may be more.

14321. That is the general estimate, is not it?—The general estimate is, I think, about that time.

14322. But the expenditure goes on for a period of between three and five years without any return?—It does; that I consider as capital invested in the property; five per cent. interest on capital of 27,651*l.*, the interest on capital and five per cent. depreciation amount to 12*s.* 9*d.* per cwt., making the cost here 57*s.* 4*d.* of that coffee.

14323. When the trees are worn out you give up the plantation, do not you, and begin afresh upon new ground?—I have no doubt it will be so; it has never been so yet, because the plantations having been commenced so recently I cannot say; but from seeing coffee plantations which have been abandoned from the want of capital and suitable soil, I should say it would be as expensive to plant an old piece of ground as to take in fresh. The coffee sold in London for 45*s.* 6*d.*, the cost being 57*s.* 4*d.*, that leaves a loss of 11*s.* 10*d.* per cwt. Upon this individual

vidual crop that would be a loss of 2,552*l.* It appears by this statement that it is just the interest upon capital and the depreciation of property which is lost.

14324. The whole of the property is lost?—If it went on in this way the best plan would be to abandon the property. I find the preceding crop on that property sold at an average gross price of 51*s.* 10*d.*, and realized net 6,693*l.*; the expenditure of that year was 8,755*l.*, of which some part would consist of buildings and roads, so that it is not fair to compare those two amounts as the cost of that individual crop. The amount which I state is what the crop sold for here, deducting the London charges; I contrast that with 8,755*l.*, the expense of collecting that crop, which realized 6,693*l.* I consider the crop I have now named was the first crop that could fairly be taken as showing the cost of collecting a crop, and what it realized.

14325. With respect to the roads, are not they much more perishable in Ceylon than they are in this country, as buildings in those tropical climates are more perishable than they are here; there come tremendous rains, do not there, which destroy the roads very rapidly in Ceylon?—Both roads and buildings suffer more from climate a great deal than in this country.

14326. You have been speaking of properties favourably situated as to locality; your plantations are near the great roads and not so far removed from the sea, and they are also favourably situated from the circumstance that they are not burdened with debts, as a great portion of the estates in Ceylon are?—They are not, nor has any interest except 5 per cent. ever been charged. I stated the 5 per cent. interest and 5 per cent. for depreciation separately, that the Committee may form their own opinion as to whether a proprietor is entitled to 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. As regards roads, the estate is more favourably situated, I think, than any other, except one or two in the same locality. It is on the range of hills nearest Colombo, the shipping port. All the coffee estates are situated in the interior at a distance, the nearest of them about 60 miles, the furthest, probably, from 120 to 150 miles from the shipping port of Colombo; of course, the cost of carriage is very much enhanced for those at a greater distance.

14327. The island is about 400 miles long and 300 broad, is not it?—The breadth is only, I think, about 160 miles.

14328. Will you state the particulars of the charges, which amount to 12*s.* 4*d.*?—The freight at five guineas comes to 5*s.* 10*d.*; insurance 2*s.* 1*d.*; dock charges in London 1*s.* 3*d.*; sale expenses and petty charges 4*d.*; commission, brokerage, fire insurance, and discount to buyer, 1*s.* 10*d.*; and the loss in weight, which always occurs, 1*s.*; making 12*s.* 4*d.*

14329. The ordinary rate of interest, I believe, in Ceylon is 10 per cent. for money lent on mortgage?—The interest varies from 7 to 10 per cent. I do not think the coffee planter could borrow money in Ceylon, nor could he borrow it here, upon the security of his coffee estates, just now, at less than 10 per cent.

14330. Nor at any other per centage probably?—Not from a party who was acquainted with the state of matters in Ceylon, I think.

14331. Your charges assume that the cultivation is kept up to its full and proper extent?—Yes; that is an important point with reference to the statement I have given in. It could easily be shown that coffee could be shipped from Ceylon at a much lower price than this, but then the party would have gone to no other expense than to collect his crop, and in the course of a year or two, from weeds and other causes, the estate would be valueless. There is a great expense constantly in pruning the trees and keeping them up.

14332. Have you any calculation to show what, at the same rate, the gross loss upon the crop of the island would be?—Any calculation of that kind must be very general, but I think that where the estates are not so well off for roads or labour as the one in question, and when the planter has to pay the colonial interest for his money, it cannot be assumed that the last crop was collected at a less loss than 15*s.* a cwt. to the planter, or 15*l.* a ton.

14333. That would be upon 12,842 tons?—Yes, which would be 187,000*l.*; that includes the native crop, assuming that the native also loses by his crop. The average price of plantation coffee is now, I should think, about 44*s.* in London; the gross price. Some planters, who have a small crop and are able to collect it slowly, sometimes manage, with great care, to send home a small portion that fetches a higher price, and some of the estates, from some causes I am not aware of, send home coffee which realizes perhaps 55*s.* to 60*s.*; but the whole amount of that coffee must be very small.

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14334. Have the effects of this disastrous fall in the price of your produce caused the failure of a great many Ceylon firms?—It has caused the failure of several firms in London connected with Ceylon, and it has, no doubt, partly caused the failure of some other East India houses who were interested in Ceylon; they were corresponding houses of firms in Ceylon as well as in the Mauritius.

14335. Can you state which of the houses which have failed were connected with Ceylon in any way?—Cockerell, Larpent & Co. were connected with Ceylon, not largely, I think; Scott, Bell & Co. were also connected with Ceylon; there were also the firms of Boyds & Thomas, and of Lawrence Phillips & Sons, more immediately connected with Ceylon than the other two I have named; Hudson, Chandler & Co., who also recently failed, were established in Ceylon. The following is an extract from the Ceylon paper, with respect to their affairs: “Messrs. Hudson, Chandler & Co.—A meeting of the creditors of the above firm was convened by circular to meet at their office on the 13th instant, to take into consideration the state of their affairs, and to adopt such measures as might appear most conducive to the benefit of the concerned; H. Ritchie, esq., in the chair. The statement of liabilities and assets, which was read to the meeting, showed (after the insertion of a previous omission) the following result: Total amount of liabilities, 218,840 *l.*; total amount of assets, 229,620 *l.*; surplus assets, 10,780 *l.* The amount of assets, it appeared, was based upon the calculation that the many large and valuable properties belonging to the firm would realize their cost, or thereabouts. The proposition that the affairs of the concerned should be wound up under trust, was very generally supported; but requiring to be unanimous, was overruled by the opposition of one or two creditors, and recourse to the insolvent court now appears inevitable. It is found that owing to the present state of depreciation of property in Ceylon, aggravated as it will be by such an extent of property being thrown into the market, that the assets will, in place of showing a surplus, fall far short of the liabilities.”

14336. Were they connected with coffee estates?—They were largely connected with coffee planting.

14337. Coffee planting has become the great staple production of Ceylon, has it not?—Yes.

14338. Is it principally the fall in the price of their produce which has caused them to fail?—I presume chiefly the fall in the price of produce; but as I know nothing of the affairs of the firm further than I see in the paper, I cannot speak very positively.

14339. In proportion as the cultivation of Ceylon progressed, did the export of British manufactures to Ceylon increase?—I find that the exports from England of cotton goods did increase from the year 1838, in which they amounted to 45,000 *l.*, up to the year 1845, when they had increased to 130,000 *l.* In the last two years, 1846 and 1847, they have fallen off, in one year to 90,000 *l.*, and last year to 70,000 *l.*

14340. That is about one-half the value in 1845?—Yes. With reference to the production of Ceylon coffee, I should state that as it takes four or five years to show any return, the coffee we are now receiving is the result of plantations commenced four or five years ago; the production now, I apprehend, from no new estates for the last three or four years having been opened, will fall off much in the same proportion as it has increased; the falling off will be gradual.

14341. It is thought by some persons whose plantations are more inland and higher up, that they will answer better than those plantations which are nearer the sea; that is not your opinion, is it?—No; the reason it is not so is that the cost of carriage to them must be very much more than the cost to those nearer the sea.

14342. They have to carry their coffee upon the backs of cattle?—That is in extreme cases, perhaps; but a great number of them have roads, where even the small native carts can barely travel, the roads are so very bad.

14343. Where is this estate situated of which you have given evidence; is it on the coast?—It is about 60 miles from the coast. The elevation of that estate is about 2,500 feet above the level of the sea. The higher estates are those more recently commenced; they have never any one of them given a full crop of coffee; they have given a small crop, and the prices realized for a small quantity are higher generally than from an estate producing a full quantity, though the cost of gathering must be much greater. With respect to the importation of goods, I have a statement of the importation of all kinds of goods into Ceylon, from the
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Ceylon gazettes, up to the year 1846, and also the exports from the island. In 1839 the total exports amounted to 330,000 *l.*; in 1842 they had increased to 421,000 *l.*; in 1845, the year in which they were greatest, they were 530,000 *l.*; and in the year 1846 they had fallen off, being 497,000 *l.* So with the imports, they had increased up to the year 1845, being then 1,495,000 *l.* value, and in 1846 they had fallen off, being 1,372,000 *l.* Those figures are taken from the Ceylon government gazettes.

14344. Those calculations, of course, are made upon the invoice value of the coffee?—And other produce; they are the value for which they have paid duty at the Ceylon custom-house.

14345. Are the duties *ad valorem* duties?—Most of the duties are *ad valorem*; on imports five per cent., and on exports they were 2½ till recently, when they have been altered, making exports free of duty, except cinnamon.

14346. The government and military expenditure of the island has very rapidly increased, has not it?—From the return published by the Ceylon government I have a statement of the expenditure and of the revenue from 1841 to 1845; the expenditure has increased gradually, not quite equally in each year, but it has increased from 1841, when it was 361,000 *l.*, to 1845, when it was 448,000 *l.* A great part of that is expenditure on roads and other purposes.

14347. Does that return distinguish how much of the expenditure is in roads?—It does not. I am not aware that the government has published any statement showing in what way the expenditure is charged.

14348. Was not there some remonstrance from the island with respect to the increase of the expenditure, a year or two back?—I do not know, but I think there was. I was not in Ceylon at the time, and I did not happen to see it here.

14349. Was not there a remonstrance; the answer being, that the island could bear it, as the revenue was annually increasing?—Up to the year 1845 the revenue did increase.

14350. It is now beginning to fall off, is not it?—I have no return showing that, but I hear from the island, by a letter, that it is falling off.

14351. The population of the island is something under a million and a half, is not it?—It is under a million and a half. I find by the census of 1843 it was 1,442,000.

14352. The island of Ceylon not only maintains the cost of the civil but of the military government also?—The following is a statement taken from the government return of the expenditure for the year 1845.

[The same was read, as follows:]

EXPENDITURE by the Government of Ceylon, for the Year 1845.

	£.	s.	d.
Salaries of governor, civil servants, and all other civil charges - -	328,136	7	2
Military and commissariat charges paid by the island - - -	120,096	4	8
Total Expenditure - - - £.	448,232	11	10

I should also say that a sum, the amount of which I do not know, comes to credit for commissariat stores sold.

14353. Are not the population of Ceylon a very quiet orderly population, not requiring a large military force to keep them in order?—They are exceedingly quiet and peaceable. I recollect, immediately preceding the disasters in Affghanistan, and immediately preceding the war in China, two regiments were withdrawn from Ceylon. Mr. Stewart M'Kenzie, being governor, was requested by the Governor-general of India to allow as many troops as he could spare, and two regiments were taken away; and I have heard Mr. Stewart M'Kenzie say he thought he might have spared them all, except the Malay regiments.

14354. Therefore this large military establishment is maintained there more for imperial than for island purposes?—A great portion of it, I presume, is more for imperial than for island purposes; but I should state, of course, that opinions vary as to that; military officers, of course, generally think there are not more troops than are required.

14355. Those who have to pay for them think there are?—They do.

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14356. Mr. Goulburn.] There is a dockyard, is not there, at Ceylon?—At Trincomalee there is, but it is of no great use to the mercantile shipping of the island.

14357. It is the Queen's dockyard?—Yes. In the event of a ship requiring repairs at Colombo, the great shipping port of the island, she would generally rather go to some other port than Trincomalee; the passage round is tedious; she had better go to Cochin to repair, upon the Malabar coast.

14358. The neighbourhood of Trincomalee has profited very much by the dockyard, has not it?—I have no doubt it has, but there is no export of produce from Trincomalee at all.

14359. *Chairman.*] You have stated that the revenue is raised in a large degree from a land-tax upon the rice land and upon imported rice?—There is a land-tax upon all rice lands, which I think, one year with another, gives from 45,000 *l.* to 50,000 *l.* a year of revenue. There is also an import duty on rice of 7 *d.* a bushel, which I think yields very nearly the same amount annually, sometimes more and sometimes less; so that together they probably yield 90,000 *l.* to 100,000 *l.* a year.

14360. What do you reckon the value, *ex* duty, of rice per bushel?—The rice used in Ceylon is of the lowest quality. The price in Colombo of that rice, after having paid the duty, was 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per bushel; last year it has been upwards of 3 *s.* a bushel, duty paid, in Colombo.

14361. The duty is between 15 and 20 per cent. upon the value of the rice?—It is considerably more than that. The price I speak of is the price at which it is sold to the native, after having passed through the bazaar; probably the value of it is under 2 *s.*, and the duty 7 *d.*; that would be upwards of 25 per cent. I have a statement of the declared value at the Ceylon custom-house of the whole of the rice imported. I find they value it at 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a bushel. Why that should be so I do not know; it must have been some assumed value; it does not show the real value, but it shows the proportions of different years. The importations, commencing in 1839, were 242,000 *l.* value, which gradually increased up to 1845, when they were 459,000 *l.*; and in 1846, the last year of which I have any return, they had fallen to 430,000 *l.* value. The last few years would give an average importation of about two and a half millions of bushels of rice.

[*The Statement was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

VALUE of RICE and other GRAIN Imported into Ceylon from India, by Government Returns; valued by the Ceylon Custom House at an average of 3 *s.* 6 *d.* per Bushel.

	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.
Rice and other Grain.	£. 242,394	£. 270,313	£. 239,305	£. 248,363	£. 334,346	£. 350,231	£. 459,262	£. 430,177

14362. May the Committee suppose that the payment made by Ceylon to India for rice is about 300,000 *l.* a year?—Not quite so much as that, because from the valuation there stated various charges have to be deducted, and the valuation is high.

14363. There is a revenue raised also from salt fish?—That is increased by the new tariff, which came into operation in the beginning of January this year; there was an *ad valorem* duty on salt fish before. It is important as regards the natives; they consume a large quantity of salt fish with the rice which they eat.

14364. Have you any statement of the quantity of salt fish imported?—I have no means at hand of ascertaining the quantity.

14365. Can you state to the Committee what are the alterations in the tariff which have taken place?—The import duties on various articles have been slightly raised; the duty on gunpowder and opium and tea, and a few articles of minor importance, were raised about 25 per cent. by the new tariff.

[*The following Tariff was delivered in:*]

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TABLE (A.)—IMPORT DUTIES.

	DUTY.	FORMER DUTY.
Ale, porter, and all other malt liquors, per imperial gallon	£. s. d. - - 3	£. s. d. - - 2½
Cigars, per 1,000	- 5 -	- - -
Fish, dried and salted, and fins and skins, the produce of creatures living in the sea, per. cwt.	- 1 6	- - -
Guns and rifles, each	- 5 -	- - -
Gunpowder, per lb.	- - 4	- - 3
Opium, per lb.	- 2 -	- 1 -
Paddy, per bushel	- - 3	- - 3
Pistols, per pair	- 5 -	- - -
Rice, per bushel	- - 7	- - 7
Spirits and cordials, per imperial gallon	- 5 -	- 4 6
Sugar, per cwt., unrefined	- 2 6	- - -
Ditto ditto refined or candy	- 5 -	- - -
Tea, per lb.	- - 6	- - 6
Tobacco, per cwt., unmanufactured	- 10 -	- - -
Ditto - ditto manufactured, other than cigars	1 - -	- - -
Snuff, per lb.	- 1 6	- - -
Wheat, grain, peas, beans, and other grain, (except paddy) per bushel	- - 7	- - 7
Wine, per imperial gallon, in bottles	- 2 6	- 2 -
Ditto - - ditto - not in bottles	- 1 6	- 1 -
Goods, wares, and merchandize, not otherwise charged with duty, or prohibited, and not comprised in the table of exemptions hereinafter set forth, for every 100 l. of the value thereof in this market	5 - -	5 - -
Goods, &c., being the growth, produce, and manufacture of any foreign State, for every 100 l. value thereof in this market	- - -	10 - -

TABLE OF EXEMPTIONS.

		FORMERLY.
Books and maps, printed	Free.	Free.
Bullion, coin, pearls, and precious stones	"	"
Coal and coke	"	"
Copperah	"	"
Garden seeds and plants	"	"
Horses, mules, and asses, and all other live stock	"	"
Ice	"	"
Manures	"	"
Regimental accoutrements	"	"
Specimens of natural history	"	"
And also musical and scientific instruments, iron tanks, casks, staves, heading and hoops, and all machinery.		

The duties specified in the above Table (A.) to be levied from and after the 10th day of January 1848.

By decree of the Ceylon Government, No. 9, 4th December 1847.

TABLE (B.)—EXPORT DUTIES.

	DUTY.	FORMER DUTY.
Cinnamon, per lb.	£. s. d. - - 4	£. s. d. - 1 -
Ditto oil, per oz.	Free	- - 4
All other articles	Free	2 10 - per cent. on value in the market.

The duties specified in the above Table (B.) to be levied from and after the 1st day of September 1848.

By decree of the Ceylon Government, No. 9, 4th December 1847.

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14366. Has there been anything said of a proposition to increase the land-tax?—The only land that was taxed, as I mentioned before, was the rice land. It has been proposed to tax all lands, both cultivated lands and uncultivated lands, at 3 s. an acre a year on cultivated lands and 1 s. an acre a year on all waste lands; and for the purpose of that tax being carried into operation, the government are preparing surveys of the estates, and they have sent for returns from various proprietors of the number of acres.

14367. Are those surveys going on at the expense of the island?—I cannot say that they have commenced them yet, but I know that the government has sent for returns of the number of acres in cultivation.

14368. What do you calculate will be the effect of any such enactment as that of putting a land-tax of 1 s. an acre upon the waste lands?—I think a great part will revert to government again. I cannot conceive any object with a proprietor of waste land to retain land paying a tax of 1 s. an acre.

14369. Is there to be an additional tax upon the rice lands?—That point I am not sure of. It will be a tax upon cinnamon lands, and cocoa-nut lands, and every sort of land which government may choose to call cultivated lands; and I apprehend that it will be a tax very difficult of collection, from the great subdivision of land among the natives.

14370. Do the natives possess small allotments of land?—The natives hold a great proportion of the cultivated land in Ceylon, and their holdings are often very much subdivided.

14371. In your opinion it will not be very easy, but at all events it will be very expensive, to collect the tax?—Yes, it must lead to a great many disputes; the natives are extremely tenacious of anything they consider to be oppressive on the part of the government; they frequently go into the courts of law there against the government.

14372. You do not consider that those alterations would be any alleviation, but rather an aggravation of the position of the planters in Ceylon?—I think the tax of 3 s. an acre would just come instead of a tax of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the worth of his produce.

14373. You are under no very great difficulty as regards procuring plenty of labour, are you?—The labour is chiefly derived from the coast of India; the coolies come over and work in Ceylon for various periods, some six months, some 12 months, some two years.

14374. The coolies come over from India very much as Irishmen come over from Ireland to this country; they come over at their own expense, and go back again at their own expense?—They do, but they remain longer generally in Ceylon.

14375. In Ceylon they come over for periods of six months or 12 months, but do not bring their wives and families with them?—They do not.

14376. And that is the only grievance, so far as labour is concerned, which you feel, that a great part of the work of a coffee plantation could easily be performed by women and children, while you are obliged to have the whole of your labour performed by men at higher wages?—Quite so.

14377. Do you ascribe that indisposition to bring their women and children with them to the high price of rice in the island?—In a great measure, I do.

14378. That is to say, the tax upon the rice lands and the duty of 7 d. a bushel upon the import of rice?—Quite so.

14379. A great portion of the rice consumed is the imported rice?—I think the greater portion is imported; I have no means of ascertaining the quantity grown in the island; but it is small, not more than sufficient for the wants of the natives who do grow it.

14380. What are the wages which you pay to those coolies?—The wages vary very much, according to the locality.

14381. The nearer they are to the sea and to the road, the cheaper the labour?—Yes.

14382. And the better the men?—I do not know that the men are better.

14383. Have not the planters nearest the port of disembarkation an opportunity of picking and choosing their own men before those who live inland?—As compared with one another the planters who pay from 6 d. to 8 d. a day wages, those whose properties are nearest the main roads get the first choice of them. I thought the question referred to labourers residing upon the coast of Ceylon. With reference to those who do go into the interior, the planters whose estates they first pass upon the road get the choice of them.

14384. Have

14384. Have you a statement showing how many coolies came over in a year?—There were 34,080 men, 917 women, and 402 children, making a total of 35,399, came in the year ending 30th September 1843, by a government return, many more no doubt came not included in it.

14385. Do they come chiefly from the Malabar coast?—Yes.

14386. What is the distance from the Malabar coast to Ceylon?—By the route which they travel the length of the sea voyage is not much; they pass into the north part of the island, which approaches very close to the continent of India. Those men come over in ferry-boats, which are provided by the Ceylon government.

14387. They came over free?—Yes; they may go either way free; government charge nothing, or at least a very small sum.

14388. What sort of boats are those ferry-boats?—I have not been in that part of the island, and I cannot describe the boats; they are of the usual description of the large native boats; they are decked boats, small coasting vessels; a great number, however, come in larger vessels, which come to Colombo and other quarters of the island.

14389. Do you reckon the Malabar people very good labourers?—I believe they are as good as the average of Indian labourers.

14390. The Kandians prefer working upon their own estates to letting themselves out for hire, do not they?—They do; those who have small properties of their own.

14391. When they do let themselves out, do they work as well as the Malabars?—In some descriptions of work on an estate I believe they are considered better workmen.

14392. You reckon the Kandians a more independent class of people than the low country Ceylonese?—They are much more so.

14393. How many labourers do you employ on your own estates?—Between 3,500 and 4,000 people we employed at one time.

14394. Another item of duty in Ceylon is the tax on salt?—Yes; that is in the form of a government monopoly; they manufacture salt, which they sell at 4 *d.* a bushel, if you export it from the island, but they sell at different prices according to the contracts they make with the men who receive a licence to sell and deal in it. The average of the charge to those men, if the salt is to be used in the island, is 2 *s.* 8 *d.* a bushel; but if the man who purchases exports, he only pays 4 *d.*

14395. Is that felt to be an oppressive tax by the people?—I think it is; they use a great deal of salt with the rice, and it must be in some measure oppressive, because the poorer classes pay more than the rich.

14396. One of the great expenses of the planter is the cost of transit of the coffee, is it?—Yes.

14397. The roads are very excellent roads?—From Colombo to Kandy is very excellent; most of the other roads in the interior are very bad.

14398. That cost of transport affects those who live near the roads less than it does those who live further inland and higher up the mountains?—Yes.

14399. Is there not an opinion, which has obtained credence in this country, that there is some great advantage in being upon the eastern or the western side of the island in preference to the other?—There is an opinion that estates higher than those generally in bearing now will give a superior quality of coffee; they are generally to the east side of the island. I do not know that it is so much the aspect of the estates as the elevation.

14400. That is a misapprehension, which arises from the circumstance that the monsoons and monsoon rains alternately prevail more on the one side of the island than the other?—The misapprehension I think is this, that in a very dry season the higher estates generally have more rain than the lower ones, but if it be a wet season those high estates get a great deal too much rain, and it then becomes a favourable season for the proprietors of estates not so much elevated.

14401. The weather desirable for the success of a coffee plantation is fine showery weather, is it not?—I believe so, from the time the tree blossoms till the fruit ripens.

14402. If a strong monsoon, with heavy rain, comes when the tree is in fruit it knocks the berries off, and a great part of the crop is lost in the rank grass?—It is; and a number of the unripe berries are knocked off the trees.

14403. It frequently happens that you are suffering greatly from drought upon one side of the island and from rain upon the other?—It is sometimes the case.

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14404. I believe you have come to the conclusion, that unless the price of coffee very much improves a large portion of the plantations in the island will go out of cultivation?—I have.

14405. What remedy do you see which might be adopted to prevent any such disastrous occurrence as that?—I have no doubt that if the differential duty were again increased, as the entire production of British plantation coffee is not equal to the consumption, at least it is not now, though if it had prospered in Ceylon it would soon have become so, that would have the effect of raising British coffee very considerably, more particularly if it were altered in this way by a reduction of the duty on British plantation instead of raising the duty on foreign.

14406. That would increase the consumption beyond its present amount, or at all events it would cause, you think, British plantation coffee to take the place of Brazilian and Cuban coffee?—To a certain extent it no doubt would; in addition to that answer, I may state that I think if it should be determined that no further protection should be given, or that a still less protection should be given to the British grower, what would save the planters of Ceylon, or at least those more favourably situated, from utter ruin, would probably be a reduction of the duty on all sorts of coffee in this country, probably making it 2*d.* on British and 4*d.* on foreign, which would give us the same protection as at present, or 1*d.* on British and 2*d.* on foreign when imported into this country. I think that would cause a great increase in the consumption of coffee, and in that way relieve the Ceylon planter.

14407. That would incur a great loss of revenue?—It would for a time; but the question seems to me whether after a time the island must not become a charge upon the mother country.

14408. A reduction of 2*d.* a pound upon 36,000,000 lbs. of coffee would be a loss of 300,000*l.*, would not it?—Presuming the consumption not to increase.

14409. It is your opinion that if nothing is done to save the coffee planters of Ceylon the result will be that a very large portion of the expenditure of the island of Ceylon will fall upon the Government of this country?—I have not the least doubt of it, if they determine to retain Ceylon as a colony. If it be abandoned, of course the expense will be saved.

14410. The expense is now 448,000*l.*?—It is for the year 1845.

14411. Your calculation is, that supposing that one-half of that expense to fall upon this country, in consequence of the abandonment of the coffee estates, the result would be that there would not occur a greater loss, in point of fact, than 76,000*l.* in the reduction of the duty to 2*d.* a pound, even if the consumption did not increase. You would lose 300,000*l.* of revenue on one side by the reduction of the duty, but the obligation would be saved of an extra cost upon the Imperial Government of 224,000*l.*?—If they maintained the establishment in Ceylon on the present scale; but of course, if nothing should be done, the planters being obliged to allow their estates to fall into decay, Government would, no doubt, reduce the expenditure of the island. Instead of being a colony, taking a large quantity of British goods from this country, it would become a very secondary place, and they would only maintain a small establishment there.

14412. I believe the salaries of some of the Government officers have been considerably increased within these few years?—In looking over some of the papers published by Government, I find that several of the salaries have been increased since I left the island. The Colonial Secretary formerly had 2,000*l.* a year; I find he has now 2,500*l.*

14413. Has not he some assistants besides?—I think, but I speak from memory when I say so, there used to be one assistant in his office; there are various clerks and parties under him, of course, but there were only two officers who could sign the various documents necessary. Now I find there are five assistants in the office; one at 1,000*l.*, two at 800*l.* each, one at 315*l.*, and one at 250*l.* a year. In other offices the salaries remain as before, as the treasurer and auditor-general on 1,500*l.* a year each, but the latter is, I think, to be increased. The salaries of the Government agents are increased, at Colombo from 1,200*l.* to 1,500*l.*, at Galle from 1,000*l.* to 1,200*l.*, at Jaffna from 1,200*l.* to 1,500*l.*, and at Kandy from 1,200*l.* to 1,500*l.* As regards the civil engineer and surveyor-general's office, Mr. Norris used to perform the whole duties of that department.

14414. At what salary?—At a salary of 800*l.* a year.

14415. Mr. Goulburn.] At what date was that?—I cannot speak to the date; it was between the years 1838 and 1844; it was while I was there he performed the

the office for the first part of that time; then part of the duty was taken from his office, and an officer, called the Commissioner of Roads, was appointed, at a salary of 1,000*l.* a year. Since 1844 the office has been again subdivided, and an officer appointed, called the Surveyor General, at 800*l.* a year. I find there are 10 assistants in his office, having from 200*l.* a year to 550*l.* each. The commissioner of roads has now two assistants, at 200*l.* and 250*l.* each, and the civil engineer three at from 200*l.* to 575*l.* each; and I believe there are various other officers whose salaries have been increased, though I cannot name them.

14416. *Chairman.*] In this particular department, the establishment, which consisted of one surveyor and his assistants, with about 1,600*l.* a year, has grown to about 18 persons?—Yes.

14417. What is the total increase of the cost?—I cannot give the exact increase; I suppose the department, which cost about 1,600*l.*, would now cost about 7,200*l.* I might also mention three officers, called master's attendants, one at Colombo, one at Point de Galle, and one at Trincomalee; the one at Colombo has 700*l.*, the one at Galle, 500*l.*, and the one at Trincomalee 400*l.* a year.

14418. What have they to do?—I was never able to find that out, their exact duties.

14419. What are their alleged duties?—To look after the shipping which visits the port; but, excepting Trincomalee, the larger vessels anchor in the roadstead, and there is no such officer required as a harbour master. I did not mean to bring this so prominently forward, except that it was made a question some time ago by the Chamber of Commerce in Ceylon.

14420. The administration of justice is carried on upon a somewhat similar scale, is not it?—I believe that the administration of justice is performed by judges, who have higher salaries than the island can afford; whether they are too much for the men who receive their appointments I cannot say.

14421. How many district judges are there in Ceylon?—I have a list of them before me, in a correspondence between Lord Stanley and Sir Colin Campbell, in which Lord Stanley prohibits the civil servants from engaging any longer in agricultural or commercial pursuits, and adds that all who may have done so, must, within a reasonable time, dispose of their property or retire from the public service. The time fixed by the Government for their selling their estates was 12 months; it was then thought that it would be so hard upon them to force the sales of those properties that the time was again extended to two years, and that extended time must by this time have expired, but I have not learned the result. I do not think that the civil servants have yet sold their property. I do not think that this statement is a complete one with respect to the number of district judges: it is evidently made up with a view to their claims for pensions and seniority; and I think they are not all stated here; but I find there are 15 judges of districts in one list, without including those of the Supreme Court, of whom there are three appointed by this country.

14422. At what salaries are those 15 district judges?—There are four at 1,000*l.* a year, two at 800*l.*, one at 790*l.*, one at 700*l.*, one at 650*l.*, and two at 555*l.*; in another list there is one at 700*l.*, two at 550*l.*, and one at 350*l.*, but the list is incomplete; there are about 30 district judges, some with higher salaries than any now mentioned.

14423. Have not they a great number of assistants?—Not as judges.

14424. They have other duties beside judges, have not they?—There are several of them in the smaller stations who act as government agents as well as judges.

14425. Do they get other pay as government agents?—There are six of them under the title of assistant government agents and district judges; I presume the pay is for both offices.

14426. Their duties as district judges are very much similar to those of the sheriffs of counties in Scotland, are not they?—They are, except in this respect, that by the law of Ceylon every case must originate in a district court. However willing the parties might be that they should at once proceed to the Supreme Court and get a final decision, they must go through the district court before they can arrive at it, which merchants have felt to be a considerable grievance. In cases where both parties were in doubt which was in the right, they would be very desirous of obtaining a decision.

14427. Is there a great deal of business in those district courts?—In some of them there is a great deal, and it is increased by that which I have now mentioned.

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14428. Do you know what the ordinary salaries of the sheriffs of counties in Scotland are?—I think none are under 300*l.*, and the average is from that to 400*l.* a year, I think; some have 500*l.*; the sheriff of Edinburgh, I think, has 1,000*l.*, but I am not very sure.

14429. Do you think that, without prejudice to the description of persons selected to fill those offices, there might be a very great reduction in their salaries, and perhaps in their number too?—I do not think with reference to the judges that there could be a very great reduction, though, no doubt, there might be a reduction; but as to the other officers of the Government, I think there might; I think the Government agents, for example, have higher salaries than is necessary, and that there are more of them than are necessary to perform the duties.

14430. Could the same officers not perform the duties of district judges in more districts than one?—No, I do not think that arrangement could be made.

14431. Do they sit every day?—They do except Saturday; nominally they do; they used to be constantly obtaining leave of absence, but a great deal of that has been put a stop to recently.

14432. The revenue from the pearl fisheries has pretty nearly ceased, has not it?—It has entirely ceased.

14433. Mr. *Goulburn.*] To what do you attribute the cessation?—The reports given to the local government attributed it to the oysters not forming on those beds now. From the oyster beds the fish have disappeared, either from their having overfished them and disturbed the young deposits, or from the Madras government having endeavoured to alter the channel between Ceylon and the mainland; some parties thought that the currents setting into the gulf had swept the beds away.

14434. And there is very little revenue from the cinnamon lands, is there?—The government have sold nearly all the cinnamon lands.

14435. It was a government monopoly, was it?—It was.

14436. The fact is that there is very little land in Ceylon suitable for rice cultivation?—Very little for rice cultivation.

14437. The island must always depend chiefly upon India for rice?—I believe it must, so far as my information goes.

14438. Do you consider that if the cultivation of coffee should be abandoned, it would be a great injury inflicted upon India as regards its source for the exportation of rice?—To a certain extent the labourers would return to India. The Malabars, for instance, who have migrated to Ceylon, for whose use a great deal of that rice is imported.

14439. So that the ruin of the island of Ceylon would not be limited in its disastrous effects to the island itself, but would recoil upon the continent of India?—Quite so, so far as Ceylon is a customer to India for rice.

14440. Mr. *Goulburn.*] When was the great stimulus given to the coffee cultivation in Ceylon?—From the year 1836 to 1840, I think.

14441. There has no change taken place in the state of society in Ceylon, has there, in the way of depriving them of slave labour?—There has not. Slavery was to a small extent existing in Ceylon, even under the British Government; but that was entirely confined to the natives, who had held slaves under the Candian Government. That has altogether been abolished by their neglecting to register the slaves as required by law.

14442. The abolition, then, has not affected the means of procuring labour upon the land in Ceylon?—Not the least.

14443. Parties who have cultivated coffee in Ceylon have suffered nothing from the causes which have affected the cultivation in Jamaica?—Not as regards slave labour.

14444. There has been, of course, ever since the institution of those coffee plantations, for a considerable time, a great ardour to embark in additional plantations of coffee in the island?—Very great, up to a certain date.

14445. Are you aware that in proportion as Ceylon increased in its cultivation of coffee, the islands of the West Indies diminished in their product?—To a great extent, the one in proportion to the other. That may appear from the statements of the imports of coffee into this country.

14446. The ruin, therefore, of the coffee planter in Ceylon stands upon a very different ground from the ruin of the coffee planter in the West Indies?—I apprehend so.

14447. You have alluded to the increase of the establishments in Ceylon; do you

you think that, generally speaking, contemplating the expense of living in Ceylon, the rate of the salaries paid to individual officers is higher than is fairly due to the services which they perform in that climate?—I hardly think that the salaries to individual officers are too much, though I have mentioned that when the colony was failing in prosperity the salaries of the officers, or some of them, were increased; but I do not think, on an average, that those officers are overpaid; though, so far as I can judge, there are too many of them.

14448. You alluded to the inconvenience which was sustained to the mercantile interest in being obliged to originate their causes in a district court before they come to the Supreme Court; are you aware of the reasons which rendered that arrangement necessary in Ceylon?—I am not.

14449. May not it have been that it was thought improper for a merchant, or a person who had great means, to draw the local population from the district where the cause might be decided to the court of Colombo?—I have no doubt that was thought of as a reason for preventing the cause being brought at once into the Supreme Court; but I apprehend it might have been, in some degree, remedied in this way; that causes involving a great amount, say 5,000 *l.*, should, at the option of the plaintiff, be brought into the Supreme Court.

14450. Has it ever been proposed to the government of Ceylon so to limit the jurisdiction of the district court as to require the larger causes to go to Colombo?—I am not sure that the merchants ever, in a body, so remonstrated with the government; but I am aware that at one time so dissatisfied were they as to the courts in Ceylon, that government, in order to meet them, appointed to the chief district court of Ceylon a barrister from London, passing over the civil servants who would have been, by seniority, entitled to that appointment. They considered that a lawyer appointed from this country would be more satisfactory than any of the others.

14451. The district judges, you stated, are generally government agents?—Only in the smaller districts.

14452. The establishment of Ceylon is formed very much with reference to the establishment in the East Indies, is not it?—Very much, only upon a smaller scale.

14453. The collector in the East Indies exercises judicial duties as well as administrative duties under the government?—To a certain extent, but that is much modified now by the appointment of judges, I believe.

14454. When you stated that in Scotland the sheriff had only 300 *l.* a year, whereas the district judge in Ceylon has a considerably greater emolument, you did not advert to the union of the duties in the one case which does not exist in the other?—I find by this correspondence it appeared to be the opinion of the governor of Ceylon and the Colonial Office that the more those duties were divided, so much the better; and I presume that the spirit of that is being carried out; dividing the judicial from the revenue department of the government.

14455. However desirable that arrangement may be, does not it necessarily lead to an augmentation there of the number of persons employed?—I do not know whether a government agent in a small district, being freed from his judicial duty, might not exercise the office of government agent in a larger district, and so not increase the number of officers.

14456. What are the particular duties of a government agent?—The duties of a government agent in a large district, where a good deal of trade is going on, are exceedingly numerous; all disputes with regard to land, where the government are concerned, are referred in a great measure to him; he had the charge, while the government sold waste land, of having that land surveyed and sold, the surveys being conducted by the surveyor-general's department; he is also concerned in the collection of those rice duties I have named, the tax upon the growth of rice.

14457. And the sale of salt probably?—That is confined to one district of the island, the northern.

14458. Does the collection of the duties on spirits devolve upon him?—In those districts where arrack is distilled. One reason for assuming that the number might be decreased was the small space of time that they were to be found at their offices in Colombo and elsewhere; if a person wished to transact business with them before 12 o'clock he could not find them before that time; now I believe it is very much altered.

14459. What are the usual office hours in mercantile houses in Ceylon?—The usual office hours are from 10 to half-past four.

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14460. Are the government office hours different?—They are not, I believe; at least I think 10 is the hour of opening the office; but the government agent or officer in charge at the head of the office is, or rather was, very rarely to be found there so early in the day.

14461. What time are you speaking of; is it long since?—No, I speak of the period of my residence in the island, from 1838 up to 1844.

14462. You do not know whether the practice has been altered since that?—I apprehend, judging from the despatch of Lord Stanley, that things must have been considerably mended.

14463. It was in consequence of that neglect of duty that Lord Stanley made an interference to prevent their employing themselves upon their individual estates, instead of at their offices?—Yes. I do not wish that the tendency of the remarks I have been making should be to reflect upon the civil servants of Ceylon as to the mode in which they conduct their business; it was merely as to whether fewer officers might not perform the whole of their duties.

14464. Are the duties of the offices, generally speaking, well done?—Great complaints existed as to some of them, but as to the others I do not think there was reason for much complaint; some were very well conducted; the colonial secretary's office, while Mr. Anstruther was there, was exceedingly well conducted; that was the chief office of the government.

14464*. The colonial secretary is the person who principally regulates the island establishments, is not he; it is at his suggestion that the appointments take place?—It depends upon him and upon the governor.

14465. Mr. M. Gibson.] The consumption of coffee has increased very greatly of late years, has not it?—The consumption of coffee in this country has increased; not very greatly, I should say, but gradually.

14466. Considerably since 1842?—Yes.

14467. Are you aware of the cause of this increased consumption; is it from the price being more moderate?—I apprehend it arises partly from the price being more moderate, and from the duty being lowered.

14468. Are you aware that a great number of houses have been established in this metropolis and in other parts of the United Kingdom for the sale of coffee at moderate prices to the working classes?—I have no particular knowledge of that fact.

14469. Are you aware of the fact that in this metropolis alone something like 1,800 to 2,000 coffee-houses are established exclusively for the sale of coffee, in small quantities, to the working classes, at low prices?—I have no means of knowing the number.

14470. If that be so, and if the Legislature in raising the price of coffee, through the means of a differential duty, were to decrease its consumption, would not those persons be entitled to some consideration who are now carrying on business in all those numerous houses?—In answering that question, I said I did not know anything as to the number of those houses.

14471. If it be the fact that those houses have been established in consequence of the moderate price and the increased consumption of coffee, in case the Legislature were to take steps to raise the price, and thus limit the consumption, would not those persons be entitled to some compensation?—I suppose that their case is very much the case of the Ceylon planters on a small scale; those houses, I presume, can be converted to another purpose without sacrificing any capital, or capital to a very small amount, and if you give them compensation for this small capital it is certainly an argument for giving the Ceylon planter some compensation for large capital invested in coffee estates, which he can turn to no other account.

14472. If we were to check the consumption of coffee and have an increased consumption of ardent spirits, would not that be an injury to the working classes?—No doubt.

14473. Has not it been advantageous to this country that the working people should rather resort to those coffee-houses and consume coffee and tea and sugar, and so on, than resort to houses where ardent spirits are sold?—Certainly.

14474. Would not it be a disadvantage to the general welfare of society in this country if the Legislature were to take steps for raising the price of coffee and sugar, and to check its consumption among the people?—It would, of course, be a disadvantage in every respect to decrease the consumption of coffee; but it may be by allowing matters to remain as at present, or by decreasing the differential duty and thereby throwing the Ceylon cultivation out, that ultimately the price may be raised,

raised upon that very class of people. I am not aware myself, but I have heard that the present prices of coffee do not pay the foreign grower; that probably the consumption will outrun in a few years the production, so that if the production of Ceylon decreased, as I expect it will, the price in a few years will be much higher in this country of all coffee.

14475. Do not you advocate an increase of the differential duty?—I stated that if the differential duty were increased by lowering it on British or increasing it on foreign coffee, it would be a great relief to the grower of Ceylon coffee. I do not consider that I should answer the question with reference to the general policy of this country.

14476. Previous to the year 1835 Ceylon coffee was excluded from the British market, was not it?—It came in as East India coffee, at a higher duty than West India coffee.

14477. Very little was brought into consumption in this country?—Ceylon coffee at that time, I suppose, did not consist of 1,000 tons a year sent over here, which was all grown by the natives; in 1838 the whole production of Ceylon was 2,500 tons.

14478. It was in 1835 that Ceylon coffee was first of all admitted to a share, as it were, of the benefit of this market, was not it?—Part of the coffee was used for consumption in this country, I think, before that time.

14479. By reference to the evidence given before the Import Duties Committee as to the prices of coffee previous to 1835, the price of Ceylon coffee was the same then as the price of St. Domingo coffee, clearly showing that it was on the footing of foreign coffee; that it had no benefit whatever at that time?—I think the St. Domingo coffee might have been of a better quality.

14480. Was not St. Domingo coffee excluded by a differential duty?—I have not looked into the tables so far back; if it be so in the return, of course it was the case.

14481. You are in a better position in reference to your coffee than you were in 1835?—As to coffee sent by Europeans from Ceylon, there was none in 1835.

14482. All the coffee brought from Ceylon is now in a better position than it was in 1835; it was then as much excluded as foreign coffee?—My impression is, that at that time Ceylon coffee paid 9 *d.* a pound duty; St. Domingo coffee paid 1 *s.* 3 *d.*; British West India coffee paid 6 *d.*; Ceylon coffee at that time was not on the terms of foreign coffee as respects the duty.

14483. I will read a passage from the evidence given before the Import Committee by Mr. Sheil: "Before Ceylon coffee was admitted at 6 *d.* duty, in 1835, it was then, like St. Domingo, imported and sold for export, and I find that up to that period they bore the same value; St. Domingo coffee was a little higher than Ceylon. I take this market as being a better criterion than any other, because coffee is brought here for all other markets, and therefore it is the measure for the value of other markets. I find Ceylon and St. Domingo coffees, up to 1835, running nearly parallel in price; but in 1835 there was a change made in the duties, and then Ceylon coffee became an article of consumption in this country; then I find that the consumption increased, and it rose rapidly in price." Is not it true that from 1835 your position, as regards coffee, has been an improving position, and that previous to 1835 you were practically on the same footing as the foreign grower?—In answer to that, there must probably have been a difference in the quality of those Ceylon and St. Domingo coffees which are compared together. I cannot say there was, but I think it is likely. I am strongly of opinion that they then paid 1 *s.* 3 *d.* per pound duty, Ceylon coffee paying 9 *d.* per pound duty; 1835 was the year when the Ceylon grower was benefited by reducing the 9 *d.* duty to 6 *d.* only, and putting him in the same position as the West Indies; that of course improved his position.

14484. Since 1835 he has been admitted into a share of a monopoly which he did not enjoy before, has not he?—Why should you call it a monopoly?

14485. He has been admitted to a share of a privilege which he did not enjoy before?—Yes; but which he had an equal title to with the West India body.

14486. Is not it the fact that since 1835 he has been enjoying a share in a sort of monopoly price with the West India grower which he did not enjoy before?—Previous to 1835 there were no European producers in Ceylon.

14487. The price of coffee was, in fact, such that there was no encouragement offered to the cultivation of coffee in that island?—Previous to that time I should say not.

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14488. Since that time there has been a constant enjoyment of greater advantages as against the foreign producer of coffee in this market, which Ceylon did not possess before?—I have already stated the duties, and the various changes in them.

14489. Since 1835 Ceylon has enjoyed advantages against the foreign grower which she never possessed before?—You speak of Ceylon, I speak of the European planter of Ceylon.

14490. I speak generally of the producer of coffee in Ceylon?—Previous to 1835 there was no inducement for Europeans to grow coffee in Ceylon; after 1835 we were admitted on the same terms as West Indian coffee. The prices rose of all British plantation coffee from a decrease of the production in the West Indies, and of course, from foreign coffee paying a higher rate of duty; that induced Europeans to commence growing coffee in 1838; up to 1844 we had such prices as induced our cultivation to be extended, or, at all events, kept up. Since 1844 the prices have fallen off, year after year, which is partly to be attributed to the extended production in Ceylon, and partly, no doubt, to the alteration of the duties in 1844, as against the British planter; and now the prices have fallen to such a price as will not pay the producer in Ceylon.

14491. You mentioned that the governor and archdeacon, and a number of persons in that island, were themselves engaged in producing coffee?—I did.

14492. How did they get possession of the lands upon which they grow coffee?—They bought them; the Government put the land up for public sale, and they bid for it, or their friends for them.

14493. Those were waste lands?—Yes.

14494. Which came into cultivation from the coffee being admitted for the first time into this market?—They came into cultivation, as all other lands sold for the purpose of growing coffee in Ceylon did.

14495. Those lands were of no value before that took place?—The price obtained for them was about 5 s. or 6 s. an acre; the price was paid into the colonial treasury. The waste land of Ceylon is held all to belong to the government, and they sold the lands while a demand existed, and so obtained the value thus created.

14496. It gave, in fact, a value to those lands which they never had before?—It gave a value to those lands which they had not before, which value the present prices have taken away from those lands.

14497. They have enjoyed a value they never before enjoyed during the meantime?—The value was never more than about 1 l. an acre; the value was the amount of money spent in cultivation; the value of the land was the smallest portion of the cost of an estate.

14498. So far as it went it has been created since 1835, has not it?—Yes; the value of the land has been created, because by the duties in this country there was a purpose to which the land might, it was thought, be profitably applied.

14499. Supposing the duties on foreign and colonial coffee were equal, would there be a large supply of coffee into these markets?—You mean, would more coffee come into consumption? I do not think more coffee would be used, at the present prices. My reason for believing so is, that with regard to the lower descriptions of Ceylon coffee, I think we are at the continental price.

14500. Does the present difference of duty of 2 d. make any difference in the price?—I apprehend it makes a difference in the price of the better qualities of coffee.

14501. But not of the other?—I do not think it does; I think the higher qualities of Ceylon coffee are benefited probably to some extent. I think, as regards the great bulk of the importations from Ceylon, the prices now prevailing here are very much the same as would be paid on the Continent, except this, that in every trade it takes some time to change the current of it; the same coffee being exposed for sale in Hamburg or Amsterdam might not be sold at once, coming in as a new thing.

14502. Is there much coffee exported from St. Domingo?—I believe there is; I have no return to show the quantity.

14503. Have you had an opportunity of comparing the prices of St. Domingo and Ceylon coffee in bond?—I have not any statement before me to show the prices in bond; any price current would correctly show it.

14504. Are you of opinion that this 2 d. differential duty which is now enjoyed keeps out any coffee?—I do not think the 2 d. keeps out coffee, particularly as regards

regards the lower classes of consumers; as regards those who consume the lower qualities, I do not think the 2*d.* keeps out any coffee. If you were to make it 4*d.* I think it would keep out foreign coffee, and of course benefit the colonial planters, at the expense for a time of the consumer.

14505. Does not the 2*d.* keep out any?—I said I thought it gave an advantage to the higher kinds of colonial coffee.

14506. What is the proportion of those higher kinds?—The proportion is small; I cannot state it; there is no means of ascertaining it. If there were an *ad valorem* duty at the custom-house it might be ascertained. The reason for thinking that the difference in duty does not raise the price is, that Ceylon sent to this country last year upwards of 12,000 tons of coffee; this country consumed at most 10,000 tons of that, leaving 2,000 tons excess of production of Ceylon coffee over consumption; but the same year England took 5,000 tons of foreign coffee; from that I think the prices, with reference to quality, must be pretty much the same as on the Continent.

14507. You mean, quality for quality, coffee is as cheap here as on the Continent?—There are 7,000 tons of native coffee sent to this country from Ceylon, which is now worth in London 30*s.* to 32*s.* a cwt.; I believe that coffee is worth as much on the Continent. It is not so with the plantation coffee, or at all events the better qualities.

14508. If the difference were removed, you would not be in a much worse position than you are now you think?—I do not think the native grower would be, but those estates which grow coffee of the value of from 40*s.* to 60*s.* would be injured by the reduction.

14509. Has not there been since your acquaintance with Ceylon, previous to a very recent period, a great deal of money made by the production of coffee there?—A few of the earliest growers of coffee got very high prices for what crop they did produce, and they made money by selling those estates to other parties who now hold them; it was not money made by the production of coffee; it was not a fair annual return for the capital laid out. It was merely that the adventure seemed, up to a particular time, to promise better and better results, and those who were wise sold.

14510. For a considerable time after Ceylon coffee was admitted on the same terms as West India coffee, the supply of coffee was below the wants of this country, and the price was high; during the enjoyment of those privileges there must have been very large profits made and capital accumulated by persons in connexion with the growth of coffee in Ceylon?—In answer to that, I would say that when an estate was planted it took five years before it gave a full crop; the increased production from Ceylon, even up to the present moment, is only the result of those estates which were cultivated from six or seven years ago; the production of Ceylon does not increase immediately upon those estates being cultivated; a coffee tree requires four or five years to come into bearing, consequently the price, from the scarcity of British plantation coffee, still kept up, and a number of the earliest planters sold their estates; but I am not aware of an instance where a party who commenced an estate in Ceylon, and continues to hold it up to this moment, has made a profit upon it; in the earliest years he might have done so.

14511. You say that, as far as the present state of things is concerned, it is immaterial whether the present difference of 2*d.* is retained or not?—As regards the very low qualities of coffee, they are as low, I think, as they would be for consumption on the Continent; but, in addition to the causes which affect coffee alone, every article is now depressed in this country, so that, on a better trade commencing, the price of coffee might rise to something more than the continental value. I presume it probably would.

14512. After the present depression has passed away?—Yes; I think there is every reason to suppose that the price of coffee will very materially advance.

14513. Is not the soil of Ceylon particularly fine, and the climate very good for coffee, and the extent of uncultivated land very great?—It does not pay the cultivators.

14514. But you say the price is going to rise?—There is a probability of the price rising, but I do not think there is a probability of its rising to such an extent as to induce parties to increase the cultivation, or even to keep it up. This question has been agitated for years, and every time the question has been agitated the colonial grower has suffered, in the prospect of a change of duty, almost as severely as if he had lost it all at once.

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14515. Is not Brazil coffee of an inferior quality?—A great deal of it is.

14516. Is there much coffee comes from Java?—There is a large quantity of coffee from Java.

14517. What quality is that?—Some of the Java coffee is very good; the bulk of it is not of a very good quality, I think.

14518. Should you fear a competition with Java coffee upon equal terms?—I believe that the growers of Ceylon fear a competition with foreign countries very much. The fear of it is one reason of the impossibility of those connected with Ceylon, who require advances for their estates, being able to get them. Some fear it more than others. Some attribute the decline in the price more to the production of Ceylon than to the last alteration of the duty; others think the alteration of the duty had more to do with it than the production of Ceylon.

14519. Are you, in any respect, in a worse position for the growth of coffee than they are in Java?—I think we are in a worse position in respect of the cost of rice. In Java the cost of living is very small. In Java, I believe, also, that though nominally there is no slave labour, yet the labour is very much of the nature of slave labour; that it is a sort of forced labour. I have never been in Java, nor do I know that except from hearsay.

14520. Have you understood that there are means of producing any quantity of coffee on the coast of Africa, in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone?—I know nothing of Sierra Leone.

14521. As far as Brazilian coffee is concerned, you do not fear competition with that, do you?—I apprehend the colonial grower fears competition with all foreign growers; it is of no importance to him from what foreign country the coffee comes, provided they can grow it cheaper than he can.

14522. It has not anything to do with freedom or slavery, but you fear the competition of all foreign countries?—Yes.

14523. Should you fear the competition of St. Domingo?—I never considered the question in relation to a particular country. There was never a distinction in the duties drawn between free-labour coffee and slave-labour coffee.

14524. It is not any particular mode of cultivation in any particular country that you apprehend would be injurious to the coffee of Ceylon, but generally you object to the competition of any foreign grower whatever?—One reason why there is a fear of the foreign grower is the rate of wages in Ceylon which we pay, and the cost of transport from the estate to the shipping port, which are both very heavy. I think that the rate of wages being so high, in a great measure depends upon the price of rice, which price, as I have mentioned in the first part of my evidence, is enhanced by the import duty upon that rice, and by the tax upon the cultivation of rice in the island.

14525. What is the reason, if St. Domingo coffee were admitted upon the same terms as colonial coffee, it would not come into competition in this country; do you mean it would not find its way into consumption in this country?—I know from this table that the finer qualities of foreign coffee do come into consumption in this country.

14526. Speaking particularly of that coffee, would it come into consumption here?—I cannot say as to that coffee.

14527. What possible advantage can St. Domingo have over an English colony?—I am not at all acquainted with St. Domingo, but I fancy St. Domingo is governed at a very different rate of cost to what we in Ceylon pay. I think the native grower in Ceylon should meet with some consideration here as well as the European planter. So far as I am interested personally now in Ceylon it is much more as a merchant than as a planter. I stated that the firm of which I am a member, in 1844 endeavoured in every way to get rid of their interest in plantations. My interest is as a merchant trading to the colony. The natives who produced 7,000 tons of coffee a year, and who have been encouraged to extend their production in every way, are a class very well deserving of the consideration of this country, particularly as they take large quantities of British goods.

14528. Do you mean the Committee to understand that it is the expense of this establishment in Ceylon which entitles you to something of a monopoly in this market?—I think that is one reason; but the main reason upon which we would rely would be the monopoly we had, which encouraged us to begin; we enjoyed more protection when we began than we have now. Had the coffee duties been altered in 1835 to reduce the duty on British coffee and foreign to the

the same rate, the Ceylon coffee planters would not have existed at all; the production would not have taken place.

14529. Do not you get a good deal from the cocoa-nuts?—The cocoa-nuts are grown on the coast, the coffee is grown in the interior; so that you cannot grow them on the same land.

14530. Does not the colony get a considerable advantage from the sale of cocoa-nuts?—Yes, clearly.

14531. Is not there a considerable export?—There is a considerable export of cocoa-nut oil.

14532. Does not it enter largely into the manufacture of soap, and is not it used for the manufacture of various articles in this country?—Yes, but it is very small in value in comparison to coffee.

14533. Is not it a large item of export?—It is a considerable item, but it is a very small item in point of value in comparison with coffee or cinnamon.

14534. I suppose you would be very sorry to lose that trade if you could help it?—There is no protection as regards that trade, so that there is no chance of its being lost if it is profitable now.

14535. Is not it a growing trade?—It is a profitable trade, but of small amount.

14536. Previous to those advantages being enjoyed by the coffee producers what state was the colony in?—One source of revenue they had then which they have not now was the pearl fishery, which was extremely profitable to the government.

14537. Mr. Porter speaks of large shipments of oil and cocoa-nut as being made from Ceylon to this country?—With regard to the growth of cocoa-nuts we can compete with any country, because there is much less labour employed in the cultivation of the cocoa-nut than in the cultivation of coffee; the cocoa-nuts grown on the coast of the island are cultivated by labourers whose wages are much less than those in the interior.

14538. Is there anything else which you have lost since 1835?—Yes; the government have lost three great sources of revenue: they have lost the pearls, they have lost the cinnamon gardens, and they have lost their revenue from the sale of waste lands, which amounted to a considerable sum when purchases were going on for coffee planting. They sold their cinnamon gardens I think in 1842, 1843, and 1844; they have abolished the export duty, which was at one time as much as 2s. 6d. a pound on cinnamon; they now propose to reduce that duty in September next to 4d. a pound.

14539. Under the cinnamon monopoly they used to limit the supply, did not they?—They were the growers themselves, and they produced as much as the markets in Europe would take off. It was then in their hands, but it is not now; there has been cinnamon of good quality sent home from Java, and from the coast of India. The way in which the revenue is collected shows that the government of Ceylon has great difficulty in finding how to raise the taxes required; they are taxing the food of the natives in every possible way, which shows that there is no other way in which they find they can raise the revenue.

14540. Mr. Wilson.] Are you aware what quantity of coffee of British possessions was imported last year into this country altogether?—The total quantity in 1847 was 15,285 tons.

14541. That was of colonial growth?—Yes.

14542. Will you state what the entire consumption of last year was?—It was 16,677 tons.

14543. Do you know the total amount of importation, including the foreign coffee?—It was 24,000 tons.

14544. And therefore, in round figures, we had 8,000 tons of coffee imported last year more than we consumed?—We had.

14545. Is not there a large export trade in coffee?—There is.

14546. How much coffee was there exported last year?—I have not the return at hand.

14547. You are not aware that it was 13,300,000 lbs. weight?—I presume the amount is correct.

14548. What would be the effect of an increased protection in the island of Ceylon upon your coffee cultivation?—I think the effect of an increased protection, which you assume would raise the price here, would be to keep the estates in cultivation, which will now, without increased protection, fall out of cultivation.

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14549. If the same causes were in operation now which were in operation from 1842 to 1844, the period to which you have referred to, when the protection was reduced, do you believe the increased production of coffee would go on now as it did then?—I think not. I think any increased protective duty in this country would be looked upon with so much distrust by the colonial grower, that though it encouraged him to keep up his present estate he would never plant again; if you established a protective duty for a series of years, so that it should be an understood arrangement that it should last a certain number of years, it might induce the parties to plant again in Ceylon.

14550. Do you think the planters in Ceylon in 1842 had confidence that the protecting duty in coffee would be maintained?—I think the great bulk of them had.

14551. Are you aware of the changes that have taken place in the coffee duties since 1823?—I can state them since 1842.

14552. Are you aware what the changes have been since 1823?—Generally I am.

14553. Do you remember that in 1823 the duty upon colonial coffee was 1 s. a lb., upon East India coffee 1 s. 6 d., and upon foreign coffee 2 s. 6 d. a lb.?—I have no doubt that the figures are correct.

14554. Do you remember that Mr. Huskisson halved all those duties?—I assume the statement to be correct.

14555. Are you aware that the consumption of coffee, in consequence of that reduction, rose from 7,000,000 of lbs. in 1823 up to 28,000,000 in 1840, prior to the reduction to which you have alluded?—I know the consumption increased; I do not know the figures.

14556. Are you aware that from 1840 to 1842 there was great agitation in favour of free trade in this country?—Yes.

14557. Are you aware that coffee was one of the articles which was always referred to as being an article upon which the free-trade principle had been tried with great success?—I do not think it was the free-trade principle which was so much brought forward; it was the question of a reduction of duty on all coffee, for the duties were all reduced proportionally, retaining protection.

14558. Was not there considerable agitation during that period for the reduction of the duty on foreign coffee?—I do not think that coffee was so prominently brought forward as sugar and corn. At that time I was in Ceylon, so that I did not go minutely into all the statements brought forward by the free traders; but I did see that, particularly with reference to corn and sugar, they agitated the question. Coffee seemed, in some measure, to have fallen into the back ground.

14559. Are not you aware that coffee was one of the most favourite arguments, both by writers and statesmen, to show the great advantages which had occurred from the reduction of the differential duties?—All duties were reduced on coffee, I think, by Mr. Huskisson, both upon colonial and foreign coffee, leaving the same relative amount of protection. I do not see how that could be brought forward as an argument in favour of free trade.

14560. Are not you aware that every year, when the budget was brought forward in this country, there was a considerable agitation in the coffee market as to what change should take place in the coffee duty?—Yes; but those alterations were alterations which showed more the increase of consumption from lower duties generally, than any particular proof of the benefit of free trade.

14561. If the alterations which you expect were only to be a general reduction of duty, not a reduction of the protective duty, what agitation should that create in the mind of the coffee holder?—You misapprehend my previous answer. Coffee was more an example of the benefit of a reduction of duty than a reduction of protecting duty. I quite admit that coffee was brought forward, but not so prominently as sugar.

14562. Do you mean to say that from 1840 to 1844, during which period the cultivation of colonial coffee increased so rapidly, the planters in Ceylon acted upon the calculation that they were secure in the protection they then had?—I do not wish to speak as to the opinion of all the planters of Ceylon, but I think there was a general feeling in the colony that the duty would be retained in their favour, and certainly the native growers, encouraged by the local government, did not apprehend any discouragement from the Imperial Government. As regards myself, previously to 1844 I had great doubts whether, seeing the course which free trade was taking, any protection would be left to the colonies at all.

14563. You said they always expected some protection; have not they a protection of 50 per cent. yet?—They have.

14564. Do

14564. Do you believe in 1840, seeing the state of public opinion in this country, and the agitation which was being made in favour of free trade, and the general tendency to the reduction of differential duties, any coffee planter could have made his arrangements with the calculation of a higher protecting duty than 50 per cent. ?—From the year 1842 to the year 1846 he had 100 per cent.

14565. Do you think those cultivations were entered on upon the calculation of a certainty, or an expectation of a higher protecting duty than the 50 per cent. which he now enjoys?—A certain number of them entered into speculations earlier than that, and having done so, they must have sacrificed all they had expended, or carried it on; so that though they might doubt whether protection would be maintained, it was only the choice of two evils, either to give up their cultivation or carry it on to the full extent.

14566. Is not it the fact that the great bulk of those plantations have been taken into cultivation since 1839 and 1840?—Some commenced as early as 1836 or 1837; the great year was 1840, perhaps.

14567. What was the proportion of protection which they really enjoyed then?—They had 4 *d.* a lb. in two of the years.

14568. Before the alteration in 1842?—They paid 6 *d.*; the East Indies paid 9 *d.*, and foreign 1 *s.* 3 *d.*

14569. The 1 *s.* 3 *d.* duty was a nominal duty, not a real duty; the operation of landing at the Cape made it 9½ *d.*?—Yes, it varied as freights and insurance varied, upon which the extra halfpenny depended.

14570. Are you not aware that the greatest bulk of coffee which was so freighted for this market, in consequence of the expenses being less, and the quality suiting the market better, was coffee on its way home from Java, being landed at the Cape of Good Hope, re-shipped in a British vessel and brought to England, and therefore costing very little?—The greater part came from Rio.

14571. Are you aware that that quantity of coffee that came from Rio by way of the Cape was never suited to this market?—I know it did not pay the importer.

14572. Supposing the cultivation of Ceylon were to go on, as it has done during the last five or six years, rapidly increasing, seeing that we have already imported 34,000,000 lbs. of colonial coffee last year, and that our consumption is altogether 37,000,000 lbs., you must own that a very little increase to this quantity will make a larger entire supply of colonial coffee than our entire consumption?—But we cannot expect the production of Ceylon to continue to increase, because we know that during the last four or five years very few new plantations have been opened, so that if you commenced even now to plant coffee again in Ceylon it would not affect the production till three or four years afterwards.

14573. The reduction of the price has been caused in consequence of the reduced protection?—I apprehend in a considerable measure, combined with the increased production of Ceylon.

14574. If you were to increase your production, and you had confidence in an increase of protection, would not that have the effect of restoring this increased cultivation?—Nothing that could be done would, I think, give colonists so much confidence in the course of legislation in this country as would induce them to increase it; from year to year the policy of this country has changed so rapidly.

14575. Do you think it would be wise in Government, if they could not give a protection in which the colonists would have confidence, to give it at all?—If I were asked what, in my opinion, should be done with reference to the duty, the best arrangement that could be made would be a general reduction of duty on all coffee, leaving us a protection.

14576. Do you think it would be beneficial to your interests to reduce the duty on colonial coffee to 1 *d.* and foreign coffee to 2 *d.*?—Yes.

14577. At the present moment you have a protection amounting to 2 *d.* a lb. ?—I think it is rendered ineffective by the great quantity of low quality coming from Ceylon, as I have explained before.

14578. The reduction of duty would not alter the relative quality?—No, but it would alter the consumption in this country very materially.

14579. The increased price would apply to all the Brazil and St. Domingo coffees, which are now kept out of consumption because they are not so suitable to this market as the produce of Ceylon?—If they were not suitable they would not come in. The whole quantity of Ceylon coffee that went to the Continent last year was 142 tons.

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14580. At present you have a protection of 2 *d.* a lb., which is equal to 18 *s.* 8 *d.* a cwt. ?—Yes.

14581. Supposing you were to lower the duty, and reduce it to 1 *d.* and 2 *d.*, it would only be a protection of 9 *s.* 4 *d.* to you ?—Yes.

14582. Do you think that would be as efficient a protection as you have at present ?—I do not think either would be very efficient. I think the consumption of coffee in this country would not increase so rapidly as to take off the whole of the Ceylon coffee till a number of the plantations fall into decay, as they are rapidly doing.

14583. What has been the effect of this great reduction in price upon the consumption in this country ?—I find in the two last years, in which coffee fell very much in price, the total consumption increased 300 tons.

14584. That is comparing 1846 and 1847 ?—Yes; if you go back as far as 1840, there is an increase of 5,000 tons.

14585. An increase of the price would have the effect of diminishing the consumption ?—No doubt.

14586. Do not you think it would be prejudicial to you if the consumption were materially diminished by the increased price ?—If it arose from increased protection, it would increase the consumption of British-grown coffee, though it might on the whole diminish the entire consumption. I stated in the beginning of my examination the reason why, in 1844, we began to doubt the profit likely to result from the speculation.

14587. Do not you think that your difficulties in Ceylon arise much more from those charges to which you have referred, the great cost of carriage and the great price of labour consequent upon the high price of rice, than upon any difference of protection which you enjoy in this market ?—I suppose it arises partly from both.

14588. Do you see any means through the medium of protection, by raising the price to the consumer and increasing the quantity produced in the colony, of giving any permanent relief to the colony ?—I think such improvements as the reduction of the cost of labour and of transit would have a good effect upon a great number of the cultivators of Ceylon; but there are a great many of the estates which are now so near the verge of being given up, that they would be given up before those remedies could be of any avail.

14589. Do you believe it possible, in the present state of public opinion in this country, that a higher differential duty than 50 per cent. should be given upon any article at all ?—I have not any very great hope of it myself, though public opinion in this country alters very much, and sometimes without any good reason.

14590. Do you know any article at the present moment which is so highly protected as coffee ?—I cannot recollect any just now; there may be.

14591. But you do not know of any ?—I do not recollect any.

14592. You cannot tell the Committee any article which is protected so highly as coffee, which has an advantage of 50 per cent. in the duty ?—I do not recollect one at present.

14593. Do you know any article which has a protection of one-half the amount which coffee has ?—There may be; cocoa, I find by referring to the paper before me, has 100 per cent. protection. I think it is a matter for consideration whether coffee of the average value of Ceylon, taking it at 35 *s.*, should pay so high a duty as 100 per cent. upon its value. I think upon an article such as coffee the duty of 4 *d.* a pound and 5 per cent. additional, amounting together to 39 *s.* 2 *d.*, being considerably more than 100 per cent., is too high a duty, upon the same plea that the tea duties are constantly agitated; and it might be further stated that when the duty was 6 *d.*, it was not so high *ad valorem* as it is now at 4 *d.* Had it been reduced in proportion, it would now be as low as 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per pound.

14594. Can you tell the Committee what the calculation in Colombo is of the cost of conveying coffee from the plantations to the shipping port; it is stated in a Colombo paper that the cost of conveying coffee varies from 6 *s.* to 12 *s.* a cwt. from the estate to the coast ?—I have no doubt that estates which are at a great distance from the coast pay as much as that, but none of those do so with which our firms are connected.

14595. In fact the cost of conveying the produce, in consequence of bad roads, is nearly equal to half the protection you at present enjoy in the duty ?—Not only does it arise from the badness of the roads, but from a deficiency in the means of transport.

14596. If you had good roads you would have better means of transport, would not you?—The roads would of course facilitate the transport.

14597. The natives in the island of Ceylon are complained of as being an extremely idle race of people?—That is not my opinion; a great many persons say so.

14598. Is it from want of population that you are obliged to have recourse to the Malabar coast for labourers?—The demand for labour increased rapidly from increased cultivation, and the Cingalese population were employed upon their own small properties, which they did not choose to leave.

14599. You do not attribute much of it to their indolence and indisposition to work?—Decidedly not. I know a great many persons say they are indolent, but I think not.

14600. Do you know the chief difference between the condition of your labourers in Ceylon and in Java, where they produce coffee so much cheaper?—I do not.

14601. Are you aware that the Java labourer has invariably a large quantity of rice field attached to every plantation, which enables him to subsist very cheaply?—I do not know that. I know the price of rice is much less than with us.

14602. You are not aware that the Dutch government make a rule of appropriating a certain quantity of land to every village where they grow coffee; that they always take care that a sufficient quantity of land shall be in rice cultivation, and that it is the duty of the local administrator of the island to see that done, in order to give a sufficient maintenance to the population from home-grown rice upon the spot?—I am not aware of it.

14603. You are not aware that that is one of the great reasons why the more perfect administration of the island leads to great advantages in the island of Java in the diminution of the cost of labour, and the facilities with which they produce their coffee?—However willing the government of Ceylon might be to attach rice lands to the coffee estates, they cannot get them. Rice requires to be cultivated on irrigated land, and we have no means of doing that unless to a small extent. In the northern part of the island there are large tanks, but they have long fallen into decay.

14604. The only way in which the difficulty might be got over would be by abolishing the duty upon its importation?—Yes; abolishing the duty both on the growth and importation of rice.

14605. Do not you think it is a very injudicious thing to tax rice?—It is most injudicious.

14606. In other respects Ceylon is considered to be a highly favourable climate and soil for the growth of coffee?—I believe the soil and climate in the interior of Ceylon is very favourable, but that always entails upon you a great cost of transport to the shipping port.

14607. In Java they have also a great cost of transport, more than you have in some parts?—I do not think they have more upon the average.

14608. There is nothing you know of but the difference of cost in labour, consequent upon the cost of living, which places you in a worse position than Java?—The cost of transport is greater with us.

14609. That is only in consequence of the want of roads?—And in consequence of the distance from the shipping port. As regards the taxation of Ceylon, the rice duty I consider the very worst that could be imposed, and in addition to that the salt monopoly, and they have recently increased the tax on the importation of salt fish.

14610. Is it true that it is in contemplation to put a poll tax upon the people?—I believe it is; I have heard that it was mooted to put a poll tax upon them, or rather to revert again to the forced labour which used to exist in Ceylon, to make every man work six days upon the public road, or find a substitute.

14611. Supposing an increase of protection is not possible, or does not take place, but that there is a great probability of the diminution of your production rather than otherwise, the only remedies which you could suggest for the improvement of the island of Ceylon would be a reduction of the expenditure, an improvement in the roads, a repeal of the taxes charged upon rice, the necessary of life, upon both the importation and the growth of it, and of the salt monopoly?—Yes.

14612. Apart from the question of protection, those are the chief things which occur to your mind as lying within the power of the Government or the Legislature?

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ture to improve the condition of the island?—Apart from protection, the chief benefit that could happen to us would be a reduction of the import duty on coffee here.

14613. And the duties generally?—Yes, not a small reduction, but such a reduction as would at once affect the consumption in this country materially; the small reductions of duty have constantly gone into the hands of the middlemen, the retailers, and others; the public take a long time to get the benefit of them.

14614. Do you think the public would be very willing to submit to a higher income tax to make up for the deficiency in the revenue thereby caused?—You asked me the opinion of the public in reference to it; I think it is fair to bring to the notice of the Committee a tax of upwards of 100 per cent., which 4*d.* is, upon our coffee.

14615. You are not aware that Penang sugar, which is worth 8*s.* in bond, pays 14*s.* duty?—If it is so, that is no reason why we should also be taxed so heavily.

14616. Are not you also aware that common tea, worth 8*d.* a lb., pays 2*s.* 1½*d.* duty?—That I know perfectly; I think all three come in the same category; if you lower the duty on tea you should lower the duty on sugar and on coffee.

14617. You will admit that that is rather a question of revenue than anything else?—It bears upon our local prosperity as planters.

14618. Not upon your local prosperity as Ceylon planters only?—If we are benefited, all the world may be benefited too.

14619. Supposing tea and other things were reduced in the same proportion, they would also be increased in consumption, therefore all the benefit which you expect would not result to you?—I have no doubt that the consumption of tea and coffee would go on increasing together.

14620. Mr. Miles.] The great increase in the production began in 1837, did not it?—Yes.

14621. The agitation which you were asked about in favour of free trade began in 1840?—I recollect perfectly well, when I left this country in 1838, there was very little agitation upon the subject, or at least there was very little attention paid to it.

14622. In 1841 Government proposed their first measure for the reduction of those differential duties?—I think so, and resigned soon after.

14623. In 1842 you had a large protection given you by the new Government?—We had.

14624. Upon the faith of that the colonists set to work to increase their cultivation?—Yes, it had a beneficial effect upon the price, and tended to increase the cultivation.

14625. Then you had every reason to believe that you would enjoy this protection for some considerable period?—In this way, it showed we had reason to think so; the cultivation of coffee then commenced would only yield a return in four or five years.

14626. When was the last reduction made?—In 1844.

14627. In reality, before you had the power of bringing this increased cultivation into operation the protection was diminished upon you before you reaped any advantage?—Yes.

14628. Since that time therefore you have been retrograding?—Yes.

14629. The prices have been constantly falling since that time?—Yes.

14630. And the condition of the planter has been becoming worse?—Yes; and yet his production has been increasing, because it was the result of previous cultivation; he had no power over it at all. Had coffee required to be annually planted, I have no doubt, instead of the production of Ceylon having increased during the last two or three years, it would materially have diminished.

14631. Have you any idea how many estates will go out of cultivation?—I should think two-thirds of the whole.

14632. Has there been any difficulty in obtaining capital to carry on those properties?—I do not think the coffee planter of Ceylon could, either here or in Ceylon, raise money upon his properties; we would neither ourselves, nor would we advise any persons to advance money.

14633. Do you know at all whether the consumption of coffee has been most increased in the inferior sorts or in the better sorts of coffee?—I have no certain means of knowing the proportion.

14634. Can you give any idea of it?—No, I cannot state whether the increase has been chiefly upon the better or the inferior sorts.

14635. Sugar

14635. Sugar cultivation has been already set on foot in Ceylon, has not it? —Yes.

14636. What state are the sugar properties in there; are they prosperous or not?—I think all except one have been given up, or are in the course of being given up.

14637. Do you know whose that is?—I think the one which still continues belongs to the firm of Hudson, Chandler & Co.

14638. Has not Lord Elphinstone property there?—Yes, he had; but I do not think he is exporting any sugar from it.

14639. As far as the sugar cultivation goes, you do not think that it will be grown there for exportation?—No.

14640. Is that from the high price of land, or the difficulty of obtaining labour?—It is owing in a great measure to the land near the coast not being suitable for it; the land is poor; and then in the interior where the soil is good the carriage comes to so very heavy an item of cost.

14641. Therefore you do not think it is likely that Ceylon will export any considerable quantity of sugar?—I think not.

14642. You have plenty of labour in Ceylon, have not you?—Yes, but it is enhanced in cost by the price of food.

14643. Have you stated what the value of a day's labour is in Ceylon?—It is from 6*d.* to 8*d.* a day on the coffee estates.

14644. Is there any difficulty in obtaining plenty of labour?—Sometimes there is, but not generally.

14645. How many hours in the day does the labourer work?—It is very various, according to the season of the year or the management of the estate?—I forget the usual hours.

14646. Does he work 10 hours a day?—I think it used to be about 10 hours a day; he commenced soon after sunrise; from about 6 to 10, and from 12 to 5 or 6 again in the evening.

14647. Have there been any strikes among the labourers for higher wages?—Nothing that you would compare to a strike in this country; there has been no general combination among them; they have no property with them except what they can carry off, and if dissatisfied they leave the estate.

14648. Is there a great competition for them?—There was; it has fallen off now.

14649. Did the condition of the labourer improve during that time?—The condition of the labourer improved very much. I do not think the condition of the Malabar labourer improved much. The condition generally of the inhabitants improved very much.

14650. There was a large importation, was there?—There was.

14651. Do they come merely to take off the coffee and go back?—They come for 9 or 10 months, or something longer.

14652. Do they come of their own accord?—A few have been brought by planters.

14653. Are you allowed to make any contract with labourers in Ceylon?—Now we are. I believe formerly no contract was allowed by law to be binding for more than a month; now that is altered; there is no practical inconvenience felt now from the state of the law, so far as I know.

14654. Mr. Moffatt.] In reference to the statement you have given in, showing the cost of a crop on an estate in the island of Ceylon in the year 1846-47, I find the total cost was 6,608*l.*; have you any detail how that cost arose?—If you will look over the paper you will find it, as far as I can give it.

14655. You appear to have obtained from this estate for the year in question 215 tons; how many men were employed in the production of that crop?—I cannot state.

14656. Can you give the Committee any idea of the number of men it takes to produce five tons of coffee?—You require more men in crop time than during the rest of the year, but to keep the estate clean you require a considerable number all the year round.

14657. You have never made an estimate of what number of men per 10 acres would be required upon a coffee plantation?—I cannot tell that, it varies from local circumstances.

14658. You stated that the cost of labour was 6*d.* per diem?—That is to say, the average cost of it on estates best situated for a supply of it.

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14659. The day's labour is about 10 hours?—Yes, about that.
14660. And they work six days in the week?—They work 5½ days; they have Saturday afternoon as holiday.
14661. They have no holidays as in Catholic countries?—No, I think not; if they have any holidays they are not paid for them.
14662. Are the salaries paid to the superintendents large?—The salary of the head superintendent upon that estate was large; that is to say, it was about 400 *l.* a year; but that has been reduced this year to the extent of about 100 *l.*; 300 *l.* instead of 400 *l.*; the reduction would not materially affect the cost.
14663. You cannot give the Committee any idea of the number of men employed upon this estate?—I do not think I could. Except in crop time, or in seasons when they are repairing the roads and other extra work, there are, perhaps, 200 or 250 people employed, but that is not to be taken as very positive; in crop time our expenses, in every possible way, are increased for labour. I should think you have double the number of people at crop time for about three months.
14664. According to the statement, coffee appears to cost, exclusive of charges of transit, and those charges which accrue in this country, about 30 *s.* per cwt?—Yes, 32 *s.* per cwt., without any interest on capital invested.
14665. Was that plantation coffee?—Yes.
14666. You were understood to state that you desired at least the maintenance of the present protecting duty as regards coffee the produce of slave labour?—There has never, with respect to coffee, been any distinction drawn between slave and free labour.
14667. It is by reason of the allegation that slave labour is cheaper than free labour that you claim protection for Ceylon coffee, is it not?—In some measure, I presume it is so, because the coffee produced in slave countries lowers the price generally of coffee produced by foreign countries cultivated by freemen.
14668. Do you mean that in countries where slave labour is exclusively used, coffee is produced cheaper than where free labour is used?—I do not know which system produces cheaper.
14669. Your sole reason for seeking the maintenance of the present protection is to give an increased price to the production of coffee?—Quite so.
14670. That is your sole reason for seeking an increase in the present protecting duty?—I do not think there is any other reason for it, except that it may have the effect ultimately of reducing the price instead of raising it. If the Ceylon estates are allowed to be thrown out of cultivation, this country will be thrown upon foreign coffee entirely.
14671. It is perfectly clear that you can produce cheaper than other countries?—That I do not know.
14672. Assuming coffee in Brazil to cost 38 *l.* a ton, it is clear that you in producing this fine plantation Ceylon at 32 *l.* a ton can produce upon more advantageous terms than they can?—That is the answer given by another witness. I know nothing of the cost of production in foreign countries; 32 *l.* or 33 *l.* a ton is the cost on an estate favourably situated, and without any interest on capital.
14673. Assuming that to be the cost of production in foreign countries, there is very little reason to fear that it will be necessary for Ceylon to abandon its cultivation?—It is not the general belief in the colony that it costs so much in Brazil as you state to be the fact, nor is it my own belief.
14674. Have you made any estimate how far the taxation raised in Ceylon presses upon the cost of the production of coffee?—I have made no calculation; it would be very difficult to arrive at it in figures.
14675. It appears from official returns that the total value of the exports are 500,000 *l.*, of which coffee makes considerably more than one-half?—Yes.
14676. Upon that showing there must be a considerable amount of taxation which must fall upon the production of coffee?—Of course there is.
14677. Therefore if a large reduction in the expenditure of the government of the island could be introduced, that would enable you to produce your coffee at less cost?—Yes, but it would not affect us for two or three years to come.
14678. Does the outlay upon the estate of which you have given the particulars to the Committee represent the ordinary outlay upon coffee estates of similar extent?—It is under the general cost.
14679. With so large a capital originally invested, for one bad year are the producers of coffee likely to abandon the cultivation?—They will not abandon the cultivation for one bad year, but repeated years resulting in the same loss would induce

induce them to abandon it, if they see no hope of improvement; many under any circumstances must abandon, as they cannot raise money to carry on their cultivation.

14680. There has been only one year yet in which the prices have fallen so low as you have quoted?—I am aware that the price is lower than it has ever yet been, but it does not follow that next year it will be higher; though my own opinion is that all coffees will be very much dearer very soon.

14681. If they are dearer then the estates will be rendered more profitable?—They will be rendered profitable.

14682. Can you inform the Committee the proportion of native and plantation coffee which is exported?—Last year there were 7,173 tons of native, and 5,309 tons of plantation.

14683. It appears that the larger proportion of coffee sent from Ceylon is native coffee?—Yes.

14684. To which the chief part of your evidence does not apply?—No.

14685. Can you give the Committee any information with regard to the cost of production of this larger portion of Ceylon coffee?—Only generally; it may be approached in this way: 32*s.* being the price here, deducting the various charges before you can give anything to the native grower, you have so small a sum that it is hardly possible it can pay him.

14686. What was the price on board according to the last quotations from Colombo?—22*s.* to 23*s.*

14687. Assuming that coffee is purchased at 22*l.* a ton free on board, that leaves a slight profit to the importer, does not it?—I do not think it does.

14688. It is simply a means of remittance?—Yes, it remits your money at par; but most of the coffee of this season was bought higher than last quotation.

14689. It appears that almost two-thirds of the coffee exported from Ceylon at the lowest price which has ever been known, now leaves no loss to the importer?—To the grower it leaves considerable loss; there is to be deducted from the cost, at Colombo, about 4*s.* for expense incurred after it is purchased from the natives; you may buy coffee from the natives in the bazaar, at Colombo, by the last accounts, at 18*s.* It has passed through one or two hands, the native dealers who collect it in the country beforehand, and it has also paid the expense of carriage from Kandy, which is considerable. I do not suppose you leave the native grower more than 5*s.* 10*d.* for expense of cultivation.

14690. The supply of native coffee increases, does it not?—It has increased; but every year the price has fallen.

14691. With a continual declension in the price of the article, the production has increased in the markets of Colombo?—The great fall of the native coffee has been within two or three years; last year it was 43*s.*

14692. Is there any guarantee that it will not be 43*s.* this time twelvemonth?—That I do not know.

14693. What is your opinion?—I have stated already that my belief is, that coffee will be dearer than it is at present.

14694. Are there unusual circumstances which are at present affecting coffee?—There are unusual circumstances affecting all articles of produce.

14695. Consequently the present low price of coffee is no fair criterion of what its value is likely to be over a series of years?—The extreme depression at the present moment is no criterion, but the average price of last year is a criterion.

14696. The average price of native Ceylon coffee, last year, was 42*s.*?—Ten shillings more than at present, at this date last year; it fell in the latter part of the year.

14697. That left a profit to the importer?—They bought it dearer than they have done this year. It did not leave much profit; but I do not think the profit to the importer is any guide as to what it cost the native to grow it.

14698. Has not the decline been very steady for the last six or seven years in the price of Ceylon coffee?—It has been steady, but there may be a point between the cost five years ago and the present price at which it did pay them.

14699. You stated that in the main the coffees imported from Ceylon were as cheap, irrespective of duty, as the coffees imported from any other part?—At the present prices I suppose they are the cheapest coffees in this country. Under the present state of the duty, I believe Ceylon coffee is the cheapest.

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14700. The quality considered, the bulk of it is as cheap as any quality that enters into the market of Europe?—At the present moment.

14701. Your information applies to all, except a portion of the finest qualities?—Yes.

14702. What proportion should you say that is?—I should say it is a small proportion.

14703. How much of your own imports do you obtain above 50s. a cwt.?—We get hardly any of the finer qualities; the few estates we are still connected with are those that give large crops; those giving a very small crop just in the first few years have given better qualities of coffee. The six estates we are connected with did give better qualities some years ago than they do now.

14704. Taking the present market value, do you think there are 500 tons of coffee imported from Ceylon that would realize 50*l.* a ton?—I do not think so.

14705. It appears if that estimate be accurate, that protection only benefits you to the extent of its operation upon 500 tons of coffee?—Probably those between 35*s.* and 40*s.* are favoured to some extent. All those above 42*s.* or 44*s.* are favoured by the protecting duty; it is not a point I can ascertain very readily.

14706. When you were giving evidence in regard to the tax on rice, you stated it at 7*d.* a bushel?—Yes.

14707. What weight is a bushel estimated to contain?—Two and a half bushels weigh a cwt. and a half.

14708. Can you state what the quantity of rice imported year by year is?—In 1844 the import was 2,350,000 bushels.

14709. Can you state what the value of that rice is?—I have given in a memorandum of the value, according to the Ceylon custom-house, of rice imported for four or five years.

14710. How much per cent. does the tax amount to upon it?—I think about 25 per cent. and upwards, according to quality.

14711. This rice forms the main article of food among the labourers of Ceylon?—Nearly the sole article.

14712. Is there any charge upon the rice land?—The tax upon the rice land is nominally a tenth part of the produce, but that has been commuted by the government in nearly every instance, so that I suppose it is considerably less than that; that is to say, it is commuted to a lower rate than that.

14713. Whence do you principally obtain your rice?—From various ports in India, from Cape Comorin, half way up to Madras, and recently from Arracan.

14714. Do you export produce to those places in return for the rice?—No, the remittances sent to India for that rice consist to a considerable extent in bills, by drafts in this country, or on the presidencies of India.

14715. By what authority are the taxes raised in Ceylon?—Under the sanction of the Legislative Council of the island, and allowed by the Colonial Office here.

14716. How is the Legislative Council constituted?—It consists of the governor, and nine official members and six non-official members.

14717. How are the non-official members appointed?—By the governor.

14718. The whole council is at the nomination of the governor?—Yes.

14719. So that there is no representative system in Ceylon?—No; the selection of those six members of the council has been considered fair by the community; three of them are generally members of European houses, and three are native members.

14720. That is, six in a council of 16?—Yes; with the governor having a double vote.

14721. Has any attempt on the part of the planters been made to limit the expenditure?—No, whatever the council do must have the consent of the Government at home.

14722. Mr. Villiers.] You have been in Ceylon?—I have.

14723. Were you there in Sir Edward Barnes's time?—No.

14724. When was it the labour was emancipated there, and it was no longer in the power of the Government to use forced labour?—I forget the year; it took place before I went to Ceylon; it was considerably before 1838.

14725. There is no longer forced labour in the island?—There is not now; but it is proposed to re-introduce something extremely like it.

14726. The planters used to have the benefit of this forced labour before it was abolished, did not they?—I have heard it stated that they had some benefit from it; I cannot speak from my own knowledge.

14727. Have

14727. Have you heard complaints among the planters that they have not sufficient control over their labourers?—When the estates were being first brought into cultivation, there was great competition among the planters for labourers, but that has very much fallen off, and I do not think any complaints exist now; at least not to the extent they did some years ago, as to the difficulty of enforcing agreements with the labourers.

14728. Are you to be understood that there is plenty of labour?—There is a plenty of labour at a certain price; there are a number of Malabar coolies come over constantly, and if the planter can afford to pay them a certain price he can get as many of them as he wants.

14729. Has not it been rather a complaint lately that he has had to pay too much?—They do complain that they have to pay too much with reference to the return they get from their estates; but the price of labour entirely depends, I apprehend, upon the price of the labourers' food; they cannot live cheaply.

14730. So that, whatever the supply of labour was, they could not work for less than they do work for now?—Not much; we find that immediately the planter endeavours, as many have done, to reduce the cost of wages, his labourers leave him.

14731. Is not it rather a party sort of question in the island, the treatment of the coolies; are not they refractory sometimes; and is not there a party in the island who side with the coolies, and another who think that the planter should have more control?—I dare say there are two opposite opinions on that point; I have not heard lately that there has been much discussion.

14732. They get the labour done by contract by those Malabars and coolies, do not they?—No; those Malabars and coolies are paid so much a day.

14733. They come over for the period of a year, do not they?—They probably remain a year or a year and a half; they remain till they have saved something.

14734. It is no reason for the depression that exists among that interest that they cannot get labour enough; they have plenty of labour at a low price?—I think the price is high.

14735. There is no difficulty in getting labour there, but owing to the price being high the cost of production is enhanced?—Yes.

14736. Are you to be understood that the cost of labour might be reduced in consequence of there being an ample supply of labour, if the price of provisions were lower?—I have no doubt of it.

14737. Do you consider that it is only the tax upon imported food which tends to enhance the price of provisions?—Not entirely so; the cost of conveying food to the interior raises the price of it, and the price of labour, but to the extent of the tax the price of labour is enhanced.

14378. Is the cost great of transit for the food?—The cost is very great.

14739. Are there good roads in Ceylon?—From Colombo to Kandy there is a very good road.

14740. Where is the food landed?—At Colombo.

14741. Are the roads good to the interior?—To Kandy; but the planter has generally to carry it 20 or 30 miles further by a district road, which is always bad; sometimes extremely so.

14742. This is chiefly rice?—Yes, and other small articles.

14743. Will rice not grow in Ceylon?—Not profitably, except on a few pieces of land.

14744. There are parts of the island which are as well suited to rice as any country in the world, are there not?—A small portion here and there which can be irrigated.

14745. Is not there a great deal of marsh land in Ceylon?—There is a great deal of jungle, but it is dry jungle; a great part of Ceylon is dry jungle.

14746. Do you know what the revenue of the island is; is it a considerable part of the amount which is raised by this tax?—It amounts to 50,000 *l.* a year upon the import of rice, and as much more upon the local growth of rice, which is also taxed.

14747. Do you mean that home-grown rice is taxed, or that by taxing what is imported they raise the price of all that is grown at home?—The home-growth is taxed.

14748. Salt is not an indigenous production; it is imported, is not it?—The Ceylon government are manufacturers of salt; they have a monopoly, and in the

R. Christian, Esq. northern district, where the climate is suitable, they have salt pans, which manufacture to a large extent.

30 March 1848. 14749. Then there is a duty upon the importation of foreign salt?—It is prohibited except when the Ceylon manufacture fails, then it is allowed to be imported at a very high duty; one year they made but little salt, and they allowed it to be imported at 2 s. 6 d. a bushel.

14750. Is that an article which any native can dispense with?—No, he uses more than a European does.

14751. Does the benefit of that monopoly go to the revenue?—Yes.

14752. There is an export duty upon salt, is not there?—No; if I wish to send a quantity of salt to Calcutta I apply to the Government, and make a contract with them at about 4 d. a bushel, which is the price they sell for export; but they will not allow me to resell that salt for consumption in the island.

14753. They allow you to buy it at a lower price than they sell it to the natives?—The price they sell it for home use is about 2 s. 4 d. to 2 s. 8 d.

14754. Is there a duty upon salted provisions?—By the tariff they have imposed a duty of 1 s. 6 d. a cwt. upon salt fish imported.

14755. Is that a reduction?—That must be an increase; it came in before at five per cent. *ad valorem* duty.

14756. Is this since the late governor has gone out?—Yes.

14757. Is salt fish much consumed by the inhabitants?—To a considerable extent; all the custom-house duties, except export duties, have been raised.

14758. But the export duty of cinnamon has been reduced?—It is to be lowered, in September next, to 4 d.

14759. Do we chiefly get cinnamon from Ceylon?—Chiefly.

14760. Does the export duty limit the export of it?—To a certain extent it must have done so, particularly the lower qualities.

14761. Is there any export duty on coffee?—Up to September next the export duty is 2½ per cent.; it then ceases.

14762. What are the other sources of the revenue; there is a tax upon verandahs, is not there?—No, that is not a tax; it is a grievance which has been recently brought forward, from the Government insisting upon encroachments upon the roads and streets being removed, or else paid for.

14763. Do you consider that it would be a considerable relief to the planter in Ceylon if those duties upon imports were removed?—If the duties on imports of food were removed the relief would be very great.

14764. Or anything else which enhances the cost of labour?—Yes.

14765. Is there any other suggestion you have to make, by which you would consider that the interest with which you are connected would be relieved?—No, except the duties on rice, and as regards the expenses of the government of Ceylon, except the question of the import duties on coffee here, which appear to me, being more than 100 per cent., to be too high.

14766. *Chairman.*] Is not there a little job about those verandahs?—I cannot say that there is any job about them; but I know that that has been said, and a good deal of discussion has taken place. I believe it has been made the source of complaint to Lord Grey, directed chiefly against Sir Emerson Tennent; my own feeling is, that although it did increase somewhat his income, that was quite an accidental circumstance.

14767. Is not this the real state of the case, that the natives have very generally built out their verandahs, encroaching upon the public roads, which are Crown property; it being discovered that this was an encroachment, the Crown interposed to enforce its rights and oblige those natives to purchase the land?—Yes, or have the verandah removed.

14768. Of course they all purchased their rights?—No, a great many stood out; not for the sake of the money, but thinking it was a great hardship; and they allowed the Government to enforce it by pulling down by main force the verandahs of the houses.

14769. In point of fact, the charge made for the compromise was small, in individual cases, was not it?—I do not think the Government exacted a very high price from them.

14770. But then wherever there was a sale of land there was a fee?—Yes, on the title deed.

14771. For every sale of land there was a fee, which became the perquisite of the governor?—Of the colonial secretary; but I should state that I know from

my partner in Ceylon, who is a member of the council, that Sir Emerson Tennent showed and satisfied the members of the council that what he did get from those fees was not a large sum. I can only state that from a private letter from my own partner. It did attract great attention; and some parties said it was done for the purpose of those fees accruing to Sir Emerson Tennent; but from the letter I received I think that a great deal more was made of it, as regards him, than there should have been.

14772. The whole proceeding was very obnoxious?—Yes, it was, no doubt; it was probably introduced without much consideration for the feeling of the natives; there was, probably, more in the manner of doing it than the hardship it subjected them to.

14773. Do you know what the amount of the fee upon the transfer of property is?—It is in proportion to the value; the table is published in the Gazette.

Mr. William Hugh Lawson Syers, called in; and Examined.

14774. Mr. Moffatt.] YOU are largely interested in the coffee trade with Venezuela?—I am.

14775. You have been some years engaged in that branch of commerce?—Yes.

14776. Can you inform the Committee what proportion of free labour and what proportion of slave labour they employ in the production of coffee?—There is now no slave labour employed in the production of coffee.

14777. There are a few slaves in the country, are not there?—Yes, they are upon the sugar estates.

14778. The production of coffee is exclusively carried on by free labour?—Yes; there may be half a dozen slaves.

14779. Do you know what proportion the slave population bears to the free population?—I should say there was not above 100 slaves in the whole republic.

14780. The labour is practically entirely free in Venezuela?—Yes; in consequence of a decree passed some 25 years ago, the then existing slaves were emancipated.

14781. Can you inform the Committee what is the cost of labour at the present time?—I have it exactly for coffee; the cost of picking from the trees is 6 s. sterling per 100 lbs. English, equal to 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Spanish.

14782. Can you give the Committee an accurate idea in regard to the cost per diem of labour?—Yes; for the remainder of the process it is 2 s. British sterling per day, upon the average of the year. In some parts the people are fed besides that, by the proprietors.

14783. What is the price of labour employed in hoeing and keeping the plantations clear?—Two shillings per day.

14784. So that the accurate quotation would be about 2 s. a day throughout the whole coffee-planting district; that is for men?—Yes.

14785. How many days in the week do they work?—I cannot exactly say, but they work six days, I believe; they have a great many Catholic holidays.

14786. For those holidays they are not paid?—No.

14787. How many hours of the day will they work at this price?—The usual hours in tropical climates; I do not exactly know; much the same as in British Guiana and the neighbouring colonies.

14788. Has the cultivation of coffee increased in Venezuela?—Very considerably; it has gone on steadily increasing.

14789. Can you give the Committee any idea of the exports?—In 1839, from the port of La Guayra, the exports were 4,682,221 lbs., and in 1840, 4,870,609 lbs., and in 1841, 6,268,646 lbs. We have not the exact returns lately, but I know that in 1846 there came to England alone 6,800,000 lbs.; that is a small portion of it; Germany takes the largest quantity. I should say there were four times as much as that sent to other countries.

14790. You estimate the export last year from Venezuela at about 25 million lbs.?—Yes, about that.

14791. Can you give any estimate of the export at the date of your first quotation?—From La Guayra, which is the principal port, it was 4,682,221 lbs.; that is from Sir Robert Kerr Porter's account.

14792. So that it appears since the year 1839 the export of coffee from La Guayra has quadrupled?—I should say it had at least.

14793. Are you aware whether there has been any material advance in the value of labour within that time?—I should say not.

Mr.
W. H. L. Syers.

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14794. Then it would appear that with an enormous cost for labour you have quadrupled your export of coffee from Venezuela within the last nine years?—Yes.

14795. Are the coffee estates in Venezuela so situated that there is very little cost incurred in the conveyance of the produce to the seaboard?—Many estates are so situated that the cost is enormous.

14796. Can you give the Committee any information as to that?—This is from my brother, who is largely interested there; the carriage from the coffee estates to the place of shipment varies according to the distance, but the average of the whole will be fully 5 s. per quintal.

14797. That is equivalent to about 6 l. per ton?—To about 5 l. 15 s.

14798. The principal part of the coffee grown in Venezuela is subject to a charge amounting to 6 l. per ton before they reach the seaboard?—Yes, upon the average; there are very few roads.

14799. Under the treaties which the state of Venezuela may have entered into has she a protected market in any of the states of Europe?—None whatever.

14800. So that notwithstanding the high cost of labour and the great expense in transit, she competes successfully with all other coffee producing countries in the markets of Europe?—Yes, of course, or her production would not increase.

14801. To what cause do you attribute this successful production in Venezuela under those great difficulties?—I attribute it to the residence of the proprietors upon their estates, and to general good management; the coffee is generally a superior coffee; taking it on the average, it is superior to any coffee in the world.

14802. Do the coffee planters in Venezuela generally reside upon their estates?—Generally; they have generally a town-house in the Caraccas, but generally and at important times they are there continually.

14803. The eye of the master is continually upon the estate?—Never long away. On my brother's property there is some beautiful coffee grown by one of his tenants, and I suggested to him that he should plant upon his own account; but he objected to do so, because, he said, I cannot superintend it, and though my tenant may make a profitable return, it would be a loss to myself, probably.

14804. The impression was general throughout Venezuela, that unless there is the personal attention and care of the proprietors, coffee planting is not profitable?—The result shows that.

14805. Have there been examples in which coffee planting has been tried without the personal care and superintendence of the proprietors?—Yes, I should say many. I am not aware of any being tried by persons not living in the country, but I know an instance of an estate which would produce as fine coffee as any in the world, but owing to the proprietor being a member of Congress his coffee is never good; it is worth about 40 s., whereas it might be made worth about 70 s. I had an interest in asking the question, because I thought, as being an importer, it would be a very desirable crop to import.

14806. The result of the information you obtained left a conviction upon your mind that the absentee proprietor would gain little, but a loss from cultivating the coffee?—I do not know that he makes a loss by it, but he might double his income were he present.

14807. The cultivation is much less successful than it would be were he present?—I should say not half so successful.

14808. Owing to the increase in the import of coffee from Ceylon, that of Venezuela, which was previously in considerable demand in this market, is almost excluded at present?—Almost; in 1845 the prices were good; in 1846 the import was to the extent of 100,000 l.; last year I imported 30,000 l. This year I shall not have a pound, nor shall I have any more till the duties are equalized.

14809. You believe the protective duty against Venezuela to the extent of 50 per cent. precludes the coffee being brought in?—Yes; it was only when the supply of British colonial coffee was short that we had a chance.

14810. Consequently the Venezuelans must send their coffee to Germany?—To all parts; to the United States, but to Germany principally.

14811. Has there been much export of British manufactures to Venezuela?—It has been very considerable to Colombia; that includes the republics of the Equator, Venezuela, and New Granada. We have no return for Venezuela separately.

14812. The population of Venezuela is much larger than that of the other portions of Colombia?—Yes; the others are of very little importance.

14813. What has been the export of the cotton manufactures of his country

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sent to those places?—The cotton twist sent to Colombia in 1846 was eleven millions of pounds; I should say it is about half what goes to the British West Indies; in 1847 there were 25,000,000 lbs. of sewing thread, 91,777,000 lbs. in 1846.

Mr. W. H. L. Syers.
30 March 1848.

[The Paper was delivered in, and is as follows :]

EXPORTS of the Chief ARTICLES of MANUFACTURES from London, Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, and Clyde, from 2 January to 31 December 1847, Compared with same Periods 1846.

	Cotton Twist and Yarn.		Thread and Sewing.		Plain Calicoes.		Printed and Dyed Calicoes.		Cambries, Muslins, Lawns, and Lenos.	
	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
British West Indies	27,516	21,242	54,593	39,806	13,203,370	11,825,985	19,716,145	14,564,166	502,622	413,570
Ceylon	50,000	63,890	8,777	3,064	4,030,533	2,235,704	604,190	363,080	25,232	1,637
Colombia	11,588	25,057	91,777	56,375	8,591,282	5,505,451	10,202,362	7,906,622	92,195	97,782

	Other Plain Cotton Goods.		Lace, Gauze, &c.		Counterpanes and Quilts.		Cotton Hosiery, Caps and Gloves.		Cotton Shawls and Handkerchiefs, Plain and Printed.		Tapes, Bobbins, &c.	
	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.
	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	No.	No.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.	Dozens.
British West Indies	72,769	50,263	317,454	179,418	23,135	21,467	24,517	14,554	40,748	33,231	1,430	908
Ceylon	1,248	2,176	56,970	140,909	24	18	969	1,743	166	2,350	None	None
Colombia	3,430	2,900	245,247	44,970	84	272	1,678	1,049	18,984	21,726	None	None

	Cotton and Linen Cloth, Mixed.		Cotton Goods Unenumerated.		Linen, British and Irish, Partly Value and Partly Quantity.				Woolen and Worsted Yarns.	
	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.		1847.		1846.	1847.
	Yards.	Yards.	£.	£.	£.	Yards.	£.	Yards.	Lbs.	Lbs.
British West Indies	153,966	92,302	36,304	18,198	51,954	5,916,507	38,568	5,770,333	-	1,120
Ceylon	350	910	521	154	4,806	33,404	477	11,310	-	-
Colombia	98,732	66,460	808	1,396	2,634	2,785,233	-	2,356,448	6,944	-

	Woolens and Cottons, Mixed.		Kerseymeres.		Long and Short Cloths.		Stuffs, Woolen and Worsted.		Heavy Woolens.	
	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
British West Indies	4,650	6,422	289	842	6,809	4,277	18,848	17,480	1,210	713
Ceylon	1,062	1,555	-	-	275	1,197	968	1,050	89	-
Colombia	1,187	1,010	-	-	-	-	30,889	26,099	472	140

	Shawls (Woolen).		Flannels and Blanketing.		Hosiery, Woolen and Worsted.		Woolens, Unenumerated.		Total of Woolens.		Silks, and Silk and Cotton, and Silk and Worsted, Mixed.	
	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
British West Indies	1,052	976	5,770	5,448	4,953	2,060	10,198	6,180	53,779	44,398	12,094	7,488
Ceylon	170	155	146	214	453	200	254	167	3,417	4,538	1,000	1,016
Colombia	137	346	1,976	2,520	444	85	13,346	4,763	48,713	44,963	1,785	1,410

Mr. M.
W. H. L. Syers.
30 March 1848.

The export of our goods is likely to be driven out by German competition; they have driven out the whole of the English houses by underselling them in the price of their fabrics; they are not so good, but they are lower in price.

14814. Is it by reason of the lower price of the articles which the Germans send to Venezuela, or their taking the produce of Venezuela in exchange?—It is attributable to both causes. I should say that chiefly they have established themselves by lower prices.

14815. Their being able to supply cheaper?—Yes; but of course the having direct returns is an important consideration to the merchant; everybody knows that a direct return in the produce of a country is of very great importance; we have only had direct returns since 1844.

14816. Can you state to the Committee what has been the increase in the export trade to Venezuela, since we have been able to take a portion of their produce in return?—I cannot state it exactly, but I should say it has not had time enough to develope itself; we had very little coffee from Venezuela till 1844.

14817. What was the value of our exports to Venezuela in 1839?—I should say, in 1839, about 100,000 *l*.

14818. What was the value in 1844 and 1845?—They had increased about one-fourth; since then they have been decreasing; but I do not attribute it altogether to the coffee. I only look upon coffee as a thing which might encourage it for the future; it is the only thing we can bring from there of any importance.

14819. At what cost can you produce coffee of a fair average quality in Venezuela?—I never knew washed coffee to cost, on board, less than 44 *l*. per ton, for the warm climate coffee; up to 58 *l*. for the mountain coffee.

14820. To that must be added the charges of freight and insurance, and the charges of selling in the English market?—Yes; I have known it much higher than that, but never lower.

14821. Can you state to the Committee what proportion of the cost of that coffee is borne by the labour?—Not exactly, but I should think from 20 *s*. to 25 *s*.; that is for washed coffee.

14822. The unwashed coffee is not suitable for this country?—No; it is badly flavoured.

14823. Do sugar and coffee constitute the larger portion of the exports of Venezuela?—Coffee does. The sugar is insignificant in amount. Coffee is the only thing that we can load a ship with.

14824. Is sugar cultivated in the same districts as coffee?—No; the best coffee is cultivated upon the mountains, and the sugar is cultivated in the plains; there are two places of cultivation for sugar; one is in the plains, which is used for home consumption.

14825. Do they clay their sugars in Venezuela?—They clay some of them; some are muscovado.

14826. Can you give the Committee any information with respect to the cost of producing sugar?—No further than as relates to the general price of labour.

14827. Where are the sugars of Venezuela principally exported to?—Some to the United States, but chiefly to England; they come chiefly to Liverpool.

14828. Do you know the cost on board?—I do not.

14829. Do they refine sugar in Venezuela?—There is a French gentleman who has established a refinery there; he buys the sugar.

14830. Does he export the refined sugar?—No.

14831. Is the general consumption of Venezuela refined sugar?—No; the chief consumption is what is called papillon, a very rude production in brown loaves.

14832. Are the syrups discharged?—No; they make it in cases or moulds. If it remains standing long, the syrup will run out of it like molasses or treacle. It is not fit for this country, nor for export; it is all consumed in the country.

14833. Is the export of sugar from Venezuela to Liverpool on the increase?—No; it has been about stationary.

14834. What do you estimate to be the quantity annually sent, during the last three years, from Venezuela?—When there was a protection to it, in consequence of its coming under the favoured nation clause, it was stimulated, and it was then brought over the mountains from all parts. As soon as that was taken away it fell

fell off considerably; but for the last two years it has been about 1,000 tons, and it may continue that.

14835. All their sugar pays a duty for home consumption of 20 *l.* per ton?—This year it will do so.

14836. The labour is the same in the plains, where the sugar is cultivated, as in the coffee districts?—Precisely the same, I should say.

14837. Your impression is, as a person largely engaged in trade with Venezuela, that unless there is an equalization of the duties on coffee, the trade with Venezuela will be lost?—Yes, that will be one chief cause of its decline; I believe it will be totally excluded from this market for home consumption. I know I shall never import another pound while it remains so.

14838. And you have been hitherto the largest importer?—Yes.

14839. Mr. Miles.] What is the total value of the export trade to Colombia from this country?—I have not formed an estimate of it. Comparatively, I should make it about half to two-thirds of the trade with the British West Indies.

14840. You said coffee could not be put free on board ship at a less price than 44 *s.* a cwt.?—That is the washed coffee; that which is not washed would not be consumed in this country.

14841. Forty-four shillings is the lowest price at which coffee could be put free on board in Venezuela?—Yes, for the cheapest description of washed coffee.

14842. Have you any idea that it could be grown at a cheaper rate than that in Venezuela?—I cannot say.

14843. Do you think there is any chance of it?—I think it might be if labour were cheaper.

14844. How much cheaper?—Not materially cheaper.

14845. Not to yield any profit at all?—No; the grower could not make a living by it.

14846. What is the price of that washed coffee in the market, for home consumption?—It is without a price now. I hold 20,000 bags now, and I cannot sell any of it for home use.

14847. What is the weight of a bag?—One hundred pounds.

14848. What is the price for export?—For washed coffee in the present depressed state of things I could not get more than 35 *s.* for it, and it has cost me nearly 50 *s.* on the average.

14849. Is Venezuelan coffee of a higher quality than Ceylon coffee?—It is superior in quality decidedly to Ceylon coffee. I should say washed La Guayra coffee is the best coffee in the world. My coffees ran from 44 *s.* up to 70 *s.* when I could sell them.

14850. By how much should you say it is better than Ceylon coffee?—It is very difficult to estimate it; taking the quality which costs 44 *s.* on board, coffee is now selling from Ceylon of a similar quality at 56 *s.*

14851. Upon the Ceylon coffee are all the freight and charges paid?—Yes. The coffee which costs 44 *s.* is now without a price here at all; the 20 *s.* protection drives it completely out of the market.

14852. Has there been any quantity of Venezuelan coffee entered for home consumption here?—Yes; I should think I have sold to the amount of 50,000 *l.* worth in 1846 and 1847.

14853. Have you a plantation yourself in Venezuela?—My brother is a very large landholder there, but he has no coffee plantation of his own, because he says he cannot superintend it; he lets it off, and his tenants grow coffee.

14854. What rate of wages do they pay there?—Two shillings a day.

14855. How many hours' labour do they get for that?—I cannot say exactly; but I presume what is usual in those countries.

14856. What is usual in those countries?—I cannot say that.

14857. You do not know that it is not 14 hours a day?—I should say it is not, from the character of the people; they are not very fond of work.

14858. Is it more than four hours a day?—I should say seven or eight hours.

14859. Do you know anything of the manner of obtaining labour there; do the labourers work every day in the week?—They work during the time they have no holidays; there are many Catholic holidays, which take them away sometimes a month at a time, and then you lose them from their work; and there is a general complaint of the scarcity of labour; and whenever there is anything political, for instance at the present time, there is no work to be done at all.

14860. Is there a want of continuous labour?—Yes.

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14861. Is the planter very often impeded in taking off his crop, by the labourers leaving his estate and going to other places?—That is a matter of very frequent occurrence.

14862. Are there large losses sustained in this operation of planting?—Occasionally part of the crop is lost for want of picking.

14863. How many estates have you known that have lost their crops?—I cannot say; in my letters it has been frequently complained of by my brother, when he has been wanting to load ships.

14864. Upon what does the value of the coffee depend; upon the time of its being picked?—The value of the coffee chiefly depends upon the manner in which it is cured; coffee that may be one year worth 70 s. may be only worth 40 s. the next.

14865. Is that on account of the fault of the manager himself, or on account of the labourers not faithfully performing the work to which they are set?—If there is a want of labour at a critical time the crop gets spoiled; there is a great deal to be attributed to wet and dry seasons.

14866. Do they suffer much from changes of seasons there?—On the mountains, but not in the plains; the mountain coffee is very subject to wet weather, but if it is a fine season it would be 10 s. per cwt. more valuable than the wet one, but in other seasons it may not be worth half the money, owing to bad curing.

14867. Do you attribute your not being able to compete with the coffee of Ceylon entirely to the protection of 2 d., or do you attribute any part of it to the scarcity of labour?—I attribute it entirely to protection; we can bring large quantities, and have a direct trade if we had a fair field.

14868. If you had plenty of labour it would be impossible, you think, for you to reduce the cost of production?—No doubt it could be reduced, but not sufficiently reduced to compete with West India coffee and the Ceylon coffee; 20 s. difference is so enormous.

14869. Do you think it impossible to reduce the cost of production to that extent?—Yes; still it might be reduced if labour were very abundant.

14870. You say it is perfectly impossible, notwithstanding you have high-priced labour and a great scarcity of it, to reduce the cost of producing a ton of coffee by 20 s. per cwt.?—Quite impossible; there would be no chance whatever.

14871. You do not stand upon so good a footing as other foreign coffee, 5,000 tons of which we heard were imported last year?—That was partly ours; ours formed a material part of it. The duties in Liverpool were paid upon foreign coffee principally. It is very different in London, because the chief supply of Ceylon coffee is to London. I suppose this coffee which has been imported these last three years has paid a very considerable portion of the duty in Liverpool, probably one-fifth of the whole duty.

14872. You do not think there is the slightest hope of the importation of foreign coffee continuing?—Not the slightest for home consumption; it must be shut out if the production of Ceylon increases as it has done, or continues sufficient for the consumption of this country.

14873. You do not think, during the present year, any amount of the foreign coffee will be introduced for home consumption?—Some may; last year a great quantity was introduced, but it was all at the loss of the party who imported it.

14874. *Chairman.*] What is the process of curing coffee?—The first process is to pick it from the trees; it resembles a berry with a pulp; that is picked from the trees, and carried in baskets to the pulping mill.

14875. You do not call picking the berries from the trees "curing"?—No, but coffee which is not washed is not picked from the trees; it is shaken off, but that would injure it and spoil the flavour if it is to be washed.

14876. What is the process of curing coffee?—The first process is to put it through the pulping mill, and drag off the pulp; it falls from the mill upon a sloping wire; the pulp goes through the wire, and the berries fall into the basket; they are then taken and put into a trough of water, and there left all night. In the morning they are well stirred up and washed, and all the remaining pulp that adheres to them is washed away; after that they are spread upon barbicues to dry the coffee.

14877. What is the barbicue made of?—Various materials; some are wood, the best is a composition of lime and other materials, which harden.

14878. You mean a sort of floor?—Yes, the water runs off, and on this it is left perhaps, according to the weather, from 10 to 15 days; that is called the curing

curing of the coffee; it has a silver skin under the parchment skin upon it inside, which will not separate unless it is properly cured; by the effect of the sun this silver skin rises, and in the course of from 10 to 15 days the coffee is cured, and then they take it and put it under the peeling mill.

14879. This operation is out of doors, exposed to the sun?—Yes.

14880. Of what thickness is the coffee laid upon those barbecues?—Sufficient for the sun to get at it all round.

14881. Have you seen the process yourself?—No; I have heard it minutely described; I have taken great pains to improve it.

14882. It does not require a man of any great understanding to be able to spread the coffee, does it?—If it is carelessly done, and put in a heap in one place and none in another, it will not cure. It requires an overlooker to go and see that it is properly managed; it is a very nice process, the curing of coffee, and it requires very great care.

14883. You never saw it yourself?—No, but I have been interested in it, and I have made minute inquiries about it.

14884. Altogether this process takes about 17 days?—From 10 to 15, this curing process.

14885. Would you have the Committee believe that there can be the difference between 40*s.* and 70*s.* in the value of coffee dependent upon such a simple process as this?—Yes, decidedly. If it is well cured it cannot spoil afterwards, but if it is not well cured, and put into a heap, it becomes bad in flavour.

14886. Nobody but a fool would put the coffee in a heap, would he?—He may not be a fool; in England we attach more importance to the flavour of coffee than anywhere else.

14887. Do the coffee planters employ persons to cure their coffee who know nothing about the business?—Certainly not.

14888. All the skill required appears to be pretty much the same sort of skill which is required in making hay?—It requires more attention than that; they must have houses to put it in when it is wet, and then put it out again when it is dry; it is the care which is the chief thing, to watch it well, and if careless people are put to do it they will spoil it; it is in the same way that a man gains or loses by good or bad curing, but in a much greater degree with respect to coffee than hay.

14889. What length of period does it take to bring a coffee plantation to perfection?—It requires three years before they bear, and five years before the full growth; they generally last 25 years; after that they decline, and at 30 years they are generally past bearing.

14890. What quantity of coffee would an acre of favourable land bear?—That I cannot say exactly, because the land is so moderate in price, compared with land in this country, that we never estimate it; the estate I last purchased was 20,000 acres.

14891. How much coffee did that estate bear?—It had only one coffee estate upon it.

14892. How many acres were there under coffee cultivation?—That I cannot say. It was a very excellent plantation, and produced very fine coffee. The man was a very skilful man of that kind; he was a Frenchman, and resided upon the estate entirely; he is, in fact, the land agent, not agent for the coffee estate.

14893. Have you accounts of any of those estates?—No, I have not the results. We have no interest at all in the production of the coffee estates; those are my brother's tenants; he will not plant coffee on his own account.

14894. How many tenants has he?—I cannot say; he has been letting off lately very large quantities of land.

14895. Do you know what he lets his estate an acre for?—No.

14896. Has he purchased the estate?—Yes.

14897. How did he purchase this estate?—From a gentleman in this country; I purchased it for him.

14898. What did you pay for the estate?—I paid 2,000*l.* It was considered at the time as worth 7,000*l.* I purchased from a party who was in great difficulty.

14899. You purchased 20,000 acres at 2,000*l.*, or 2*s.* an acre?—Yes; but it was considered worth more. It includes every feature of the country; there is mountain in it, which was measured too.

14900. Does not the coffee grow on the mountain side?—Upon the slopes. On this estate there is only part of it that will do for coffee growing; there are

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some parts of this land which are very favourable for coffee, but a large portion is not.

14901. You cannot tell how many acres are under coffee cultivation?—I cannot tell how many acres, but I should say there was not one one-hundredth part of it under cultivation.

14902. There were about 200 acres in coffee cultivation?—I do not know that there was. I should say there was not more.

14903. Do you know into how many different plantations this estate was divided?—There was only one coffee estate then upon it.

14904. Do you know into how many farms it was divided?—No.

14905. Do you know how many labourers were employed upon it?—No, I cannot say that.

14906. You do not know how many hours the labourers worked?—Not precisely; it was the usual time.

14907. Can you undertake to say that you know positively that 2 s. a day is the rate of wages?—I do know it from positive information.

14908. How do know it?—From my brother's information.

14909. Have you any written statement of that kind?—I have my brother's letter. (*Producing the same.*)

14910. It appears that 55 s. is the price that your brother expects for the coffee in England?—He expects it will bring that upon the average, for the crop alluded to in the letter.

14911. It appears that it is only the labourers engaged in picking and curing that are paid the high wages of 2 s.?—That is the general rate all over the country.

14912. How many pounds of coffee go to a bushel?—I cannot say.

14913. You have never yourself seen it?—No.

14914. Have you any other statement in detail as regards the price, than what is contained in your brother's letter?—No.

[*The following Extract from a Letter, dated La Guayra, the 7th of March 1846, was read:*]

"Picking coffee from the trees, free labour almost entirely, 6 s. per 100 pounds. Free labourers employed pulping and washing, and attending to the coffee whilst drying, 2 s. per day wages, and in some parts fed besides; pounding, winnowing, &c., 2 s. per day wages; separating the bad coffee from the good, 1 s. per quintal.

"Carriage from the coffee estate to the place of shipment varies according to the distance, but the average of the whole of the coffee shipped to England will be fully 5 s. per quintal.

"Almost all the coffee sent from this country is the produce of free labour; slaves are getting scarce, and what there are, are generally employed on sugar estates; sugar, also is almost the entire produce of free labour in many parts of the country."

14915. Mr. *Moffatt.*] In reference to the estate which you purchased for your brother, I suppose those 20,000 acres were a vast tract of uncultivated land?—There was a tract in it very suitable for coffee, and that was one reason for purchasing it.

14916. *Chairman.*] How are the taxes levied in Venezuela?—By export and import duties.

14917. Are there no assessed taxes or direct taxes?—No, not that I know of. The country is in a very disturbed state just now; it is, in fact, in a state of civil war.

14918. How are the internal communications in that country?—It is only within the last three or four years that they have had a circuitous cart road to Caraccas, which is the principal market; formerly it was all brought on mules' backs over the mountains. There is no country in South America where it is so difficult to bring coffee to the coast, and there is no means of removing the difficulty.

14919. There is a great abundance of cattle in the country, is not there?—In the plains there is a very large quantity.

14920. Do they grow their own grain there?—They grow Indian corn.

14921. Rice?—No.

14922. Do they live chiefly upon Indian corn?—The natives boil Indian corn and eat it; but they eat the flesh of animals too, I think.

14923. The Brazilians live principally on beans, we have heard?—It is not the case

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case in Venezuela ; they live very well ; the planters are very respectable people generally.

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14924. The people themselves are a poor race?—Yes ; it is a poor country.

14925. Mr. *Moffatt*.] In reference to the price of labour, your brother appears to have written to you that the cost of labour was 2 s. per diem?—Yes.

14926. You have considerable acquaintance with Venezuela ; have you ever received any other information confirmatory of that statement of the high price of labour?—I cannot tax my memory with it at present, but I fancy I have ; I could not tell without referring to my letters.

14927. You have yourself no doubt of the perfect accuracy of that statement?—None whatever.

14928. It is not in any way coloured for any special purpose?—I am quite sure of it ; that statement was made in the year 1846.

Sabbati, 1° die Aprilis, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.	Mr. Labouchere.
Sir Thomas Birch.	Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Cardwell.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Milner Gibson.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Goulburn.	Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

John Wood, Esq., called in ; and Examined.

14929. Mr. *Labouchere*.] WHAT situation do you hold under Government ?
—For the last 10 years I have been Chairman of the Excise.

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14930. Have you had opportunities of examining into the effect of the restrictions caused by the Excise regulations in the manufacture of spirits?—I believe I have seen all the memorials which have been presented to the Government during the last 10 years, and I have also had an opportunity of referring to the papers in the office as to the memorials for many years previously.

14931. Have you had representations or communications submitted to you from time to time by the principal distillers?—Yes, many.

14932. Will you have the goodness to state them in detail?—The first, which was not to myself, but I have an authentic account of it taken at the time, and intialed by my predecessor Sir Francis Doyle, is what was stated by a deputation of distillers, who waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer ; that deputation consisted of Mr. Atlee, of Wandsworth, Mr. Weymouth, of the house of Currie and Company of Bromley, and Mr. Smith of Whitechapel. Mr. Weymouth, as all the rest of them, seemed to lay the great stress not upon the Excise restrictions, but on the Corn Laws, and from his observations it appears that he considered that they were entitled to, and that Lord Goderich had given to them a protection of 1 s. 6 d. as a differential duty between rum and British spirits ; Mr. Atlee thought that 1 s. 3 d. per gallon was the expense to which the English distiller was liable from revenue regulations, from which the West India planter, in the case of rum, is exempted ; Mr. Smith entered into detail as to the expenses of producing a gallon of spirits in this country. Mr. Smith stated that his expenses were 3 s. 6 ½ d. a gallon : grain 2 s., yeast 2 d., coals 3 d. and labour 1 s. 1 ½ d. On Mr. Smith's statement it was remarked, that if the spirits cost him 3 s. 6 ½ d. per gallon, this with a duty of 7 s., which was then the duty, would make 10 s. 6 ½ d. as the cost ; but Mr. Smith also stated that British spirits were selling to the rectifier at 9 s. 6 d. ; that that was the average price ; and therefore, according to this calculation, Mr. Smith actually lost 1 s. 0 ½ d. upon every gallon which he made : and as he made about 700,000 gallons in the year, his loss, must have been 36,458 l. annually. They put in a paper stating the grounds on which Lord Goderich had made his calculation of 1 s. 6 d.

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Lord Goderich assumed that if there were no taxes of any kind in this country barley would be produced to the country at 24*s.* a quarter, and adding 4*s.* for the making of it into malt, the malt would be at 28*s.*; that of course is exclusive of the duty. Then he calculated, in producing spirits, that two-eighths of malt would be employed and six-eighths of barley, which would cost two bushels of malt, at 28*s.* per quarter, 7*s.*, and six bushels of barley at 24*s.* would be 18*s.*, making 15*s.* He goes through a variety of calculations, the conclusion of which is this, that taking the barley and the malt together at 47*s.* 6*d.*, he deducted the natural or untaxed price of corn, namely 25*s.*, and so left 22*s.* 6*d.* as the enhancement of the price in a quarter of grain caused to an English distiller by taxes of all kinds, to which amount he was to have protection. A quarter of grain was then calculated to produce 20 gallons of spirits, at eight per cent. over proof, on which the above sum of 22*s.* 6*d.*, which is assumed as the actual taxation on the materials, would give for each gallon 1*s.* 1½*d.*, to which was added 4½*d.* arising from the malt duty, and from paying the duty promptly. The distillers in England, instead of bonding, pay their duties once a fortnight; that is, the duties are paid on the second Saturday after the charge is made up. If, therefore, the distiller's charge is made on a Saturday, he has a fortnight's credit given him; if, on the contrary, his charge be made up on the Monday or any day in the subsequent week, he still pays on the second Saturday, and therefore his credit is shortened; but distillers, for their own convenience, and perhaps with a view of taking a longer credit for the duty, always finish their distillation, if they can, on Saturday evening. The 4½*d.* added by Lord Goderich was thus made up: malt duty, prompt payment of duty on spirits, and duty on losses by evaporation which rum escapes on being put into bond; these made up 1*s.* 6*d.*, which Mr. Robinson gave as the just protection to British spirits. I may observe, that this came from the distillers themselves as paper No. 1, of which they had taken a note in their conferences with Lord Goderich; and though I have not the paper itself, it is recited here almost *in extenso*. I will now go on to the other calculations presented to the Government or to the Excise by distillers.

14933. Mr. Goulburn.] That was the settlement which took place in 1825? Lord Goderich's settlement took place in 1825. The distillers thought that the settlement would be disturbed by the additional duty of 1*s.* on British spirit, which did not extend to rum, which was proposed in 1830, and they therefore came to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to complain that the arrangement which they had entered into with Lord Goderich was departed from, and they urged him to maintain that arrangement. On a commission of Excise inquiry, of which Sir Henry Parnell was chairman, evidence was taken in 1834, as to the expense of manufacturing spirits. In the Seventh Report, Appendix No. 94, I find a paper delivered in by Mr. Octavius Smith, the great distiller at Thames Bank. From that statement of his, this is an extract which relates to the matter under consideration: "The restrictions increase immensely the expense of manufacture; for instance, I would willingly pay 3,000*l.* a year to be exonerated from the jurisdiction of the Excise." I have ascertained that at that time Mr. Smith was making between 500,000 and 600,000 gallons a year; and the 3,000*l.* would amount to a little more than 1½*d.* per gallon. I may be permitted to remark, that this, though in a written and printed document, was rather a casual observation, than perhaps an exact calculation. In the printed evidence before this Committee, I see that Mr. John Currie gives a calculation, and I see that he makes the net charges under the present system of Excise restrictions 5½*d.*, and he says that the net charges, without the Excise restriction, would be 1.97*d.* I have here a statement which was sent in for another purpose, by a Scotch distiller, Mr. Patrick Chambers, a distiller at Wishaw, on the Clyde. It was sent in entirely for another purpose, and therefore is perhaps to be received as impartial, because it was put in, not for the purpose of showing what the expense was; it was a statement to the Excise, incidental to a request which he was making to the Excise. In this paper, which I will put in, he gives a detail of his work for a certain period; that is for a distilling period, ending 5th of February 1848; his net charges, including the expenses of making the malt, amounted to 3½*d.* per gallon.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

A STATEMENT of the Cost of Manufacturing SPIRITS, for the Distilling Period ended 5th February 1848, including the Cost of Manufacturing the Malt; furnished by Mr. Patrick Chambers, Distiller at Wishaw.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Barley, 339 Bolls, at 24 s. 6 d. - - - - -	-	-	-	415	5	6
Gallons of Proof Spirits produced, 4,862.						
Yeast and soap - - - - -	27	12	6			
Peat and coals - - - - -	20	1	8½			
Interest on casks and capital, wear and tear, &c. - - - - -	30	13	3			
Wages - - - - -	40	10	2			
Incidental charges - - - - -	7	-	-			
	125	17	7½			
Deduct draft, 2,058 bushels, at 6 d. - - - - -	51	9	-			
				74	8	7½
TOTAL - - - - -	£.			489	14	1½
Cost for grain, per gallon - - - - -	-	1	8½			
Net charges, including the expense of making malt - - - - -	-	-	3¾			
Cost, exclusive of duty - - - - -	-	2	-¼			
Spirit duty - - - - -	3 s.	8	d.			
Malt duty, if consumed in England - - - - -	1 s.	4½	d.			
				-	5	-¼
Total, including duty - - - - -	-	7	-½			
Deduct drawback, if consumed, in Scotland, nearly - - - - -	-	-	8¼			
	£.			-	6	4¼

With respect to the answer to Question 8621, where Mr. Currie puts in a comparative statement, I beg to remark, that in the statement of the expense incurred under the Excise restrictions, the deduction made for grains and wash sold to cowkeepers is 4,000 l., which is not quite 1½ d. a gallon; whereas in the statement which I have just put in, from the Wishaw Distillery, near Lanark, the deduction for grains and wash is 2½ d. a gallon; though in that small village, we have ascertained that distillery offal is not so valuable as it is in London; and if the grains in the present instance be taken at the low rate of 3 s. a quarter, and the spent wash at even 1 s. the 100 gallons, which is much below the usual price, the sum realized could not be less than 8,000 l. instead of 4,000 l., which would be equal to nearly 2½ d. a gallon, and would therefore correspond with the account from Wishaw. This calculation reduces the net charges to 4 d. a gallon, and the total cost per gallon to 1 s. 11½ d. There is a counter statement put in, on which I would remark that it is there assumed that if there were no Excise restrictions, 96,000 quarters would be distilled instead of 40,000; that the produce would be increased 10 per cent., and that the charges on 96,000 quarters would be 140 l. less than on 40,000 under the Excise. The net charges per gallon may be called 2 d., and the total cost per gallon 1 s. 7¾ d., or 3¾ d. less than spirits can be made for under the Excise. That is the recital of the counter statement, upon which I have to remark that those assumptions cannot be supported. It cannot be shown that the present restrictions in any way hinder the distillers from getting nearly all the extract from the grain, or from carrying the fermentation to the lowest point possible under any other circumstances. There are no doubt restrictions as to the materials used by distillers, but on giving the notices required by the Act, the distiller may carry on all his processes in any way he considers most beneficial. Another point which I consider very material indeed, is the complaint of the distillers of the United Kingdom as to the decreases they are subject to after the charge for the duty is made. The Committee probably understand that the charge is invariably made in the British distilleries at the worm end; it is the simplest mode, and it is the one which exposes the revenue to the least chance of loss, because after the charge is made no fraud can be committed

John Wood, Esq.

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by which the distiller himself is not a sufferer. If there be any loss, we have raised the charge against him, and he is liable to that loss of duty; whereas if the charge were not taken at the worm end, the distiller would have a very great temptation to carry spirits away to decrease the quantity; because in so decreasing the quantity he would avoid the payment of duty on the quantity so decreased. With regard to the decreases, those, I take it, are matters of fact. A great deal of the evidence I have given is of course matter of opinion, and I hope will be taken by the Committee, and those before whom the evidence may come, with a considerable allowance, because it is mere matter of opinion; but my object in giving these different statements is to show that the distillers themselves have stated the cost of the manufacture at all sums between 1s. 1½d. and 3¼d. I now come to matters of fact, which I think cannot be disputed; and if the Committee please I will put this paper in, reciting generally what it contains. It is a memorandum showing the actual deficiencies in the stocks of distillers and rectifiers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and also in transit from one country to another during given periods. I have not mentioned the names in this paper, but I have designated the distillers by numbers, which I am sure the Committee will consider the more proper way. I have first the decreases in distillers' stocks in the year ending the 10th of October 1832, and I have taken that account because it was an account not liable to suspicion, as not being prepared for any such inquiry as this Committee is engaged in; the stocks were taken by our three principal Surveying General Examiners, Mr. Logie, Mr. Hetherington, and Mr. Steele, in March 1833. I have the gallons of spirits actually brought to charge in that year by the six principal distillers in England; the numbers of gallons brought to charge in that year, was 2,672,125. The decreases amount on the average to $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of a gallon per cent., which in money is equal to 1·13 farthing per gallon; I have then the charges and the actual decreases in the same six distillers' stocks from the 5th of April 1845 to the 5th of April 1846; and I may here remark, that whereas in 1832 the quantity of spirits brought to charge by the six principal distillers in England was 2,672,125 gallons, in the year ending the 5th of April 1846 the produce was nearly doubled; it amounted to 5,138,725 gallons. The decrease on those stocks was 33,920 gallons; the loss per cent. on the total stock was sixty-six hundredths, which is equal in money to one halfpenny and forty-eight hundredth parts of a farthing. It is now necessary to look at the decrease in a rectifier's stock, and I have accordingly taken the stock account of a rectifier for the year ending the 5th of April 1846, and the total stock being rather more than 1,000,000 gallons passing through his rectifying house in the course of a year, the decrease was 9,189·6 gallons, which gives a decrease per cent. of ninety-one hundredths, in money, equal to 3·42 farthings; therefore supposing the rectifying to be a necessary part of the manufacture of spirits, you have to add those two decreases together, as the actual decrease between the worm end and the consumer.

14934. *Chairman.*] This is calculated, including the duty?—Yes, with 7s. 10d. duty.

14935. *Mr. Goulburn.*] How do you account for the great discrepancy of the decreases in 1832 with those in 1845; in 1832 they appear to amount to a farthing and some hundredths per gallon, and in 1845 to a halfpenny and some hundredths per gallon?—The fact is so; I do not wish to hazard any opinion upon it.

14936. That is an undoubted fact?—Yes, if our Excise dips are to be taken as correct, and they are always watched most jealously by the distiller, and he is quite as much alive, it is to be presumed, to his own interests as the Excise officer to the interests of the revenue. I now come to Scotland, where the duty being 3s. 8d. a gallon, the money calculation is at that rate; and I find that in the year 1845 there were taken out of the warehouse in Scotland 5,991,600 gallons: I find that the decrease charged thereon was 11,708, which is about nineteen hundredths per cent., equal to thirty-two hundredths of a farthing per gallon. I now come to Ireland. The duty in Ireland is only 2s. 8d.; the number of gallons taken out of the warehouse in Ireland was 7,067,799; the decrease charged thereon was 63,657 being about ninety hundredths per cent., which is equal to one farthing and fifteen hundredths of a farthing per gallon. And here I may explain that the probable

reason

reason why the decrease in Ireland is ninety hundredths per cent., while in Scotland it is only nineteen hundredths, is this, that the Scotch use so large a quantity of malt in their distillation that the spirit is fit for use almost immediately after it has come from the still. The Irish use the smallest possible quantity of malt, and therefore they have to give it age, it not being considered palatable till it has had long keeping. Of course if the casks lie on the average a much longer period in the warehouse, the decrease will necessarily be greater; the Irish spirit probably lies two or three years in the warehouse, the Scotch spirit perhaps as many weeks, or, at most, as many months; and therefore those decreases are spread over a longer period of time in the Irish bonded warehouse than they are in the Scotch bonded warehouse. The Committee will find that to the Table which I have read there is annexed a note, which being of a very technical nature, it is not necessary to read, but it does give, in substance, rather a larger decrease. The reason arises from this, that the quantity measured out and in, owing to certain Excise or Customs regulations, is liable to a variation. There are allowances; the odd parts of a gallon are not calculated, and things of that kind; so that the actual decrease is perhaps a little more than what I have stated, as shown by our actual measurement. In Scotland, owing to those regulations as to the measurement of spirits, it would amount, in addition to what I have stated, to fifty-nine hundredths of a farthing per gallon, and in Ireland to seventy-eight hundredths of a farthing per gallon. I have made this note lest the statement should be obvious to criticism. It arises in this way, that any part of a gallon above 100 gallons, is perhaps not calculated. A cask, for instance, is noted as containing 100 gallons, but it may contain $100\frac{1}{2}$ or $100\frac{2}{3}$, and it depends upon whether it is noted in our books as 100 or 101 gallons. It is quite right, of course, to give the distiller the benefit of those decreases which are actually experienced by him.

14937. *Chairman.*] Does this apply to England?—No; distillers are not allowed to bond in England. Another complaint of the distiller, particularly of the Scotch and Irish distiller, is, that there are great decreases in the transit from one country to another; I have therefore prepared an account of Scotch and Irish spirits imported into the port of London, from the 5th of January 1846 to the 5th of January 1847. The total number of casks was 11,548; they contained 1,673,998 gallons on leaving Ireland and Scotland, and upon arriving in London, and being re-gauged by our officer for the purpose of charging the duty, they measured 1,665,414 gallons, being a deficiency on the transit of 8,584 gallons, equal to fifty-one hundredths per cent., and, at the English duty of 1s. 10d., a loss to the importer of one farthing and ninety-two hundredths of a farthing per gallon.

14938. What is your deduction from this table?—It thus appears that the Scotch and Irish distillers have a direct interest in the question of the duty on deficiencies in transit, to the extent only of about one-half per cent. on the average, or about 3s. 11d. on every 100 gallons (the duty on which is 39l. 3s. 4d.) shipped for England, the deficiencies not having exceeded that proportion on the shipments of the last year. If, however, it be argued that the amount is unimportant to the revenue, and that therefore the point might be conceded to the pressing remonstrances of the distillers, it may be replied, first, that a similar rule must be established with respect to the English spirits removed to different parts of England, so that only the quantity actually delivered to the purchasers should eventually be subject to the duty, leaving the difference between the amount charged or paid in the first instance, and that to which the subsequent deduction would reduce it, to be repaid by drawback. For such a state of things no sufficient regulations could however be devised, and the revenue would be continually exposed to frauds, which the present practice will always obviate, whether in the case of removal from Scotland and Ireland to this market, or from one part of England to another.

[The following Paper was delivered in:]

John Wood, Esq.
1 April 1848.

MEMORANDUM showing the Actual Deficiencies in the Stocks of DISTILLERS and RECTIFIERS in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and also in Transit from one Country to another, during given Periods.

DECREASES in DISTILLERS' STOCKS in the Year ended 10th October 1832, as shown by Report of Messrs. Logie, Hetherington, and Steel, Surveying General Examiners, in March 1833.

	Gallons of Spirits Made.	Decreases.
Distillery, No. 1 - - - - -	302,882	$\frac{2}{10}$ of 1 per cent.
Ditto - No. 2 - - - - -	418,491	$\frac{7}{10}$ of 1 ditto.
Ditto - No. 3 - - - - -	565,013	$\frac{3}{10}$ of 1 ditto.
Ditto - No. 4 - - - - -	322,038	$\frac{1}{10}$ of 1 ditto.
Ditto - No. 5 - - - - -	553,037	$\frac{1}{10}$ of 1 ditto.
Ditto - No. 6 - - - - -	510,664	$\frac{1}{10}$ of 1 ditto.
	2,672,125	
	Average $\frac{1}{10}$ of a gallon per cent., equal to $\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{10}$ d. per gallon.	

DECREASES in DISTILLERS' STOCKS, from 5th April 1845 to 5th April 1846.

	Stock on 5 April 1845, and the Quantity brought in subsequent to that Date.	Sent out by Permit.	Deficiencies.	Loss per Cent. on Total Stock and Credit.
Distillery, No. 1 - - -	585,103	577,864	7,104	1.21
Ditto - No. 2 - - -	892,320	866,673	7,264	0.81
Ditto - No. 3 - - -	785,825	762,154	9,231	1.17
Ditto - No. 4 - - -	897,990	860,763	4,610	0.51
Ditto - No. 5 - - -	1,033,642	1,012,976	4,383	0.42
Ditto - No. 6 - - -	943,845	924,936	1,328	0.14
TOTAL - - -	5,138,725	5,005,366	33,920	0.66 = $\frac{1}{2} \frac{4}{10}$ d. p'gl.

STOCK ACCOUNT of a RECTIFIER in the Year 1845.

5th January 1845, Stock - - - - -	50,310.2
Brought in - - - - -	954,841.2
Total - - - - -	1,005,151.4
Sent out - - - - -	953,605.6
Balance - - - - -	51,545.8
3d January 1846, Stock - - - - -	42,356.2
Decrease - - - - -	9,189.6

Decrease per centum $\frac{9.1}{100} = \frac{3}{4} \frac{4}{10}$ d. per gallon.

BRITISH SPIRITS, Year 1845.

SCOTLAND.	Number of Gallons.	IRELAND.	Number of Gallons.
Taken out of warehouse - - -	5,991,600	Taken out of warehouse - - -	7,067,799
Decrease charged thereon* - -	11,708	Decrease charged thereon* - -	68,657
Being about $\frac{1}{100}$ per cent., equal to $\frac{3}{100}$ of a farthing per gallon.		Being about $\frac{9.9}{100}$ per cent., equal to $\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{10}$ d. per gallon.	

* In addition to these decreases, a further deficiency might occur in the quantities of spirits taken out of warehouse for home consumption, from the circumstance of the bulk contents of each cask being warehoused, and removed from warehouse in whole numbers, disregarding the fractional parts of a gallon. Thus a cask actually containing 100.9 gallons at 25 o. p., might be warehoused as 100 gallons, equal to 125 proof gallons, when taken out of warehouse, the bulk quantity having decreased to 99.1 gallons, it might be delivered as 100 gallons, equal to 125 proof gallons; thus a decrease of 1.8 gallons at 25 o. p., equal to 2.25 gallons at proof, would be lost sight of by the mode of warehousing and delivering such spirits.

The difference here stated is the maximum that could occur; but assuming a loss to have taken place in this way on each cask of spirits delivered out of warehouse for home consumption, at the mean of 9 at 25 o. p. or 1.12 gallons proof, and taking such cask at an average content of 130 gallons, the decrease to be added for Scotland, would amount to 29,435 gallons, which would be about $\frac{3}{10}$ of a gallon per cent., equal to $\frac{2}{10}$ of a farthing per gallon; for Ireland, would amount to 43,690 gallons, being about $\frac{6}{100}$ of a gallon per cent., equal to $\frac{1}{10}$ of a farthing per gallon.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

557/87

AN ACCOUNT of Scotch and Irish SPIRITS Imported into the Port of London, from the 5th of January 1846 to the 5th January 1847.

Proof Gallons, full Duty Paid in Ireland and Scotland.				Proof Gallons, part Duty only Paid in Ireland and Scotland.				Proof Gallons, Duty Free, removed under Bond for Exportation.			
No. of Casks.	Sent from Ireland and Scotland.	Received in London.	Deficiency on Transit.	No. of Casks.	Sent from Ireland and Scotland.	Received in London.	Deficiency on Transit.	No. of Casks.	Sent from Ireland and Scotland.	Received in London.	Deficiency on Transit.
1,171	140,774	139,996	778	9,619	1,525,542	1,517,783	7,759	158	7,682	7,635	47
			rather more than $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of a gallon per cent.				rather more than $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of a gallon p' cent., equal to $\frac{1}{10}$ d. per gallon.				rather more than $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of a gallon per cent., or $\frac{1}{10}$ d. p' gallon.
9,619	1,525,542	1,517,783	7,759								
158	7,682	7,635	47								
Total	11,548	1,673,998	1,665,414								
	English Duty -	7 s. 10 d.	8,584				$\frac{51}{100}$ per cent.				$\frac{1}{10}$ d. p' gallon.

TABLE for calculating Deficiencies in Spirits.

Loss per Cent. in Gallons.	English Duty per Gallon.	Loss per Gallon.	Loss per Cent. in Gallons.	Scotch Duty per Gallon.	Loss per Gallon.	Loss per Cent. in Gallons.	Irish Duty per Gallon.	Loss per Gallon.
	s. d.	d.		s. d.	d.		s. d.	d.
1	7 10	$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{76}{100}$	1	3 8	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{76}{100}$	1	2 8	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{8}{100}$
9	- - -	$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{38}{100}$	9	- - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{38}{100}$	9	- - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{15}{100}$
8	- - -	$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{29}{100}$	8	- - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{29}{100}$	8	- - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{10}{100}$
7	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{63}{100}$	7	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{23}{100}$	7	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{9}{100}$
6	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{29}{100}$	6	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{10}{100}$	6	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{7}{100}$
5	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{38}{100}$	5	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{6}{100}$	5	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{38}{100}$
4	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{50}{100}$	4	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{70}{100}$	4	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{51}{100}$
3	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{13}{100}$	3	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{23}{100}$	3	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{38}{100}$
2	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{10}{100}$	2	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{35}{100}$	2	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{100}{100}$
1	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{38}{100}$	1	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{18}{100}$	1	- - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{100}{100}$

Excise Office, London, 25 March 1848.

As we are upon the subject of these losses by decrease, I may also state that the English appear to be directly opposed to the Scotch and Irish. I have a letter addressed to the Commissioners of Excise, dated the 11th of June 1838; it is signed by Messrs. Currie & Company, of Bromley, Octavius Smith & Company, of Thames Bank, Moore & Company, of Bromley, and Sir Felix Booth & Company, Brentford, four of the principal distillers in England, and in that letter these distillers make this remark, "In regard to the suggestion, that with respect to allowances for loss, leakage, deficiencies, &c., home-made spirits should be placed upon the same footing as foreign and colonial spirits," that being the request of the Scotch and Irish distillers "we conceive that in common justice to all parties, the duty should be charged upon the quantity of spirits which leaves the premises of the distiller where they are manufactured; for, although the Government have thought fit to lay such a duty upon foreign and colonial spirits as shall prevent the possibility of their displacing the produce of the home-manufactured article, and levy the duty upon that quantity only which is actually brought into consumption, yet with spirits manufactured in different parts of the United Kingdom the case is totally different, and we," the English distillers, "have an equal right to claim a protecting duty against the local advantages which the Scotch and Irish derive from cheap corn, labour, and fuel, as they can possibly have for a return of duty upon the waste occasioned by sending their spirits to our market."

14939. Mr. Labouchere.] Have you recently received any memorials from the West India body, or from the distillers, upon this subject?—In the autumn

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autumn of 1846 the present Chancellor of the Exchequer requested the distillers to state to him in writing what were their claims on account of the Excise restrictions on the manufacture of spirits; he also invited the West India body to send in their statement. The distillers in their memorials claimed 1 s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the West Indians estimated the restrictions at only 2 d. a gallon. The particulars of the distillers' 1 s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. were these: for corn duty 1 d., malt duty 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., distillers' increased plant, 1 d. Excise restrictions, 3 d., duty on decreases, and interest on duty advanced, 4 d., extra expense of rectifying in consequence of the law, 6 d.; making altogether 1 s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The West Indians put down nothing for corn duty; malt duty, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; nothing for increased plant; Excise restrictions one halfpenny, and nothing more.

14940. Have you yourself come to any conclusion as to what really is the amount of charge to which the English distiller is subjected, in consequence of the Excise restrictions?—I certainly have formed an opinion; but I present that opinion to the Committee with very great diffidence, because I think the Committee will be already aware of the very great difficulties with which the subject is encumbered. At all events I may be permitted to say that I am a dispassionate person on the question, for if I had any inclination in favour of one body or the other, I should think it would naturally be in favour of a body which pay to my revenue upwards of 5,000,000 *l.* a year; but the estimate, if it deserves the name, which I venture to suggest on those two memorials is this: in the first place, the corn duty is either abolished, or so nearly so, that I have not put down anything for it. I take the malt duty at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., I believe 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. would be the actual amount, but I have taken 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. because both the West Indians and the distillers have agreed upon that sum. The distillers' increased plants I have taken at 1 d., because the distillers have so given it. I have also put down the Excise restrictions at 3 d., because the distillers have put them down at 3 d. So far I have gone on the data presented by the distillers themselves. But we now come to their demand for 4 d. for duty on decreases, and interest on duty advanced, and if the calculations which I have stated to the Committee this day are right, instead of the duty on decreases being 4 d., it amounts to one halfpenny. This I should state was the memorial of the English distillers. The interest on money advanced I estimate at nothing, because as I have already stated to the Committee, though it is perfectly true that on the second Saturday after the charge is made up, the duty is paid by the English distiller in ready money, yet it perfectly well known in practice that the distiller only works according to the demand he has from the rectifier, and that in a great majority of cases he has no stock in hand, but that previous to the second Saturday arriving, the spirit he has distilled is in the hands of the rectifier. The rectifier can, as I am credibly informed, if it were necessary, convert the raw spirit so sent to him into gin in the course of a few hours; but if instead of a few hours it is converted and ready for consumption in the course of the fortnight which elapses on the average before the payment of the duty is required, I cannot see that any charge for interest ought to be made.

14941. Is there any inconvenience to the English distiller in being obliged to work from hand to mouth in this way?—That is his own business; the practice is that they do work from hand to mouth.

14942. That practice is the result of this duty; is not it?—The English distillers have hitherto resisted the privilege of bonding being extended to them, therefore if they pay the duty, they do it on the calculation that such an arrangement is for their advantage.

14943. *Chairman.*] Is not the necessary consequence of this obligation to pay the duty, that amounts to something between 300 and 400 per cent., this, that a distiller being obliged to work from hand to mouth, is obliged to distil when barley is at 50 s. a quarter, just as hard as when barley is at 23 s. a quarter?—I do not think that the payment of the duty has any influence upon his work; and I conclude it is so from this, that the Government, according to my experience of 10 years, have always been willing to extend to the English distiller the privilege of bonding, and the English distiller has been unwilling uniformly to accept it; he might have had at any time the privilege of putting all or any part of his spirit into bond. His arrangements however with the rectifier are such, that he does not choose to have that privilege extended to him, and there may be other reasons that may conduce to it.

14944. *Mr. Cardwell.*] That is because the greater wastage upon Irish and Scotch

Scotch spirits operates as a protection to him?—I do not think that is the reason; I believe the distillers deny that this demand of the duty promptly gives them a monopoly. I do not say that it gives them a settled monopoly, but I think it has a tendency to confine the business to persons of very large capital and large plant. Certainly, so far as the revenue is concerned, it is much cheaper and a much pleasanter proceeding to have to deal with a person who pays his 1,000 *l.* a day, than with people who pay their 300*l.* or 400*l.* in the course of a year; and there is more security in dealing with a large establishment than a number of small ones.

14945. *Chairman.*] Keeping out of sight the half dozen individuals who may obtain a monopoly through this obligation of paying the duty in this way, is not it clear, taking a general view of the subject, that the obligation to work from hand to mouth, in a business where the raw material varies in value about 100 per cent., must be a great inconvenience, and actually prevent the public engaging in it?—Abstractedly, I must assent to your Lordship's remark; but when I have offered them year by year the practical remedy, that is, of allowing them to bond, and they have as uniformly refused it, I conceive that on the balance of advantages and disadvantages, the distiller is contented with the present arrangements.

14946. Is not it admitted by distillers that bonding could not be carried out without injuring the revenue?—On the contrary, I believe that bonding would rather tend to the security of the revenue. Of this I am quite certain, that if bonding were compulsory over the kingdom, the revenue would be much more secure; at present it is optional. But to make bonding compulsory would be a very great evil to the small distiller, more particularly because, if bonding were compulsory, we should require warehouses of special security, and the trade of a poor Highland distiller, or a distiller in the centre of Ireland, would be completely broken up. Such a regulation might suit the great distillers in large towns, more particularly if those towns were sea ports; but compulsory bonding would be nearly annihilation to the small distillers.

14947. *Mr. Miles.*] Does the distiller buy his raw material from hand to mouth?—I should suppose, if he has the command of capital, he exercises a proper discretion, and that he buys at the time of the year when it can be obtained in large quantities at the smallest rate; and as a matter of fact, I believe about the month of October and November you will find the granaries of the principal distillers supplied with corn, or contracts made for corn, which will carry them on probably during the greatest part of the distillery season.

14948. They prefer speculating with the raw material instead of the manufactured article?—Every man of capital uses his discretion as to the application of that capital; the obvious economical application of that capital is, to buy at that time of the year when the material is at the lowest rate, rather than to buy from hand to mouth.

14949. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Will you proceed with your calculation?—I have stated that according to my calculation, taking the malt duty at 1½ *d.*, the distiller's increased plant at 1 *d.*, and the excise restrictions at 3 *d.*, which are the figures given by the English distillers; and instead of 4 *d.* for duty on decreases and interest on duty advanced, giving a halfpenny, it amounts to 6 *d.*: but I have a remark to make upon the 3 *d.* charge for excise restrictions, and without wishing to be at all invidious, I think the Committee will allow me to state, that if I test any one of their demands by facts, and I find that such a demand is unreasonable, that is, that it is not sustained by facts, I have a right to apply a similar process to a demand which I cannot test by the accurate application of facts; and pursuing that train of reasoning, having tried the demand of 4 *d.* for duty on decreases and interest on duty advanced, and finding it to be one halfpenny, or we will put it at 1 *d.*, if the Committee please, I then try the excise restrictions, for which they demand 3 *d.*, by the same rule, and I find by a common rule-of-three sum, that if the 4 *d.* turns out to be only one halfpenny, the 3 *d.*, which is the demand for excise restrictions, turns out to be a farthing and four-eighths of a farthing; but taking, as has been suggested, the decreases and interest at 1 *d.*, I find, that as 4 *d.* is to 1 *d.* so is 3 *d.* to 0¾ *d.*, and therefore, instead of allowing the 3 *d.*, I should be very much inclined to say that 1 *d.* was the utmost amount that can be made out as the value or cost to a distiller of the excise restrictions.

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14950. With regard to what is charged for the extra expense of rectifying, have you any observation to make?—I assume that some allowance is to be made for rectification, but I would premise that my opinion is, that no allowance ought to be made for it; but I will state to the Committee the several demands which have been made upon the Excise for the expense of rectifying. The extra expense of rectifying, in consequence of the law, is stated in the distillers' memorial at 6 *d.* In a paper delivered to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by a deputation on the 11th of February 1847, when the equalization of the duties between East India and West India rum was proposed, a letter was addressed to the President of the Board of Trade, signed by Messrs. Currie, of Bromley, Mr. George Smith, of Whitechapel, Mr. Octavius Smith, of Thames Bank, and James Murray & Company, of West Ham, in which a calculation is given of the cost of rectifying; it is said that the price of a gallon of British spirit, where barley is at 36 *s.* a quarter, is equal to 2 *s.* 8 *d.*, the cost of rectification, &c. is 1 *s.*; but so far as I can make out, that 1 *s.* comprehended not only the cost of rectifying, but all the excise restrictions upon the manufacture of spirits; the cost of compounding rum in India is stated in the same paper at 2 *d.* In this estimate of the expenses, which I will put in, from the English rectifiers, there is a loss by decreases of 2 *d.* a gallon. I have proved, by the stock taken of one of the greatest rectifiers in England, through whose stock, in the year in question, upwards of 1,000,000 gallons passed, the expenses were a little more than three farthings, but say 1 *d.*; then there are the wages of the men, one halfpenny; water rate, one farthing; interest on plant, one halfpenny; horses, one farthing; coals, one halfpenny; repairs, 1½ *d.*; fire insurance and taxes, one-eighth of a penny. I made inquiry into the subject, and my inquiry was this: Supposing that at any one of the great distilleries the spirits were allowed to be rectified, as well as to be distilled, could the existing establishment of any one distillery rectify those spirits? I am informed, upon very good authority, it could not; and that, therefore, a considerable proportion of the expenses, of water rate, for instance, interest on plant, wages, coals, repairs, and fire insurance, would devolve upon the distiller who undertook the double business on the same premises, of rectifier and distiller. I state this as the result of my inquiries; but it is a subject with which, of course, I am not very conversant.

[The Paper was delivered in, and is as follows:—]

ESTIMATE of Expenses to which the RECTIFIER is subject in *England* (delivered to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Deputation, 11th February 1847); to which is added the MONEY VALUE of such Expenses on 1,000,000 Gallons.

RECTIFIER'S ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES, PER GALLON.		Money Value on 1,000,000 Gallons.
	<i>d.</i>	£.
Loss by decreases - - - - -	2	8,333
Wages of men - - - - -	½	2,083
Water rate - - - - -	¼	1,041
Interest on plant - - - - -	½	2,083
Horses - - - - -	¼	1,041
Coals - - - - -	½	2,083
Repairs - - - - -	1½	6,249
Fire insurance and taxes - - - - -	⅛	520
	5 ½	23,433

February 1847.

14951. What is the conclusion you come to, with regard to the amount to be put down for the extra expenses of rectifying?—It has been stated by one party at 6 *d.*; it has been stated in another paper at 8 *d.*; I have reason to believe it is not nearly so large as is represented, and I will explain to the Committee

Committee my reason for so thinking. I had lately occasion to see a deputation of rectifiers, and one of the suggestions which I threw out was this: at present no spirits can be sent from a distillery which are at more than 25 per cent. over proof, but where Coffey's still is used, the spirit comes over at from 50 to 60 per cent. over proof; 54 is considered the strength of spirits of wine; I therefore suggested to the rectifiers, that if the distiller were permitted to send out spirits at 60 per cent. over proof instead of at 25, spirits of wine in large quantities might go directly to the consumers; and thereby I was given to understand, that a considerable expense would be saved; if the price of spirits of wine could be thus reduced, the temptation to deal in illicit spirits would of course be diminished; and I also stated to them, that I also thought it was a great pity that, inasmuch as spirits came over at 60 per cent. over-proof, they should be reduced by water to 25 by the distiller; that they should then be sent by the rectifier to be passed through the still, and then to be raised up to 54, the strength of spirits of wine, merely by the process of watering them in the first place, and distilling them over again in the second. One of the principal rectifiers replied that he should oppose any change in the law; and that as to the reason I had assigned for it, the expenses of rectifying amounted to so little, that it was not worth taking into the calculation. I am talking now of spirits of wine, and not of compounded or flavoured spirits. There has been a great deal said of the law preventing distilling and rectifying being carried on, on the same premises; I believe it is perfectly well known both to distillers and to rectifiers, that if they could make an arrangement among themselves that it should be so, there is no revenue objection whatever to the flavouring of spirits by the distiller; the matters which flavour the spirits, do not affect the action of Syke's hydrometer; it is the sweetening which affects it, and therefore we could not permit the distiller to sweeten his spirits, because the action of the instrument would be thereby disturbed, and we should not have a correct test of the strength of the spirits. The calculations which I have taken the liberty of submitting to the Committee are not calculations of my own; but I have in every instance given the names of the persons by whom they were propounded.

14952. What is the conclusion you came to, with regard to the charge that it would be fair to put down on account of the extra expense of rectifying?—I am unable to come to any conclusion; a great deal of the expense of rectifying depends, as I am informed, not upon the mere passage of the spirit through the still, but on the flavouring or the sweetening matter which is added to the spirit for the purposes of making it palatable.

14953. Do you think it would be fair in this calculation to consider the expenses of rectifying at all?—I do not.

14954. For what reason?—I take a general view of the distillery trade in the three kingdoms, and I will take, first, Ireland, because that is the most simple case: the Irish distiller puts forward no claim for the expense of rectifying, he puts forward no claim for the malt duty, and for this simple reason, that he distils his spirits in such a way that they need no rectification; but they do need time, and my opinion is that if the rectifier be entitled to consideration for the rectifying, and flavouring, and sweetening of his spirit, the Irish distiller is equally entitled to the loss of interest upon the money during the two, three, four, five, or even six years which he keeps his spirits in store, in order to give them the requisite flavour. Then with regard to Scotland, there a different mode is adopted; the Scotch, instead of distilling from the raw grain, prefer to distil from malt, but if they distil from malt it is to please the taste of their customers, and their customers are willing to pay for it; and in illustration of that, I have an account of the quantity of malt spirits imported into Ireland from Scotland, and into Scotland from Ireland, and the quantity brought to charge for consumption in those countries, and exported to foreign parts, from 1826 to 1847. When the malt drawback was first allowed it extended to Scotland and to Ireland alike; it was 1 s. When the wine gallon was changed for the imperial gallon that 1 s. was then represented by 1 s. 2 d., therefore the drawback was raised to 1 s. 2 d.; it was reduced in April 1832 to 8 d., and I believe it was reduced in consequence of a Committee of the House of Commons which sat in 1831, which Committee came to this conclusion, "That it is the opinion of this Committee that the present system of allowing a drawback on malt spirits affords great opportunities for fraud." I believe,

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in consequence of that report the Government of the day reduced the drawback from 1s. 2d. to 8d.; that so continued till the year 1842, when the Irish distillers, who, with the exception of three very small ones, are all distillers from raw grain, saw that the quantity of malt spirits sent into Ireland from Scotland was rapidly on the increase; it had increased from 70,000 gallons in 1826 to 455,000 gallons in 1839; therefore the Irish distillers prayed to be relieved from this indulgence of the malt drawback, because if Ireland were exempted from the malt drawback all the whiskey coming from Scotland into Ireland would have to repay the 8d. which had been allowed for consumption in that country. The effect was, that in 1843 the drawback having been repealed on the 1st of August 1842, as regarded Ireland, the quantity fell in that year from 432,000 gallons to 329,000, but a considerable portion of the Irish preferring the flavour of the malt spirit to that of the raw grain spirit, were willing to pay for it, and accordingly the quantity increased in 1844 to 399,000 gallons and went on to 507,000 gallons, and in 1846 it was 519,000 gallons, being about 100,000 gallons more than before the 8d. was imposed upon whiskey so imported into Ireland. I quote this as a convincing proof that those who are not content with the flavour of grain spirits are willing to pay the additional cost which the introduction of malt into the distillery causes.

14955. What alterations have been made in the rum duties, as compared with the rates of duty charged upon spirits in the three kingdoms?—Up to 1846 the duty on rum was 9s. 4d.; 6d. was then taken off, which reduced the rum duty in the three kingdoms to 8s. 10d.; it formed a difference of 1s. on rum and British spirits, the duty on British spirits being 7s. 10d., and the duty on rum 8s. 10d., but in Scotland a reduction of 4s. 11d. per gallon was made on rum, and in Ireland a reduction of 5s. 11d., the duty on each case being put at 9d. above the existing duty on British spirits in the three kingdoms.

14956. What was the duty as originally proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons?—A distinctive duty of 6d., which, during the progress of the Bill, was raised to 9d. I have here an account of the quantity of rum which paid duty for home consumption in England, Scotland, and Ireland, during the last two years. In 1847, 2,619,839 gallons paid duty in England; in 1848, the quantity which paid duty was 2,770,308 gallons; in Scotland, in the year 1847, the consumption of rum was 49,264 gallons; and in the year 1848, 382,884 gallons. In Ireland the quantity in 1847 was 14,598 gallons, and in 1848, 176,485 gallons.

[The following Papers were delivered in:]

AN ACCOUNT of the Quantity of RUM that Paid Duty for Home Consumption in the last Two Years.

	Years ended 5th January	
	1847.	1848.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
England - - - - -	2,619,839	2,770,308
Scotland - - - - -	49,264	382,884
Ireland - - - - -	14,598	176,485
TOTAL - - - - -	2,683,701	3,329,677

31 March 1848.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

563
93

COLONIAL SPIRITS (RUM).

QUANTITIES charged, RATES and AMOUNT of DUTY, from 1800 to 1845.

Years.	ENGLAND.		SCOTLAND.		IRELAND.		UNITED KINGDOM.	
	Number of Imperial Gallons charged with Duty for Consumption.	Rate of Duty.	Number of Imperial Gallons charged with Duty for Consumption.	Rate of Duty.	Number of Imperial Gallons charged with Duty for Consumption.	Rate of Duty.	Total Number of Gallons.	Amount of Duty.
		<i>s. d.</i>				<i>s. d.</i>		<i>£. s. d.</i>
1800	1,945,266	9 - ½	290,913	- -	864,411	6 8 ¼	3,049,590	1,184,182 6 4
1801	1,687,839	8 10 ½	349,237	- -	1,057,316	- -	3,094,392	1,302,632 9 2
1802	2,204,807	9 - ½	468,163	- -	637,005	6 11 ½	3,310,065	1,429,850 14 -
1803	2,573,602	13 4 ½	379,043	- -	259,966	8 6 ½	3,212,611	1,457,011 1 -
1804	1,508,890	13 5 ½	124,548	- -	180,289	9 2 ½	1,813,736	1,123,927 9 9
1805	1,696,384	13 5 ½	153,635	- -	123,049	- -	1,973,068	1,280,171 3 1
1806	1,857,321	13 0 ½	188,811	- -	160,148	- -	2,206,280	1,446,602 1 -
1807	1,999,783	"	226,296	- -	210,822	"	2,436,901	1,593,590 13 11
1808	2,174,751	"	239,263	- -	343,333	10 3 ½	2,757,347	1,799,261 19 11
1809	2,300,625	13 7 ½	289,325	- -	1,063,661	"	3,613,611	2,278,821 7 3
1810	2,703,718	"	339,560	- -	336,658	"	3,370,936	2,327,594 12 3
1811	2,711,945	"	300,396	- -	150,290	"	3,162,541	2,127,539 7 11
1812	3,205,465	"	286,569	- -	283,135	"	3,775,169	2,509,156 1 11
1813	3,044,680	13 10 ½	241,686	- -	463,003	12 10 ½	3,749,374	2,518,275 19 2
1814	3,332,188	"	280,493	- -	91,154	12 8 ¼	3,703,835	2,571,638 9 1
1815	3,019,204	"	281,748	- -	64,833	"	3,365,785	2,281,768 3 8
1816	2,321,533	"	185,874	- -	21,543	"	2,428,950	1,643,557 18 10
1817	2,179,213	"	198,412	- -	30,686	"	2,408,311	1,638,849 2 7
1818	2,406,266	"	203,951	- -	21,366	"	2,631,583	1,789,302 7 6
1819	2,390,193	13 11 ½	148,955	- -	25,735	"	2,564,883	1,746,737 9 3
1820	2,325,733	"	142,997	- -	20,390	"	2,489,120	1,697,406 12 10
1821	2,166,441	"	138,189	- -	19,685	"	2,324,315	1,588,915 7 4
1822	2,100,925	"	130,879	- -	15,035	"	2,246,839	1,526,302 18 2
1823	2,222,923	"	108,562	- -	18,175	13 11 ½	2,349,660	1,602,301 4 11
1824	2,407,207	12 7 ½	134,986	- -	9,453	12 7 ½	2,551,616	1,606,924 13 7
1825	1,980,807	"	104,752	- -	10,128	"	2,095,687	1,284,627 18 5
1826	3,982,053	8 6	295,595	- -	27,758	8 6	4,305,316	1,828,878 8 9
1827	3,080,152	"	185,214	- -	23,240	"	3,288,606	1,396,576 8 11
1828	3,064,856	"	188,989	- -	24,708	"	3,277,653	1,392,553 17 2
1829	3,202,143	"	152,461	- -	21,292	"	3,375,866	1,434,782 13 1
1830	3,503,144	9 -	136,520	- -	19,294	9 -	3,658,958	1,600,331 9 11
1831	3,479,911	"	125,792	- -	18,984	"	3,624,597	1,629,881 9 5
1832	3,401,349	"	112,926	- -	24,432	"	3,537,807	1,591,109 1 9
1833	3,344,948	"	124,357	- -	22,888	"	3,492,193	1,570,796 13 1
1834	3,206,650	"	111,169	- -	27,353	"	3,345,177	1,565,139 16 7
1835	3,285,473	"	105,198	- -	26,295	"	3,416,966	1,537,693 18 9
1836	3,194,892	"	104,882	- -	24,975	"	3,324,749	1,496,155 14 1
1837	3,079,778	"	83,894	- -	20,673	"	3,184,255	1,432,929 7 6
1838	3,029,400	"	86,460	- -	19,701	"	3,135,651	1,411,008 14 2
1839	2,737,263	"	75,337	- -	15,663	"	2,828,263	1,273,626 15 2
1840	2,445,221	9 4	55,408	- -	12,331	9 4	2,512,960	1,155,612 19 7
1841	2,217,073	"	48,523	- -	12,374	"	2,277,970	1,063,087 - -
1842	2,050,331	"	35,951	- -	11,465	"	2,097,747	978,958 12 3
1843	2,055,594	"	36,493	- -	11,628	"	2,103,715	981,905 7 5
1844	2,143,865	"	42,092	- -	12,635	"	2,198,592	1,026,066 12 3
1845	2,412,099	"	43,297	- -	13,739	"	2,461,135	1,152,309 12 6
1846	2,619,839	9/4 - 8/10	49,264	- -	14,598	9/4 - 8/10	2,683,701	1,219,532 11 4
1847	2,770,398	8/10 - 8/7	382,584	8/10 - 4/5	176,485	8/10 - 3/5	3,329,677	1,316,140 6 6

Same as in England.

Office of the Inspector-General of Imports and Exports, }
Custom House, London.

(signed) W. Irving.

John Wood, Esq.

1 April 1848.

14957. You state that 9*d.* is the present discriminating duty, 6*d.* being originally proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; are you able to state to the Committee what in your opinion would be the amount which would be most just, under all the circumstances of the case?—I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, the distillers have not made out a case for anything like 6*d.*

14958. Are you able to say to what amount they have made out a case?—If I had to fix it myself, I should say 4*d.* is all that they have made out a case for.

14959. Mr. *Cardwell.*] You have no doubt that 4*d.* would place the parties upon a fair footing?—If I were the arbitrator between the parties, and I should certainly have no temptation to incline to one rather than to the other, I should think I was doing ample justice if I allowed 4*d.* as a discriminating duty. At the same time, the grounds upon which I have formed that opinion I have detailed, and the Committee are much better able than I am to fix the amount; but being pressed for my opinion, I of course thought it my duty to give it.

14960. Of course, in these calculations, which are in themselves so vague as not to be capable in their nature of being reduced to figures, your great experience, and the attention which you have paid to the subject, must necessarily give you the means of judging better than a stranger could do, and more than can be conveyed in words?—I can say that it is a subject which has very painfully occupied my attention at intervals during the last 10 years, because there has seldom been a Session of Parliament in which, under one form or other, the question has not been directly or indirectly before The House.

14961. Mr. *Labouchere.*] Have you prepared a Bill for the use of molasses in distilleries?—I have.

14962. That Bill stands for Committee?—It does.

14963. What alterations are proposed to be made in it, and at whose suggestion were those alterations introduced?—The Bill as originally prepared and as printed differed very little from the Bill of last year, excepting that we made an alteration in favour of the distiller, by only requiring him to produce 11 gallons instead of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons from every hundredweight of sugar, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons instead of 8 as to molasses. Molasses are now admitted for the first time. The reason for that alteration was this: our experiments and the calculations founded upon them are, I believe, unimpeachable, at any rate they have never been questioned. Those experiments were made on sugar and molasses of the average quality, but the experience of the last year has shown us that there is an inclination on the part of distillers to use a lower quality than the average quality of molasses and sugar in the market, and we therefore thought it was a fairer plan, as it was the sincere object of the Government to put sugar and molasses on equal and just terms, to reduce the requirement. Various deputations of distillers and refiners waited upon me after the Bill was printed, and various suggestions were made by some of the principal distillers; I believe three or four of the principal distillers made suggestions, which I see are embodied in Mr. Currie's evidence, as objections to the Bill, that is, to the present system. I had before considered the objections, and in the Bill which I prepared for Committee I believe I have adopted for the consideration of the Committee every suggestion almost without exception, which came from the men practically concerned in distilleries. As, for instance, objections were made that the notice required was too long; the notice is reduced from one calendar month to seven days, that period being fixed by themselves, because every seven days there is a change of work from brewing to distilling on their premises. Another objection is made, that by the old Bill corn and saccharine matter could not be allowed on the same premises; that objection I propose to obviate, because instead of stating that there shall be a penalty for its being found in any store belonging to a distiller or on a distiller's premises, as the Bill now stands any place approved of by the excise may be entered for storing either the sugar or the corn; and therefore in a place appropriated to the purpose by the consent of the excise, there would be no objection whatever to the different materials remaining on the same premises. Another objection is obviated, which was, that it was very hard that there should be a long period for notice, and that they should not be able to do anything pending that notice. Instead, therefore, of saying "at any time after such notice has been given," I have put "any time after such notice has taken effect," and therefore they will have

have the full privilege of having the materials in use during the currency of the notice up to the period when it expires and when the liberty attaches to it. Then again it was stated that the mash-tub was not the proper utensil in which to put the sugar or molasses; that has been altered to "such other vessel as with the approbation of the Commissioners of Excise shall be entered for that purpose." Then again an objection was made that whereas in the former Bill there was a forfeiture and double the duty on any deficiency of molasses or sugar which should be found on taking stock to exist, there is this proviso, "that such penalty and double duty shall not be incurred if such deficiency is proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Excise to have arisen from unavoidable accident or loss." Of course, this Bill not having gone through Committee, I cannot answer for what will be its fate, but I hope I have shown to this Committee that there is every disposition on the part of the excise to meet the reasonable wishes of the trade, and that the objections to the provisions under which the brewing of sugar and molasses was to be adopted, are obviated as far as possible in the Bill under consideration.

14964. Mr. *Cardwell*.] Under the phraseology of that Bill, can treacle be used as well as molasses?—No.

14965. Will you have the goodness to state the reason for that?—An application was made to the Board of Excise, by some of the principal refiners in London, wishing that treacle the produce of English refineries should be used as well as molasses. The objection to the use of treacle is this: by the Bill molasses may be used separately or in mixture with sugar; if molasses be used separately, we give a drawback of 4*s.* 7*d.* a cwt. on every cwt., provided the distiller shows us that every cwt. has produced 7½ gallons of spirits; that is the simplest mode of returning the drawback, and settling our account with him; but inasmuch as a very strong wish was expressed that the mixture of grain and molasses might be allowed, it was necessary in such case to make a different arrangement. If molasses and grain be mixed together, it is impossible for us to calculate what is the quantity of spirit produced from the molasses and what from the grain; and therefore we make a different arrangement as to the drawback; we simply give, without requiring any account of the quantity of spirit produced, a drawback of 4*s.* 7*d.* on every hundredweight of molasses. If, in addition to the molasses, we were to permit the use of treacle, we should be liable to this very palpable fraud, that treacle might be mixed with a very large quantity of water; sent from the refineries and distilled, and the consequence of that would be, that the drawback being calculated on the weight of the treacle without any regard to the produce, we should be liable to pay the drawback on the treacle and on the water. With regard to molasses the same objection does not exist; it certainly could never pay the West Indian to carry molasses and water across the Atlantic, and if he did he would pay duty not on molasses, but on molasses and water, and moreover he would be subject to the imposition being detected by the custom-house officers; for though they do not regularly test the quality of the molasses which comes in, and the quality necessarily varies very much, yet in the instance of so palpable a fraud as mixing a great quantity of water, the custom-house officers would of course in the long run detect it.

14966. In point of fact, it would be no fraud at all, would it, because 4*s.* 7*d.* would be paid to the customs, hereafter to be allowed by the excise?—No doubt of it. I am satisfied myself, and, what is of still more importance, I believe that the refiners who waited upon me, on that opening to fraud being pointed out, at once acquiesced in the restriction.

14967. Reverting to the question of the differential duty of 9*d.* and 4*d.* under the provisions of the Bill for distilling from sugar and molasses, will not Cuban and Brazilian sugar and molasses become British spirits at a protective duty against British rum, if the duty which you think ought to be 4*d.* remain at 9*d.*?—To that extent there can be no doubt of it.

14968. *Chairman*.] Have you considered the Report of the Select Committee on the use of molasses in breweries and distilleries in 1831?—I have; Mr. Thomas Smith, distiller, of Whitechapel, gave evidence before that Committee; he is asked in question 2211, "What inconvenience to the distillers would, in your opinion, result from a law permitting them to use molasses together with grain, independently of any danger to the revenue?" His answer is, "I think they could not together be fermented to advantage." He goes into the ques-

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tion at some length, and he is then asked, this is the concluding question, "Do you anticipate from brewing from molasses together with corn, a loss to the distiller, or to the revenue, in consequence of the wash turning acid during the period of fermenting?" His answer is, "The distiller would pay the duty on what spirit he produced, therefore there would be no loss to the revenue, but with respect to the effect of it upon the trader, I think there might be a loss by bringing on an imperfect fermentation from the union of the two substances." "If it were wholly optional to a distiller to use molasses or not, what injury could be inflicted upon him, since if the fermentation were thus incomplete or unsuccessful, he would cease to make use of the molasses, and would brew from corn alone?—If I were to use molasses, supposing myself to be under that necessity, I would never use them, except alone; so with sugar, so with corn, I would never mix them." Mr. Atlee, a considerable distiller, also gave evidence before the same Committee; he had used sugar and corn together and separately; and he is asked, "Would you prefer working molasses by itself, and corn by itself, or molasses and corn together?" His answer is, "Separately." "Would you prefer working sugar by itself, and corn by itself, or sugar and corn together?—Sugar by itself, and corn by itself." "What reason have you for saying you would not like to use molasses with corn?—When I worked them together I never found them effective." "Be so good as to explain what you mean by effective?—That they did not produce so well as if they had been worked separately." "What was it that they did not produce?—In spirits; I varied the proportion many times, taking a certain quantity of corn and a certain quantity of molasses, mixing them together; I fermented them and they did not produce so many gallons of spirits as they would if they had been fermented separately." "If you had the permission to use molasses in your distillery, you never would use molasses with corn?—Certainly not."

14969. Mr. Goulburn.] The distillers state that you must take into account of the grievances to which they are subjected, the excise restrictions which are imposed upon the manufacture of malt; have you taken that into your estimate in calculating the charges to which they are subject?—I have. I see it has been stated (but I think there must be some error or misunderstanding) on the authority of Mr. Huskisson, that the excise restrictions on the manufacture of malt amount to 50 per cent. upon the cost of manufacture. In 1834 particular inquiry was made into this, in consequence of the intended motion of the Marquis of Chandos for a repeal of the malt tax, and the excise were desired by Sir Robert Peel, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to make inquiries and to give him the results. I have in my hand a paper with a copy of which Sir Robert Peel was furnished, which gives those details; it is dated the 9th of March 1835. This day's prices are for best barley, 38s. a quarter; for best malt, 64s. a quarter; inferior barley from 32s. to 37s. a quarter; and inferior malt from 50s. to 62s. a quarter. A calculation is then made; best barley at 38s., and then the price rises to 64s. as the best price of malt made therefrom; and these are the particulars: barley, 38s.; duty, 20s. 8d.; cost of making, 5s., and 4d. profit, making 64s. I have reason to believe, from subsequent inquiries, that if there be any error in this paper, it is that the profit of the maltster at 4d. is stated too low, and consequently that the cost of making is put too high, and I believe from the inquiries I have made among some of the most eminent maltsters, that 4s. more nearly represents the cost of malting than 5s. Of course if this be any approximation even to the truth, if the barley and duty together were 58s. 8d., the malt could not have been sold at 64s., if there had been any very great increase to the duty by the restrictions on the manufacture of malt. I am sure some mistake runs through the whole therefore.

14970. With respect to the disadvantages imposed upon maltsters by the excise restrictions, can you inform the Committee whether there are not some advantages derived from the imposition of the duty; does not the mode in which the payment of the duty takes place by the maltster give him a portion of the capital for carrying on his trade?—No doubt of it; the duty is demandable by law as soon as the charge is made, but in practice, if the maltster gives no security, it is only in cases of grave suspicion demanded from him more than eight times in the year, being an average of seven or eight weeks through the year; but if a maltster gives security he has between five and six months for the payment of the duty.

14971. In ordinary cases the malt is sold previously to the payment of the duty?—I should think it is sold from three to four months before the duty is demanded and sold as duty-paid malt.

14972. The maltster therefore has in his hands the duty, forming a large proportion of the whole price of the malt, upon which he can conduct his future operations?—Certainly.

14973. That therefore may be fairly set as a compensating advantage for the restrictions which the excise law imposes upon him?—I think it would go a long way towards it. There is no doubt, with respect to all excise laws, that they interfere not advantageously with the processes of manufacture. I think, seeing that the whole of a very terrific Act of Parliament has been read to this Committee, I may be allowed to say that there are many laws on the statute book which are not put in force every day. I see that in answer to question 8588 it has been stated that the distillers are subject to a very heavy expense in consequence of having to keep servants to watch the excise. I have so decided an opinion upon the subject, that perhaps the Committee will allow me to give it. The trader's servants are generally present when the excise officers take any gauge on which a charge of duty may be founded; that is twice during the distillation of the wash in any back, or 46 times for the whole distilling period, which lasts about five days; and though there were no excise survey, the trader would have to attend on all those occasions to take an account himself, or otherwise he would remain in ignorance of the manner in which his work was conducted. The trader's servants look at the excise officers doing what they would otherwise have to do themselves, and probably would not do so well; and I believe, as far as taking measure and gauging goes by the excise officers, onerous as their presence may be to the distiller, it is positively an advantage to him to that extent. But admitting that the survey of the excise occasioned expense to the distiller in this way, instead of three-fourths of the time of all the clerks in a large concern being taken up in looking after the excise officers, I am led to believe, from inquiry and observation, that it would not occupy one-fourth of the time of one clerk.

14974. The great amount of the penalties imposed upon distillers has been objected to; do you know many instances in which those extreme penalties which are laid down in the law have been enforced?—I think none. I may say generally that I hope the law is administered with some discretion; and though the penalties look very terrific in cases of mere breach of regulations which are not indicative of positive fraud, the Board generally do not interfere to prosecute, or if they prosecute they merely do it by way of caution, and take very small penalties. In cases which have occurred of grievous, and I may say scandalous frauds, the Board have considered it their duty, as much for the protection of the honest trader as of the revenue, to enforce tolerably heavy penalties; but I may state, as an instance, that in the great case of the Smiths, of Whitechapel, the penalties in that case sought for in the four actions were 300,000*l.*; we were content with a verdict in one case only, which amounted to 75,000*l.*, and then the Treasury reduced that verdict of 75,000*l.* to 10,000*l.*, which was the sum paid. I must, however, state that the trader was subject to considerable expense himself; he was subject to the inconvenience of the stoppage of his works for nine or ten months; and he also stated, and it was probably the case, that he was put to considerable indirect loss by not being able to supply his customers as theretofore.

14975. The great amount of penalties has been introduced, has not it, rather to protect the honest distiller against the fraud of other persons, by deterring from the commission of crimes, than from any view on the part of Government to levy those penalties?—Certainly; and the offences have been enumerated in detail to which penalties were attached, in order that we might put into our informations several counts; and if we did not succeed upon one count we might do so upon another; but there is scarcely an instance, as affects our general practice, of cumulative penalties, for substantially the same offence, being levied.

14976. The complaint on the part of an honest distiller of the extent of these penalties, is not altogether one, you think, which is deserving of much attention?—I would advert to the evidence of Mr. Currie, who stated, I believe perfectly truly, the other day, that a regard to the interest of the honest distiller prevented him from suggesting any alteration of the law.

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14977-8. You stated that an English distiller, sending his spirits to the rectifier, had them raised to that extent, that they were capable of being used as spirits of wine, and other spirits of a higher proof?—Where a distiller uses Coffey's still, which is the case in all the large distilleries in the kingdom, the spirit often comes over 60 per cent. over-proof; what is called the spirits of wine standard, is 54 over-proof.

14979. Very little rum is ever rectified in the distilleries in this country?—Very little; it is allowed by law; and I have a return of the number of gallons rectified during the last five years, which, if the Committee please, I will put in.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

QUANTITY of RUM admitted for Rectification in the last Five Years.

	Proof Gallons.
1843	55,183
1844	66,634
1845	47,140
1846	74,298
1847	95,032

Excise Office, London, }
25 March 1848. }

14980. The difficulties of rectifying rum preclude rum from being used in those cases where spirits of wine, or other strong spirits, for manufacturing purposes are required?—The English distillers remonstrated very strongly against the introduction of rum for the purpose of rectifying in this country; the result has shown that those apprehensions were not well founded, because it appears from the paper I have just put in, that the largest amount of rum admitted for rectification during the last five years, was 95,032 gallons.

14981. Rum is in fact practically excluded from a great many uses to which British spirit, highly rectified, is applicable?—No doubt of it.

14982. Do you consider that there are considerable difficulties which arise at present from the difference of duties on spirits in the three parts of the United Kingdom?—No doubt very great difficulties; and distillers in particular parts of the kingdom, particularly the Irish and Scotch distillers, have made it a very prominent subject of complaint that great difficulties exist as to the intercourse in plain spirits. The question is merely one of revenue, because there can be no doubt it would be a great convenience and an advantage, if the intercourse between the three kingdoms were just as free as between any three English counties; it therefore became of considerable consequence to see whether any equalization of duty could take place, and what would be the effect upon the revenue of any such equalization. With a view to illustrate that, I have prepared a paper, which will show the loss which would accrue to the revenue by an alteration of the duties.

14983. That loss would vary according as the general duty was 4 s. a gallon, 5 s., or 6 s. a gallon?—Generally we have found that all attempts to raise the duty above 2 s. 8 d. per gallon in Ireland have not been attended with success, therefore the question arises, if the duties are to be equalized, what would be the extra amount of duty which Ireland or Scotland would bear, and what would be the reduction and consequent loss upon spirit in England. I may state, as one curious result, that supposing the consumption in the three kingdoms to remain the same, it would take a duty of 5 s. a gallon in the three kingdoms to bring the same amount of duty to the Exchequer. If Ireland, as 5 s. is a duty which it would be impossible to raise in her, were left at 2 s. 8 d., and England and Scotland were put at 5 s., the loss to the revenue would be no less than 835,000 l. a year. If England and Scotland were put at 6 s., and Ireland continued at 2 s. 8 d. that would be equal to the present amount of revenue.

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revenue. If England and Scotland were put at 4s. a gallon, and Ireland continued at its present rate of 2s. 8d., the loss would be no less than 1,643,000 l. a year, and if England, Scotland, and Ireland were put at 4s. a gallon, the loss would be 1,113,000 l. a year; therefore I greatly fear that the day is distant when any equalization of duty, so as to facilitate the intercourse materially, can be devised. At the same time I may state, that I believe measures are in preparation, which will go a great way to remove many of the complaints of the Scotch and Irish distillers.

[The following Paper was delivered in, and read as follows:]

CALCULATIONS respecting the Equalization of the Duties on BRITISH SPIRITS, supposing the Consumption to remain the same.

		Present Duty.	£.
England, at 7s. 10d. per gallon	- - - - -	- - - - -	3,595,315
Scotland, at 3s. 8d. - ditto	- - - - -	- - - - -	1,278,766
Ireland, at 2s. 8d. - ditto	- - - - -	- - - - -	1,060,276
			£. 5,934,357
		Duty at Equalized Rates.	
England	}	- - - - -	2,294,882
Scotland		at 5s. per gallon	1,743,772
Ireland		- - - - -	1,988,019
			6,026,673
Present Duty			5,934,357
Gain			£. 92,316
England and Scotland, at 5s. per gallon	- - - - -	- - - - -	4,038,654
Ireland, as at present, 2s. 8d. ditto	- - - - -	- - - - -	1,060,276
			5,098,930
Present Duty			5,934,357
Loss			£. 835,427
England and Scotland, at 6s. per gallon	- - - - -	- - - - -	4,846,386
Ireland, at present rate, 2s. 8d. per gallon	- - - - -	- - - - -	1,060,276
			5,906,662
Present Duty			5,934,357
Loss			£. 27,695
England and Scotland, at 4s. per gallon	- - - - -	- - - - -	3,230,924
Ireland at present rate, 2s. 8d. per gallon	- - - - -	- - - - -	1,060,276
			4,291,200
Present Duty			5,934,357
Loss			£. 1,643,157
England, Scotland, and Ireland, at 4s. per gallon	- - - - -	- - - - -	4,821,339
Present Duty			5,934,357
Loss			£. 1,113,018

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14984. *Mr. Moffatt.*] Is there any revenue objection to distilling in bond, and allowing spirits to be retained in bond, provided that you make it compulsory on distillers throughout the United Kingdom?—There is the greatest objection to it, because I believe it would destroy every small distiller; and I do not think, for the purposes of the revenue, you should inflict such an injury as that; therefore I think it is objectionable.

14985. Will you explain to the Committee under what regulations spirits are allowed to be placed in bond in Scotland and Ireland at the present time?—The Irish and Scotch distiller, after the spirit has run from the worm end into the spirit receiver, and it has been charged with the duty, has his option either to lower the casks into a room which has been approved of by the Excise, which is called a duty-free warehouse, or he has the option to pay the duty direct, and send it into consumption immediately; he has the further option of removing them to a duty-free warehouse not upon his premises; as, for instance, a warehouse separated for the purpose, at a port or a large town.

14986. Do the same regulations obtain in Scotland and Ireland?—Yes.

14987. And you see no objection to those regulations obtaining also in England?—None.

14988. You have stated in the earlier part of your evidence that the loss on decreases, by reason of natural wastage and evaporation, in no case furnished by the official returns, exceeds for any period of 12 months, more than a halfpenny per gallon?—I believe not, except in the case of a rectifier; in his case it amounts to something less than 1*d.*

14989. And the loss by transit, so far as it has come within your knowledge, in the removal from Ireland to England, or from Scotland to England, has in no case exceeded a halfpenny a gallon?—No.

14990. Consequently you do not anticipate that any great loss will arise to the revenue, by reason of allowing those spirits to be transmitted in bond, and to be charged with the duty only on the settled quantity which is actually taken for home consumption?—There would be no great loss to the revenue, and there could be no great gain to the distiller.

14991. You have stated that it is the custom in Ireland to keep their spirits in bond for four, five, or six years?—The highest qualities of their spirits, which are to remain the greatest length of time; great expense of warehouse rent attends them; the finest quality is therefore selected, and they are kept for many years.

14992. Can you inform the Committee of the decrease in the quantity and the strength of spirits stored for five consecutive years?—No; but it is easily deduced from the table I have put in; I have given the decreases in one year, on a very large stock in Ireland, and it is only multiplying that by five.

14993. Do you apprehend any danger to the revenue, from making the alteration to which I have before alluded, in regard to charging the duty upon the quantity which goes into consumption?—Yes, the greatest.

14994. From what cause do you anticipate it?—I have explained to the Committee already, that the most desirable plan for simplicity, for economy, and for safety to the revenue, is to make the charge in every instance at the worm end; we could not do that in the case of colonial spirits, and therefore instead of making that charge, we put upon them a certain differential duty; if we could take the account at the worm end, in the West Indies, it would be by far the preferable mode, and it is preferable on this account, that if you charge a distiller at the worm end, you deprive him of the opportunity of subtracting from the spirits in the transit; because he being charged on the original quantity produced at the end of the worm, would be robbing himself, if he were to endeavour to rob the revenue.

14995. Your position is, that the distiller should be liable to pay the duty on spirit which neither in strength nor quality actually goes into consumption, and you can suggest no means by which the revenue can be guarded from that, except the crude method of charging from the worm end?—I believe the most simple and the most economical, and the least burdensome plan to the distiller, whether in this country or in the colonies, is to charge at the worm end. After all, it only amounts to a fraction of the duty. If the distiller be charged at the worm end for the quantity which does not ultimately go into consumption, instead of 7*s.* 10*d.* being the duty which is imposed upon him, it may be, taking into account the decreases and other circumstances, 7*s.* 11*d.*,

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or 8 s. I am putting this for the sake of illustration, not as giving the actual figures.

14996. The distillers have a very different impression; they allege it to be a very great grievance; can you suggest any other method by which, assuming that the distillers are right in their statement, they could be admitted to pay the duty upon the quantity which actually goes into consumption, as in the case of colonial spirits?—Having completely made up my mind, from long experience, that the present mode is most desirable, I should be very unwilling to endeavour to bring into practice a mode which is less desirable.

14997. That is, a mode which is less desirable in your opinion?—In my opinion.

14998. Would not it be practicable for the British distiller, if he placed his spirit in a bonded warehouse of equal security to that in which colonial spirits are placed, to have equal privileges?—Certainly.

14999. Could not the Excise take sufficient security to see that no spirits are extracted between the worm end and this warehouse of special security?—In the first place, I may observe that no opportunity is given for fraud equal to that of spirits in transitu; in the next place, a warehouse of special security could not be established in the vicinity of every distillery, and the effect of this regulation would be, that every small distillery about the country would be obliged to cease to distil.

15000. You apprehend then that the advantages would be so large to those distillers who are near places of special security, that the small distiller would be beaten out of the market?—No, I do not; the small distiller would be burdened with the expense of sending his spirits perhaps 50 or 100 miles, for no object, except to place it in a warehouse of special security; he would be obliged to take it from the market at his door, and to warehouse it at a distance in a warehouse of special security; the consequence of that would be, that the expenses would infinitely exceed any possibility of advantage.

15001. Do you apprehend the expense of bonding in a warehouse of special security would be so onerous to the British distiller that he would not avail himself of it?—I think the expense of warehousing would be so great, that it is very improbable he would avail himself of it.

15002. He does avail himself of it, where there is the privilege of bonding in Dublin, to a considerable extent?—That is the instance of a large town with warehouses of special security in it; you will find, if you look at the distilleries in Ireland, that they abound in Dublin. The quantities of spirits brought to charge in Dublin are immense, compared with the quantity brought to charge in any other town.

15003. You think that the expense of warehousing spirits in those warehouses would be so great, that people would not avail themselves of it; is not it the fact, that in the King's stores of Dublin the immense quantities of spirit they now warehouse are liable to the same charge that rum or brandy warehoused in the King's stores is?—I believe the Excise and Customs' charges are pretty much the same.

15004. Consequently, your objection to the increase of expense falls to the ground?—Not at all, because the Dublin warehouses are filled with spirits distilled at the door; and the main question with the Dublin distiller is this: whether it is cheaper for him to warehouse in the Queen's warehouse, which is close to his door, or whether it is better for him to appropriate a part of his own premises to the bonding of spirits.

15005. And he finds that the public stores, where he has to pay the same charges as on colonial spirits, are cheaper than his own bonding stores?—Not always.

15006. Is not that the rule?—I am not aware of it, because I do not know the quantities.

15007. Are you aware what quantities there are now lying in the Queen's stores in Dublin?—No.

15008. Are you aware that nearly two-thirds of the quantity of spirits in bond in Dublin are in the Queen's stores?—I do not believe it is so, and I will state why; at the time when the question of the prohibition of distillation from grain was agitated in 1846, I ascertained that the whole quantity of spirits under the Queen's lock was about 70 weeks' consumption, and my recollection

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of it is that about one-half of that was in the Queen's store, and the other in the private stores of the distiller. I state that subject to correction.

15009. From which it appears that the Queen's stores are as cheap as the private stores?—I do not know that that inference can be drawn exactly; there are a great variety of circumstances which influence distillers in the choice of the stores.

15010. Apply the same practice of bonding in the Queen's stores to Scotch and Irish spirits that are sent to this market; do you not think it would afford a very great facility and advantage to the parties sending those spirits if they were allowed to bond them here in places of equal security with those in which colonial spirits are bonded?—I see no objection whatever to their bonding them.

15011. Would it not be exceedingly easy to ascertain the quantity of spirits which leaves the distillery in Scotland or Ireland at the time of its leaving that distillery?—Certainly.

15012. Would it not be also very easy to ascertain the quantity of spirits which were actually warehoused in a bonding warehouse in this country?—We do that.

15013. And if any case of suspicion of abstraction of spirits arose, you could cause investigation to be made?—It might be done of course, assuming the British spirits to be placed in warehouses for special security in this country.

15014. Is there any objection to their being then treated precisely as colonial and foreign spirits?—The objection is this, that the British spirits, as the law at present exists, have a protecting duty of 9*d.*, in which 9*d.*, in the calculation of items, ample allowance has been made for the average rate of decrease, and therefore what the Excise object to do is this, that the distiller should have the allowance twice over; he has it in the first place in the less duty of 9*d.*, in the protecting duty of 9*d.* The moment that bargain was made, the Scotch distiller and the Irish, but particularly the Scotch, immediately tried to break the bargain, by asking for warehousing and for the decrease. The Scotch and Irish pleaded that there ought to be a discriminating duty on rum, in which respect should be had to their own calculation. As soon as that Act of Parliament passed, the Scotch and Irish distillers, particularly the Scotch, endeavoured to depart from the terms of the bargain by asking for a system of bonding, and only to pay the duty on the quantity actually brought into consumption. What I say is this, that they have no right to have the allowance in two ways.

15015. Irrespective of any differential or protective duty, are you not of opinion that it would tend very much to facilitate the trade in spirits if those privileges which are given to colonial spirits were given to British spirits?—Decidedly not; I would apply the same system to colonial spirits, which is now applied to British spirits, if I had the opportunity.

15016. You have the opportunity to a certain extent on their arrival in this country. You can charge from the strength and the quantity landed, on both foreign and colonial spirits?—Certainly it is a much simpler plan to have a discriminating duty.

15017. You prefer the discriminating duty, but you admit that there is a very extreme discriminating duty at this moment?—I do so; the whole tendency of this evidence has shown that.

15018. You think it should be 5*d.* instead of 9*d.*?—I think 5*d.* is quite as much as they have proved themselves entitled to at this time; I qualify that by stating that it is a subject of extreme difficulty, from its being almost impossible to come at the facts.

15019. You have made the remark that the Government, from granting those privileges, would not lose above a halfpenny; that is, in granting them that to which the previous part of my examination has alluded?—Taken in figures, it appears that the loss would not be much; but the opportunity for fraud given by ceasing to make the distiller the protector of the duty, as well as of his own property, would lead to a loss which I cannot calculate.

15020. Do you apprehend that there would be some enormous fraud between the period of transit from the worm's end to the bonded warehouse, an operation which it would probably take six hours to perfect?—I believe that there would be an opportunity for fraud, and I believe that where the opportunity exists for fraud, there are too many persons much too disposed to avail themselves of it.

15021. You

15021. You prefer the ascertaining of the duty at the worm's end, and to be charged there, by which process you know the exact quantity that comes from the still; but is there a loop-hole for any large fraud in the transit of the quantity which comes from the worm's end to the warehouse of special security?—Yes.

15022. Without the chance of immediate detection on the part of the Excise?—Yes.

15023. Will you state how that can arise?—I state, as the result of an experience of 10 years, that I think the revenue would be exposed to great risk, unless the duty were charged at the worm's end,

15024. Assume that Mr. Smith obtained 10,000 gallons from the worm's end, and he wished to put those in bond; the operation of transmitting them to the bonded stores, where they are to lie in bond, subject to the same advantages which colonial spirits have, is an operation of three hours; now if of the 10,000 gallons which were obtained from the worm's end, only 9,500 gallons got into the bonded stores, you would then at once ask the deficiency to be accounted for?—In that case there would be suspicion. Every transaction of the distiller must be watched in order to see how grave a case of suspicion or how light a case of suspicion is engendered, and all that is avoided by making the charge at the worm's end; he then has an interest, for the sake of the revenue, as well as of himself, to prevent the abstraction of spirits on the part of the servants; for himself to do it would be to rob himself, because, in taking away the spirits, he would be still liable to duty.

15025. Are you quite clear, that when you had ascertained the quantity from the worm's end, you would get the duty on every pint of spirits which he distilled?—I do not say that our laws are so perfect that we have the whole charge.

15026. That is, however, the best security you can have for obtaining the full duty?—No doubt.

15027. Then if you compel the distiller, when he has obtained his spirits, to be liable to the duty for the quantity that comes from the worm's end, that is for any difference between the quantity that was obtained from the worm's end and the quantity lodged in the warehouse of special security, I apprehend that you have there as perfect a security for the revenue against fraud, as in any other plan that could be devised?—That would certainly obviate the objection to that extent.

15028. After that the spirits could have the privileges of foreign and colonial spirits, without any other chance of fraud upon the revenue than at present exists in reference to foreign and colonial spirits?—Yes, I believe so.

15029. You are aware, I believe, that it has always been made a ground of complaint, both by Scotch and Irish distillers, that they were greatly impeded in their trade by being compelled to pay duty on the spirit very shortly after its arrival in England, in fact by not having those privileges?—Not by the Irish; I have had, on the contrary, letters from the Irish, to say that they not only did not participate in the complaints of the Scotch, but those who have addressed me say that they utterly repudiate that participation.

15030. Are you aware that the majority of the Irish distillers have petitioned Parliament that their manufacture should be placed upon the same basis with regard to bonding privileges as colonial and foreign spirits?—That may have been some years ago, but I do not think it is recent.

15031. In the last Session of Parliament?—I do not know who signed it; I was not aware of such a petition.

15032. You have stated the transit deficiency on Scotch and Irish spirits brought into England to be about one half per cent., would your gauge here show such a deficiency?—Yes, of course, if there be that deficiency, the gauge would show it.

15033. Would not the gauge be made of the ullage?—An ullage cask is a cask that is kept on tap for the purpose of filling up casks which have decreased, and therefore the ullage cask could not be a full cask.

15034. Will you state to the Committee what is the allowance as to an ullage cask; are they permitted in the bonded warehouses in Scotland and Ireland?

Ullage casks are allowed; the practice is this: a person puts into a duty-free warehouse a quantity of spirits; he wishes to send out each cask full; he is therefore allowed to have a cask as it were on tap, which is called the

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ullage cask, and out of that cask he fills up every other cask before it goes out; and his object particularly in sending to England is this, that the Irish distiller has his ullage cask, which is only charged at 2 s. 8 d. duty, the Scotch ullage cask is of course charged 3 s. 8 d.; he wishes to send full casks to this country, and instead of being charged 7 s. 10 d., which is the English duty on the decrease, he fills up any decrease by wastage or accident from that ullage cask, and he thus escapes the 7 s. 10 d. duty, because he fills up the casks which are deficient out of the ullage at 2 s. 8 d. or 3 s. 8 d., according to the country in which he is. If a cask were coming to England, that cask holding we will say 110 gallons, if we were to insist upon the identical cask, with the real contents, being sent to England, the distiller would have to pay the English duty upon the 110 gallons of 7 s. 10 d.; we will say that the leakage is two gallons, he would have to pay the full duty of 7 s. 10 d. in England on the 110 gallons, but he avoids that by having a cask on tap, which is called the ullage cask, and he fills up the deficiency of two gallons in his 110 gallon cask before it leaves the Irish warehouse with spirits which have only paid 2 s. 8 d. duty, and in that way he escapes the difference of duty on the deficiency between 2 s. 8 d. and 7 s. 10 d.

15035. If the duty were chargeable here on landing, would not each puncheon be gauged one gallon less than the shipped quantity?—No, that does not at all follow; we have given in an account of the quantity gauged on leaving Scotland and Ireland in 11,000 and odd casks; we have given the gauge as taken on arrival at the port of London, and the loss is in money 3 s. 11 d. on every 100 gallons.

15036. Suppose a cask to be shipped of 110 gallons, and that when landed here it contained 109 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons, the Excise having received the duty on 110 gallons, you would call the cask full, and so, I presume, show no deficiency, although there were only 109 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons landed?—I believe they would; but in the note I have appended to the calculation, there is an allowance made for that.

15037. Can you inform the Committee whether a merchant, receiving a consignment of Scotch and Irish spirits, is obliged to take out a licence to sell them, or whether he can deal with them as with any other merchandise?—He is liable to 10 l. licence duty.

15038. A merchant who never sees other than the samples, and does not break bulk, is still compelled to take out a licence or be liable to a penalty of 10 l.?—Every dealer is subject to the licence duty of 10 l.

15039. But there is the difference between a merchant and a wholesale dealer?—I am not aware of that difference; a merchant is a wholesale dealer, if he deals without breaking bulk. Every one, in law, is considered a wholesale dealer who sells in quantities exceeding two gallons.

15040. Do you mean to state to the Committee, that a gentleman receiving a consignment of 10 puncheons of whiskey, and selling those 10 puncheons of whiskey, is a dealer in whiskey?—Yes, I do; in the eye of the law he is so described.

15041. Will you inform the Committee whether a merchant receiving rum is obliged to take out the same licence?—Every wholesale dealer in British spirits is compelled to take out a licence, which licence gives him the privilege of selling any quantity not less than two gallons; therefore every merchant receiving spirits from Scotland or Ireland may avail himself of the privilege or not; we never inquire when he comes to take out a licence, whether he intends to sell in puncheons or in quantities of two gallons; but whatever his intention may be, he has the privilege of doing so.

15042. But you do not allow a merchant in London to receive a consignment of Scotch spirits and sell them, through his broker, in the London market, without taking out a licence as a spirit dealer?—We do not.

15043. Although a merchant receiving a consignment of brandy from Cognac has the privilege of selling it as he would any other merchantable commodity, without taking out a licence?—I believe he has.

15044. Can you inform the Committee whether the fractional parts of a gallon of rum are charged in assessing the duty, or whether the fractional parts are taken as of no account unless amounting to 84 parts of 100?—I have no practical experience whatever as to the regulation of the Customs; the rum duty is part of the Customs duty, and not of the Excise.

15045. Can

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15045. Can you inform the Committee whether that practice obtains with regard to British spirits, whether imported from Scotland or Ireland?—The practice is minutely detailed in the note which is before the Committee.

15046. Is it the practice to discard any fractional parts of a gallon, unless they amount to 84 parts of 100?—I believe that we only take account of the even gallons.

15047. You have stated, in reference to the process of rectifying, that you believe there is no charge accrues in the rectifying of spirits by reason of any restrictions or obstructions offered by the Excise?—I am not aware that I stated so.

15048. You stated that there ought to be no allowance for rectification?—Yes; but I gave a different reason for it. I stated that if they chose to drink raw-grain spirits, they had them without the expense of rectification; but that if they liked not raw-grain spirits, but rectified spirits, they themselves ought and would pay for it; and I instanced that in the case of malt spirits in Ireland, by showing that although the 8*d.* duty was imposed by law, and a malt drawback as affecting Ireland, the Irish nevertheless continued progressively to increase in the consumption of spirits made from malt, and that that was a proof to me that people would pay an additional price for that which they liked.

15049. The Committee wish to know whether there are any restrictions on the distillation which cause an increase of expense to the rectifier; are distillers allowed to send out their spirits at any strength they think proper?—No.

15050. They are compelled, are they not, to send them out at 25 per cent. over proof?—Not above 25 per cent. over proof.

15051. Are you aware that in the process of rectification those spirits have to be reduced?—Perfectly so. I have gone through all this in my evidence before.

15052. Are you aware that in that process of lowering the strength of the spirits, there is a loss to the rectifier?—I am not. If there be a loss it is the rectifier's own choice, because I had offered to them to permit distillers to sell at 60 per cent. over proof, and they declined it; I offered that to the rectifiers.

15053. In your evidence you stated that one gentleman said he would not have it so?—I stated that a deputation waited upon me of rectifiers, I believe, representing the rectifying trade in London, and that on my making this suggestion to them, whether it was agreeable or not, it was not received with any favour; and it was further stated, that the expense of reducing and passing these spirits through the still again amounted to so little, that to the consumer it was of no consequence. My object was to reduce the price of spirits of wine to persons wanting them in large quantities, and my idea was, that if, as the spirits came from the still 60 per cent. over proof, the distiller had the privilege of sending out those spirits at 60 per cent. over proof, he would directly supply from the distillery varnish makers, makers of French polish, and all persons requiring spirits of wine for the purpose of solvents, and not requiring them for compounding spirits, in which everything depends upon the flavour; I repeat that I thought it a very great absurdity, that the spirits being produced by the distiller 60 per cent. over proof, should be reduced by him by the addition of water; that they should be carted to the rectifier, for the purpose of having the water expelled by being again passed through the still, and so got up by rectifying from 54 to 60; 54 being generally considered as the standard of spirits of wine.

15054. I believe you are aware that in the course of that weakening of the spirits there is a loss to the rectifier?—I do not know how that should occur; if it occur at all, it is a loss to the distiller, because we prevent, under the present law, the spirits from leaving the distiller's premises at more than 25 per cent. over proof; and therefore the addition of the water, and consequent loss, if there be any loss from such addition, must be to the distiller, and not to the rectifier.

15055. I apprehend that the distiller has no loss on the spirits; the rectifier has bought the spirits of the distiller, and the question is one of the cost of manufacturing the spirits between the rectifier and the public?—The rectifier buys the spirits of the distiller, at the only strength at which the law permits the distiller to part with them, which is not 60, but 25 over proof.

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15056. Which strength the rectifier is compelled to bring down to par or proof, before he can use the spirit for rectification?—On the contrary, it is the distiller who is not allowed to part with the spirit from his manufactory, till he has reduced it to 25 over proof; he sends it to the rectifier at that strength, and the rectifier raises it again, if he be making spirits of wine, to 54; all we know is this, that with regard to the rectifier's business, the law does not permit him to receive any spirit that is more than 25 over proof; what he does with that, or how he manipulates it, when it is once in his possession, we have no knowledge, and we care nothing about it. He reduces it, or adds to its strength, just as suits his purpose; if he be making spirits of wine, he raises it from 25 to 54, and if he be making compounds, he probably reduces it a good deal below proof; I believe that he reduces it for some purposes to as much as 17 under proof.

15057. My questions have reference to English gin; the rectifiers allege that by reason of your compelling the spirits to be received by them at 25 over proof, they are compelled to bring them down to proof in their manufactory, and that they thereby incur a loss of one per cent.; do you know anything to the contrary of that?—I know nothing at all about it.

15058. Have you any practical knowledge with regard to rectification?—I have no practical knowledge on that point.

15059. The allegation is, that they have a loss of one per cent., and that in the process of rectification they have again to raise the spirit, by which they lose one per cent., and that in the insertion of the colouring matter there is also a loss of one per cent.?—I do not know that.

15060. Then the answer which you gave with regard to the distillers had nothing to do with the process and manipulation of the rectifier?—I merely stated as a fact that the rectifier was unwilling that the distiller should send out spirits of wine at 60 over proof, although the spirits sent to him are obliged to be reduced to 25, and he again raises them to 54 if he is making spirits of wine; I think that is a great waste of labour and of expense.

15061. Is that as regards the rectifier?—On the part of the rectifier. As you have asked me what is the maximum strength at which the rectifier may receive spirits, you should ask what is the minimum.

15062. What is the minimum strength?—The rectifier may receive from the English distiller spirits at 10 under proof.

15063. So that there is a range at from 10 under proof to 25 over proof?—Yes.

15064. You have continually alluded, in reply to questions as to the rectifying process, in your evidence, to spirits of wine; can you state to the Committee the proportion of spirits which leaves the rectifier's premises as spirits of wine, and the proportion as gin?—No; but I believe the proportion of spirits of wine is small, and I believe that the spirits of wine which leave the rectifier's premises are produced from what are called feints; that is, that they are produced from the refuse, and that a certain quantity are necessarily produced by every rectifier in the course of his general process.

15065. Do you think that the quantity of spirits of wine is in the proportion of one gallon of spirits of wine to 1,000 gallons of gin?—I have no means of forming an opinion on that subject.

15066. You have stated that the rectifier can receive spirits at from 10 under proof to 25 over proof; does that apply to spirits sent from Scotland and Ireland equally with British spirits made in England?—No; I stated, in answer to your first question upon this subject, that he could take spirits from the English distiller at 10 under proof.

15067. Will you state to the Committee at what strength the rectifier may receive them from the Scotch or Irish distiller?—I think 11 over proof is the minimum.

15068. *Chairman.*] Has your attention been directed to the duty which it would be proper to levy on cane-juice, sent from the West Indies here?—Yes; in May 1847 a sample of cane-juice was sent from the West Indies, and it was submitted to the Customs, and the question arose what duty the cane-juice ought to be subjected to; it was stated that it was a question of considerable importance, as it was supposed that if a proper duty were levied upon it, it might become a considerable article of traffic. The Chancellor of the Exchequer
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while ordinary muscovado sugar contains only four per cent., the juice could not be expected to yield more than 9·8 or 10 gallons of proof spirit for every 112ths.

1,492 $\frac{1}{2}$ grains of the juice were distilled, and the product was an equal volume of alcohol and water, weighing, at 60° Fah. 9,989·6 = 98·7th = 1·3 per cent. by volume of proof spirit, or by weight about $\frac{3}{10}$ of a per cent.

3,171 grains of the juice were submitted to the action of a water-bath, until 2·7 per cent. loss of moisture occurred; the mass, when cold, was a thick viscid paste.

3,006·2 grains were treated as above, until 3·6 per cent. loss occurred; the mass, when cold, was a tenacious and very thick paste.

3,082·6 grains were similarly treated, until 4·2 per cent loss occurred; the mass, when cold, was a soft solid.

From the three last experiments, it may be inferred that the juice has been carried to the utmost limit of concentration, and therefore that cane-juice cannot be expected to exceed the density of 1·4925 while it retains the character of juice.

The results of the preceding experiments may be summed up as follows:

1stly. The density of highly concentrated cane-juice, appears to be 1·4925.

2dly. That in that state it may be expected to afford about 70 per cent of sugar, and 30 per cent. of molasses.

3dly. That vinous fermentation takes place in it to a certain extent.

4thly. That every 112th of it may be assumed to afford 10 gallons of proof spirit.

5thly. That in a highly concentrated state it contains 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of water, and that that amount seems necessary to enable it to retain the character of liquid juice.

Two samples of sugar and one of molasses are preserved. The sample of sugar, marked A., is in the state in which its proportion was ascertained; that marked B. has been slightly washed to free it from impurities. The molasses are in the same state as separated from the sugar.

18 May 1847.

I am, &c.
(signed) G. Phillips, Sup.

Witness.] On this analysis I have to remark, that the question which we had practically determined was, what is the largest amount of crystallizable sugar which can be obtained from the cane-juice highly concentrated, as it will be necessary to fix the duty at the highest point. The sample in question was so highly concentrated, that if the concentration had been carried further, it would have ceased to be juice, and would, in fact, have been sugar. The produce in sugar was such that the duty ought to be 9s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on the sugar, and on the molasses, 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; therefore, that article of cane-juice, so highly concentrated as that it was as near to the crystallizing point, or solid point, as possible, would have been 11s. 4d. a cwt. In a work which has obtained considerable circulation, and which contains much valuable information, entitled the "Sugar Planter's Manual," by W. J. Evans, M. D., the author very much advocates the expediency and economy of sending cane-juice from the West Indies. His calculation (page 228) is this: he says that 2,680 lbs. of concentrated syrup contain 1,680 lbs. of sugar, and 660 lbs. of molasses delivered in Great Britain, and that therefore the duty chargeable on the syrup should be 9s. 5d. a cwt. instead of our 11s. 4d. The calculation is as follows: 1,680 lbs. of sugar, at 14s. per cwt., and 660 lbs. of molasses, at 5s. 3d. per cwt., would be a duty of 12l. 0s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., or, 2,860 lbs. of syrup, at 9s. 5d. per cwt., 12l. 0s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. I have put in these two statements to show of what very variable quality cane-juice probably is. That in one case the fair equivalent of duty, as compared with molasses and raw sugar, would be 9s. 5d. That in the sample submitted to us by the Customs on arrival in this country the duty would have been 11s. 4d., being a difference of very nearly 2s.

15069. Mr. J. Wilson.] Would it not also depend upon the quality of the sugar you got?—At present there is a discriminating duty upon sugar of various qualities, but the sugar produced in this instance was of such a quality that it would in either case have been liable to 14s. duty.

15070. But then you are aware that 14s. duty involves an enormous variety of qualities?—The Legislature have fixed three or four varieties of quality to which different duties attach, as it is supposed in proportion to their value.

15071-2. It is your opinion that if cane-juice were allowed to be imported, it would, as a matter of course, always be imported at the most highly concentrated

trated point that was practicable, and therefore in reference to that state of concentration ought to be charged?—Yes; I think that the only safety for the revenue would consist on taking the duty on the assumed highly concentrated juice.

15073. *Chairman.*] With respect to English corn spirits you have built all your calculations upon a sort of rule-of-three sum, deduced from a supposed exaggeration of the duties on decreases, and the interest for those duties, which you assumed to be set by the British corn distillers at 4 *d.*?—Yes.

15074. Your premises appear to me to be rather rotten there, because if you recollect that the claim set forth was not upon their own decreases, but that those were the established decreases of the West Indians?—I am quite aware of that.

15075. How came you to allege that it was an exaggeration, because I apprehend it is a fact as far as the 3½ *d.* is concerned, accurately calculated from official returns; is it not?—I am perfectly aware that the Parliamentary return, which I believe to be perfectly correct, is in existence by which the losses or decreases on West India rum are stated at 3½ *d.*, but then I consider that the distillers are so completely in error in saying that that is a loss which attaches, owing to the excise restrictions, to their manufacture of spirit, that I deal with it accordingly; that is, I say, the decreases alleged have nothing at all to do with the question.

15076. Surely there is no fairness in that argument; whether they are right in estimating that a favour to one side is a prejudice to the other or not, may be a question; but as I understand you, you have made a rule-of-three sum, in which you started with this basis, that this 4 *d.* should be a halfpenny, and therefore as a halfpenny was to 4 *d.*, so you would estimate all the other restrictions which had been differently estimated by the British distillers; but it seems that you cannot deny the matter of fact which is not denied, and you cannot allege against them exaggeration in any respect?—I hope the Committee will allow me to state the course which I intended to take before them. I was asked, with my experience of 10 years as Chairman of the Excise, whether I was able to form any estimate of the restrictions which the excise imposed upon the English distillers; and knowing that the English distillers had stated as part of their disadvantages decreases which they themselves did not suffer from, but decreases which were allowed to the West Indians, I consider myself perfectly justified in showing, that as those had been enumerated in their own memorial, which I held in my hand, as expenses which they were made liable to in consequence of the restrictions of the excise, I thought myself perfectly justified in showing that no such decreases existed in their stocks in this country, and that the excise was not chargeable with any such decrease as 4 *d.*; that the utmost which the excise could take account of was a decrease, say of a halfpenny. But I know that the Committee were perfectly well aware that such a statement had been put forward, and insisted upon, before them by the English distillers as an indulgence which the West Indians had in bringing their spirit to market, and enabling it to compete with them at a less rate. I was perfectly aware of that, and I assume, perhaps hastily, that the Committee went along with me in the opinion, which had very forcible possession of my mind, that whatever was allowed for decrease to the West Indian on the voyage was not the effect of any excise restriction on the manufacturer of spirits here.

15077. The Committee did not go along with you, and they had no opportunity, because you did not state that part of the case. The question was, What would put the West Indian and the British corn distiller upon an equality. The British distiller alleges that by permitting the West Indian to bond his spirits, he is saved in decreases a sum of money equal to 3½ *d.* a gallon, which he would have to pay if there was an equal law dealt out to him, and dealt out to the British corn distiller; that you cannot deny?—No, certainly.

15078. You cannot deny that the difference of the law applied to the West Indian, and applied to the British corn distiller, amounts to 3½ *d.* in favour of the rum distiller, in that point of view?—There is no doubt whatever, I believe, that the loss to the West Indian in coming to this country, and in bringing the spirits here down to the time that they are delivered for consumption at the door of the Queen's warehouse, amounts to about 3½ *d.* a gallon.

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15079. Was there no injustice, when it is once admitted that the British corn distiller had so fairly, and so truly, and so correctly stated that fact, that you should then proceed to a rule-of-three sum, and calculate that as a half-penny is only the eighth part of 4 *d.*, so you estimate that the allegations of the British distillers are worth but a little more than 12½ per cent. of all that they have represented to me?—I thought that I was correctly answering the question that was put to me, which question was, “What, in your opinion, are the costs to which the British distiller is put in consequence of the excise restrictions?” I brought before you the memorial of the distillers, in which they state them; I made no exception to the 1½ *d.* for malt duty; that was agreed on all hands; I gave the distillers credit for the penny, and so on, and at last I came to the decreases.

15080. I wish to adhere to this most important point, upon which you build all your calculations?—The statement of the distillers in their memorial is, decreases of stock and the interest on money, 4 *d.* I can only find out a decrease in stock, I say, of a little more than a halfpenny. They are evidently stating that on decreases, because it can have nothing to do with the interest of money as regards the West Indian. I stated that I thought it was completely made out that it had nothing at all to do with excise restrictions. I was perfectly aware that they had put forward the allowances made to the West Indians as 3½ *d.* or 4 *d.*

15081. The question was, what difference of duties would make an equality between those two contending parties; there were two descriptions of distillers, one the distiller of rum, and the other the distiller of corn spirits; do the Excise, for your purposes, insist upon levying the duty upon corn spirits at the worm’s mouth?—Yes.

15082. The British distiller says, if you do that by us, do so also by the rum distiller, and we are equal; but you say no, so far as the rum distiller is concerned, we will not take the duty from him at the worm’s mouth in the West Indies, we will give him the whole of the advantage of his interest and decreases, but the advantage not only of that, we will allow him to bond his spirits for two years or three years whilst the rum is decreasing in quantity; but faster than it is decreasing in quantity it is increasing in value by improvement, and thus a value to the rum distiller of 3½ *d.*; put him upon an equal footing with the corn distiller, and you would have charged him not only 7 *s.* 10 *d.* duty at the worm’s mouth upon his rum and upon the whole of those decreases, amounting to 3½ *d.*, but there would be also the interest for the two years or the three years whilst his rum was in bond, chargeable upon him just as it is now chargeable upon the British distiller; consequently there is an advantage in the struggle to the rum distiller of 4½ *d.*, of which he would be deprived if you dealt by him as hardly as you have dealt by the corn distiller. That is the case, and that is the question of equality upon which arises the whole discussion. Then you say there are a number of other restrictions, and you say, Why, those amount to but a halfpenny instead of 4 *d.*, and as the British distillers have exaggerated this advantage eightfold, so I will assume that they have exaggerated every other restriction. I believe you confess that you are not able to put any value yourself, that you are not able to estimate them in any way, for them or against them, yet you say I will judge of them by the exaggeration; that was your statement to the Committee?—I believe the Committee will find, if they will have the kindness to have the answer read, that I passed as of course on their own showing every one item excepting the decreases, and that I showed that those decreases did not actually exist as a consequence of the Excise restrictions. My idea was, that if each party got the loss that he actually sustained they were on a footing of equality. I therefore wished to show what the actual loss of the distiller was; I did not think it fair to enter into the question of what the loss of the West Indian planter was, because that was not a loss which was caused by the Excise restrictions. We had no dispute as to the amount of malt duty. The distillers’ increased plant I also allowed on their own calculation; I gave them exactly what they alleged upon the malt only, with this difference, that instead of 1½ *d.*, which is, I believe, the actual calculation, I let them take 1½ *d.*; the distillers’ increased plant I also rather increased into 1 *d.* from their own statement; Excise restrictions 3 *d.*; those in the first instance I put at 3 *d.*; duty on decreases

decreases and interest on duty advanced, *4d.* I showed from paper that the actual duty on decreases which the distillers lost was a halfpenny; that altogether made *6d.*

15083. You denied them anything for the advantage of rectifying?—Exactly so; but that, I thought, was the principle. We then entered into the expenses of rectification afterwards; but in my opinion those do not attach to distillation any more than I think the malt duty attaches to the cost of distillation, because if people choose not to be content with the raw-grain spirit, they must pay, I think, the extra price which is incurred by using malt, or by keeping their spirits for a long space of time; that made the *6d.*; and I then remarked that it was an exceedingly difficult subject; but testing the decreases, testing what we did not know by what we did know, that if the distillers were to be judged of by stating that their decreases and the interest on duty advanced amounted to *4d.*, whereas I had proved that it only amounted to a halfpenny; and also taking into account that I had read the memorials of the distillers from the year 1825 to the year 1847, and that those memorials varied the cost of producing a gallon of spirits from *1s. 1½d.* down to *3¾d.*, without wishing to say anything invidious, I must say that I looked with distrust on their calculations; and that therefore on being pressed, and repeatedly pressed, for an opinion, I have said, that being pressed, I did not think that they had made out a case for more than *4d.*

15084. You summed up your statement upon this point of the decreases by saying that they had so exaggerated on that ground, that you came to the conclusion that it was *4d.*?—Yes, from those data I came to that conclusion.

15085. Having so summed up at last that the fitting allowance should only be *4d.* instead of *6d.*, which you at first showed it should be (I am obliged to look at some of those items), I want to know whether you dispute the fact, that in the case of Mr. Currie, in consequence of the alteration of the Excise laws, he was put to an extra expense in new buildings, in order to conform to the restrictions of the Excise, of no less than 40,000*l.* in the year, I think, 1825 or 1826?—I have no doubt whatever that everything Mr. Currie stated he believed to be thoroughly correct; that was long before I had any connexion with the Excise.

15086. But is it not a notorious fact?—There was a memorial by Mr. Currie and by the distillers generally, I do not say universally, and that led me to place great credit on what they stated as to such facts; at the same time I have made some inquiry, and what I hear is this, though it may not be the case, that at the period in question, though Mr. Currie did lay out that very large sum on his distillery, the impression in our service was, that from his buildings being not very new, and there being many recent improvements, Mr. Currie took advantage of the necessity for certain changes to make very extensive changes, and that the whole of that expense was not the necessary consequence of the alteration of the law. I may be right or wrong; Mr. Currie is here and can correct me, but that is the statement in our service.

15087. Mr. Currie has given in evidence, what he has repeated several times over, now, and in former periods, and which might be disputed and refuted, if it were not true, that he laid out 40,000*l.* in consequence of those restrictions, and that the amount on spirits annually distilled, allowing five per cent. interest for the money, and five per cent. wear and tear alone, was *1d.* per gallon?—I believe it will be found on looking at the accounts that Mr. Currie's distillery has shared in the immense increase of work which other distillers have had; that whereas in 1832 the produce was about 22,600,000 in London, the principal distillers only now produce upwards of 50,000,000, from which I infer that when they made alterations in their premises they made them so much more convenient, that they can now, with their increased plant, double the quantity of produce.

15088. But this increased plant was not made for the increased quantity, but for the quantity which was being consumed in 1825; it was necessary in 1825, for this reduced quantity of which you are speaking, to increase their plant to the amount of 40,000*l.*?—Yes; but the increase of plant has been followed by double the quantity of produce.

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15089. Do you think that it was Mr. Currie's plant which caused the public to consume double the quantity of spirits; that to oblige Mr. Currie the public drank twice as much spirits as they did before?—I have no doubt, Mr. Currie was glad to have the opportunity, if there was a demand, of supplying double the amount he did before.

15090. But what has that to do with the question as to 1825?—I do not think it is an increase in the general consumption, but it is that the six London distillers have appropriated the trade to themselves; they have the means, owing to their increased premises, of making double the quantity of spirits they did before.

15091. Mr. Haig gave in a statement to the effect, that but for your restrictions, the produce of the grain would be increased 10 per cent.; you threw a doubt upon that, though you admitted that there could be no doubt that all the extract was not got from the grain, but you thought that nearly all was. Will you be pleased to state what is your calculation of the amount of extract that might be got from the grain?—On seeing that statement in Mr. Haig's evidence, I referred to some of our principal distillery officers, persons of experience, who had been in the Excise probably 30 or 40 years; they are much more intimately acquainted with that than I am myself. The first opinion they gave me was, that they believed that the whole of the extract was obtained, notwithstanding the Excise restrictions. This morning, however, some of the officers represented to me before the Committee met, that they wished to qualify that by stating that they thought that not the whole was obtained, though the proportion they did not tell me, but they still entirely disagreed with Mr. Haig in thinking that the loss was 10 per cent.; that is, they having first stated to me on my putting the question to them a day or two ago (for we have gone carefully, of course, through the evidence which you were so good as to give to us), that they thought Mr. Haig's account was erroneous entirely, and that the Excise did not injuriously interfere with the amount of extract. This morning, before I came to the Committee, I was informed by the same officers that on reconsideration they were disposed to think that the whole of the extract was not obtained, but still that Mr. Haig was in error.

15092. Then it seems that between Tuesday morning and this morning those Excise officers, that you think are such good judges, have cast aside their experience of 40 years, and entirely changed their minds?—The fact is this: there was a statement delivered to me, a memorandum in writing, alleging that they thought the evidence of Mr. Haig erroneous, and that the regulations of the Excise did not prevent the full amount of extract from being obtained. I was exceedingly anxious that every thing should be as fair as possible, and that the evidence should be accurate; I therefore this morning had another conversation with them, and they then begged to qualify the memorandum they had given me, by stating that they thought that nearly all (I believe that was the exact expression) was obtained, but they would not go the length of saying that the whole was.

15093. Mr. Currie has stated in his evidence that the restrictions of the Excise oblige him to put his furnaces out of blast 585 times in the course of the year; do you dispute that fact?—I am quite sure that Mr. Currie stated what he believed to be the truth; but how, in consequence of any Excise restrictions or regulations, he is obliged to put his fires out 585 times in the year, I cannot understand. I think he goes on to say, that if he were in full work it would be 1,300 and odd times; but however, practically, 585 times. I have inquired from the surveying general examiners, from our secretary, and under secretary, who was for many years a distillery officer, and, without wishing to throw the least discredit on Mr. Currie's statement, I am bound to say that the utmost surprise is manifested by our own practical officers, and that they cannot understand his statement.

15094. Then, in point of fact, you do not believe Mr. Currie's statement on this head?—I believe that there is some great misunderstanding upon the subject; I do not dispute that his fires are put out 585 times, because I believe that on Mr. Currie's statement; but what I beg leave to state is this: that I cannot, after the most accurate inquiries, make out a reason for any such conduct owing to any regulations on the part of the Excise; I cannot divine any reason

reason or any law which can lead me to the conclusion that the fires are put out by the command of the Excise. I am perfectly aware that the fires must be, not put out, but drawn, as it is called, for a short period between the distillation of every two backs of wort; that at the finishing of the distillation of a back of wort, the fire is necessarily withdrawn. I believe the process consists in this: that by means of a large rake, a solid sort of rake, such as they scrape streets with, the cinders are withdrawn from under the steam-engine. I believe these stills are worked by steam, the open fire not being applied to the stills, but the injection of a column of steam; and that, for the purpose of stopping the distillation when a back is finished, the fire is raked out from under it, and that the firemen take that opportunity, and it is one which they must necessarily make for themselves, of raking out all the clinkers, and making the bars free; that that operation is frequently necessary, and at this period when the fire is withdrawn, as there must be an interval between one back and another, they take advantage of it to clean out the grate.

15095. Then you do admit that the fire is raked out or put out?—I mean to say that it is not necessarily extinguished; the cinders are brought forward, and they still being lighted cinders, are pushed back under the boilers, not that the fires are let out, and the steam is all let off.

15096. Mr. Currie states, that in order to get all the spirits off from the still they are obliged to mix water with the wash to get the spirit entirely out, and to work that water for two hours in each distillation. Do you dispute that fact?—Not at all; I believe that to be the case; it depends of course upon the size of the still and the magnitude of the operations, but that a certain quantity of water is necessary to clean out the still, whether it be two hours or not, I do not dispute.

15097. Mr. Currie states in his evidence that two hours out of every five hours are consumed in this way, which need not be so consumed if they were able to work continuously. Do you dispute that point?—I should think the time is longer than is actually necessary.

15098. Mr. Currie has stated that he loses 1,170 hours in the course of every year, during which time, if he is to be believed, in his answers given to Sir Edward Buxton, the wages of all his men are going on; the men are standing looking on during the time, or are obliged to be kept employed in some way, but are employed unprofitably to him, wasting their time and wasting the fuel. Can you discredit that statement of Mr. Currie's?—I have had the advantage of being not unfrequently at Mr. Currie's distillery along with others, and I confess that I think Mr. Currie is a very good manager. I have never observed his men idling; they have all been employed, so far as I saw, but as to the extent of profitable employment I cannot tell how that is. I should say this, that the great distilleries in this country are, in my opinion, models of the successful subdivision of labour.

15099. They are models of the successful subdivision of labour, so far, I presume, as they are able to subdivide their labour, unmeddled with by excise restrictions; do you mean to say that you have been frequently in Mr. Currie's distillery just at the period when those fires were being relighted, and that you saw all the men in full employment?—Mr. Currie knows that he has given me the greatest facilities of access. I have not been in very lately, but when I joined the Excise I was particularly anxious to ascertain practically the process of distillation, and the ramifications of the law regulating it. I visited Mr. Currie's distillery, and Mr. Mure's, and several others, both in Scotland and Ireland, and I cannot charge my memory with the fact of having seen any of the people idling about in consequence of the excise restrictions.

15100. But are you prepared to state to the Committee that you have been at those distilleries within the first hour or two hours of the relighting of the fires, and that you then saw that all the men were in full employment?—I have been at some distilleries when the fire was withdrawn from under the steam boilers; I have myself seen the men extremely busy in cleaning and raking the grates, not only at Mr. Currie's but others, and I have not then observed anything of the idling about which is alluded to.

15101. You have been present and have seen all the men very busy and very hard at work, and very hot work I dare say it is, raking out those fires

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in obedience to the excise restrictions; that you have seen?—I have seen them taking out the fires.

15102. That is very hard and very hot work, I dare say; is it not?—It is.

15103. That is spoiling the British distiller's trade, is not it, by occasioning so much inconvenience and so much loss to the distiller who wishes to keep his fire in, and would do so but for the interference of those excise restrictions?—I do not suppose it would be possible to keep the fire in continually. I take it that every steam-engine fire must occasionally be put out.

15104. Do you think that would be necessary in every steam-engine; did you ever hear that in an iron foundry the fires were put out 585 times in the course of a year?—On the contrary, I believe that in an iron foundry, which is a very peculiar manufacture, it is considered that putting out the blast furnace is equivalent to the destruction of the whole factory; I believe that the fire once put out, is in fact considered as the ruin of the works, and that the fire in that peculiar process is never put out, excepting when the furnace either wants repair, or when the proprietors abandon the trade. It is a very different thing, I believe, from an ordinary steam-engine.

15105. This is a miniature case, if we can believe the British distillers themselves, of an iron foundry?—I take it that there is not much analogy between the cases.

15106. But Mr. Currie tells us that he would have continued his fires, but for the restrictions of the Excise; and though the furnace is not so large as in the case of an iron foundry, and the consequences are not so great from your obliging them to put out their furnaces, as to amount to absolute ruin, yet Mr. Currie has gone into detail, and has shown that it is a loss of 1,170 hours, involving an ultimate sum of wages paid without profit, equal to 48 days and 18 hours, in the course of the year, and those are on the restrictions which you value at nothing?—I beg your pardon, not at nothing. On the contrary, I have allowed in my estimate 3*d.* for excise restrictions, which is exactly the amount which Mr. Currie himself has put.

15107. You cut them all down afterwards, in summing up, to 4*d.*, and then the British distillers have set the disadvantage of not being able to rectify at 6*d.*, whereas you allow them nothing for that?—I allow them nothing; I do not dispute the expenses of rectifying; but I say that I do not calculate them at anything in my estimate; that is a matter of principle.

15108. You are aware that the distillers stated, that if they were allowed to be distillers and rectifiers, and to brew and distil at the same time, they would be enabled to make use of their own yeast, which now runs into the gutters, and that that is equivalent to 1*d.* a gallon?—Yes; I believe that is the statement.

15109. Do you dispute that?—The understanding of the Excise is this, and it is confirmed, I believe, by very high chemical authorities, that the yeast produced by the distiller is not sufficient for his purpose; at least, that it is not the most valuable and most economical yeast that he can employ. That on the contrary, porter yeast being much stronger than the distillers' yeast, arising from the difference of gravity at which it is worked, is more economical, and that the distillers' yeast is not strong enough for the distillers' purpose. The evidence in corroboration of that is this, and it is a difference of opinion on a scientific subject, that we find that the very remote distilleries in Scotland and in Ireland go to the expense of yeast from the London porter breweries.

15110. Do not you know that that is one of the great grievances set forth by the Irish and Scotch distillers, that they are obliged to send to London for yeast, whilst they allege that they would rather have the yeast from their own backs than the brewers' yeast?—I am perfectly aware of that, but the authority of scientific men is this, that the porter yeast is so much more effectual, and is to a very great extent the most economical yeast which can be employed.

15111. But the practical men who are supposed to understand their own trade, you are very well aware, say the contrary; that they would prefer to use their own yeast, which you oblige them to allow to run down the gutters; is not that so?—There is a great difference of opinion upon that subject. I believe that scientific men usually are of opinion that the porter yeast is the

most

most economical, and that among practical men there is a division of opinion upon that subject.

15112. Do not you know that the distillers allege that there is no yeast so good, or so quick for distillers' purposes, as that produced from their own wash?—I have seen that in evidence.

15113. And they have requested, have they not, leave of the Board to use their own yeast, and have been refused?—I am not aware of any such request, but I know that it is contrary to law that they should do so.

15114. Is not this a fact, that the Dutch distillers actually export their yeast made from spirits to this country, and that that is used by distillers here?—I was not at all aware of that, but Mr. Currie told me so.

15115. You do not doubt that it may be the fact?—I am quite sure that Mr. Currie would not wilfully deceive the Committee.

15116. You have said that it would be of no advantage to the distiller to be a rectifier also; the Committee were looking at that model of the establishment of Mr. Smith just now; is it possible to conceive that it should be otherwise than that a man carrying on the two establishments together should be able to apply a considerable portion of the same people to one work with the other?—There is no doubt that he could; I have never doubted that.

15117. If the same men, and the same wages of course, would suffice to carry on the work of brewing and distilling, and of rectifying, must not that be a great saving to the distiller, who is enabled on the same premises to distil and to rectify?—Though I admit to a certain extent that it would be economy for the rectifying and the distilling to take place upon the same premises, yet I by no means admit that the rectifying could be carried on without a great additional establishment, if both were allowed on the same premises; it is a question of amount, and not of entirety.

15118. Just so, they have claimed E.; I believe that the charge for rectifying spirits is somewhere about 8*d.*, is it not; you stated it to be 1*s.*?—I read from the memorial delivered in to the Board of Trade when the rum duties were proposed to be equalized, signed by Mr. Currie and the other principal distillers, a comparative statement of the cost of English spirit and East India spirit, and I observed that the compounding of East India spirit was stated to be 2*d.* in the East Indies, and that the charge for rectifying, &c., in England was 1*s.*; but I said that what that etcætera included, I was not able to state.

15119. Is not it the statement now of the distillers, that the cost of the ingredients used in the rectification of spirits, the juniper berry, the carraway seeds, and whatever else may be used to sweeten and flavour the spirits, amounts to 2*d.*, and that the rest is in the plant, the wages of labour and the cost of fuel?—I put in the estimate, but I forget what it is, and I cannot refer to it now; in the paper which I put in, there is no statement at all of the expense of the materials for flavouring and sweetening.

15120. You were just now saying that the cost in the East Indies for compounding, was 2*d.*?—That is the statement by Mr. Currie.

15121. And is it not true, that the cost of the articles for compounding the spirit, and for giving it a flavour, which constitutes altogether the process of rectification, amounts to 2*d.*, and that the labour, the plant, and the interest of money upon the plant make the rest?—In answer to that question, I would state, that I have heard all sums, I believe, from a farthing up to 6*d.*, stated as the expense of compounding in this country. Compounding consists technically, not only of rectifying the spirit, but also of the flavouring and sweetening. I think therefore that the Committee will at once perceive, that the price depends entirely on the material used; as for instance, if the rectifier wishes to make plain gin, that is done at a very small expense indeed, because the flavour is produced merely by the addition of some essential oil; probably juniper, in some shape or other. But if the rectifier, instead of that, wishes to compound a costly spirit, such as Noyeau and Curaçoa, which are made very largely in this country, that is a different thing.

15122. The question refers to the ordinary description of British spirits, and not to Curaçoa; do you mean to say that you have ever had any statement laid before you, worth one moment's attention, in which it was stated that the process of rectification could be performed for a farthing?—It is not the process

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of rectification, but it is the cost of converting rectified spirit into gin, that was the question.

15123. The compounding of spirits were your words; it seems that it is not a high estimate to say, that including the 2*d.* for the compounds used in rectification and flavouring of spirits, 8*d.* at all events may be held to be the cost of rectifying; and you have not disputed that a man who should be enabled to carry on his works in the way that Mr. Smith, of Whitechapel, carried on his works, that is to say, by having the breweries and distilleries, and rectifying process all on the same premises, could carry them on at a considerably less cost than the same processes could be carried on when separated a quarter of a mile the one from the other?—No doubt of it.

15124. Do you doubt that something like 25 per cent. might be saved in the cost of those processes if our great capitalists could carry on the two works together?—It is almost impossible to answer that question.

15125. Would you undertake to say that one-half might not be saved?—I should be very sorry to make such an assertion, because there is one element in the calculation which I think has been overlooked, and which I think every practical man will say is a very essential element.

15126. Then I understand you to say that you should be afraid to state that if the works could be carried on under one head, by one capital, half might not be saved?—I have no idea that either one-half or one-fourth would be saved.

15127. But you would be sorry to undertake to say that one-half could not be saved?—Not could not, but could be saved; I have no idea that one-fourth could be saved. Would you allow me, however, to say, that there is one element of the calculation which has been quite disregarded, that is, the quantity of work done in any establishment; if the establishment is full of work, and is on a very large scale, of course that makes a difference.

15128. The question is this, I have taken the case of one of the six great distillers, namely, Mr. Smith; whether you can conceive, that so long as he was enabled to carry on the two operations in concert, he was not able to save 25 per cent., or perhaps a larger sum, on the cost of rectification, by applying the labour of those persons engaged in the one manufacture to the other?—I do not believe so.

15129. Do you know how many men Mr. Smith employed whilst the two works were in full progress, and how many men he employs now that they are separated?—I did know how many people he employed at the time of the seizure of his premises, but I do not know how many, though I have heard; I cannot carry it in my head, how many he employs now. I know that at the time when the seizure was made, that is as far as we were able to ascertain, there was a different set of men for each work; that the men who were employed in the rectifying business, never, excepting for some particular object, entered the distilling premises; that the two sets of men were distinct. I believe that their books were kept distinct, and that one of the two brothers who were in partnership had the charge of the distillery premises; that there was a distinct set of books for the distillery; a distinct set of workmen, carts, and horses, and everything else for the rectifying business, and that the two concerns were kept distinct; that is my recollection.

15130. And that none of the same persons overlooked the two works?—I believe that the whole of the work was superintended by the two brothers, with one head man under them; a man of the name of Gill. I believe that the same foreman, Mr. Gill, who was called technically the brewer, superintended both the works; but that the accounts of the two works were kept distinct, and that, generally speaking, there was an entire division of labour between them. I do not say that there might not have been an exception or two, but that, generally speaking, the men were employed distinctly on the two different works.

15131. I presume that you cannot dispute that the two works being so close together as we saw them shown in the model, the expense of cartage between the two works would be saved?—No doubt.

15132. We have it stated here that the cartage amounts to 3,500*l.* a year?—On two millions of gallons? I think it is stated, in the rectifying estimate that was delivered in, that it amounts to a halfpenny a gallon.

15133. I beg your pardon, you stated it as nil?—I think not as to the horses.

15134. Do you mean to say that Mr. Smith, now being obliged to separate his two concerns, will be able to carry on those two concerns at the same expense that he did when they were combined together?—Certainly not.

15135. That being so, how do you account for your evidence to this Committee in stating that nothing was to be allowed for the disadvantage to the British corn distillers of not brewing, distilling, and rectifying on the same premises?—Because I do not think, as I have stated before, and it is the principle on which the whole of my evidence has gone, that the rectification of spirit is a fair subject of consideration.

15136. I am not asking whether you think it a fair subject of consideration, we do not want theories nor speculations, but we want to get the facts; it is a question of pounds, shillings, and pence; you cannot deny that it will not be possible for Mr. Smith, of Whitechapel, to carry on the process of brewing, and distilling, and rectification on separate premises at the same cost that he did whilst the premises were combined?—It would be impossible.

15137. And yet, in giving your evidence to the Committee, you most authoritatively stated that this disability must be set as nil?—I did.

15138. Now with respect to Scotland, as to the decreases, you admitted that the decreases were a halfpenny before the spirits left the Irish or the Scotch ports, but you have not made any allowance for that decrease which takes place during the voyage; whereas I understand that if 100 gallons were exported from Argyleshire for the port of London, they would be reduced one per cent., that there would be a gallon short for what is called "in drink" during the voyage?—In the paper which I have delivered in I have given the actual loss in transit on 11,600 odd casks which left Scotland and Ireland in one year for the London market. I have given the exact amount of decrease by giving the measurement in the ports where shipped, and the measurement in the port of London on arrival.

15139. But if the duty were charged on the landing of the spirits, instead of being charged on the shipment, would not the quantity charged be one per cent. less, that is, one gallon in the 100 gallons?—I have stated the actual facts on the shipments of one year.

15140. But you take the duty as the duty paid in Scotland; the gallon is made up, if I understand rightly, from what is called in Scotland the ullage cask, or the tapcask, which cask pays the English full duty in England; does not it?—We have no such thing as ullage casks in England, at the distillers, because there is no bonding; the ullage cask in Scotland pays only 3 s. 8 d. duty; the ullage cask in Ireland pays 2 s. 8 d. duty in England; the ullage cask is unknown in consequence of there being no bonding in England, therefore of course it is unnecessary.

15141. If I understand rightly, after the duty is once paid, whether it is in Ireland or in Scotland, all interest on the part of the Excise ceases, and they have no interest in ascertaining the exact wastage or decrease that takes place afterwards. What reason has the Excise for testing, or what opportunity have the Excise then of truly testing the amount of decrease that takes place, either on the voyage from Ireland or Scotland?—It has always been the practice to do so, and I believe that it is as accurately taken as possible; one reason for it, among others, is, that we may be perfectly aware that the same quantity has been shipped at one place that is delivered at another; that is, that there is no mistake as to the quantity of gallons; the gauge taken in London is a check upon the gauge taken by our officer upon it being shipped, whether in Dublin or whether at Leith. There is also this further necessity for it, that the shipper of spirit from Ireland or Scotland has his option whether to pay the whole duty there or to pay the difference of the duty on landing in England, and it is therefore necessary, in order to correct any error which may have occurred on the other side of the water, to test as accurately as we can the quantity which arrives. If the duty of 2 s. 8 d. only be paid in Ireland, or 3 s. 8 d. in Scotland, the shipper gives a bond that he will pay the remainder of the duty on its arrival in England, where we uniformly gauge the casks for that purpose.

15142. If a given number of casks are exported from Cork or from Leith, you have the number of casks of spirits checked which have paid duty, and you also test the contents of each separate cask on all occasions; is that so?—

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Of each cask ; we not only gauge it, but we take the strength again as a protection against any abstraction of spirit or mixture of water on the voyage.

15143. Are you positive of that, that not only the casks are checked but the contents are gauged, and the strength put to the proof?—I believe that that is the universal practice.

15144. You have no doubt about that?—I have no doubt about that at all ; we have a port surveyor whose business it is to do that, and I know that he is an exceedingly correct and well informed man, and I have no reason to believe that he gives me accounts which are not accurately kept.

15144*. Now to come to the duty ; have you calculated what the *ad valorem* duty upon rum is, and what the *ad valorem* duty upon British corn spirits is ?—I have not calculated them accurately, but I saw that you had already evidence upon that, and what I saw of that evidence appeared to me to be correct. I had a further reason for not calculating the *ad valorem* duties, which was this : you asked me if I could come provided with the prices ; the prices are easily obtained ; but there was a further statement which you wished for, which I was unable to obtain, and that was the relative quantities at the respective prices, and though I could get the prices, and, indeed, have them here, I find they generally agree with the prices given in evidence from some of the leading spirit brokers in London ; and as to the quantities, though I took great pains to get at the respective quantities, I failed, and therefore I could not make the calculation which you requested me to make.

15145. But you admit the correctness of the calculation by the British corn distillers, that if they were taken at an *ad valorem* duty, the *ad valorem* duty on British spirits is a higher *ad valorem* duty than the duty on rum or French brandy?—It depends on the quality ; and I may observe that in the prices I have got there is a larger range of prices than those which have been given in to the Committee ; of course the calculation depends upon the price, as, for instance, if the price of rum be stated at 3*s.* 6*d.*, but there is rum in the market for which 5*s.* is demanded, the *ad valorem* duty is of course very much disturbed by that, and I only observe that in the circulars I have received from the City there is a greater range of price given than in the evidence before this Committee, but substantially, I believe, according to the limits in each case, it is correct.

15146. Have you any reason to think that they have taken an unfair sample of the ordinary consumption in each case?—The accounts that I have received go to higher prices, both as respects Irish spirits, which have been a long time in bond, and Scotch spirits, the highest brands, I believe they are called, of Scotch malt whiskey ; and also there is a quality of rum at a very low price, and there is some rum at a price so high that I was quite startled to see it ; there is a greater range in the prices in the returns obtained than in Mr. Grey's, but taking his data, I believe his calculations are correct.

15147. But do you think that in the prices Mr. Grey gave in, he was taking fairly the bulk?—I think he was ; but I must be allowed to say, that it is a question more particularly for the broker and dealers in those articles ; I have found great difficulty in determining it.

15148. Now as to the relative duty between Scotch malt spirit and rum. The duty is 7*s.* 10*d.* upon the spirit in England, and then upon the loss of that, is to be added 1*s.* 4*d.* for the malt ; is that so?—Malt spirit brought into England from Scotland, is subject to the English duty of 7*s.* 10*d.*, and in addition to that, it costs the producer in Scotland 1*s.* 4½*d.* for the malt which has been expended in its production.

15149. For the malt or the malt duty?—The malt duty.

15150. Then it has paid a tax to the Crown of what?—Nine shillings and two pence farthing.

15151. Whilst the rum has paid a tax to the Crown of only 8*s.* 7*d.* ; is that so?—That is quite true.

15152. Then Scotch malt spirits consumed in England are under a disadvantage, instead of a protection of 6½*d.* in comparison with rum?—That is quite true.

15153. Malt spirits, if manufactured in England, stand upon precisely the same footing ; do not they?—Precisely ; because in England no drawback would be

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be allowed whatever on the malt used, and in Scotland there is a drawback for spirits consumed in Scotland to the amount of 8 *d.*

15154. So that, as far as all the malt spirits consumed in England are concerned, British colonial rum has a protection, a differential duty in its favour, setting all restrictions aside, of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*?—Precisely so.

15155. Now I come to Ireland, and take malt spirits again; but whether they be Scotch or Irish makes no difference, I believe?—It makes no difference at all; formerly, in Ireland, the malt drawback was allowed; but in Ireland the great distillers begged to be relieved from the malt drawback.

15156. That was, the great distillers being raw corn distillers, not the malt distillers?—Exactly. In Ireland there were only three distillers from malt, and only three distillers consequently who availed themselves of the malt drawback. The consumption of malt spirits in Ireland was supplied from Scotland. The great corn distillers in Ireland, distillers from raw grain, thought that by repudiating the malt drawback in Ireland, they should prohibit to a certain extent the introduction of malt spirits into Ireland; because, so long as the malt drawback extended to Ireland, 8 *d.* a gallon was allowed on the malt used; but the moment the malt drawback was withdrawn from Ireland, spirits coming from Scotland of that sort had to repay the 8 *d.* that had been allowed there.

15157. So that malt spirits made in Scotland get no drawback in Ireland?—None, and none in England.

15158. So that malt spirits going from Scotland to Ireland pay 2 *s.* 8 *d.* and 1 *s.* 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*?—Yes, that is 4 *s.* 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

15159. What does rum pay?—Three shillings and five pence.

15160. That is 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* less; so that British colonial rum has a protection against the malt spirits consumed in England, and the malt spirits consumed in Ireland, of 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* a gallon?—Yes.

15161. Exclusive of any disadvantage that the malt distiller has from Excise restrictions?—Quite so.

15162. That is not the case in Scotland, because if I understand rightly, the malt distiller in Scotland gets a drawback for the malt spirits consumed in Scotland of 8 *d.*?—Yes.

15163. So that he has a protection of three farthings, 3 *s.* 8 *d.*, and 1 *s.* 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, making 5 *s.* 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, from which 8 *d.* is deducted; is not that it?—Mr. Baring's 5 per cent. runs over all this; it breaks it a little into fractions. Mr. Grey reminds me that to the 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* we ought to add Mr. Baring's 5 per cent.; we have got within the 10th part of a penny of 8 *d.*

15164. So that in point of fact, the malt distiller in Scotland has the advantage of three farthings; has not he?—I believe that is so; exactly 3 *s.* 4 *d.*

15165. In point of absolute duty paid to the Crown, he pays three farthings less than the colonial rum distiller, and that three farthings is all the protection he has to set against the restrictions of the Excise?—I believe it is so.

15166. We have had a great deal of discussion between British corn distillers and malt distillers. Is not the fact this, that the malt distiller does come very largely into competition with the raw corn distiller in England, and the raw corn distiller cannot enter into competition at all with the malt distiller, either in Scotland or Ireland?—If you will allow me, I have got a return, which will show how the fact stands; perhaps if I were to put in that return, it would answer the question better than I can. The title of it is, "An Account of the Quantities of Malt Spirits imported into Ireland from Scotland, and into Scotland from Ireland, the Quantities brought to charge for Consumption to those Countries, and exported to Foreign Parts, from 1826 to 1847." Then I have also this: "An Account of the Number of Proof Gallons of Spirits imported into Ireland from Scotland, and into Scotland from Ireland, in the last Five Years, distinguishing the materials from which made." Then I have a return for 10 years of the whole trade in British spirits.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which are as follows:]

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AN ACCOUNT of the Quantities of MALT SPIRITS imported into *Ireland* from *Scotland*, and into *Scotland* from *Ireland*, the Quantities brought to Charge for Consumption in those Countries, and Exported to Foreign Parts, from 1826 to 1847.

YEARS.	Malt Spirits Imported into		Malt Spirits brought to Charge for Consumption		Malt Spirits Exported to Foreign Parts		
	Ireland from Scotland.	Scotland from Ireland.	In Ireland.	In Scotland.	From Ireland.	From Scotland.	
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	
1826	70,656	-	38,434	3,302,948	390	4,445	
1827	89,632	-	197,299	3,994,990	1,536	9,063	
1828	158,717	-	231,333	5,151,111	249	11,203	
1829	183,080	-	311,575	5,213,072	1,037	12,660	
1830	209,955	-	268,573	5,529,027	1,159	10,443	
1831	254,401	-	291,003	5,339,169	729	13,371	
1832	The drawback on malt spirits reduced from 1 s. 2 d. to 8 d. per gallon, 21 April 1832.						
1833	187,940	-	265,895	5,305,796	1,900	24,462	
1834	214,390	-	328,747	5,466,702	1,386	20,330	
1835	316,337	-	417,717	5,486,161	8,001	38,175	
1836	406,915	-	485,861	6,066,362	8,754	53,596	
1837	389,307	-	468,192	5,536,846	914	23,094	
1838	408,066	-	536,955	5,674,148	4,171	48,393	
1839	455,243	261	552,793	5,539,057	9,216	49,775	
1840	427,822	69	541,850	5,579,180	5,188	76,210	
1841	432,805	435	527,196	5,375,162	9,153	69,669	
1842	The drawback on malt spirits in Ireland repealed from 1 August 1842.						
1843	329,992	-	380,258	4,741,063	693	50,367	
1844	399,428	23	467,425	4,998,039	3,961	67,030	
1845	507,694	-	582,579	5,368,697	6,561	70,939	
1846	519,707	-	591,099	5,565,772	1,547	89,937	
1847	361,427	-	394,160	4,674,848	-	51,924	

Excise Office, London, 30 March 1848.

AN ACCOUNT of the Number of Proof Gallons of SPIRITS Imported into *Ireland* from *Scotland*, and into *Scotland* from *Ireland*, in the last Five Years; distinguishing the Materials from which made.

YEARS.	NUMBER OF GALLONS OF PROOF SPIRITS IMPORTED INTO							
	IRELAND FROM SCOTLAND.				SCOTLAND FROM IRELAND.			
	Malt only.	A Mixture of Malt with Unmalted Grain.	Sugar.	TOTAL Gallons.	Malt only.	A Mixture of Malt with Unmalted Grain.	Sugar.	TOTAL Gallons.
1843	329,992	132,054	-	462,046	-	66,771	-	66,771
1844	399,428	169,209	-	568,637	23	138,378	-	138,401
1845	507,694	256,086	-	763,780	-	136,243	-	136,243
1846	519,707	225,987	-	745,694	-	96,662	-	96,662
1847	361,427	129,776	13,027	504,230	-	90,542	1,946	92,488

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	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.
ENGLAND:										
Spirits made in England -	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,776,411	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,685,698	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,851,067	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,917,435	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,008,160	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,800,509	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,433,843	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,866,593	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,624,868	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,356,794
Spirits imported from Scotland -	1,828,732	2,149,325	2,056,640	1,894,657	1,652,979	1,538,979	1,950,396	2,106,842	2,136,214	1,979,921
Spirits imported from Ireland -	325,347	351,529	370,441	354,293	294,915	384,563	850,201	1,102,946	1,418,448	1,072,450
TOTAL Consumption in England -	7,930,490	8,186,552	8,278,148	8,166,985	7,956,054	7,724,051	8,234,440	9,076,381	9,179,530	8,400,165
Malt charged with Duty -	<i>Bushels.</i> 33,823,985	<i>Bushels.</i> 33,826,016	<i>Bushels.</i> 36,653,442	<i>Bushels.</i> 30,956,394	<i>Bushels.</i> 30,796,262	<i>Bushels.</i> 30,891,062	<i>Bushels.</i> 31,856,551	<i>Bushels.</i> 30,508,840	<i>Bushels.</i> 35,723,774	<i>Bushels.</i> 20,270,139
SCOTLAND:										
Spirits for Home Consumption -	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,250,711	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,188,582	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,180,138	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,989,905	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,595,186	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,593,798	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,922,948	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,441,011	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,975,001	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,193,249
Malt charged with Duty -	<i>Bushels.</i> 4,419,141	<i>Bushels.</i> 4,360,373	<i>Bushels.</i> 4,337,304	<i>Bushels.</i> 4,058,249	<i>Bushels.</i> 3,786,476	<i>Bushels.</i> 3,618,906	<i>Bushels.</i> 3,880,458	<i>Bushels.</i> 4,353,038	<i>Bushels.</i> 4,584,007	<i>Bushels.</i> 3,650,443
IRELAND:										
Spirits for Home Consumption -	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 12,296,342	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 10,815,709	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 7,401,051	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,485,443	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,290,650	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 5,546,483	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,451,137	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 7,005,196	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 7,952,076	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 6,037,383
Malt charged with Duty -	<i>Bushels.</i> 2,262,440	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,744,552	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,406,116	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,149,692	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,268,656	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,184,280	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,441,177	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,684,112	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,788,644	<i>Bushels.</i> 1,387,405
UNITED KINGDOM:										
Spirits paid Duty for Consumption -	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 26,486,543	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 25,190,843	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 21,859,337	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 20,642,333	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 18,841,890	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 18,864,332	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 20,608,525	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 23,122,588	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 24,106,697	<i>Galls. at pf.</i> 20,639,797
Malt charged with Duty -	<i>Bushels.</i> 40,595,566	<i>Bushels.</i> 39,930,941	<i>Bushels.</i> 42,456,362	<i>Bushels.</i> 36,164,335	<i>Bushels.</i> 35,851,394	<i>Bushels.</i> 35,693,888	<i>Bushels.</i> 37,187,186	<i>Bushels.</i> 36,545,990	<i>Bushels.</i> 42,097,085	<i>Bushels.</i> 35,307,987

Witness.] The account for last year of malt spirit imported from Scotland into England was about 685 250 gallons. I will furnish an accurate return; this is merely in round numbers.

15167. But of raw grain spirits there were none, I presume, imported from Scotland to England?—Yes, a large quantity. Perhaps as we have already the 685,250 gallons from Scotland imported into England, by the Parliamentary Return, I need not encumber the notes with that.

15168. But the result of all this is, that malt spirits and corn spirits are pretty well upon an equality, as far as competition goes in this country; there is no great ground for the British corn distiller to say that he labours under a disadvantage as compared with the malt distiller, or for the malt distiller to complain that the corn distiller has any great advantage over him, the malt distiller being able successfully to compete in England with the raw grain distiller?—That appears to be practically the result.

15169. Practically the result is, that the rate of duties have been fairly assessed between the two. Then if it is clear that in England the malt distiller, who is upon an equality with the corn distiller, is under a disadvantage of $7\frac{1}{4}$, as compared with the colonial rum distiller, does not it follow, as things equal to the same are equal to one another, that if $7\frac{1}{4}$ is the absolute difference in favour of the rum distiller, plus all the restrictions upon the raw grain distiller which he suffers in common with the Scotch malt distiller, the raw corn distiller must be in the same position, and that the weight of the restrictions weigh as $7\frac{1}{4}$ against him, plus those other restrictions which he and the malt distillers suffer equally under?—The English consumer pays 1 s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. additional tax on every gallon of malt spirit which he consumes, as compared with the raw grain, but notwithstanding that, we receive from Scotland, with that extra amount upon it, between 700,000 and 800,000 gallons in the year; the malt whiskey in England comes into consumption with a duty of 9 s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. upon it; the rum comes into consumption in England with a duty of 8 s. 7 d.

15170. Now with respect to foreign export, is it not the fact that if we export malt spirits to Canada they go out charged with a duty of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.?—8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. if exported from Scotland; it is a little more than 8 d.; I believe there is a small fraction, the tenth of a penny.

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15171. But if they are exported from England, what then?—If they are exported from England they go out with a duty 1s. 4½d. upon them.

15172. And if malt spirits are imported from Canada into England they come in under the advantage in duty of 7d.; they come in at 8s. 7d.?—I believe that they would come in at that duty by law, but practically I am not aware that any have come in, or come to the customs at all events. But I was going to say that I believe, as by the words of the Act the duty on rum and strong waters applies to all the British colonies in North America, any description of spirit, the produce of Canada, would come in at the West India rum duty.

15173. Then if Scotch malt spirits were exported to Jamaica they would go out charged with 8½d. a gallon duty; is that so?—From Scotland.

15174. And 1s. 4½d. from England?—Yes.

15175. And when they get to Jamaica they pay 6s. duty there by the Jamaica tariff of the 20th of November last, making the duty, as regards Scotch spirits, 6s. 8½d., and as regards English exported malt spirits, 7s. 4½d., whilst the colonial spirits enter into consumption at 1s. 6d.?—I was not aware of the Jamaica tariff; it is a customs and not an excise affair; but I have no doubt it is so.

15176. If British corn spirits go out to Jamaica they go out charged with 7s. 10d. duty, to which this 6s. is to be added, making 13s. 10d. to struggle against 1s. 6d.?—On the export of plain British spirits the full duty is returned.

15177. But practically there is no such thing. I am speaking of compounded spirits, of spirits in that state that they would be fit for the taste of any market?—If you take the case of Ireland where the raw grain spirits are exported to Jamaica, they are fit for immediate consumption, and they would be entitled to the full drawback.

15178. That is in Ireland?—Yes, or in England; supposing any raw grain spirits in a fit state for consumption, were exported from England to Jamaica, if they had paid the 7s. 10d. duty, they would have the whole duty returned to them.

15179. I am speaking of England, where, from the circumstance of the manufacture, you do not allow them to bond, but you make them pay the duty when they are compounded; what are called British raw spirits pay 7s. 10d., and there is no drawback, and practically there is no market for British raw spirits in the state in which they would be entitled to drawback?—The present state of the law amounts virtually to a complete prohibition.

15180. Now with respect to foreign countries, I believe you are aware, that under the old duty, prior to what is called in this country the amelioration of the American tariff, by the lowering of the duties, British spirits, whether they were English corn compounded spirits, or Scotch malt spirits, paid 70 cents. a gallon, that is, 3s. 11d.?—Yes.

15181. That was before the alteration of the tariff; British corn compounded spirits would go out to the United States, charged with a duty of 7s. 10d.?—No doubt.

15181*. And British malted spirits would go out charged with a duty of 1s. 4½d.?—No, 9s. 2½d.; there is no drawback from England.

15182. But from Scotland they would go out charged with 8½d.?—From Scotland the malt spirits would go out with a deduction of the whole duty paid upon them, because malt spirits do not fall under the denomination of rectified or compounded spirits.

15183. But they only get half the drawback in fact, do they?—They would get 3s. 8d. the duty they had paid, and they would get 8d., which is about half the malt duty; therefore they would go out burthened with 8½d.

15184. When under the old tariff of America, a gallon of Scotch malt spirits would have paid 70 cents, which is 3s. 11d. and 8½d. making 4s. 7½d. duty; but in gratitude for what some call the wisdom of Parliament, though I think it is the weakness, in gratitude for our having repealed the duties upon her produce, America altered her duties in 1846, and instead of the duty of 70 cents, which is 3s. 11d. a gallon, exacts 100 per cent. *ad valorem*; the duty being now an *ad valorem* duty, and the value of the malt spirits, which are 11 overproof, being about 3s. 9d. without the malt duty, in consequence of your not returning the full malt duty on the export, therefore a gallon of spirits going out charged with 8½d., the price in bond in America of a gallon of spirits is

4s. 5½d.,

4s. 5½*d.*, then comes the 100 per cent. duty on that, and the effect of your excise laws is this; that instead of paying 3s. 9½*d.* with the freight, the Americans charge 4s. 5½*d.*, so that there is 8½*d.* of your drawback of injustice, and 8½*d.*, being cent. per cent. *ad valorem* duty, clapped upon the back of that, making 16½*d.* as a disadvantage to malt spirits, through your excise restrictions, upon being exported to the United States of America; can you gainsay that?—I am not conversant with the data, but I have no reason to suppose that the calculation is not exactly true. I am not conversant with the ever-varying changes of the American tariff.

15185. Do not you think that is a great grievance under which the Scotch malt distillers labour; and are you surprised under such circumstances, that the export of malt spirits from Scotland, which was 70,000 gallons in 1845, and 89,937 gallons in 1846, fell off in 1847 to 51,924?—I believe there is a reason which you are probably not acquainted with, but which Mr. Grey will at once appreciate, which led to this remarkable falling off. I am speaking of the export to foreign countries. Up to a very late period it was supposed that the Act of Parliament gave the privilege of a drawback of 8*d.* a gallon, not only on spirits exported direct from Scotland, but on spirits sent through England.

15186. Do not you think that the increase of duty from 2s. 11*d.* to 4s. 5½*d.*, is a sufficient reason for the check. I refer to the American duty?—I think a very sufficient cause.

15187. Now I come to the case of Scotch spirits coming by England, or English malted spirits going to the United States; then there is no drawback at all, and the whole 16½*d.* would be charged?—Doubtless.

15188. And with this cent. per cent. *ad valorem* duty in the United States, another 16½*d.* on account of your duty would be charged on the other side of the water?—Cent. per cent. on the malt duty.

15189. So that practically the excise restrictions are guilty of inflicting upon the malt distiller in England, or upon the malt distiller in Scotland, whose circumstances oblige him to send his spirits round by England, 2s. 8½*d.* a gallon upon his spirits sent to the United States?—Yes, 1s. 4½*d.* the malt duty here, and cent. per cent. upon that by the American tariff.

15190. And that annihilates the trade?—The trade is evidently a decreasing trade.

15191. I believe, as far as any export of malt spirits from England, as distinguished from Scotland, goes, there is scarcely any?—I believe what is sent goes there more as a matter of curiosity than anything else; as a sort of fancy trade.

15192. I believe, that as an immense number of Scotchmen have emigrated to the United States of America, it is supposed that there would be a considerable consumption of malt spirits, were it not for those checks, those restrictions of the excise in this country?—I believe that the existing laws very much diminish the export of Scotch malt spirits.

15193. When Mr. Gladstone, in his pamphlet on commercial legislation, said that the Legislature had sealed the doom of the very last of the export duties, he totally forgot the case of the unfortunate malt distillers?—I never read his pamphlet, I am sorry to say.

15194. Have not the Scotch malt distillers some ground to complain, that up to a late period they were considered to be entitled, or practically were permitted, the 8*d.* drawback upon their malt spirits, though they came by England?—I think they have great reason to complain. The history of the case I believe is this; that for a long period after the Act of Parliament had passed, it was supposed that England might be the entrepôt for Scotch malt spirits making their way to foreign ports; and some, not very considerable quantities, but some quantities were sent through England, and were entitled to the 8*d.* drawback. Circumstances arose, however, which led to the opinion of the law officers, I believe, being taken on the question, and it was decided against the claim of the Scotch malt distillers. Believing it to have been the intention of the Legislature that that 8*d.* should be allowed, but being prevented from allowing it by the decision of the lawyers, we were obliged of course to withhold it, because we could not make an allowance which was declared by the lawyers to be contrary to the Act of Parliament. I have represented the case to the Government, and I have every reason to believe that what I conceive to have been the original intention of the Legislature will be forthwith restored.

15195. In point of fact, so far as all the eastern coast of Scotland is concerned,

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cerned, she has no means of export except through the English ports, her eastern coast having little direct trade with the United States?—Precisely so; in fact, I think it may be stated that Glasgow is the only port of which the whole of Scotland could avail itself for the purpose of the export of malt spirit; therefore in withholding from the Scotch the 8 *d.* drawback, if they send the spirit through English ports, you are practically sealing the exports against them.

15196. Eightpence is not so great a hardship as 1 *s.* 4 *d.*; do not you feel that that other 8 *d.* must always be a great grievance, and a great hardship upon the malt distillers?—I have no doubt of it. I think with regard to the export of spirits, as distinguishing it from the home trade, it is a very hard case.

15197. The rum distillers, the soap boilers, and the sugar refiners, all get a drawback for the duties that they are paying?—And you may add the brick-maker, and the paper maker, and the pasteboard maker; in short, the general principle of the excise is to repay, by drawback on exportation, the amount, as nearly as it can be calculated, of the duties which an article has been subjected to in the course of manufacture.

15198. That is not all; the French brandy manufacturers and Dutch gin distillers, all get their drawback upon the export of their spirits from this country to foreign countries?—Practically they do that, because they are all put into bond, but the export can only take place from the bonded warehouse; however practically it is so.

15199. They would not want to go into the interior of the country?—They make use of this country as an entrepôt, just as the Scotch distillers want to make use of it as an entrepôt for the malt spirits.

15200. I believe that the duties in Brazil are also 30 per cent. *ad valorem* duties; the same argument, therefore, which applies in a higher degree to the United States of America where the *ad valorem* duties are cent. per cent., applies in a proportionate degree to the Brazils, where they are 30 per cent. *ad valorem*?—The same principle of course applies in each case.

15201. But as regards the British corn distiller, his commodity goes out charged with 7 *s.* 10 *d.*, and 7 *s.* 10 *d.* is added upon the back of that?—Not for plain spirits, but for rectified and compounded spirit.

15202. But I am speaking practically of the only spirits that are suitable to any market; the English corn distiller, practically, cannot export his raw corn spirits, because no foreigner would drink them; is not that so?—Yes.

15203. Therefore, for all practical purposes, the produce of the corn distiller goes out charged with 15 *s.* 8 *d.* entirely through the restrictions of the excise?—No doubt of that as to America, where the *ad valorem* duty is cent. per cent.

15204. And proportionately where duties of a less amount are charged *ad valorem*?—Yes.

15205. If the malt distiller be entitled to his whole drawback, at least you would take it that the British distiller is entitled to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*?—Upon principle he is just as much entitled to it on exportation as the Scotch distiller; but where the matter is so small, and where it would be subject to frauds, as it would to a large extent, I think it would not be advisable to allow it.

15206. In fact, that would do him no good, because you utterly destroy his export trade by the 7 *s.* 10 *d.*, which you do not return to him?—Yes; but I think there are much more effectual ways of relieving him; he labours under great disadvantages, and I hope to see those disadvantages removed.

[The following Letter and Papers were subsequently sent by the Witness:]

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to enclose four papers, containing observations, and explanations of the evidence I gave before the Select Committee on Sugar and Coffee Planting; and to request you will do me the favour to lay them before the Committee.

I have, &c.
(signed) John Wood.

Lord George Bentinck, M. P.

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STATEMENT delivered to the Chairman of Excise, by Mr. Browning, of the firm of *Twiss & Browning*, wholesale Spirit Dealers, on 4 April 1848.

Per Royal Victoria, *Leith*, 27 March 1848.

SCOTCH ACCOUNT.						ENGLISH LANDING ACCOUNT.						BOUGHT TO BE.				
Numbers.	Content.	Ullage.	Strength.	Proof Gallons.	Bang.	Wet.	Content.	Ullage.	Strength.	Proof Gallons.	Deficiency on Transit.	Content.	Ullage.	Strength.	Proof Gallons.	Deficiency on Transit.
1,011	Full	131	11.2	145.07	36.7	35.6	Full	131	10.8	145.14	.53	131	130	10.8	144.04	1.63
1,037	"	130	11.5	144.95	36.6	35.5	"	130	11.1	144.43	.52	130	129	11.1	143.31	1.64
100	"	122	11.5	136.03	36.7	35.5	"	122	11.1	135.54	.49	122	121	11.1	134.43	1.60
234	"	102	11.5	113.73	33.4	32.4	"	102	11.3	113.52	.21	102	101	11.3	112.41	1.32
		485		540.38				485		538.63	1.75		481		534.19	6.19

Transit Deficiency shown by Excise 1.75

Actual Transit Deficiency 6.19

Immediate.
Port Surveyor for Reports,
4 April 1848.

J. W.

John Wood, Esq.
1 April 1848.

N. B.—No fractional parts being charged on rum below $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of a gallon, $\frac{1}{10}$ parts of a gallon would escape duty.

John Wood, Esq.

1 April 1848.

Honourable Sirs,

THE four casks of Scotch spirits referred to in the annexed paper arrived at this port by the Royal Victoria on the 27th ultimo, of which the following are the particulars:

SCOTCH ACCOUNT.					ENGLISH ACCOUNT.				LOSS ON TRANSIT.			
No.	Content.	Ullage.	Strength O. P.	Proof Gallons.	Content.	Ullage.	Strength O. P.	Proof Gallons.	O. P. Strength.	In Quantity	Total.	
1,011	131	Full -	11·2	145·67	131	130 $\frac{1}{4}$	10·8	144·31	·53	·75	1·28	
1,037	130	"	11·5	144·95	130	129 $\frac{1}{4}$	11·1	143·50	·52	·75	1·27	
100	122	"	11·5	136·03	122	121 $\frac{1}{4}$	11·1	134·70	·49	·75	1·24	
284	102	"	11·5	113·73	102	101 $\frac{1}{4}$	11·3	112·69	·21	·75	·96	
TOTAL - -				540·38	TOTAL - -				535·29	1·75	3·00	4·75

I most respectfully beg leave to state that when large casks of British spirits are permitted full from Ireland and Scotland, and the loss in quantity does not amount to a complete gallon, it has always been the practice to give the traders credit for the entire quantity expressed in the permit, by calling the cask full, which was the case in this instance, the entire loss in quantity in each cask being only three quarts.

As regards the practice of the Customs in gauging and ullaging large casks of foreign spirits, or rum, I beg to observe that if the quantity shown by the rule is anything short of a full gallon, it is wholly disregarded; and in computing the proof quantity for duty, they disregard the centesimal parts in every cask, when they do not amount to $\cdot 84$, so that in calculating the proof quantity for duty in the above four casks in London, had they been rum, or foreign spirits, instead of charging 535·29 they would have charged only 533 gallons.

I am, &c.

(signed) Thomas Bennett,

Port Surveyor.

Port of London, 5 April 1848.

MEMORANDUM of Surveying General Examiners.

THE principal difference between the two annexed accounts in detail, arises from the fractions of a bulk gallon, in each cask, being omitted in one of the accounts, as is stated to be the Customs practice in gauging foreign and colonial spirits.

But the fractions on the bulk quantities have been included by Mr. Bennett according to Excise practice, which shows the decrease to be only 5·09 gallons at proof, or $\frac{3}{100}$ parts of one gallon per cent.; and such a result is not surprising considering that the spirits must have been several days at sea, in the hold of a steam boat, at a high temperature.

Some confusion in the accounts arises from calculating the bulk and strength of quantities separately, but the two simply stand thus:

540·38 proof gallons Scotch account.
535·29 Ditto English account.

5·09 decrease by Mr. Bennett.

540·38 proof gallons Scotch account.
534·19 Ditto Mr. —'s account.

6·19 decrease.

6·19
5·09

1·10 difference from disregarding the fractions of a gallon
on the English gauge.

ACCOUNT

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ACCOUNT showing the Deficiency on Four Casks of SCOTCH SPIRITS from *Leith* to *London*, per the Royal Victoria Steamer, on the 28th March 1848.

John Wood, Esq.

1 April 1848.

	Quantity sent from Leith.	Quantity Landed at London.	Total Loss on Transit.	Loss Per Cent.	Loss Per Gallon in Farthings.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	
Duty charged on deficiency, according to the usual practice of the Excise - -	540.38	538.63	1.75	$\frac{3\frac{3}{100}}{100}$	1 $\frac{30}{100}$
Transit loss calculated by the Excise, on the actual quantity in the casks - - -	540.38	535.29	5.09	$\frac{9\frac{1}{100}}{100}$	3 $\frac{53}{100}$
Transit loss, as calculated by the trader -	540.38	534.19	6.19	$\frac{1\frac{14}{100}}{100}$	4 $\frac{28}{100}$
Transit loss, the quantity shipped and landed, being calculated according to the practice of the Customs -	539.	533.	6.	$\frac{1\frac{11}{100}}{100}$	4 $\frac{16}{100}$

It is understood that these four casks were imported in the hold of a steam vessel, and were consequently exposed to great heat and loss *in transitu*.

But assuming that the loss was about an average, the calculation made by the Chairman in his examination before the Select Committee, must be altered as follows:

"It thus appears that the Scotch and Irish distiller has a direct interest in the question of the duty on deficiencies in transit, to the extent of about $\frac{9\frac{1}{100}}$ of a gallon per cent. on the average, or about 7s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on every 100 gallons shipped for England."

J. W.

Mr. William Betts, called in; and Examined.

15207. Mr. *Moffatt*.] I BELIEVE you are extensively engaged in the Spirit Trade?—I am.

Mr. W. Betts.

15208. In what branch of the spirit trade are you engaged?—As a Rectifier.

15209. Have you been long engaged in that trade?—Nearly 20 years with my father and on my own account.

15210. Then of course you have had very considerable experience in the manufacture of spirits?—I have some information as to the manufacture of spirits; I am not a distiller, but I have informed myself and been informed from time to time by different distillers when I have made inquiry in respect to the manufacture.

15211. I believe the manufacture of spirits divides itself into two branches; the distilling from grain, and, as regards the consumption in England, the rectifying these spirits?—Yes; the grain distiller manufactures the spirit, and the rectifier purchases it from him, to render it fit for the public.

15212. I think you stated that you were a rectifier, consequently your business leads you to purchase the spirits of the distiller?—Yes.

15213. There are two distinct and separate branches of the trade, the distilling and rectifying?—Yes; quite distinct.

Mr. W. Betts.

1 April 1848.

15214. The rectifier has therefore to purchase his spirits from the distiller?—He has either to buy them from the distiller or from the agents of either the Scotch or Irish houses, who recently have become very few; there used to be 11 or 12 of them, and now I think we have but three.

15215. But you buy spirit also of the English distillers, do not you?—Yes.

15216. Is there any large importation of Scotch and Irish spirits into the London market?—Not so plentiful by any means as it used to be.

15217. To what cause do you assign that short supply of spirits from Scotland and Ireland?—To three distinct regulations and clauses in the Act of Parliament, that give privileges, particularly to the English, that are denied to the Irish and Scotch.

15218. Can you state the nature of those respective clauses?—I can: the first is, that the English distiller is allowed, over and above the Scotch, to have worts on any part of his premises, of any gravity, the Scotch being restricted to one vessel, that being the underback. Secondly, there is no efficient check on the spirits sent out by the English distillers after the charge is made in the receivers. The third being as to the payment of duties; the English are allowed to send out their spirits as fast as they are made, and they have now a fortnight's credit upon the duties; they used to have three weeks.

15219. And you are of opinion that the effect of those three clauses favouring the English distillers, has been very much to shut out the supply of spirits from Scotland and Ireland into England?—I think it has had the effect of closing the trade, and has ruined a great many Irish and Scotch distillers. And also rectifiers here, who embarked in the trade, did so on the faith and with the prospect of the state of supply from Scotland and Ireland continuing as it used to be.

15220. Is there any other cause which precludes the Scotch and Irish distillers from sending their spirits to this market?—I think that those are the great causes, but there are other illiberalities and restrictions in the law independent of those other reasons.

15221. Can the Scotch and Irish distillers send their spirits here, and bond them in this market?—No.

15222. Is not that a great cause operating against their sending them?—Yes.

15223. What course do they adopt if they desire to send their spirits to this market?—They have to pay the duties both in Ireland and Scotland thereto belonging.

15224. They pay a duty in Scotland of 3 s. 8 d. per gallon?—Yes, and which upon being put into and taken out of bond in Scotland, are subjected to an Excise check; they arrive here on the wharf and are subjected to another check; making three Excise checks after leaving the receiver, to which the English distiller is not subject.

15225. When is the duty payable on their arrival here?—That depends upon how long the ship is upon the voyage. I believe it is 21 days from the time of shipment in Scotland. I am not certain, but I think it is that, or 21 days after their arrival.

15226. Consequently the distiller in Scotland who sends his spirits here, must pay the duty which is ordinarily paid in Scotland before they leave Scotland; and unless he has sold the spirits previously to the shipment, he must send money to this country to pay the English duty on their arrival here, or very shortly after?—He must.

15227. The same rule obtains with respect to Ireland?—It does.

15228. Does not that operate as a very great disadvantage to the Scotch or Irish distiller in sending his spirits to this market?—Most assuredly.

15229. The value the spirits being possibly about 1 s. 10 d. a gallon, and the duty altogether which he has to advance being equivalent to 7 s. 10 d. a gallon?—Yes; there are statements of the Scotch distillers themselves that they absolutely pay more than that, and they prove it by various and ample means.

75230. But

15230. But at least 7s. 10d. a gallon is the capital they have to advance on consigning their spirits for sale in this market?—Yes.

15231. Is it not your opinion that that is a more serious restriction upon the free commercial intercourse in spirits between Scotland, Ireland, and England, than the protective clauses in reference to 'English distillers'?—No; the protective clauses on behalf of the English distillers, I think to be the worst and greatest evil they have to contend with.

15232. Is it your opinion that there would be a very considerable increase in the trade of spirits between Scotland and Ireland and England, if the privilege was given to the manufacturers of spirits in those countries to bond their spirits in this market, and to pay duty only when the spirits were required for use?—Yes.

15233. What advantage do you think that would produce to the spirit trade in this country?—As a rectifier, I mean to say that I should be sure of a supply of spirits.

15234. Which you are not now at all times?—I am not.

15235. You frequently find that the supply of spirits in the market in London is so limited that you have a difficulty in getting what you require for your own trade?—I have sometimes written to my distiller for spirits, and I have not been able to get them, though I never asked his credit.

15236. The rule of your house being invariably to pay cash?—It is so for grain spirits.

15237. Have you been frequently obliged to suspend your works and to suffer material inconvenience, in consequence of your inability to obtain spirits when you wanted them for rectification?—I have postponed orders on that account.

15238. And that more than once?—Yes, frequently; two or three times I have written, and have not been able to get them.

15239. How did it occur that a house extensively engaged in trade like yours, and always paying cash, could not obtain a supply?—The distillers like to know a fortnight beforehand, or a week, what quantity of spirits you may require; and if you have been dealing with Scotch distillers for spirits, the English distiller pleads scarcity; and I dare say his spirits are all engaged to his more intimate or connected rectifier.

15240. Is it your impression that there would be a very large increase in the supply of spirits from Scotland and Ireland in case the privilege were given of their being bonded when they came into this country, and the duty were not required to be paid until they were taken into home consumption?—Yes, I feel quite certain that nothing but those three restrictive clauses has prevented there being abundance of spirits, both Scotch and Irish, in the market.

15241. Then you do not think that a compulsory requirement to pay the duty immediately on their arrival in London does materially restrict the trade?—That is another evil, but those are the three great evils; the three privileges which the English have, are a great injury.

15242. It is very singular that the Scotch distillers whom we have heard examined have not complained of those privileges being given to the English distillers, and have found out no new cause of complaint upon that ground?—The grain distillers have complained of that, it has been their complaint, and it has effectually done away with nine-twelfths of the number of agents that were selling spirits on their behalf in London.

15243. Then do you not deem it a very important thing that there should be a privilege given to the Scotch and Irish distillers to send their spirits here in bond?—I do; very important.

15244. But not so important as the restrictive and prohibitive clauses you speak of?—I deem it to be one of the greatest boons, and one of the greatest securities to the capital that the rectifier has invested now.



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15245. To give him a full and adequate supply of spirits at all times?—Yes, independent of the English distillers.

15246. Your object would be, I presume, to bring the Scotch and Irish spirits fairly into competition with those of the English distillers?—Yes.

15247. Which, according to your experience, is not the case at the present time?—It is not.

15248. Is there much difference in the market price of spirits in Dublin and in London?—I have not bought spirits in Dublin; I have bought them here upon the quay as coming from Ireland; I cannot tell what the Dublin price is.

15249. The distilling trade of London is, I believe, principally carried on by six houses?—Yes.

15249*. And there are two other houses; one in Worcester and one in Bristol, I believe?—Yes.

15250. Both of those are small distilleries?—Yes; and there is one in Newcastle.

15251. I think you stated that the distilling and rectifying were distinct businesses; is it within your knowledge whether any of those six extensive and highly respectable firms, who are distillers, are in any way connected with rectifying?—A great many of them have relatives who are rectifiers; one or two, I think, have withdrawn recently.

15252. Is it the fact that out of the six large distillers of London, four of them are connected either directly or indirectly with rectifying houses?—I cannot speak positively upon that: I have generally understood that as between distillers and rectifiers it was so; it was my father's impression. I understood it from him; the rectifiers are of the same name as the distillers in some cases.

15253. Have you heard it mentioned as a subject of grievance and complaint among the Scotch and Irish distillers, that they cannot send their spirits here without sending the money to pay the duty?—I have seen it in writing.

15254. Have you heard that they think it hard that they cannot do so?—I have.

15255. Do you think, from the knowledge which you have, that the trade would be much more extensive between Scotland, Ireland, and England, if they were allowed to put spirits in bond?—Yes, assuredly.

15256. Before we come to the question of rectifying, have you any information to give to the Committee in reference to distilling, so far as your experience as a dealer largely engaged in the trade has enabled you to acquire a knowledge on this subject?—I have made it my business to institute inquiry into the point, and I know the bearings of it to some extent, and I have been assisted by a practical grain distiller from the North.

15257. Have you ever been engaged in distillation in the North of England yourself?—No; only in fitting up a rectifying house in Scotland; I have not been a distiller.

15258. Can you state the number of gallons that have been imported into England from Scotland and Ireland in the last year?—It is 1,000,000 from Ireland, and about 2,000,000 from Scotland.

15259. Are you aware of the quantity made in England?—Between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000.

15260. Consequently one-third of the quantity which is consumed in England is imported from Scotland and Ireland at the present time?—Yes; principally from Scotland.

15261. Would you consider that to be a very small proportion of spirits?—It is as compared with what it used to be; Scotland and Ireland together used to import more than was made in England.

15262. Are you able to state to the Committee what quantity of spirits have been imported into England from Scotland and Ireland in any one year, within the

the last 20 years; state the largest quantity?—In England, in 1826, there were manufactured 2,629,617 gallons; imported from Scotland, 2,969,701 gallons.

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15263. Is that for one year?—Yes.

15264. From Ireland how many?—822,334 gallons.

15265. So that in the year 1826 there were imported from Scotland and Ireland upwards of 3,000,000 of gallons, while the produce of this country was only 2,600,000 gallons?—We imported more than was our home make in that year.

15266. So that we imported as three to two in our consumption in the year 1826; we imported three gallons for every two that we made in England?—I am not so clear that it was exactly so, but it seems to be thereabouts.

15267. Whereas at the present time we manufacture at home two-thirds of what we consume?—Yes, thereabouts.

15268. And you attribute that increase in the home manufacture, and that decrease in the importation from Scotland and Ireland, to those favouring clauses which the English distillers have from time to time obtained?—Yes.

15269. Will you state what those protective clauses are?—First, that the English distiller is allowed, over and above the Scotch, to have worts on any parts of his premises, of any gravity.

15270. Will you explain to the Committee how the distillers having worts of different gravities on their premises, can check the importation of spirits from Scotland?—It facilitates their work, and the competition is unequal; and in consequence of that they cannot compete with them.

15271. Can you explain to the Committee how it does facilitate the manufacture of spirits?—I could quote, and which I would rather do than quote my own knowledge, for I have none on the matter, except from the reports of the surveyors-general of Excise, who state those advantages to exist, and “that the law ought to be changed,” and “that the law was intended to be uniform,” and “that it is an oversight that it is not so.”

15272. Have you ever heard the Scotch distillers complain of these privileges and pre-emptions in favour of English distillers?—I have seen that they have written and complained of it.

15273. You state that you have been in the habit of buying Scotch and Irish spirits?—Yes.

15274. Have you bought them in Scotland?—I have bought them in Scotland; that is, I have bought them on the quay, and I have also recently bought a parcel in Scotland.

15275. Are you prepared to state to the Committee that in your opinion the trade with Scotland in the purchase of spirits would very considerably increase if the distillers had the privilege of bringing them here, and bonding them in this port?—My trade would increase.

15276. And you would also buy spirits in an increased proportion in the Irish markets?—On the same principle.

15277. Do the rectifiers of London ordinarily coincide with you in this feeling of the advantage there would be in having the markets thus opened to a fuller competition, by reason of the spirits being allowed to lie here in bond?—I have no doubt that there are many that are of the same opinion, but who would not like to run the risk of coming to say as much.

15278. It has been stated to the Committee on very high authority that the rectifier experiences no loss in his process of manufacture through which he puts the spirit, to render it suitable to the English market; are you of the same opinion?—I am of the contrary opinion.

15279. Your belief is, that in the process of rectification a very considerable loss arises to the rectifier?—To myself of three and a half per cent, at least.

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15280. How do you estimate that loss of three and a half per cent.: does it arise from the cost of the fuel, and the wear and tear, and materials, or is that three and a half per cent. attributable solely to the various restrictions and regulations under which you are placed by the Excise in the course of your manufacture?—I attribute the loss to the nature of the article itself; that it will escape even through the pores of the wood. We buy it concentrated at 11 per cent. over proof, and very often 25 per cent. over proof; and in reducing that to 10 per cent. under proof for rectification, we lose nearly one per cent.

15281. Can you explain how that loss of one per cent. arises?—It loses it in bulk and strength together.

15282. How do you show that it loses one per cent.?—In simply reducing the spirit, we lose one per cent. It is a fact acknowledged by the Excise to be so.

15283. It is admitted by the Excise that you do lose one per cent. in reducing the spirit from the high standard at which you are compelled to take it into your rectifying-house, to the strength at which it is fit for the process of rectification?—I think nearly one per cent. It has then to be re-concentrated, and then afterwards to be again reduced, to send it out at the legal strength of 17 per cent. under proof.

15284. How much does it lose in the second process?—I have put all up to that at two per cent.

15285. Is that loss of two per cent. the result of your experience; do your own books of account show that there is that loss of two per cent.?—Our books of account with the Excise would show, I think, somewhere about three and a half per cent.

15286. Where is the other one and a half per cent. obtained?—The other one and a half per cent. is lost in compounding; that is to say, adding the colouring matter to it which masks the hydrometer.

15287. Is colouring matter put to English gin?—No.

15288. Will you be good enough to consider the question put as applying to gin in the rectification; you estimate that there is two per cent. loss in rectifying gin; does the other one and a half per cent., which you attribute to the colouring matter, apply to gin?—No, the colouring matter cannot apply to gin. But then gin is not always sent out immediately that it is made; and in buying new spirits we are subject to much greater loss, so that you have to average the loss in that way.

15289. But the question you are asked is, what loss in the process of rectification do you attribute as arising from the excise restrictions, in reference to the strength at which you have to take your spirits into your rectifying house; that I understand you to say is two per cent.?—I said that my losses were two per cent.; I did not say from excise restrictions.

15290. What part of your losses arise from excise restrictions?—The distiller might say that it was the excise restriction that obliged him to send it out at from 11 to 25 per cent. over proof.

15291. You say that the excise restrictions entail upon you the necessity of reducing the strength when the spirit comes into your rectifying house, which causes a loss of one per cent., and that afterwards you have to increase the strength, which process also causes another loss of one per cent.?—Yes.

15292. Those are strictly losses attributable to the compulsory high strength at which you are compelled to take the spirits into the rectifying house, I apprehend?—I take the first to be an uncontrollable loss, and the latter I view as belonging especially to the art of rectifying.

15293. Would it be a great advantage to the rectifiers of this country if they were allowed to rectify in bond?—I think it would, certainly.

15294. Do you consider that there would be any difficulty in ascertaining the quantity and strength of spirit after the process of rectifying?—No.

15295. It is as easily ascertained afterwards as before, is not it?—Quite.
15296. It is as easily ascertained after the sweetening process has gone on?—No.
15297. Would there be any difficulty in rectifying in bond, and letting the gin be sweetened when it went into consumption?—With the consent of the Excise the revenue could be made safe under those circumstances; it would be simply an alteration of the law.
15298. You apprehend that there would be a difficulty in accurately charging the duty after the sweetening matter was put into the spirit?—Certainly.
15299. But you see no difficulty in rectifying in bond, and letting the rectified spirits remain in bond, the sweetening process being applied at any subsequent period, after the duty had been paid?—No difficulty to the manufacturer, certainly.
15300. And if that privilege were allowed to the rectifier, is it your impression that there would be any extensive trade with foreign ports?—Yes, very considerable indeed. I think that Englishmen, having been punished so desperately as they have with high duties, have acquired great facility and knowledge in the manipulation of the spirits, so that their power of imitating other spirits is now so great that it would be brought vastly to bear in all foreign markets.
15301. Then your impression is, that we could successfully compete with the Dutch distiller and rectifier, if we were allowed to rectify spirits in bond?—Undoubtedly.
15302. Do you know whether spirits are sent from the country or from Europe in any quantity to the British colonies?—I know that there is a great quantity of gin imported in bottles from Holland here, in imitation of English gin, and sent to our colonies.
15303. Can you state to the Committee about what quantity that is?—About 500,000 gallons, and at a very exorbitant profit.
15304. Is it your belief, that in case this privilege were extended to rectifiers, that trade would come to this country instead of going to Holland?—I really think that spirits might be made so cheaply in this country, that we could compete with all the world. I think we could get spirits at 18*d.* a gallon.
15305. At the present time, the exportation of your gin is prohibited in consequence of there being no drawback allowed?—Yes, there is no exportation.
15306. If you wished to send your gin to Jamaica, you must send it at the duty-paid price?—I believe that is the case.
15307. Would a large trade also spring up in British gin with the Australian colonies?—Yes.
15308. With the British North American colonies also, I believe?—Most likely; nothing could stop it where the English go.
15309. And also with the United States?—With America; there can be no question of it.
15310. Assuming that difficulties occur to the Government which do not occur to you with regard to facilities for rectifying in bond, would it not be practicable that the rectifier should have the privilege, after having rectified the spirits, of placing them in warehouses of special security, and of receiving a drawback of the duty on exportation?—I think it perfectly practicable, and it would be a very great boon to the trade generally, as I think it would not require more than half the capital that is now employed in the trade if such a privilege were granted.
15311. And consequently, by reason of employing a less capital, they would be able to produce a cheaper spirit to the public?—Yes, and of infinitely better quality by that means, foreign spirits being allowed two or three years to ameliorate. The English rectified spirit requires also the same privilege ere it can arrive at perfection.

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15312. You state it as the result of your experience, that English spirits do improve very much in quality by age?—It is so, in my experience, most certainly. I notice that the trade themselves even like gin some months old.

15313. Then your belief is, that if the privilege were conceded, it would be a very great boon to the rectifying trade in particular, and advantageous to commerce generally?—One of infinite amount; a great national benefit.

15314. And you are practically shut out now by the existing arrangement, and are entirely excluded from supplying British spirits to the British colonies?—Entirely.

15315. Have you any further information to give to the Committee?—I have nothing further at this late hour.

[Faint mirrored text from the reverse side of the page, including names like 'Mr. Betts', 'Mr. G. S. ...', and dates like '11 May 1848'.]

[Faint mirrored text at the bottom of the page, including the word 'COPIES' and 'of any laws or Ordinances'.]

A P P E N D I X.

COPIES of any LAWS or ORDINANCES now in force in the *West India Colonies* and *Mauritius*, in respect to VAGRANCY.

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
8 March 1848.

HERMAN MERIVALE.

L I S T.

JAMAICA	- - -	5 December 1839	- - -	No. 3315.	
"	- - -	22 December 1840	- - -	No. 3408.	
BAHAMAS	- - -	12 November 1833	- - -	No. 838.	4 Will. 4, c. 11.
"	- - -	26 May 1836	- - -	No. 918.	6 Will. 4, c. 6.
"	- - -	21 June 1839	- - -	No. 975.	3 Vict. c. 3.
"	- - -	9 January 1844	- - -	No. 1101.	7 Vict. c. 3.
"	- - -	3 February 1846	- - -	No. 1152.	9 Vict. c. 12.
BARBADOS	- - -	7 January 1840	- - -	No. 709.	
ST. VINCENT	- - -	6 September 1839	- - -	No. 390.	
TOBAGO	- - -	28 March 1839	- - -	No. 321.	
ANTIGUA	- - -	31 July 1834	- - -	No. 381.	
ST. CHRISTOPHER	- - -	21 October 1847	- - -	No. 370.	
VIRGIN ISLANDS	- - -	9 April 1839	- - -	No. 113.	
DOMINICA	- - -	9 May 1840	- - -	No. 440.	
BRITISH GUIANA	} Order in Council, 7 September 1838; Vagrancy. } Do. - do. - 6 October 1838; Crown Lands Occupation.				
TRINIDAD					
ST. LUCIA					
MAURITIUS					

COPIES of any LAWS or ORDINANCES now in force in the *West India Colonies* and *Mauritius*, in respect to VAGRANCY.

J A M A I C A.

3 VICT. c. 18.

(No. 3315.)

AN ACT for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, Rogues and Vagabonds, and Incurable Rogues.—[5 December 1839.]

Appendix.

JAMAICA.

Vagrancy.

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, and incurable rogues, within this island: May it please your Majesty that it may be enacted; Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this your Majesty's island of Jamaica, that every person being able wholly or in part to maintain himself or herself, or his wife, or his or her children or child, by work or other lawful means, and who shall wilfully refuse or neglect so to do, and thereby become burdensome, or render his wife, or his or her children or child burdensome, upon any parochial or other funds set apart for the relief of the poor; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous or indecent manner; and every person who is able to labour, or who is receiving parochial aid, and who shall be found wandering abroad, or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, lane, court, piazza, or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person, within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him by his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the house of correction, there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour,

Preamble.

Who are to be deemed idle and disorderly persons, and, on conviction, how to be punished.

Proviso. Certain exceptions with regard to beggars.

for any time not exceeding one calendar month; provided, nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such justice before whom he or she shall be charged with such offence, that such offender could, by his or her own labour or other means, or by parochial funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life.

Who are to be deemed rogues and vagabonds, and, on conviction, how to be punished.

2. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending to be a dealer in obeah or myalism; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device by palmistry, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive or impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wandering abroad and lodging in any outhouse or shed, or in any deserted or unoccupied building, or in any mill, sugar or coffee works, watch-house, trash-house, or other buildings, or within any cane, coffee, provision piece, pasture, or inclosure, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving any good account of himself or herself; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public place, or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person wandering abroad and endeavouring, by the exposure of wounds or deformities, to obtain or gather alms; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions of any nature or kind whatsoever, under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person running away and leaving his wife, or his or her child or children, chargeable, or whereby she or they, or any of them, shall become chargeable to any parish, or burdensome upon any individual, or any parochial or other fund set apart for the use of the poor; every person playing or betting in any street, road, highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, or out-building, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; every person being found in or upon any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, outhouse, or lock-up place, in which goods are kept, or in any inclosed yard, pen, garden, or crane, for any unlawful purpose; every suspected person or reputed thief frequenting any wharf, or warehouse near or adjoining thereto, or any street, highway, or avenue leading thereto, or any public place of resort, or any avenue leading thereto, or any street, highway, or place adjacent thereto, with intent to commit felony; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall be so apprehended, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him, on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the house of correction, there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 60 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty, and the same shall be destroyed or sold by order of the justice, and if sold, the proceeds applied to the use of the parish in which such conviction shall take place.

Instruments used by them to be forfeited and destroyed, or sold for the use of the parish.

Who are to be deemed incorrigible rogues, and, on conviction, how to be punished.

3. And be it further enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined by virtue of this Act, and every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be and duly convicted thereof, and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any two justices of the peace to commit such offender to the house of correction, there to remain until the next quarter sessions of the peace, then and there to be tried as hereinafter mentioned.

Constable, police, or peace officer, to apprehend offender, and take him or her before a justice.

Proviso. If no officer near at hand, any other person may apprehend offender, and carry him or her before a justice, or deliver him or her to a constable or peace officer.

Constable or peace officer refusing or neglecting to apprehend

4. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any constable or police or peace officer whatsoever to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as is hereinbefore directed: Provided always, that in case no such constable, peace or police officer, shall be within a reasonable distance of the place where such offender shall be so found, it shall be lawful for any person whomsoever to apprehend such offender, and forthwith thereafter to carry him or her before some justice of the peace, or to deliver him or her to any constable or other peace officer of the place where he or she shall have been apprehended, to be so taken and conveyed as aforesaid; and in case any constable or other peace officer shall refuse, or willingly neglect, to take such offender into his custody, and to take and convey him or her before any justice of the peace, or shall not use his best endeavours to apprehend and convey before some justice of the peace any person that

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that he shall find offending against this Act, it shall be deemed a neglect of duty in such constable or other peace officer, and he shall on conviction be punished in such manner as is hereinafter directed.

offender to be punished as directed in clause 8.

5. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed, or is suspected to have committed, any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

Justice to issue warrant to apprehend any person committing, or suspected to have committed, any of the offences against this Act, to be dealt with as therein directed.

6. And be it further enacted, that when any such idle and disorderly person, rogue, or vagabond shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance, as hereinafter directed, to prosecute such appeal, such justice shall require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to appear at the next quarter sessions to give evidence against such offender touching such offence; and the justices of the peace at their said quarter sessions are hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of any person who shall have become bound in any such recognizance, to order the churchwarden of the parish to pay unto such prosecutor, and unto the witness or witnesses on his or her behalf, such sum or sums of money as to the court may seem reasonable and sufficient to reimburse such prosecutor and such witness or witnesses respectively, for the expenses he, she, or they shall have severally been put to, and for his or their trouble and loss of time in and about such prosecution, which order the clerk of the peace is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and deliver to such prosecutor, or unto such witness or witnesses; and the said churchwarden is hereby authorized and required, upon sight of such order, forthwith to pay unto such prosecutor, or other person or persons authorized to receive the same, such money as aforesaid, and the said churchwarden shall be allowed the same in his account; and in case any such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance, it shall be lawful for such justice of the peace to commit such person or persons so refusing to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

When any offender shall give notice of his or her intent to appeal against conviction, justice to bind parties and witnesses to appear at next quarter sessions, and justices at quarter sessions, on application, to order payment of prosecutor and witness' expenses.

7. And be it further enacted, that when any incorrigible rogue shall have been committed to the house of correction, there to remain until the next quarter sessions for trial before the said justices at quarter sessions, it shall be lawful for the court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and on conviction to order, if they think fit, that such offender be imprisoned in the house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

Any person refusing to enter into recognizance may be confined until he or she complies, or is otherwise discharged.

8. And be it further enacted, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act, or in case any person shall disturb, hinder, or obstruct any constable or other peace officer in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted before any justice of the peace upon the oath of one or more witnesses, every such offender shall, for every such offence, forfeit any sum not exceeding 20 l.; and in case such offender shall not pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant from such justice; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful to commit the person so offending to any lawful place of confinement, there to be kept for any time not exceeding 30 days, or until such fine be paid; and the said justices shall cause the said fine, when paid, to be paid over to the churchwarden for the use of the parish.

When any incorrigible rogue is committed to house of correction for trial at quarter sessions, the court to examine into the case, and, on conviction, may order offender to six months' hard labour.

Constable or peace officer neglecting his duty, or any person obstructing either of them in the performance thereof, to forfeit 20 l., and in case of non-payment to be distrained for; in failure of goods, offender to be imprisoned for 30 days, or until fine is paid.

9. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable or other person or persons to enter at any time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him, or any other justice of the peace, every such idle and disorderly person, rogue, and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue, as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

On information that any offender is suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, justice to issue a warrant to a constable to enter and apprehend offender.

10. And be it further enacted, that the justice of the peace before whom any conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue, under this Act, shall take place, shall, and he is hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the next quarter sessions, there to be filed and kept of record and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the peace, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any justice of the peace acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

Conviction before justice to be transmitted to quarter sessions to be recorded, and a copy may be given as evidence in any court, or before a justice acting under this Act.

11. And be it enacted, that the conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue under this Act, shall be in the form following, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit; that is to say:

Form of conviction.

JAMAICA, ss.—In the parish of _____, —Be it remembered, that on the _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____ at _____ in the county of _____ is convicted before me _____, for that he the said _____ did (specify the offence, time and place when and where the same was committed, as the case may be); and I the said _____ adjudge the said _____ for the said offence, to be imprisoned, or to solitary confinement, in the house of correction, and there, or on the streets and highways, kept to hard labour for the space of _____ days ensuing from the date hereof, this day to be accounted one.

Given under my hand and seal, the day and year first above mentioned.

A. B., Justice of the Peace.

12. And

When any person is aggrieved by any act or determination of a justice, he may appeal to quarter sessions, giving notice to such justice, and must enter into recognizance, with a surety, to prosecute appeal, and thereupon such person is to be discharged.

If appeal is dismissed, or conviction affirmed, offender is to be apprehended and punished. Appellant bound to prosecute within a certain time.

An Act of 35 Ch. 2, "For punishing idle Persons and Vagabonds," and another of 32 Geo. 3, "For establishing Workhouses," repealed.

12. And be it further enacted, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any justice of the peace, in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the said quarter sessions, giving to the justice of the peace whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, and entering within seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a justice of the peace, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizance being entered into, such justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; and the said quarter sessions shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and in case of the dismissal of the appeal, or the affirmation of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender, according to the conviction: Provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his said appeal before the next sitting of the said quarter sessions, in case such sitting shall not happen within the same period, but if such sitting shall be had within such seven days, then at the next succeeding quarter sessions, and not afterwards.

13. And whereas doubts have arisen whether the Act passed in the 35th year of the reign of Charles the Second, intitled "An Act for punishing idle Persons and Vagabonds, and for the Relief of the Poor," and the Act passed in the 32d year of the reign of George the Third, intitled "An Act for establishing Workhouses in the several Parishes of this Island," have been repealed, and it is expedient to remove such doubts: Be it therefore enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act, the said Act intitled "An Act for punishing idle Persons and Vagabonds, and for the Relief of the Poor," passed in the 35th year of the reign of Charles the Second, and also the said Act passed in the 32d year of the reign of his Majesty George the Third, intitled "An Act for establishing public Workhouses in the several Parishes of this Island," be and the same are hereby repealed.

4 Vict. c. 42.

(No. 3408.)

AN ACT to amend an Act for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, Rogues, and Vagabonds, and Incurrible Rogues.—[22 December 1840.]

Preamble.

Second section of last Vagrant Act repealed.

What constitutes rogues and vagabonds,

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Act passed last session, intitled "An Act for the Punishment of idle and disorderly Persons, Rogues and Vagabonds, and incurrible Rogues:" Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this island, that the second section of the said Act be and stand repealed.

2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person committing any of the offences in the first section of the said Act mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending to be a dealer in obeah or myalism; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device by palmistry, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive or impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wandering abroad, and lodging in any outhouse or shed, or in any deserted or unoccupied building, or in any mill, sugar, or coffee-works, watch-house, trash-house, or other buildings, or within any cane, coffee, provision-piece, pasture, or inclosure, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving any account of himself or herself; any person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his [or her] person in any street, public place, or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person wandering abroad, and endeavouring, by the exposure of wounds or deformities to obtain or gather alms; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions of any nature or kind whatsoever under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person running away and leaving his wife, or his or her wife or children, chargeable, or whereby she or they, or any of them, shall become chargeable to any parish, or any parochial or other fund set apart for the use of the poor; every person playing or betting in any street, road, highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, or outbuilding, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; every person being found in or upon any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, outhouse, or lock-up place in which goods are kept, or in any inclosed yard, pen, garden, or crane, for any unlawful purpose; every suspected person or reputed thief frequenting any wharf, or warehouse near or adjoining thereto, or any street, highway, or avenue leading thereto, or any public place of resort, or any avenue leading thereto, or any street, highway, or place adjacent thereto, with intent to commit felony; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall be so apprehended, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the house of correction, there to be kept

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kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such pick-lock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty, and the same shall be destroyed or sold by order of the justice, and if sold the proceeds applied to the use of the parish in which such conviction shall take place.

B A H A M A S.

WILL. 4, c. 2.

(No. 833.)

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AN ACT to prevent the resort of Rogues, Vagabonds, and other Idle and Disorderly Persons to the Bahama Islands; for the Punishment and Correction of certain Offences therein specified; and for other Purposes therein mentioned.—[12 November 1833.]

WHEREAS it is highly necessary and proper that the resort to these islands of rogues, vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons, should be prevented; May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it therefore enacted by his excellency Blayne Townley Balfour, esq., Lieutenant-governor of your Majesty's Bahama Islands, the Council and Assembly of these islands, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, that all persons of idle, drunken, or other disorderly habits, not exercising any regular trade or calling, and without visible means of livelihood, and who, on being examined touching such their habits, and absence of employment, and want of honest means of subsistence, shall not satisfy the magistracy of the correctness of their lives, shall be deemed and taken as vagrants within the meaning of this Act, and liable to be dealt with as such according to the provisions of the same.

Preamble.

Who deemed vagrants.

2. And be it further enacted, that any two magistrates, or any one magistrate in islands on which there shall not be more than three, shall have power to summon, or by warrant of arrest cause to be brought before him or them any person charged with vagrancy, and the party so accused and all others who may have given evidence for or against such party in the premises, on oath to examine, and the said party and witnesses, should they refuse to be so sworn and examined, to prison to commit, until purged of such their contempt and contumacy to the satisfaction of the said magistrates or magistrate; and if the said magistrates or magistrate shall after a summary trial of the case, find the accused party guilty of vagrancy within the meaning of this Act as aforesaid, the said magistrates or magistrate shall commit the person so convicted to any goal, workhouse, house of correction, or other place of confinement, for one calendar month, unless the party so convicted shall at the time of his or her conviction, or before the expiration of the said month, enter into recognizance with one or more sureties, before and to the satisfaction of some magistrate, to be of good behaviour and keep the peace for at least six months; and upon a second conviction for a like offence, the offender may be in like manner committed for two months, and also kept at hard or moderate labour, at the discretion of the magistrates or magistrate as aforesaid; and if, after a second conviction, any offender shall persist in his or her vicious or disorderly courses, the judges of the general court, or the chief or other presiding justice of the same for the time being, shall on complaint to them or him made, proceed in like manner as aforesaid against the party accused and on conviction commit all delinquents to confinement as aforesaid, at hard labour or otherwise as aforesaid, for not less than three, nor more than 12 calendar months; and upon such second or third conviction, the delinquent shall not be enlarged as a matter of right, as upon a first conviction, on entering into recognizance as aforesaid, unless with the consent and approbation, and at the discretion of the magistrates or magistrate, justices or justice, who shall have committed him or her, or of two other magistrates or justices aforesaid.

Two magistrates, or one where there shall not be two resident on the island, to take cognizance of vagrancy.

3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all persons who shall, for hire, gain, or reward, act, represent, or perform, or cause to be acted, represented, or performed, any interlude, tragedy, comedy, opera, farce, play, or other like entertainment, or any part or parts therein, not being authorized by licence under the hand and seal of his excellency the Governor or Commander-in-Chief for the time being, and all persons playing or betting at unlawful games or plays, shall be deemed rogues and vagabonds, within the true intent and meaning of this Act.

Who deemed rogues and vagabonds.

4. And whereas, it would greatly conduce to the quiet and comfort of the well-disposed inhabitants of the island of New Providence, if the several places of public resort therein, and the streets and highways in the same, should not be infested by noisy and turbulent persons, idly and offensively assembled in greater or lesser numbers, to the obstruction of passengers and general annoyance of the neighbourhood; be it further enacted, that all assemblages of persons of either or both sexes, and of whatsoever age, by day or night, on the public parade, or in or about the market-house, the vendue-house, or elsewhere, in or near the streets or highways aforesaid, for any lewd, vicious, idle, or disorderly purpose or purposes whatsoever, or otherwise than in the regular performance or in pursuance of some lawful duty, calling, employment or object; all loitering, carousing, or the like, in or about any shop or place where liquors are sold by retail; all loud wrangling, scolding, quarrelling, shouting,

All assemblages of persons in or near the vendue-house, market-house, or elsewhere in or near the streets, &c., for any lewd, vicious, idle, or disorderly purpose, declared to be unlawful. All loitering, carousing, or the like, in or about

any shop or place where liquors are sold by retail, all loud wrangling, scolding, quarrelling, shouting, singing, or whistling, &c., all violent, scurrilous, or highly abusive terms, &c., also declared to be unlawful.

shouting, singing, or whistling, in or near the streets or highways; all violent, scurrilous, or highly abusive terms of reproach, tending to a breach of the peace, in or near the same; all profane cursing or swearing, obscene or other indecent language, in or near the same; all indecent exposure of the person within view of the same; all wanton discharging of guns, pistols, or other fire-arms, and firing of rockets, squibs, crackers, or other fire-works, in or near the same, or on the public parades as aforesaid; all playing of cricket, or other like game or games, on the said parades, or in or near the said streets or highways; and all flying of kites or other like pastimes in or near the same; be, and the same, and each and every of the same, are hereby declared to be unlawful, and shall subject all those therein offending to such punishment as is hereinafter provided in such cases. And it shall be the duty of all constables, on being credibly informed of the existence of any such disorders as aforesaid, to repair without delay to the place designated, in order to repress or assist in repressing the same; and any person who shall presume to resist, abuse, disturb, or otherwise wilfully impede, or wantonly insult, threaten, or otherwise annoy any constable in the performance of any duty required of him as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to punishment as is hereinafter provided.

Two magistrates to take cognizance of the offences last mentioned.

Punishment of offenders.

When the offence shall be of an aggravated or peculiar nature, magistrates to proceed in the same manner as if this Act had not been passed.

Duty of masters of vessels arriving in any port within these islands.

£. 10 penalty on masters of vessels neglecting or refusing to make a report to a magistrate.

If it shall appear that any passenger has not any visible means of livelihood, or has been considered in the place whence he last came in the light of an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue, vagabond, or swindler, such magistrate shall immediately report the same to the Governor, who is authorized to direct such magistrate to issue a warrant to the master of such vessel in which such passenger shall have arrived, ordering and requiring him to keep such passenger on board his vessel, and to convey him to the port from whence such vessel shall have departed, or any other port or place without the limits of this government.

On masters of vessels refusing to obey and comply with such order or warrant, the surties shall forfeit the sum of 200 l.

Rogues confined in gaol, how dealt with.

5. And be it further enacted, that any two magistrates may take cognizance of the several offences in the section last aforesaid enumerated, and try the offenders in a summary way for the same, by summoning or by warrant of arrest causing the party accused to be brought before them, and all necessary witnesses for or against such party in that behalf on oath to examine, and on conviction to punish them by fine, imprisonment, and payment of the costs of prosecution, or any or either of the three, the fine for each offence not to exceed 5 l., or the term of imprisonment 20 days; provided however, that when any person so convicted shall be an old or hardened offender of general bad character, well known loose and disorderly course, hard labour, solitary confinement, sitting in the stocks once or twice for not more than two hours at a time, or if a male, whipping, but with not more than 39 stripes for one offence, may be added to the sentence; the hard labour or solitary confinement to be limited and regulated by the ordinary regulations of the prison to which the offender may be committed; provided however, that when the offence shall appear to the said magistrates of an aggravated or otherwise of a peculiar nature, by reason of which the purposes of justice would be better promoted by a trial in the general court, the magistrates may proceed in the premises in the same manner as if this Act had not been passed; and provided also, that if, by reason of any of the disorders aforesaid, individuals shall have suffered injury in person or property, no conviction or sentence as aforesaid shall be a bar to any civil action that may be brought for damages touching the premises.

5. And whereas many persons have resorted to the Bahama Islands from parts beyond sea not under the dominion of his Majesty, greatly to the danger of the peace and good order of the same; be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any vessel shall arrive in the port or harbour of Nassau, or at any other port or place within the government of the Bahamas, from any port or place not under the dominion of his Majesty, that the master or other person having the command thereof shall, within 24 hours after the arrival of such vessel in such port or harbour, report upon oath to the acting magistrate or some other magistrate, the name and description of every passenger being on board the said vessel at the time of her arrival, and of what profession, trade, or occupation every such passenger may be, under penalty of 10 l. for every neglect or refusal to do so, which penalty shall be levied by warrant under the hand and seal of the police or other magistrate as aforesaid, who is hereby authorized to issue such warrant; and in case no goods and chattels of such offender or offenders can be found, and the said penalty shall not be paid, then the said police or other magistrate as aforesaid is hereby authorized and empowered to commit the person or persons so offending to the common gaol for any time not exceeding 30 days; and if it shall appear by such report or any other authentic information to the said magistrate, that any such passenger hath not any visible means of livelihood, or is or hath been considered in the place or places from whence he or they last came, in the light of an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue, vagabond, or swindler, such magistrate shall immediately thereupon report the same to his Excellency the Governor, who is hereby authorized and empowered to order and direct the said magistrate to issue a warrant under the hand and seal of such magistrate, to be directed to the master or other person having the command of the vessel in which such passenger shall have arrived, thereby ordering and requiring such master or other person to take and keep such passenger on board his said vessel, and to convey him, her, or them either back to the port or place from whence such vessel shall have departed upon the commencement of her voyage, or to any other port or place to which she may be bound without the limits of the Bahama Islands; and every master or other person having the command of such vessel refusing to obey and comply with such order or warrant, the surties of such vessel shall forfeit and pay the sum of 200 l., to be sued for and recovered in the general court of these islands, by bill, plaint, or information, in the name of the King; all which sums when recovered shall go and be applied in aid and support of this government.

7. And whereas such rogues, vagabonds, and others are frequently of such evil and wicked dispositions as to be callous to shame and indifferent to punishment and correction, and are oftentimes confined in the common gaol for offences not within this Act, to the expense and inconvenience of this government; be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any such person or persons so confined shall appear to be unable to maintain him- self,

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self, herself, or themselves in the said gaol, he, she, or they, if not British subjects, may, by order of the Governor or Commander-in-chief for the time being, by and with the advice of his Majesty's Council, upon application to him made by any two or more magistrates, be sent to any port or place without the limits of the Bahama Islands, the passage-money and other necessary expenses of such person or persons to be paid out of the public treasury of these islands, by warrant under the hand and seal of the said Governor or Commander-in-chief.

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8. And whereas there are sometimes persons who by lunacy or otherwise are furiously mad, or are so far disordered in their senses that it may be dangerous for them to be permitted to go abroad; be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any two or more justices of the peace, where such lunatic or mad person shall be found, by warrant under their hand and seal, directed to any constable, to cause such person to be apprehended and kept safely locked up in some secure place within the island or district where such lunatic or mad person shall be found, until the care and custody of such lunatic or other mad person shall be demanded by his or her nearest relations or friends, or until he or she shall be removed out of such custody as aforesaid, by legal process out of chancery or otherwise; and the reasonable charges of keeping and maintaining such person during such restraint, by order of the magistrates as aforesaid, shall be paid and satisfied (the charges being first proved upon oath) by order of any two or more justices of the peace, directing the provost marshal or any constable to seize and sell so much of the goods and chattels of such person as is necessary for that purpose, and to account to the general court for what is so seized and sold; and in default of such goods and chattels, the same to be paid for out of the public treasury.

Lunatics, how dealt with.

9. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall be sued for anything done in pursuance of this Act, he or they may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence; and if judgment shall be given for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall discontinue his or their suit, or be nonsuited, judgment shall be entered up for double costs for such defendant or defendants.

Persons sued for anything done in pursuance of this Act may plead the general issue.

10. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be and remain in full force and virtue from and after the passing thereof for and during the term of 10 years, and from thence to the end of the then next session of the General Assembly, and no longer.

Ten years' duration.

6 WILL. 4, c. 6.

(No. 918.)

AN ACT for extending to the Out Islands of this Colony certain provisions of an Act of the General Assembly, passed in the fourth year of his Majesty's reign, intitled "An Act to prevent the resort of rogues, vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons to the Bahama Islands; for the punishment and correction of certain offences therein specified; and for other purposes."—[26 May 1836.]

WHEREAS the 4th and 5th sections of an Act of the General Assembly of these islands, passed in the fourth year of your Majesty's reign, intitled "An Act to prevent the resort of rogues, vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons to the Bahama Islands; for the punishment and correction of certain offences therein specified; and for other purposes," provide only for the punishment of offences therein mentioned that may be committed on the island of New Providence; and whereas it is expedient that the provisions of the said 4th and 5th sections of the said Act should be extended to and be in force in the several other islands and districts throughout the colony: May it &c., that from and after the passing of this Act the whole of the said 4th and 5th sections of the before mentioned Act should be extended to and be in force in the several islands and districts throughout the colony, as fully and effectually as if the said islands and districts had been therein mentioned, anything in the aforesaid Act, or any part thereof, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Certain clauses of 4 Will. 4, c. 11, extended to the out islands.

2. That this Act shall continue and be in force for and during the continuance of the before recited Act of Assembly, and no longer.

Duration.

3 VICT. c. 3.

(No. 975.)

AN ACT for the better Suppression of Vagrancy, and for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, and Rogues, Vagabonds, and other Vagrants.—[21 June 1839.]

WHEREAS it is necessary that further provision should be made for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, and rogues, vagabonds, and other vagrants; May it therefore please your Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by his excellency Colonel Francis Cockburn, Lieutenant-governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Bahama Islands, the Council and Assembly of the said islands, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, that every person being able wholly or in part to maintain himself or herself, or his or her family, by labour, or by other means, and wilfully refusing or neglecting so to do, by which refusal or neglect he or she, or any of his or her family, whom he or she may be legally bound to maintain, shall have become burdensome upon the public funds of this colony; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort within these islands, and behaving

Preamble.

Who shall be deemed idle and disorderly persons.

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Punishment of same, on conviction.

Proviso.

Who shall be deemed rogues and vagabonds under this Act.

Punishment of such persons on conviction.

Who shall be deemed incorrigible rogues.

Punishment of same.

Police or other constable to apprehend offenders against this Act.

Punishment of same when refusing or neglecting so to do.

behaving in a riotous or indecent manner; and every person wandering abroad, or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, court or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing or procuring or encouraging any child or children to do so, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person, within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender (being thereof convicted before him by his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence, upon oath, of one or more credible witness or witnesses) to any lawful place of confinement, there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 14 days; provided nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing or procuring or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the stipendiary justice before whom he or she shall be charged with such offence, that the offender, by his or her own labour, or by other lawful means, or from any public funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life.

2. And be it further enacted, that every person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device, by palmistry, obeh, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects, or upon any other person; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibitions; every person wilfully, openly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public road or highway, or in view thereof, or in any public place of resort; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions, of any nature or kind, under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street, road or highway, market or wharf, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming whatsoever, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, office, church, chapel cellar, coach-house, stable or out building, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger cutlass, bludgeon or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument whatsoever, with intent to commit any felonious act; every person being found in or upon any dwelling house, warehouse, store, shop, office, church, chapel, cellar, coach-house, stable or outhouse, or in any inclosed yard, garden, orchard, plantation or farm, for any felonious purpose; every suspected person or reputed thief, frequenting any wharf or any warehouse near or adjoining thereto, or any street, highway or avenue leading thereto, or any public auction or sale, or other place of public resort, or any avenue leading thereto, or any street, highway or place adjacent, with intent to commit felony; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall have been so apprehended, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond, within the true intent and meaning of this Act. And it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender (being thereof convicted before him on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence, on oath, of one or more credible witness or witnesses) to any lawful place of confinement as aforesaid, there, or on the public streets, roads, or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty, and shall be forthwith sold, and the proceeds thereof applied towards the expenses of the government of this colony.

3. And be it further enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement, before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined, by virtue of this Act; every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be, and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall have been so apprehended, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue, within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender (being thereof convicted before him, on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses) to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next ensuing term of the superior court of criminal justice for the jurisdiction within which the offence shall have been committed, then and there to be dealt with as hereinafter directed; and every such offender who shall be so committed, shall be kept to hard labour during the period of his or her confinement.

4. And be it further enacted, that it shall lawful for any police or other constable or peace officer to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some stipendiary justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as hereinbefore directed; and in case any police or other constable or peace officer shall refuse or wilfully neglect to take any such offender into his custody, and to take and convey him or her before some stipendiary justice of the peace, or shall not use his best endeavours to apprehend and convey before some such justice any person whom he shall

shall find offending against this Act, it shall be deemed a neglect of duty in such police or other constable or peace officer, and he shall, on conviction, be punished in such manner as hereinafter directed.

5. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed or is suspected to have committed any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other stipendiary justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

6. And be it further enacted, that when any stipendiary justice, as aforesaid, shall commit any such incorrigible rogue to prison as aforesaid, there to remain until the next term of superior court of criminal justice, as aforesaid; or when any such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, or incorrigible rogue, shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance, as hereinafter directed, to prosecute such appeal, such stipendiary justice shall require the person or persons by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to be material to prove the offence and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to appear at the next session of such court, as the case may be, to give evidence against such offender, touching such offence; and the chief justice or other presiding judge of such court is respectively hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of any person who shall have become bound in any such recognizance, to order the receiver-general and treasurer of the colony, or the receiver of colonial duties at Grand Cay, Turks Islands, to pay unto such prosecutor, and unto the witness or witnesses on his or her behalf, such sum or sums of money as to such chief justice or other judge may seem reasonable and sufficient to reimburse such prosecutor and such witness or witnesses for the expenses he, she, or they have been severally put to, and for his, her, or their trouble and loss of time, in and about such prosecution, which order the clerk of the Crown is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and deliver to such prosecutor, or unto such witness or witnesses, and the said receiver-general and treasurer, or receiver of colonial duties, as the case may be, is hereby authorized and required, upon sight of such order, with the warrant of the Governor attached thereto, forthwith to pay unto such prosecutor or other person or persons authorized to receive the same, such money as aforesaid; and the said receiver-general and treasurer, or receiver of colonial duties, as the case may be, shall be allowed the same in his account with the public; provided that any such allowance to be made to parties, whether in the capacity of prosecutors or witnesses, shall not exceed that made by the existing laws to witnesses in attendance on the general and other courts of the colony. And in case any such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance, it shall be lawful for such stipendiary justice to commit such person or persons so refusing, to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

7. And be it further enacted, that when any incorrigible rogue shall be committed to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next term of such superior court as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the justices or justice of such court in term to inquire into the circumstances of the case, and to order, if such justices or justice shall think fit, that such offender be further imprisoned in some lawful place of confinement, and there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

8. And be it further enacted, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act; or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any constable or other peace officer in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted, upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses, before one or more stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, every such offender shall, for every such offence, forfeit any sum not exceeding 20*l.* sterling; and in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant from such stipendiary justice or justices; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful to commit the person so offending to any lawful place of confinement, there to be kept for any time not exceeding 30 days, or until such fine be sooner paid: and the said stipendiary justice or justices shall cause the said fine, when paid, to be paid over to the receiver-general and treasurer of the colony, to be by him applied towards defraying the contingent expenses of the government of this colony.

9. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is, or is reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or other place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable, or other persons or person, to enter at any time into such house or place, and apprehend and bring before him, or any other stipendiary justice of the peace, every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

10. And be it further enacted, that no proceedings to be had before any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, under the provision of this Act, shall be quashed for want of form, and every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue, under this Act, shall be in the form or to the effect

Stipendiary justice may issue his warrant for the apprehension of suspicious persons.

Incorrigible rogues intending to appeal against the decision of the stipendiary justice must enter into recognizance.

Witnesses necessary to prove the offence must also enter into recognizance to give evidence.

Prosecutor and witnesses to be paid for their time and trouble by order from chief justice.

Clerk of the Crown to make out such order.

Money to be paid by receiver-general on sight of such order, with the Governor's warrant attached.

Proviso.

Imprisonment of incorrigible rogues may, by order of superior court, be extended.

Constables refusing or neglecting to perform their duty, and persons disturbing them in the exercise of such duty, how punished.

Stipendiary justices to issue their warrant for the apprehension of rogues, when concealed in a house.

No proceedings to be quashed for want of form.

Appendix.

Every conviction to be transmitted to the clerk of the Crown.

Such conviction to be received as evidence in any court of record, or by any stipendiary justice.

Persons aggrieved may appeal to the general court, where act complained of was performed.

Notice of such appeal to be given stipendiary justices, and within seven days the complainant must enter into recognizance to appear and prosecute. Such notice, &c. being given, the person to be released.

Court to hear and determine on such appeal.

Proviso.

All prosecutions under this Act to be commenced within three months after the fact committed.

Notice in writing of such action to be given the defendant one month before its commencement.

No plaintiff to recover when a sufficient tender of amends has been made.

When defendant shall recover treble costs.

Defendant not chargeable with costs, when cast, except by a certificate from court. Stipendiary justices may appoint constables, and swear them.

Who only shall act as stipendiary justices.

1st, 2d, and 3d sections of Act 4 Will. 4, c. 11,

5 Will. 4, c. 17, and all other laws repugnant to this Act, repealed.

Where and when this Act shall take effect.

Five years' duration.

Set forth in Schedule (A.) hereunto annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit; and the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, before whom any such conviction shall take place, shall, and he and they is and are hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the clerk of the Crown, at his office in the town of Nassau, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the Crown, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

11. And be it further enacted, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the said general court; or when the act or determination complained of was performed in the parishes of St. George or St. Thomas, to any superior court having jurisdiction within the said parishes, giving to the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, and entering within seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient sureties, before a stipendiary justice of the peace, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizance being entered into, such stipendiary justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; and the court to whom any such appeal shall be made shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and in case of the dismissal of the appeal or the affirmance of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender, according to the conviction; provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his or her said appeal at the next sitting of the said court, in case such sitting shall not happen within the said period of seven days; but if such sitting shall be had within such seven days, then at the next succeeding term of the said court, and not afterwards.

12. And for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this Act, it is further enacted, that all actions or prosecutions to be commenced against any such person or persons, for anything done in pursuance of this Act, shall be laid and tried in the general court of these islands, and shall be commenced within three calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise; and notice in writing of such action, and of the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action is brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought, by or on behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action after issue joined, the defendant shall recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath in law in other cases; and though a verdict be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant, unless the court before whom the trial shall be, shall certify their approbation of the action.

13. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any two or more stipendiary justices of the peace at any time to nominate and appoint any discreet person or persons to be constables or peace officers, for the purposes of this Act, and to swear him or them to the due execution of his or their office.

14. And be it further enacted, that no person shall act or be considered as a stipendiary justice, within the meaning of this Act, save only such persons as being in the receipt of stipends assigned for their maintenance as such justices, shall be named in any commission issued, or hereafter to be issued, in the name and on the behalf of her Majesty, appointing them to act as stipendiary justices for this colony, or for any town, island, or district thereof.

15. And be it further enacted, that the first, second, and third sections of an Act of the General Assembly of these islands, made in the fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, to prevent the resort of rogues, vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons to the Bahama Islands, for the punishment and correction of certain offences therein specified, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and all that other Act of the said General Assembly, made in the fifth year of his said late Majesty's reign, to amend the said last-mentioned Act; and all other laws, or parts of laws, which are in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this Act, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

16. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall commence and take effect within the parishes of Christ Church and St. Matthew, from and immediately after the passing thereof; and in all other parishes, islands, and districts of the colony, from and after the first day of September 1839.

17. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall continue and be in force, from the periods aforesaid, for and during the term of five years, and from thence to the end of the then next session of the General Assembly, and no longer.

SCHEDULE (A.)

BAHAMA ISLANDS, } Be it remembered, that on the _____ day of _____
to wit: } in the year of our Lord _____ at _____ A. B. is
convicted before me, C. D., one of Her Majesty's stipendiary justices of the peace in and
for the Bahama Islands, of being an idle and disorderly person (or a rogue and vagabond,
or an incorrigible rogue, within the intent and meaning of the Act of Assembly, made in
the _____ year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intitled "An Act" (here
insert

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insert the title of this Act); that is to say, for that the said A. B. on the _____ day of _____ at _____ in the said Bahama Islands (here state the offence proved before the magistrate), and for which said offence the said A. B. is ordered to be committed to there (or on the public streets and highways) to be kept to hard labour for the space of _____ (or until the next term of the general or other court).
Given under my hand and seal, the day and year, at the place first above written.

7. VICT. c. 3.

(No. 1101.)

AN ACT to continue in force Two Acts of Assembly for preventing the Resort of Rogues, Vagabonds, and other Idle and Disorderly Persons to the Bahama Islands, and for the Punishment and Correction of certain Offences therein mentioned.—[9 January 1844.]

WHEREAS an Act of the General Assembly of these islands, passed in the fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to prevent the resort of rogues, vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons to the Bahama Islands, for the punishment and correction of certain offences therein specified, and for other purposes therein mentioned;" as also an Act passed in the sixth year of the reign of his said late Majesty, intituled "An Act for extending to the Out Islands of this Colony certain provisions of an Act of the General Assembly, passed in the fourth year of his Majesty's reign, intituled An Act to prevent the resort of rogues, vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly persons to the Bahama Islands, for the punishment and correction of certain offences therein specified, and for other purposes therein mentioned," will expire with the close of the present session of Assembly; and it is expedient that the said Acts should be further continued in force, save and except such parts of the first recited Act as have been repealed by an Act passed in the third year of your Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for the better suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, and rogues and vagabonds, and other vagrants:" May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by his excellency Major-general Sir Francis Cockburn, knight, Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Bahama Islands, the Legislative Council, and Assembly of the said islands, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, that the Acts first and secondly hereinbefore mentioned, save and except such parts of the said first mentioned Act as have been repealed by the Act thirdly hereinbefore mentioned, shall be and continue in force from and after the passing of this Act, for and during the term of 10 years, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Assembly, and no longer.

Preamble.
Acts continued for ten years.

9 VICT. c. 12.

AN ACT to amend an Act, intituled "An Act for the better Prevention of Vagrancy, and for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, and Rogues, Vagabonds, and other Vagrants."—[3 February 1846.]

WHEREAS evil-disposed persons are frequently found at night loitering in and about dwelling and other houses, and in yards and other inclosures, without being able to give any lawful excuse for there being; and it is expedient that some certain punishment should be annexed to the commission of such offence; May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by his excellency George Benvenuto Matthew, esq., Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Bahama Islands, the Legislative Council, and Assembly of the said islands, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, that every person who shall be found in or upon any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, office, church, chapel, or outhouse attached to any dwelling-house, or in any inclosed yard, garden, orchard, plantation, or field, between the setting and rising of the sun (such person not being the owner or occupier, or an inmate or member of the family of the owner or occupier of the premises in question), without being able to give a lawful excuse for being so there, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of the Act to which this Act is an amendment, and shall be liable to be punished as is in and by the said Act directed and provided for.

Preamble.
Penalty on persons being found unlawfully in premises at night time.

2. And be it enacted, that all that Act passed in the seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to amend an Act, intituled An Act for the better prevention of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, and rogues, vagabonds, and other vagrants," shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Former Act repealed.

Appendix.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

Vagrancy.

(No. 709.)

An Act for the Suppression and Punishment of Vagrancy.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incorrigible rogues, or other vagrants in this island: and whereas the administration of justice in this colony is conducted by police magistrates, subject to the revision and superintendence of an assistant court of appeal, composed of three stipendiary justices appointed by the Crown: Be it therefore enacted by his excellency Major-general Sir Evan John Murray Macgregor, baronet, Governor and Commander-in-chief of this island, the honourable the Members of Her Majesty's Council, and the General Assembly of this island, and by the authority of the same, that every person being able, either by labour or by other lawful means, to maintain himself or herself, or his wife, or his or her child or child, who shall wilfully refuse or neglect so to do, and thereby become burdensome, or render his wife or his or her children or child burdensome upon any parochial or other public funds set apart for the relief of the poor; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner; and every person wandering abroad, or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, court, or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing or procuring or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person, within the true intent and meaning of this Act: provided nevertheless that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act, by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing or procuring or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of the police magistrate before whom he or she shall be charged with such offence, that the offender could by his or her own labour, or other lawful means, or by parochial or other public funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police magistrate to commit any such idle and disorderly person, being thereof convicted before him by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of confinement, there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 14 days.

Clause 1.

Persons becoming wilfully burdensome,

behaving indecently,

begging alms, encouraging others in like practices, shall come within this Act.

Beggars incapable of obtaining maintenance by other means not amenable.

Magistrates may commit offenders for 14 days.

Fortune-tellers, impostors, persons exposing obscene prints, obtaining money under fraudulent pretex, gamblers, house-breakers,

possessing implement of housebreaking, being armed with intent to commit any felonious act, or resisting legal authority,

may be kept at hard labour 28 days, and sentenced to forfeiture of all guns, implements, &c.

Persons escaping from gaol.

2. And be it further enacted, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device, by palmistry, obeh, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or person in any street, public road, or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street, stelling, or wharf, road, highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, or outbuilding, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument, with intent to commit any felonious act; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any police magistrate to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of imprisonment, there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty, for the uses of the colony.

3. And be it further enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement, before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined by virtue of this Act; and every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be, and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any police magistrate to commit such offender to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next court of grand sessions, then and there to be dealt with as hereinafter directed.

4. And

4. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police officer or constable whatsoever to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some police magistrate, to be dealt with in such manner as hereinbefore directed.

Apprehending offenders.

5. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police magistrate, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed, or is suspected to have committed any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other police magistrate, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

Apprehending suspected persons.

6. And be it further enacted, that when any such idle or disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizances as hereinafter directed to prosecute such appeal, such police magistrate shall require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to appear before the assistant court of appeal to give evidence against such offender touching such offence; and in case any such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance, it shall be lawful for such police magistrate to commit such person or persons so refusing to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

Vagabonds appealing against conviction.

7. And be it further enacted, that when any person shall be committed for trial before the said court of grand sessions, charged with being an incorrigible rogue, it shall be lawful for the court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and on conviction, to order, if they think fit, that such offender be imprisoned in some lawful place of confinement, and there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

Incorrigible rogues may be kept to hard labour for six calendar months.

8. And be it further enacted, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act, or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any constable or other peace officer in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses before any police magistrate, every such offender shall, for every such offence, forfeit any sum not exceeding 20 £; and in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied and raised as in the case of servants' wages.

Constables, &c. neglecting their duty to be fined 20£.

9. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police magistrate, upon information on oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable or other person or persons to enter at any time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him or any other police magistrate every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue, as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

Magistrate may order apprehension of vagabonds.

10. And be it further enacted, that every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue, under this Act, shall be in the form or to the effect set forth in the Schedule (A) hereunto annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit; and the police magistrate before whom any such conviction shall take place, shall, and he and they is and are hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the said court of appeal, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of court, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any police magistrate acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

Form of conviction.

Transmission of convictions.

11. And be it further enacted, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any police magistrate in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the said assistant court of appeal, giving to the police magistrate, whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, and entering within seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a police magistrate, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizance being entered into, such police magistrate is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; and the said assistant court of appeal shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and in case of the dismissal of the appeal or the affirmance of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender according to the conviction: provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his said appeal before the said assistant court of appeal, in the manner herein specified, within such seven days, and not otherwise or afterwards, anything in any law to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Aggrieved persons may appeal.

12. And for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this Act, be it further enacted that all actions or prosecutions to be commenced against any such person or persons, for anything done in pursuance of this Act, shall be laid and tried in the precinct wherein the fact is alleged to be committed, and shall be commenced within three calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise; and notice in writing of such action, and of the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least

Prosecutions against persons acting in the execution of this Act to commence within three months after committing the alleged fact, and notice given to the defendant one calendar

month at least prior to commencing the action.

Defendant to recover treble costs.

Former laws at variance with this Act are repealed.

before the commencement of the action; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action is brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought, by or in behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuited or discontinue any such action after issue joined, the defendant shall recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath in law in other cases; and though a verdict be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant, unless the court before which the trial shall be, shall certify its approbation of the action.

13. And be it further enacted, that all laws and ordinances now in force in this island for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy, or which are in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Act, shall be, and the same are repealed.

Read three times, and passed the General Assembly, this 4th day of December 1839, *nemine contradicente*.

John Mayers, Clerk of the General Assembly.

Read three times and passed the Council unanimously, this 31st of December 1839.

Richard Hart, Acting-clerk of the Council.

Government House, Barbados,
7 January 1840.

E. J. Murray Macgregor, Governor.

SCHEDULE (A.)

BARBADOS, } In the parish (or town) of _____ .—Be it remembered, that on the
to wit: } day of _____ in the year of our Lord at _____
in the said island, is convicted before me _____ for that he the said
did (specify the offence, and time and place when and where the same was committed, as
the case may be); and I, the said _____ adjudge the said _____, for the
said offence, to be imprisoned (or to solitary confinement in the _____), and there
kept to hard labour for the space of _____ days ensuing from the date hereof, this day
to be accounted one. Given under my hand and seal, the day and year first above
mentioned.

A. B., Police Magistrate for the parish of _____

(A true Copy.)

Certified this 15th day of January 1840.

Richard Hart, Acting Colonial Secretary.

SAINT VINCENT.

(No. 390.)

AN ACT for the suppression of Vagrancy, and for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, Rogues and Vagabonds, Incurable Rogues, or other Vagrants.—
[6 September 1839.]

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incurable rogues, or other vagrants in this colony; be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-governor, Council, and Assembly of Saint Vincent and its dependencies, that every person being able, either by labour or by other lawful means, to maintain himself or herself, or his wife, or his or her children or child, who shall wilfully refuse or neglect so to do, and thereby become burdensome, or render his wife, or his or her children or child, burdensome upon any parochial or other public funds set apart for the relief of the poor; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner; and every person wandering abroad or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, court, or passage, to beg, or gather alms, or causing or procuring or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person, within the true intent and meaning of this Act: provided nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act, by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing or procuring or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the stipendiary justice before whom he or she shall be charged with such offence, that the offender could by his or her own labour, or other lawful means, or by parochial or other public funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life; and that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit any such idle or disorderly person, being thereof convicted before him, by his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence

Who deemed idle and disorderly persons.

evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of confinement, there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 14 days.

Who are rogues and vagabonds.

2. And be it enacted, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device, by palmistry, oeah, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public road, or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street or wharf, road, highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coachhouse, stable, or outbuilding, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond, within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him, on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of imprisonment, there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour, for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty for the uses of the said island and its dependencies.

Who are incorrigible rogues.

3. And be it enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed, or ordered to be confined, by virtue of this Act; and every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be, and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue, within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next court of grand sessions of the peace, or the next court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, then and there to be dealt with as hereinafter directed.

Offender apprehended without a warrant.

4. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police officer or constable whatsoever, without warrant, to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some stipendiary justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as hereinbefore directed.

Upon oath a warrant may be issued.

5. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon information, on oath, being made before him that any person hath committed, or is suspected to have committed any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him or some other stipendiary justices of the peace the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

Proceedings on appeal.

6. And be it enacted, that when any such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance, as hereinafter directed, to prosecute such appeal, such stipendiary justice shall require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence, and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to appear at the next court of grand sessions of the peace, or at the next court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, to give evidence against such offender touching such offence; and the court of grand sessions of the peace, or the court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, is hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of any person who shall have become bound in such recognizance, to order the treasurer of this colony, or his lawful deputy, to pay unto such prosecutor, and unto the witness or witnesses respectively, for the expenses he, she, or they shall have severally been put to, and for his, her, or their trouble and loss of time, in and about such prosecution; which order the clerk of the Crown is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and deliver to such prosecutor, or other person or persons authorized to receive such money as aforesaid, and the treasurer, or his lawful deputy, shall be allowed the same in his account; and in case any such person or persons, as aforesaid, shall refuse to enter into such recognizance, it shall be lawful for such stipendiary justice to commit such person or persons so refusing to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

Punishment of offenders.

7. And be it enacted, that when any person shall be committed for trial before the said court of grand sessions of the peace, or the court of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, charged with being an incorrigible rogue, it shall be lawful for such court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and on conviction to order, if they think fit, that such offender be imprisoned in some lawful place of confinement, and there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

Constables and others neglecting their duty, punishment.

8. And be it enacted, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act, or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any constable or other peace officer in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted, upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses, before the court of grand sessions of the peace, or the court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, every such offender shall, for every such offence, forfeit any sum not exceeding 20 £ sterling money; and in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the goods of the said offender, by warrant from the president of such court; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful to commit the person so offending to any lawful place of confinement, there to be kept for any time not exceeding 30 days, or until such fine be paid; and such court shall order the said fine, when paid, to be paid over to the said treasurer for the use of this colony.

Search warrants.

9. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable or other peace officer, or other person or persons, to enter at any time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him, or any other stipendiary justice of the peace, any such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue, as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

Form of conviction.

10. And be it enacted, that every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue under this Act, shall be in the form or to the effect set forth in Schedule (A) hereunto annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit; and the stipendiary justice before whom any such conviction shall take place shall, and he is hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the clerk of the Crown, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the Crown, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any stipendiary justice acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

Sureties to be entered into on appeal.

11. And be it enacted, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the said court of grand sessions of the peace, or the said court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, giving to the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, and entering within seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a stipendiary justice of the peace of this colony, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given and such recognizance being entered into, such stipendiary justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; and the said court of grand sessions of the peace, or the said court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet, and in case of the dismissal of the appeal or the affirmation of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender according to the conviction: provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his said appeal before the next sitting of the said court of grand sessions of the peace, or the next court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, in case such sitting shall not happen within the said period; but if such sitting shall be had within such seven days, then at the next succeeding court of grand sessions of the peace, or at the next court of special commission of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, and not afterwards.

Limitation of prosecutions.

12. And be it enacted, that, for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this Act, all actions or prosecutions to be commenced against any such person or persons for anything done in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within three calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise; and notice in writing of such action, and of the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action is brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought, by or in behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action after issue joined, the defendant shall recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath in law in other cases; and though a verdict be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant, unless the court before which the trial shall be, shall certify its approbation of the action.

13. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any two or more stipendiary justices of the peace at any time to nominate and appoint any discreet person or persons to be constables or peace officers for the purposes of this Act, and to swear him or them to the due execution of his or their office.

Constables may be appointed.

14. And be it enacted, that no person shall act or be considered as a stipendiary justice, within the meaning of this Act, save only such persons as being in the receipt of stipends assigned for their maintenance as such justices, shall be included within a special commission of the peace to be issued in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, appointing them to act as stipendiary justices for this colony, or for some district or districts thereof.

Definition of stipendiary justices.

15. And be it enacted, that all statutes and Acts now in force in this colony for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy, or which are in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Act, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Repeal of all other Acts.

16. And be it enacted, that this Act shall commence and be in force from the publication thereof, and continue until the 31st day of December 1840.

Duration of Act.

SCHEDULE (A.)

SAINT VINCENT, } In the parish [or town] of _____ —Be it remembered, that
to wit, } on the _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord 18____,
at _____, in the island of St. Vincent, _____ is
convicted before me _____ for that he the said _____ did
[specify the offence, and time and place when and where the same was committed, as the
case may be]; and I the said _____ adjudge the said _____ for
the said offence to be imprisoned in the _____, and there kept to hard labour
for the space of _____ days ensuing from the date hereof, this day to be accounted one.

Given under my hand and seal, the day and year first above mentioned.

A. B., Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

Passed the Assembly, this 6th June 1839.

N. Struth, Speaker.

P. Hobson, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 4th day of September 1839.

John Beresford, Clerk of Council.

In accordance with my instructions I assent.

George Tyler, Lieutenant-Governor.

Saint Vincent, 6th September 1839.—Duly published in Kingstown this day.

Anthony H. Hobson, Pro. Mar. Gen.

T O B A G O .

(No. 321.)

AN ACT for the Suppression of Vagrancy, and for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons.—[28 March 1839.]

TOBAGO

Vagrancy.

Præamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incorrigible rogues, or other vagrants in this island of Tobago and its dependencies: We therefore, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, his Excellency Major-general Henry Charles Darling, Lieutenant-governor in and over the island of Tobago, the Council and General Assembly of the same, in Legislative Session assembled, do humbly pray your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted:

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person being able, either by labour or by other lawful means, to maintain himself or herself, or his wife, or his or her children, or by child, who shall wilfully refuse or neglect so to do, and thereby become burdensome, or render his wife, or his or her children or child, burdensome upon any parochial or other public funds set apart for the relief of the poor; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner; and every person wandering abroad or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, court, or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person, within the true intent and meaning of this Act. Provided nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act, by reason of any such begging or gathering of alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his

Appendix.
 TOBAGO.
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his or her causing or procuring or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the stipendiary justice before whom he or she shall be charged with such an offence, that the offender could by his or her own labour or other lawful means, or by parochial or other public funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life. And it is further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit any such idle and disorderly person, being thereof convicted before him by his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of confinement, there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 14 days.

2. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device, palmistry, obeah, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects: every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public road, or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street, stelling, or wharf, road, or highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, or outbuilding, being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; And it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him, on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witnesses or witness, to any lawful place of imprisonment, there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty for the uses of the colony.

3. And it is hereby further enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement, before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined, by virtue of this Act; and every person committing any offence against this Act, which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be, and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Act: and it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next session of the Court of King's Bench, then and there to be dealt with as hereinafter directed.

4. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any police officer or constable whatsoever to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some stipendiary justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as hereinbefore directed.

5. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other stipendiary justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

6. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when any such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance, as hereinafter directed, to prosecute such appeal, such stipendiary justice shall require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to appear at the next session of the Court of King's Bench, to give evidence against such offender touching such offence; and the chief justice or presiding judge is hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of any person who shall have become bound in any such recognizance, to order the colonial treasurer to pay unto such prosecutor and unto the witness or witnesses, on his or her behalf, such sum or sums of money as to the court may seem reasonable and sufficient to reimburse such prosecutor and such witness or witnesses respectively for the expenses he, she, or they shall have severally been put to, and for his, her, or their trouble and loss of time in and about such prosecution; which order the clerk of the court is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and deliver to such prosecutor, or unto such witness

or witnesses; and the said colonial treasurer is hereby authorized and required, upon sight of such order, forthwith to pay unto such prosecutor, or other person or persons authorized to receive the same, such money as aforesaid, and the said colonial treasurer shall be allowed the same in his account; and in case any such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance; it shall be lawful for such stipendiary justice to commit such person or persons so refusing to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

7. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when any person shall be committed for trial before the said Court of King's Bench charged with being an incorrigible rogue, it shall be lawful for the court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and on conviction to order, if they think fit, that such offender be imprisoned in some lawful place of confinement, and there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

8. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act, or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any constable or other peace officers in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted, upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses, before the Court of King's Bench, every such offender shall for every such offence forfeit any sum not exceeding 20*l*. And in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods by warrant from such court; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful to commit the person so offending to any lawful place of confinement, there to be kept for any time not exceeding 30 days, or until such fine be paid; and the court shall cause the said fine, when paid, to be paid over to the colonial treasurer for the use of the colony.

9. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable or other person or persons to enter at any time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him, or any other stipendiary justice of the peace, every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue, as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

10. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue, under this Act, shall be in the form or to the effect set forth in Schedule (A.) hereunto annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit. And the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, before whom any such conviction shall take place, shall, and he and they is and are hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the Court of King's Bench, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the court, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

11. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the said Court of King's Bench, giving to the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, and entering within seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a stipendiary justice of the peace of the said colony, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizance being entered into, such stipendiary justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; and the said Court of King's Bench shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and in case of the dismissal of the appeal, or the affirmance of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender according to the conviction: provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his said appeal before the next sitting of the Court of King's Bench, in case such sitting shall not happen within the said period; but if such sitting shall be had within such seven days, then at the next succeeding session, and not afterwards.

12. And for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this Act it is further enacted, that all actions or prosecutions to be commenced against any such person or persons for anything done in pursuance of this Act, shall be laid and tried in the Court of King's Bench of this island, and shall be commenced within three calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise; any notice in writing of such action and of the cause thereof shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient assets shall have been made before such action is brought, or if a sufficient sum

Appendix.

TOBAGO.

Vagrancy.

of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought, by or in behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action after issue joined, the defendant shall recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath in law in other cases; and though a verdict be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant, unless the Court before which the trial shall be, shall certify its approbation of the action.

13. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any two or more stipendiary justices of the peace at any time to nominate and appoint any discreet person or persons to be constables or peace officer for the purposes of this Act, and to swear him or them to the due execution of his or their office.

14. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no person shall act or be considered as a stipendiary justice, within the meaning of this present act, save only such persons as, being in the receipt of stipends assigned for their maintenance as such justices, shall be included within a special commission of the peace to be issued in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, appointing them to act as stipendiary justices for the said colony of Tobago, or for some parish or other district or districts thereof.

15. And it is further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all laws now in force in the said colony for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy, or which are in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Act, shall be and the same are repealed.

Passed the Board of Legislative Council this 23d day of March 1839.

(signed) *Jos. Scott*, President.
John Thornton, Clerk of the Council.

Passed the House of General Assembly, this 26th day of March 1839.

(signed) *H. R. Hamilton*,
Speaker of the House of General Assembly.
James Nicholson,
Clerk of the Assembly.

28 March 1839. I assent to this Bill.

(signed) *Hen. C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-governor.

Duly proclaimed, this 28th day of March 1839.

(signed) *C. I. Leplastrier*,
Provost Marshal General.

GOD save the QUEEN.

SCHEDULE (A.)

TOBAGO, } BE it remembered, that on the _____ day of _____ in the year
to wit. } of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and _____ *A. B.* is convicted
before me, *C. D.*, one of Her Majesty's stipendiary justices of the peace in and for the
said island of Tobago, of being an idle and disorderly person (or a rogue and vagabond, or
an incorrigible rogue) within the intent and meaning of an Act of this island, made in the
second year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled, "An Act" (here insert
the title of this Act); that is to say, for that the said *A. B.*, on the _____ day of _____
(here state the offence proved before the magistrate), and for which said offence the said
A. B. is ordered to be committed to the common gaol in the _____ to be kept
to hard labour for the space of _____ (or until the next session of the Court of
King's Bench or general gaol delivery). Given under my hand and seal, the day and year
first above written.

ANTIGUA.

(No. 381.)

AN Act for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, Rogues and Vagabonds, Incorrigible Rogues and other Vagrants in this Island.—[31 July 1834.]

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incorrigible rogues, or other vagrants in this island. Preamble.

We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over Your Majesty's islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, Saint Christopher's, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's island of Antigua, do humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted and ordained; and be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of Your Majesty's said Governor and Commander-in-chief, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's island of Antigua aforesaid, that every person being able wholly or in part to maintain himself or herself, or his or her family, by work or by other means, and wilfully refusing and neglecting so to do; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or public highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner, and every person wandering abroad or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, highway, court or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person, within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him by his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the gaol or house of correction, there or on the public streets and highways to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding one calendar month.

Every person able to work, wilfully refusing to do so, every common prostitute in the public streets or highways behaving riotously, every person wandering abroad to beg alms or encouraging children to do so, deemed an idle and disorderly person; lawful for justice of peace to commit offender to gaol or house of correction, to be worked on streets or public highways for one calendar month, maximum.

2. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending to be a dealer in obeh; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using any subtle, craft, means or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive and impose on any of his Majesty's subjects; every person wandering abroad and lodging in any out-house or shed, or in any deserted or unoccupied building, or in any mill, sugar-works, watch-house, trash-house, or other plantation buildings, or within any cane or provision piece, or in the open air, or under a tent, or in any cart or waggon, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving any good account of himself or herself; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly and obscenely exposing his person in any street, public road or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort, with intent to insult any female or otherwise; every person wandering abroad and endeavouring by the exposure of wounds or deformities to obtain or gather alms; every person going about as a gatherer or collector of alms, or endeavouring to procure charitable contributions of any nature or kind, under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street, road, highway, or other open or public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable or out-building, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; every person being found in or upon any dwelling-house, warehouse, coach-house, stable or out-house, or in any way, inclosed yard, garden, or area, for any unlawful purpose; every suspected person or reputed thief, frequenting any quay or wharf, or warehouse near or adjoining thereto, or any street, highway, or avenue leading thereto, or any place of public resort, or any avenue leading thereto, or any street, highway, or place adjacent, with intent to commit felony; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer, on apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall have been so apprehended, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the gaol or house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding three calendar months; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such implement as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to his Majesty.

Any person convicted as an idle and disorderly person, pretending to deal in obeh, persons professing to tell fortunes, persons wandering abroad and lodging in out-houses, sheds, &c. not giving good account of himself or herself, persons wilfully exposing to view any obscene print, picture, &c., persons exposing their person to view to insult any female, persons wandering abroad to gather alms, persons playing or betting at any games in the streets, &c., persons having in their possession any pick-lock, key, crow, &c. with intent feloniously to enter into dwelling-house, &c. or armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, &c. with intent to commit any felonious act, every suspected person, or reputed thief, found lurking about any dwelling-house, wharf, &c., every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person resisting peace-officer, to be deemed a rogue and vagabond. Justice, on conviction, may commit offender to gaol or house of correction to hard labour for three calendar months, maximum.

Every person breaking or escaping from legal confinement, every person committing offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, having been previously convicted thereof, every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, resisting peace officer, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue. Justice, on conviction, may commit offender to gaol or house of correction until next sessions of the peace; offender to be kept to hard labour during such imprisonment.

Lawful for any person to apprehend offenders against this Act, and to take them before justice to be dealt with as hereinbefore directed, or to deliver offender to constable or peace officer; constable or peace officer refusing, guilty of neglect of duty, and to be punished as hereafter directed.

Justice upon oath made to him that any person has committed or suspected of any offence against this Act, to issue warrant for apprehension of such offender.

If person committed to gaol or house of correction as an incorrigible rogue till next grand sessions, shall give notice of intention to appeal against conviction, and shall enter into recognizance to prosecute appeal, justice to bind over prosecutor and witnesses to appear at sessions; court to order prosecutor and witnesses to be reimbursed for loss of time in attending court. Clerk of the Crown to draw order on treasurer for payment; 3s. fee to clerk of the Crown.

Persons refusing to enter into recognizances to be committed to common gaol till discharged by due course of law.

If person committed as an incorrigible rogue to gaol or house of correction till next grand sessions, lawful for court to examine into the case, and

3. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined by virtue of this Act; and every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall have been so apprehended, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the gaol or house of correction, there to remain until the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace; and every such offender who shall be so committed to the gaol or house of correction shall be there kept to hard labour during the period of his or her imprisonment.

4. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any person whatsoever to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as is hereinbefore directed, or to deliver him or her to any constable or peace officer to be so taken and conveyed as aforesaid; and in case any constable or other peace officer shall refuse, or wilfully neglect to take such offender into his custody, and to take and convey him or her before some justice of the peace, or shall not use his best endeavours to apprehend and convey before some justice of the peace any person that he shall find offending against this Act, it shall be deemed a neglect of duty in any such constable or other peace officer, and he shall, on conviction, be punished in such manner as is hereinafter directed.

5. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed, or is suspected to have committed any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

6. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that when any justice as aforesaid shall commit any such incorrigible rogue to the gaol or house of correction, there to remain till the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, or when any such idle and disorderly person, rogue, and vagabond, or incorrigible rogue shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance as hereinafter directed, to prosecute such appeal, such justice shall require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence, and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, to appear at the said Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, to give evidence against such offender touching such offence; and the said Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, is hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of any person who shall have become bound in any such recognizance, to order the treasurer of the island to pay unto such prosecutor, and unto the witness or witnesses on his or her behalf, such sum or sums of money as to the court shall seem reasonable and sufficient to reimburse such prosecutor, and such witness or witnesses respectively, for the expenses he, she, or they shall have been severally put to, and for his, her, or their trouble and loss of time in and about such prosecution; which order the clerk of the Crown is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out and deliver to such prosecutor, or unto such witness or witnesses, upon being paid the sum of 3s. and no more; and the said treasurer is hereby authorized and required, upon sight of such order, forthwith to pay unto such prosecutor, or other person or persons authorized to receive the same, such money as aforesaid; and the said treasurer shall be allowed the same in his account; and in case any such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance it shall be lawful for such justice to commit such person or persons so refusing to the common gaol, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

7. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that when any incorrigible rogue shall have been committed to the gaol or house of correction, there to remain until the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, it shall be lawful for the court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and to order, if they think fit, that such offender be further imprisoned in the gaol or house of correction, and there kept to hard labour, for any time not exceeding one year from the time of making such order, and to order farther, if they think fit, that such offender

offender (not being a female) be punished by whipping at such time during his imprisonment, and at such place as, according to the nature of the offence, the said court in its discretion shall deem to be expedient.

if they think fit to order offender to be further committed to hard labour for

one year, maximum; and if a male, to be whipped at such times and places as court shall think fit.

8. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act, or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any constable or other peace officer in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses, before two or more justices of the peace, every such offender shall for every such offence forfeit any sum not exceeding 10*l.*; and in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant from such justice, and if sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful to and for one or more such justices to commit the person so offending to the gaol or house of correction, there to be kept for any time not exceeding three calendar months, or until such fine be paid; and the said justices shall cause the said fine, when paid, to be paid over to the treasurer of the island, to be by him carried to the public stock.

Constable or other peace officer neglecting his duty, persons hindering any constable or peace officer in the execution of his duty, or abetting therein and thereof convicted before any two or more justices.

9. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house kept or purporting to be kept for the reception, lodging, or entertainment of travellers, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable, or other person or persons, to enter at any time into such house, and to apprehend and bring before him, or any other justice of the peace, every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue as shall be found therein, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

Lawful for justice, on oath made before him that any person described as a rogue, vagabond, or incorrigible rogue, is harboured or suspected to be concealed in any house of entertainment, to issue warrant to constable for apprehension of such persons. No proceedings before justices under this Act to be quashed for want of form.

10. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that no proceeding to be had before any justice or justices of the peace, under the provisions of this Act, shall be quashed for want of form; and every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue, under this Act, shall be in the form to the effect following, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit; that is to say,—

Form of conviction.

“Antigua.” Be it remembered, that on the _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____, A. B. is convicted before me, C. D., one of His Majesty's justices of the peace in and for the said island, of being an idle and disorderly person [or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue], within the intent and meaning of the Act made in the year of the reign of His Majesty King William IV., intitled An Act [here insert the title of this Act]; that is to say, for that the said A. B., on the _____ day of _____ [here state the offence proved before the said magistrate], and for which said offence the said A. B. is ordered to be committed to the gaol or house of correction, there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour for the space of _____ [or until the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, as the case may be]. Given under my hand and seal, the day and year first above written.”

And the justice or justices of the peace before whom any such conviction shall take place shall, and he and they is and are hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace to be holden in and for the said island, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the Clerk of the Crown, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any justice or justices of the peace acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

Justices to transmit conviction to next court of grand sessions to be filed and kept of record. Copy thereof under hand of clerk of the Crown may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before justices.

11. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any justice or justices of the peace, out of sessions, in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, giving to the justice or justices of the peace whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, within seven days after such act or determination, and before the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, and entering within such seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a justice of the peace of said island, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizance being entered into, such justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; and the said Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and in case of the dismissal of the appeal, or the affirmation of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender according to the conviction.

Any person aggrieved may appeal to next court of grand sessions, giving notice to justice within 7 days and entering into recognizance to prosecute appeal. Justice in such case to discharge person from custody. Court to hear appeals and make order in case of dismissal or affirmation. Justices to issue warrant for apprehension and punishment of offender.

If action brought against justice or constable on account of this Act, and judgment given in favour of justice or constable, reasonable cause.

12. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that in all cases where an action shall be brought against any justice of the peace, constable, or other person for or on account of any matter or thing whatsoever done or commanded by him in the execution of his duty or office under this Act, such justice, constable, or other person, if he shall have judgment in his favour, shall have treble costs awarded to him by the court, unless the judge shall certify that there was a reasonable cause for such action.

Such action to be commenced within 3 calendar months after cause of action. Persons sued under this Act to plead the general issue and give the special matter in evidence.

13. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that every such action shall be commenced within three calendar months after the cause of action or complaint shall have arisen, and not afterwards; and if any person or persons shall be sued for any matter or thing which he, she, or they shall have done in the execution of this Act, he, she, or they may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence.

Dated at Antigua the 5th day of July, in the year of Our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of his Majesty's reign.

(signed) *Nicholas Nugent*, Speaker.

Passed the Assembly the 13th day of June 1834.

(signed) *Nathaniel Humphrys*,
Clerk of the Assembly.

Passed the Council the 3d day of July 1834.

(signed) *Thomas Lane*,
Clerk of the Council.

(signed) *E. J. Murray (L.S.) Macgregor*,
Governor.

Duly published the 31st day of July 1834.

(signed) *Henry Berkeley*,
Dep. Prov. Marshal.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER.

Vagrancy.

(No. 370.)

AN ACT for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, and Rogues and Vagabonds, in the Island of St. Christopher.—[21 October 1847.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient that some provision be made for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, and rogues and vagabonds; we therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor in and over Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of Your Majesty's said Island of St. Christopher, do pray Your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted,

Defined who shall be considered an idle and disorderly person.

And be it and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the passing of this Act, every person being able, either by labour or by other lawful means, to maintain himself or herself, or his or her family, and who shall wilfully neglect or refuse so to do, by which refusal or neglect he or she, or any of his or her family whom he or she may be legally bound to maintain, shall have become chargeable upon any parochial or other public funds set apart for the relief of the poor; every petty chapman or pedlar wandering abroad, and trading without being duly licensed, or otherwise authorized by law; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner; and every person wandering abroad, or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, highway, court, or passage to beg or gather alms, or causing or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the true intent and meaning of this Act; provided, nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of the two justices of the peace before whom he or she shall be charged with such offence, that the offender could by his or her own labour or other lawful means, or by parochial or other funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessities of life.

Punishment for an idle and disorderly person.

2. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any two justices of the peace to commit any such idle and disorderly person, being thereof convicted before them by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of confinement, there or on the public streets and highways to be kept to hard labour for any term not exceeding 14 days.

3. And

3. And be it further enacted, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using any subtle craft or device, by palmistry, obeah, or any such like superstitious means to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wandering abroad and lodging in any outhouse or in any deserted or unoccupied building, or in the open air, or in any cart or waggon, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving a good account of himself or herself; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public road, bay or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place where many persons are assembled together; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street, road, highway, or other open and public place at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, boiling-house, curing-house, distill-house, rum cellar, coachhouse, stable or outbuildings, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act, and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any two justices of the peace to commit such offender being thereof convicted before them by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of imprisonment, there or in the public streets or highways to be kept to hard labour for any term not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall by the conviction of the offender become forfeited to Her Majesty, for the uses of the colony.

Defines a rogue and vagabond.

Punishment for a rogue and vagabond.

4. And be it further enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined by virtue of this Act; and every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall have been so apprehended, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any two justices of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before them by the confession of such offender or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next court of quarter sessions or other court of competent jurisdiction, and every such offender who shall be so committed to such lawful place of confinement, shall be there kept to hard labour, or on the public streets or highways, during the period of his or her imprisonment.

Defines who shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue and vagabond.

5. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police officer or constable whatsoever to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before any justice of the peace, to be dealt with according to law.

Peace officers may apprehend offenders against this Act.

6. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed, or is suspected to have committed, any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with according to law.

Justices may issue warrants to apprehend offenders against this Act.

7. And be it further enacted, that when any incorrigible rogue shall have been committed to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next court of quarter sessions of the peace or other court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be lawful for the justices there assembled to examine into the circumstances of the case, and to order, if they think fit, that such offender be forthwith imprisoned in such lawful place of confinement, and be there kept to hard labour, or on the public streets or highways, for any term not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

Justices in quarter sessions may further imprison incorrigible rogues.

8. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon information upon oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable, police officer, or other person or persons to enter at any time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him or any other justice of the peace every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with according to law.

Justices may issue warrant to enter premises for the purpose of apprehending offenders against this Act.

9. And be it further enacted, that every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue under this Act, shall be in the form or to the effect set forth in schedule (A.) hereunto annexed, or as near thereto

As to form of conviction, &c.

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as circumstances will permit; and the justices of the peace before whom such conviction shall take place, shall, and they are hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the office of the clerk of the court of sessions, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the court, or the original thereof, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any justices of the peace acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

SCHEDULE (A.)

St. Christopher, } Be it remembered, that on the day of in the year
to wit. } of our Lord , at the parish of , in the island
aforesaid, A. B. is convicted before us, two of Her Majesty's justices of the peace
in and for this island, of being a disorderly person [or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible
rogue] within the intent and meaning of the Act of this island, intituled
; that is to say, for that the said A. B. on the day of , at the
parish , in the island aforesaid, [here state the offence proved before the jus-
tices], and for which said offence the said A. B. is ordered to be committed to the common
gaol or house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour for the space of
or until the next court of quarter sessions, [or other court of competent jurisdiction, as the
case may happen.] Given under our hand and seals this day of 184 .

(signed) *George Henry Burt,*
Speaker.

Passed the Council this 18th day of March 1847.

(signed) *R. S. Harper,*
Clerk of the Council.

Passed the Assembly this 2d day of September 1847.

(signed) *W. Wharton Rawlins,*
Clerk of Assembly.

Dated at Saint Christopher this 21st day of October, in the year of our Lord 1847, in the
11th year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *R. J. Mackintosh.*

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

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(No. 113.)

AN ACT for the Suppression of Vagrancy.—[9 April 1839.]

Preamble. WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incorrigible rogues, or other vagrants in these islands; we, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Chief Officer administering the government of the Virgin Islands, and the Council and Assembly of the same, do pray Your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained; and be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that every person being able, either by labour or by other lawful means, to maintain himself or herself, or his wife, or his or her children or child, who wilfully refuse or neglect so to do, and thereby become burthensome, or render his wife, or his or her children or child, burthensome upon any parochial or other public funds set apart for the relief of the poor; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner, and every person wandering abroad, or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, court, or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the true intent and meaning of this Act; provided, nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the stipendiary justice before whom he or she shall be charged with such offence, that the offender could by his or her own labour or other lawful means, or by parochial or other public funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life.

Giving power to
stipendiary justices
to commit vagrants.

2. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit any such idle and disorderly person, being thereof convicted before him by his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of confinement, there or on the public streets and highways to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 14 days.

3. And

3. And be it further enacted, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device, by palmistry, obeah, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public road or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street, stelling or wharf, road, highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, or outbuildings, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of imprisonment, there or on the public streets or highways to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty for the uses of these islands.

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Declarer who shall be deemed rogues and vagabonds.

4. And be it further enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined, by virtue of this Act; and every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next sessions of the peace to be held for these islands, then and there to be dealt with as hereinafter directed.

Declarer who shall be deemed incorrigible rogues; how to be dealt with.

5. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police officer or constable whatsoever to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some stipendiary justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as hereinbefore directed.

Police or constable may apprehend.

6. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed, or is suspected to have committed any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other stipendiary justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

Stipendiary justice may issue warrant to apprehend offenders.

7. And be it further enacted, that when any such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance as hereinafter directed, to prosecute such appeal, such stipendiary justice shall require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence, and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to appear at the next Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions of the peace for these islands, to give evidence against such offender touching such offence; and the justices of the said court are hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of any person who shall have become bound in any such recognizance, to order the colonial treasurer to pay unto such prosecutor, and unto the witness or witnesses on his or her behalf, such sum or sums of money as to the court may seem reasonable and sufficient to reimburse such prosecutor and such witness or witnesses respectively, for the expense he, she, or they shall have severally been put to, and for his, her, or their trouble and loss of time in and about such prosecution, which order the clerk of the court is hereby directed and required forthwith to make and deliver to such prosecutor, or unto such witness or witnesses; and the said colonial treasurer is hereby authorized and required, upon sight of such order, forthwith to pay unto such prosecutor, or other person or persons authorized to receive the same, such money as aforesaid, and the said colonial treasurer shall be allowed the same in his account. And in case any such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance, it shall be lawful for such stipendiary justice to commit such person or persons so refusing to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

Persons wishing to appeal, how to proceed.

Prosecutor and witness to be allowed expenses.

Treasurer authorized to pay expenses.

8. And be it further enacted, that when any person shall be committed for trial before the said Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, charged with being an incorrigible

Authority of court to convict offenders.

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Constable, &c., neglecting duty, and persons obstructing any constable, &c. in the execution thereof, liable to a penalty not exceeding 20*l*.

rigible rogue, it shall be lawful for the court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and, on conviction, to order, if they think fit, that such offender be imprisoned in some lawful place of confinement, and there or on the public streets or highways to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

9. And be it further enacted, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act, or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any constable or other peace officer in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses before the said Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, every such offender shall for every such offence forfeit any sum not exceeding 20 *l*; and in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods by warrant from such court, and if sufficient distress cannot be found it shall be lawful to commit the person so offending to any lawful place of confinement, there to be kept for any time not exceeding 30 days, or until such fine be paid: and the said court shall cause the said fine, when paid, to be paid over to the treasurer for the use of these islands.

Stipendiary justice may issue his warrant, authorizing constable to enter any house suspected of harbouring any rogue, vagabond, &c.

10. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable, or other person or persons, to enter at any time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him, or any other stipendiary justice of the peace, every such idle and disorderly person, rogue, and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

Stipendiary justice to lodge conviction in secretary's office. Copy of such conviction so filed to be evidence in court.

11. And be it further enacted, that every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue under this Act, shall be in the form or to the effect set forth in Schedule (A.) hereunto annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit; and the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace before whom any such conviction shall take place shall, and he and they is and are hereby required to transmit the same conviction to the secretary's office of these islands, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the court, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record or before any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

Power to appeal.

12. And be it further enacted, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the said Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions of the peace for these islands, giving to the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal and of the ground thereof, and entering within seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a stipendiary justice of the peace of the said islands, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given and such recognizance being entered into, such stipendiary justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody, and the said justices of the said Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions of the peace shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and in case of the dismissal of the appeal or the affirmation of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender according to the conviction: provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his said appeal at the next sitting of the said court, in case such sitting shall not happen within the said period, but if such sitting shall be had within such seven days, then at the next succeeding sitting of such court, and not afterwards.

Time allowed. Power of court on appeal to affirm or quash conviction.

All actions to be commenced within three months, &c.

13. And for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this Act, it is further enacted, that all actions or prosecutions to be commenced against any such person or persons for anything done in pursuance of this Act shall be laid and tried in the Court of Common Pleas for these islands, and shall be commenced within three calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise; and notice, in writing, of such action and of the cause thereof shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action, and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action is brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought by or in behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action after issue joined, the defendant shall recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath in law in other cases; and though a verdict be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant unless the court before which the trial shall be shall certify its approbation of the action.

Stipendiary justice may appoint constables.

14. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any two or more stipendiary justices of the peace at any time to nominate and appoint any discreet person or persons to be constables or peace officers for the purposes of this Act, and to swear him or them to the due execution of his or their office.

15. And

15. And be it further enacted, that no person shall act, or be considered as a stipendiary justice within the meaning of this present Act, save only such persons as, being in the receipt of stipends assigned for their maintenance as such justices, shall be included within a special commission of the peace, to be issued in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, appointing them to act as stipendiary justices for the said Virgin Islands or for some district or districts thereof.

Who shall be considered stipendiary justices.

16. And be it further enacted, that all laws now in force in these islands for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy, or which are in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Act, shall be and the same are repealed.

Repealing all former vagrant Acts.

SCHEDULE (A.)

Virgin Islands, } In the parish of Be it remembered, that on the
to wit. } day, in the year of our Lord,
at, in the Virgin Islands, is convicted before me
for that he [or she] the said, did [specify the offence, and
time and place when and where the same was committed, as the case may be.] And
I the said, adjudged the said, for the said offence to
be imprisoned or to solitary confinement in the, and there kept to hard labour
for the space of days ensuing from the date hereof, this day to be accounted one.
Given under my hand and seal the day and year first above mentioned.

Form of conviction.

(signed) A. B.
Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

(signed) Wm. H. Shew,
Speaker.

Passed the Assembly this 15th day of December 1838.

(signed) Thomas Wm. Crooke,
Clerk of the Assembly.

Passed the Council this 29th day of December 1838.

By command,

(signed) John C. Isaacs,
Clerk of the Council.

Dated at Tortola this 9th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1839, and in the 2d year of Her Majesty's reign.

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(No. 440.)

AN ACT for the Punishment of Idle and Disorderly Persons, Rogues and Vagabonds, Incurrible Rogues, and other Vagrants in this Island.—[9 May 1840.]

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incurrible rogues, and other vagrants in this island; we therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor of this Your Majesty's island of Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of the same, pray your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,—

Preamble.

1. And be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, that from and after the publication of this Act, every person being able, either by labour or by other lawful means, to maintain himself or herself, or his wife, or his or her children or child, who shall wilfully refuse or neglect so to do, and thereby become burthensome, or render his wife, or his or her children or child burthensome upon any of the public funds of this island; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner; every person wandering abroad, or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, court, or passage to beg or gather alms, or causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the true intent and meaning of this Act; provided nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Act by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of the justice before whom he or she

Definition of an idle and disorder person.

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Definition and punishment of an idle and disorderly person.

Definition and punishment of a rogue and vagabond.

Definition and punishment of an incorrigible rogue and vagabond.

Court of sessions empowered to commit incorrigible rogues and vagabonds to imprisonment and hard labour, for any time not exceeding six months.

Police officers, constables, or other peace officers empowered to apprehend persons offending against this Act. Justices of the peace empowered to issue warrants for the apprehension of suspected persons.

Justices of the peace empowered to grant search warrants for the apprehension of idle and disorderly persons, &c.

shall be charged with such offence, that the offender could by his or her labour, or other lawful means, or by any public funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life.

2. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of peace to commit any such idle or disorderly person, being thereof so convicted before him by his own view, by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the common gaol, there or on the public streets or highways to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 14 days.

3. And be it further enacted, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been committed as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device, by palmistry, obeah, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public road, or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street or wharf, road, highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, or out-building, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him by his own view, by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to the common gaol, there or on the public streets or highways to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty for the uses of the colony.

4. And be it further enacted, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined by virtue of this Act; every person committing any offence against this Act which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be, and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall have been so apprehended, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Act; and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender (being thereof convicted before him by his own view, by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses), to the common gaol until the next Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions, or other court of sessions; and every such offender who shall be so committed to the common gaol, shall be there, or on the public streets or highways, kept to hard labour during the period of his or her imprisonment.

5. And be it further enacted, that when any incorrigible rogue shall have been committed to the common gaol, there to remain until the next Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions, or other court of sessions, it shall be lawful for the said court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and to order, if it thinks fit, that such offender be further imprisoned in the common gaol, and be there or on the public streets or highways kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

6. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any police officer, constable, or other peace officer whatsoever, to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Act, and forthwith to take and convey him to her before some justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as hereinbefore directed.

7. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him that any person hath committed, or is suspected to have committed, any offence against this Act, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

8. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal, to authorize any police officer, constable, or other peace officer, to enter at any time

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time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him, or any other justice of the peace, every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, and incorrigible rogue, as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

9. And be it further enacted, that every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue, under this Act, shall be in the form or to the effect following, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit; (that is to say),

Form of conviction under this Act.

Dominica. Be it remembered, that on the _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and _____, at the parish of _____, in the said island of _____, is convicted before _____, justice of the peace in and for the said island, with being an [idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, or incorrigible rogue, as the case may be]; and the said justice adjudges the said _____ to be conveyed to and imprisoned in the common gaol, and there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour for the space of _____ days; or in the case of an incorrigible rogue, until the next Court of Queen's Bench or grand sessions, or other sessions.

Given under _____ hand and seal the day and year above written.

And the justice or justices of the peace before whom any such conviction shall take place shall, and he and they is and are hereby required to transmit the said conviction and evidence thereon to the clerk of the Crown, to be filed and kept with the records of the Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the Crown, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any justice or justices of the peace, acting under the powers and provisions of this Act.

10. And be it further enacted, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any justice or justices of the peace, in or concerning the execution of this Act, may appeal to the said Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions, or other court of sessions, giving to the justice or justices of the peace, whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, and entering, within seven days after the conviction, into a recognizance with sufficient surety, before a justice of the peace of the said island, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizances being entered into, such justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his said appeal at the next sitting of the said court, in case such sitting shall not happen within seven days of his notice; but if such sitting shall be had within such seven days, then at the next succeeding court, and not afterwards.

Persons aggrieved by the determination of any justice can appeal to court of sessions.

11. And be it further enacted, that when any person shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance as hereinbefore directed, to appear and prosecute such appeal, such justice shall, if necessary, summon and require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence and to support such conviction, to become bound to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to appear at the next Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions, or other court of sessions, to give evidence against such offender touching such offence; and in case any such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance, it shall be lawful for such justice to commit such person or persons so refusing to the common gaol, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

Witnesses refusing to enter into recognizance may be sent to gaol until such recognizance be entered into.

12. And be it further enacted, that the said Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions, or other court of sessions, shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet; and in case of the dismissal of the appeal and the affirmance of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender, according to the conviction.

Court of sessions to determine matters of appeal.

13. And be it further enacted, that in case any police officer, constable, or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Act, or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any police officer, constable, or other peace officer in the execution of this Act, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses before the Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions or other sessions, every such offender shall for every such offence be fined in any sum not exceeding 50 L. current money; and in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant from such court; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful to commit the person so offending to the common gaol, there to be kept for any time not exceeding 30 days, or until such fine be paid; and the said fine when received to be paid over to the public treasury for the use of the said island.

Police officers or other peace officers neglecting their duty, or persons obstructing them in the discharge of their duty, liable to be fined in any sum not exceeding 50 L., and in default of payment levied on by distress, or imprisoned for any term not exceeding 30 days.

14. And be it further enacted, that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Act, the officer administering the government of the said island shall be deemed and taken to be the "governor" thereof.

Definition of governor.

Explanation of terms.

15. And be it further enacted, that whenever under this Act or the proceedings under the same, in describing or referring to the offence or the subject matter, on or with respect to which it shall be committed, or the offender or the party affected or intended to be affected by the offence, hath used or shall use words importing the singular number, or the masculine gender only; yet this Act shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

Repealing clause.

16. And be it further enacted, that all laws or statutes in force in the said island, which are or shall be in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Act, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

The governor to appoint the justices to execute this Act.

17. And be it further enacted, that except for the Court of Queen's Bench and grand sessions, or other court of sessions, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor to appoint any number of justices of the peace, who shall respectively be authorized to exercise and have exclusive jurisdiction for the enforcement of and carrying into execution the proceedings and purposes of this Act; and from and after such appointments, and so long as the same shall continue in full force and virtue, and the duties under the said Act shall be by such justices performed, the power and authority of any other justice of the peace within the said island, to execute the said Act or any part thereof, shall be suspended and inoperative.

Passed the House of Assembly this 27th day of April 1840.

(signed) *J. Garraway*, Speaker pro tem.
C. A. Fillan, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council this 29th day of April 1840.

(signed) *D. S. Laidlaw*, President.
James Laidlaw, Clerk of Council.

Passed by the Governor the 9th day of May 1840.

(signed) *A. Reade*, Private Secretary.

Passed the Patent Office this 9th day of May 1840.

(signed) *J. B. Righton*, Clerk of Patents.

Duly published in the town of Roseau this 9th day of May 1840.

(signed) *J. B. Righton*, Provost Marshal General.
(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.

ORDER in COUNCIL, 7 September 1838.—Vagrancy.

At the Court at Windsor, the 7th day of September 1838.

PRESENT :

The QUEEN's most Excellent MAJESTY in Council.

Order in Council respecting Vagrancy.

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the suppression of vagrancy, and for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incorrigible rogues, or other vagrants, in . . . It is therefore ordered by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, that every person being able, either by labour, or by other lawful means, to maintain himself or herself, or his wife, or his or her children or child, who shall wilfully refuse or neglect so to do, and thereby become burthensome, or render his wife, or his or her children or child, burthensome upon any parochial or other public funds set apart for the relief of the poor; every common prostitute wandering in the public streets or highways, or in any place of public resort, and behaving in a riotous and indecent manner; and every person wandering abroad, or placing himself or herself in any public place, street, wharf, highway, court, or passage, to beg or gather alms, or causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the true intent and meaning of this Order: Provided nevertheless, that no person shall be deemed to be an offender under this Order, by reason of any such begging or gathering alms as aforesaid, or by reason of his or her causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, unless it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the stipendiary justice before whom he or she shall be charged with such offence, that the offender could by his or her own labour, or other lawful means, or by parochial or other public funds appropriated for that purpose, have been provided with the necessaries of life. And it is further ordered that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit any such idle and disorderly person, being thereof convicted before him by his own view,

view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of confinement, there, or on the public streets and highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 14 days.

2. And it is hereby further ordered, that any person committing any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using or pretending to use any subtle craft or device, by palmistry, obeah, or any such like superstitious means, to deceive and impose on any of Her Majesty's subjects; every person wilfully exposing to view in any street, road, highway or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition; every person wilfully, openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his or her person in any street, public road or highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort; every person endeavouring to procure charitable contributions under any false or fraudulent pretence; every person playing or betting in any street, stelling or wharf, road, highway, or other open and public place, at or with any table or instrument of gaming, at any game or pretended game of chance; every person having in his or her custody or possession any picklock, key, crow, jack, bit or other implement, with intent feloniously to break into any dwelling-house, warehouse, store, shop, coach-house, stable, or outbuilding, or being armed with any gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, or having upon him or her any instrument with intent to commit any felonious act; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed a rogue any vagabond within the true intent and meaning of this Order: and it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender, being thereof convicted before him, on his own view, or by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, to any lawful place of imprisonment, there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding 28 days; and every such picklock, key, crow, jack, bit, and other implement, and every such gun, pistol, hanger, cutlass, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon, and every such instrument as aforesaid, shall, by the conviction of the offender, become forfeited to Her Majesty for the use of the colony.

3. And it is hereby further ordered, that every person breaking or escaping out of any place of legal confinement, before the expiration of the term for which he or she shall have been committed or ordered to be confined, by virtue of this Order; and every person committing any offence against this Order, which shall subject him or her to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond, such person having been at some former time adjudged so to be, and duly convicted thereof; and every person apprehended as a rogue and vagabond, and violently resisting any constable or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, shall be deemed an incorrigible rogue within the true intent and meaning of this Order. And it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace to commit such offender to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until the next session of the

, then and there to be dealt with as hereinafter directed.

4. And it is hereby further ordered, that it shall be lawful for any police officer or constable whatsoever to apprehend any person who shall be found offending against this Order, and forthwith to take and convey him or her before some stipendiary justice of the peace, to be dealt with in such manner as hereinbefore directed.

5. And it is hereby further ordered, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon oath being made before him, that any person hath committed or is suspected to have committed any offence against this Order, to issue his warrant to apprehend and bring before him, or some other stipendiary justice of the peace, the person so charged, to be dealt with as is directed by this Order.

6. And it is hereby further ordered, that when any such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond, shall give notice of his or her intention to appeal against the conviction of him or her, and shall enter into recognizance as hereinafter directed to prosecute such appeal, such stipendiary justice shall require the person by whom such offender shall be apprehended, and the person or persons whose evidence shall appear to him to prove the offence and to support such conviction, to become bound in recognizance to Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, to appear at the next session of the

, to give evidence against such offender, touching such offence; and the

is hereby authorized and empowered, at the request of any person who shall have become bound in any such recognizance, to order the colonial to pay unto such prosecutor, and unto the witness or witnesses on his or her behalf, such sum or sums of money as to the court may seem reasonable and sufficient to reimburse such prosecutor and such witness or witnesses respectively for the expenses he, she, or they shall have severally been put to, and for his, her, or their trouble and loss of time in and about such prosecution: which order the clerk of the court is hereby directed and required forthwith to make out, and deliver to such prosecutor, or unto such witness or witnesses; and the said colonial hereby authorized and required, upon sight of such order, forthwith to pay unto such prosecutor, or other person or persons authorized to receive the same, such money as aforesaid; and the said colonial shall be allowed the same in their account. And in case in such person or persons as aforesaid shall refuse to enter into such recognizance, it shall be lawful for such stipendiary justice to commit such person or persons so refusing to any lawful place of confinement, there to remain until he, she, or they shall enter into such recognizance, or shall be otherwise discharged by due course, of law.

Appendix.

Order in Council
respecting Va-
granncy.

7. And it is hereby further ordered, that when any person shall be committed for trial before the said _____, charged with being an incorrigible rogue, it shall be lawful for the court to examine into the circumstances of the case, and on conviction to order, if they think fit, that such offender be imprisoned in some lawful place of confinement, and there, or on the public streets or highways, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six calendar months from the time of making such order.

8. And it is hereby further ordered, that in case any constable or other peace officer shall neglect his duty in anything required of him by this Order, or in case any person shall disturb or hinder any constable or other peace officer in the execution of this Order, or shall be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, and shall be thereof convicted upon the oath of one or more witness or witnesses, before the _____, every such offender shall for every such offence forfeit any sum not exceeding 20 l. And in case such offender shall not forthwith pay such sum so forfeited, the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods, by warrant from such _____; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful to commit the person so offending to any lawful place of confinement, there to be kept for any time not exceeding 30 days, or until such fine be paid, and the _____ shall cause the said fine, when paid, to be paid over to the colonial _____ for the use of the colony.

9. And it is hereby further ordered, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary justice of the peace, upon information on oath before him made, that any person hereinbefore described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, or an incorrigible rogue, is or are reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any house or place, by warrant under his hand and seal to authorize any constable or other person or persons to enter at any time into such house or place, and to apprehend and bring before him, or any other stipendiary justice of the peace, every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond and incorrigible rogue, as shall be then and there found, to be dealt with in the manner hereinbefore directed.

10. And it is hereby further ordered, that every conviction of any offender as an idle and disorderly person, or as a rogue and vagabond, or as an incorrigible rogue, under this Order shall be in the form or to the effect set forth in schedule (A.), hereunto annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances will permit. And the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, before whom any such conviction shall take place, shall, and he and they is and are hereby required to transmit the said conviction to the _____, there to be filed and kept on record; and a copy of the conviction so filed, duly certified by the clerk of the court, shall and may be read as evidence in any court of record, or before any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace acting under the powers and provisions of this Order.

11. And it is hereby further ordered, that any person aggrieved by any act or determination of any stipendiary justice or justices of the peace in or concerning the execution of this Order, may appeal to the said _____, giving to the stipendiary justice or justices of the peace, whose act or determination shall be appealed against, notice in writing of such appeal, and of the ground thereof, and entering within seven days into a recognizance, with sufficient surety, before a stipendiary justice of the peace of the said colony, personally to appear and prosecute such appeal; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizance being entered into, such stipendiary justice is hereby empowered to discharge such person out of custody; and the said _____ shall hear and determine the matter of such appeal, and shall make such order therein as shall to the said court seem meet, and in case of the dismissal of the appeal, or the affirmation of the conviction, shall issue the necessary process for the apprehension and punishment of the offender, according to the conviction; provided always, that such appellant shall be bound to prosecute his said appeal before the next sitting of the said _____, in case such sitting shall not happen within the said period, but if such sitting shall be had within such seven days, then at the next succeeding _____, and not afterwards.

12. And for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this Order, it is further ordered that all actions or prosecutions to be commenced against any such person or persons for anything done in pursuance of this Order, shall be laid and tried in the _____, as the case may be, wherein the fact was alleged to be committed, and shall be commenced within three calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise, and notice in writing of such action, and of the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action, if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action is brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought, by or in behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action, after issue joined, the defendant shall recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath in law in other cases, and though a verdict be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant, unless the court before which the trial shall be, shall certify its approbation of the action.

13. And it is hereby further ordered, that it shall and may be lawful for any two or more stipendiary justices of the peace at any time to nominate and appoint any discreet person or persons to be constables or peace officers for the purposes of this Order, and to swear him or them to the due execution of his or their office.

14. And it is hereby further ordered, that no person shall act or be considered as a stipendiary justice, within the meaning of this present Order, save only such persons as, being in the receipt of stipends assigned for their maintenance as such justices, shall be included within a special commission of the peace, to be issued in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, appointing them to act as stipendiary justices for the said colony of _____, or for some county or counties, or other district or districts thereof.

15. And it is further ordered, that all laws and ordinances now in force in the said colony for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy, or which are in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Order, shall be and the same are repealed.

And the Right honourable Lord Glenelg, one of Her Majesties principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) C. C. Greville.

Appendix.

Order in Council
respecting Va-
grancy.

SCHEDULE (A).

British Guiana } In the parish [or town] of _____
to wit. } Be it remembered, that on the _____ day _____ in the year of
our Lord _____ at _____ in the colony of British Guiana,
is convicted before me _____ for that he the said
did [specify the offence, and time and place when and where the same was committed,
as the case may be]. And I the said _____ adjudge the said
for the said offence, to be imprisoned or to solitary confinement in the _____
and there kept to hard labour for the space of _____ days ensuing from the date
hereof, this day to be accounted one. Given under my hand and seal, the day and year first
above mentioned.

A. B., Stipendiary Justice of the Peace.

ORDER in COUNCIL, 6 October 1838.—Crown Lands Occupation.

At the Court at Windsor, the 6th day of October 1838.

PRESENT :

The QUEEN'S most Excellent MAJESTY in Council.

WHEREAS in the colonies of British Guiana, Trinidad, Saint Lucia, and Mauritius, divers persons, without probable claim or pretence of title, have taken possession of lands therein respectively situate, and it is necessary that provision be made for the prevention of such encroachments; it is therefore ordered by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, that the stipendiary justices of the peace within the said colonies respectively shall, in manner hereinafter mentioned, exercise a summary jurisdiction for the removal of all persons who have so taken or shall take possession of any lands from the lands of which they may so have taken or shall take possession in such colonies respectively, subject nevertheless to the provisions hereinafter mentioned.

Order in Council
respecting Crown
Lands Occupation.

And it is further ordered, that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Order, such persons only shall be considered and be entitled to act as stipendiary justices of the peace as are entitled to act in that capacity under certain Orders of Her Majesty in Council, bearing date the 7th day of September 1838, for regulating contracts of hired service, and for the prevention and punishment of vagrancy within the colonies aforesaid.

And it is further ordered, that it shall be lawful for every such stipendiary justice of the peace to receive any information which may be laid before him upon oath, charging any person or persons with having, without probable claim or pretence of title, entered upon, or taken possession of, any lands in any of the said respective colonies; provided, that if the lands mentioned or referred to in any such information shall belong to or be vested in Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, such information shall be preferred by the Surveyor-general of the colony, or by some person acting under his authority and on his behalf, but that if the lands mentioned or referred to in any such information shall belong to or be vested in any body politic or corporate, or in any persons or person other than Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, such information shall be preferred by the owner or owners of such lands, or by some person or persons who, as general or special agent, attorney, trustee, or otherwise, may be authorized to represent and to act for and on behalf of such owner or owners, or by some person or persons who may be authorized by the supreme court of justice in such colony to prefer such information.

Appendix.

Order in Council
respecting Crown
Lands Occupation.

And it is further ordered, that every stipendiary justice before whom any such information shall be preferred, shall issue his summons for the appearance before him of the party or parties alleged to have so illegally entered upon or taken possession of such land, and of any other person or persons whom it may be necessary or proper to examine as a witness or witnesses on the hearing of any such information, and shall proceed in a summary way in the presence of the parties, or, in case of the wilful absence of any person against whom any such information shall have been laid, then in his absence to hear and determine such information; and in case, on the hearing thereof, it shall be made to appear by sufficient evidence to the satisfaction of such justice that the party or parties against whom the same shall have been laid hath or have entered upon or taken possession of the land mentioned or referred to in such information without any probable claim or pretence of title, then such justice is hereby authorized and required to make an order, directing such party or parties to deliver up to Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, or other the owner or owners of such lands, or person preferring the information, as the case may be, to be named in such order, peaceable possession of such lands, together with all crops growing thereon, and all buildings and other immovable property upon and affixed to the said lands; and in case the party or parties against whom any such order shall have been made, shall not within a fortnight after service thereof deliver up possession of the said lands and premises pursuant to the said order, then and in such case it shall be lawful for such justice to adjudge such party or parties to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for any time not exceeding 14 days, and to make a further order for the immediate delivery over of the possession of such land and premises to Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, or other the body politic or corporate, or person or persons whom such justice may have found to be entitled to the possession thereof, and who shall be named in such further order; and the governor of the colony in which such lands are situate, shall thereupon cause possession thereof to be delivered to Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, or to such other body politic or corporate, or person or persons accordingly.

Provided always, and it is further ordered, that no such order for the delivery up of possession of any such lands shall be made by any such justice as aforesaid, if it shall appear to such justice that the party or parties against whom any such order is sought, hath or have been by himself, or themselves, or by those under whom he or they claim title, in the quiet possession of the land mentioned or referred to in any such information for one year next before the date thereof, or that such party or parties hath or have any probable claim or pretence of lawful title to such lands, or to the occupation thereof.

And it is further ordered, that for the purpose of any such order to be made by any such justice as aforesaid, the adjudication of such justice shall be conclusive as to the title of the person to whom delivery of the said lands and premises may be directed to be made, but nothing herein contained shall extend to take away or abridge the jurisdiction by law vested in the superior courts of civil justice of the said colonies respectively, in taking cognizance of and adjudicating upon titles to land. And any person against whom any such order as aforesaid may have been made, may, notwithstanding such order, proceed by the ordinary course of law to recover possession of such lands, in case he shall be able to establish a title thereto; and may also, in such case, recover a reasonable compensation for the damage he may have sustained by reason of his having been compelled to deliver up possession of the said premises; and in like manner, in case of the dismissal of any such information, the party having preferred the same may proceed before the ordinary tribunals as if no such information had been preferred.

Provided always, that in case any such information shall be dismissed, it shall be lawful for the said justice, if he shall think fit, to order the person by whom the same may have been preferred, whether such information may have been preferred by the surveyor-general or by any other person, to pay to the party or parties against whom the same may have been preferred, such sum as the said justice may consider to be the amount of costs fairly incurred by such party or parties by reason of such information so dismissed, and the payment of such costs may be enforced in the same way as the payment of other debts may be enforced in such colonies respectively. And for securing method and accuracy in the execution by the stipendiary justices of the jurisdiction hereby invested in them, it is hereby further ordered, that the governor of each of the said colonies shall prepare forms of the proceedings to be observed on lodging complaints, in issuing summonses, in the citation of witnesses, in the making orders, and generally for the complete carrying into execution of the powers hereby vested in the stipendiary justices, which forms shall be submitted by such governor to the chief civil judge of each such colony respectively, and being approved by such judge, the same shall be observed in all proceedings before the said stipendiary justices.

And it is further ordered, that all such forms of proceeding shall from time to time be revised, repealed, or amended, by the authority and in the manner aforesaid, as occasion may require.

And it is further ordered, that no order made by any stipendiary justice, in the execution of the jurisdiction so vested in him, shall be liable to be reversed, set aside, appealed from, or questioned by any court of justice in any of the said colonies, but the same shall, to all intents and purposes, be binding, final, and conclusive; subject, nevertheless, to the rights of the parties to proceed as hereinbefore mentioned before the ordinary tribunals of the said colonies respectively.

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And it is further ordered, that for all acts done by any stipendiary justice in the exercise of the jurisdiction hereby vested in him, such justice shall have and be entitled to the same protection and indemnity as, by any law in force in the colony, any magistrate is entitled to claim or to have in respect of any act by him done in execution of the powers vested by law in him.

Appendix.

Order in Council respecting Crown Lands Occupation.

And it is further ordered, that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Order, the officer lawfully administering the government of any of the said colonies shall be deemed and taken to be the governor thereof, and the words, "chief civil judge," shall be construed and understood to mean, in the colony of British Guiana, the chief justice of the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice of Demerara; and in the colony of Trinidad, the chief judge of the Court of First Instance; and in the colony of St. Lucia, the first president of the Royal Court; and in the colony of Mauritius, the first president of the Court of Appeal.

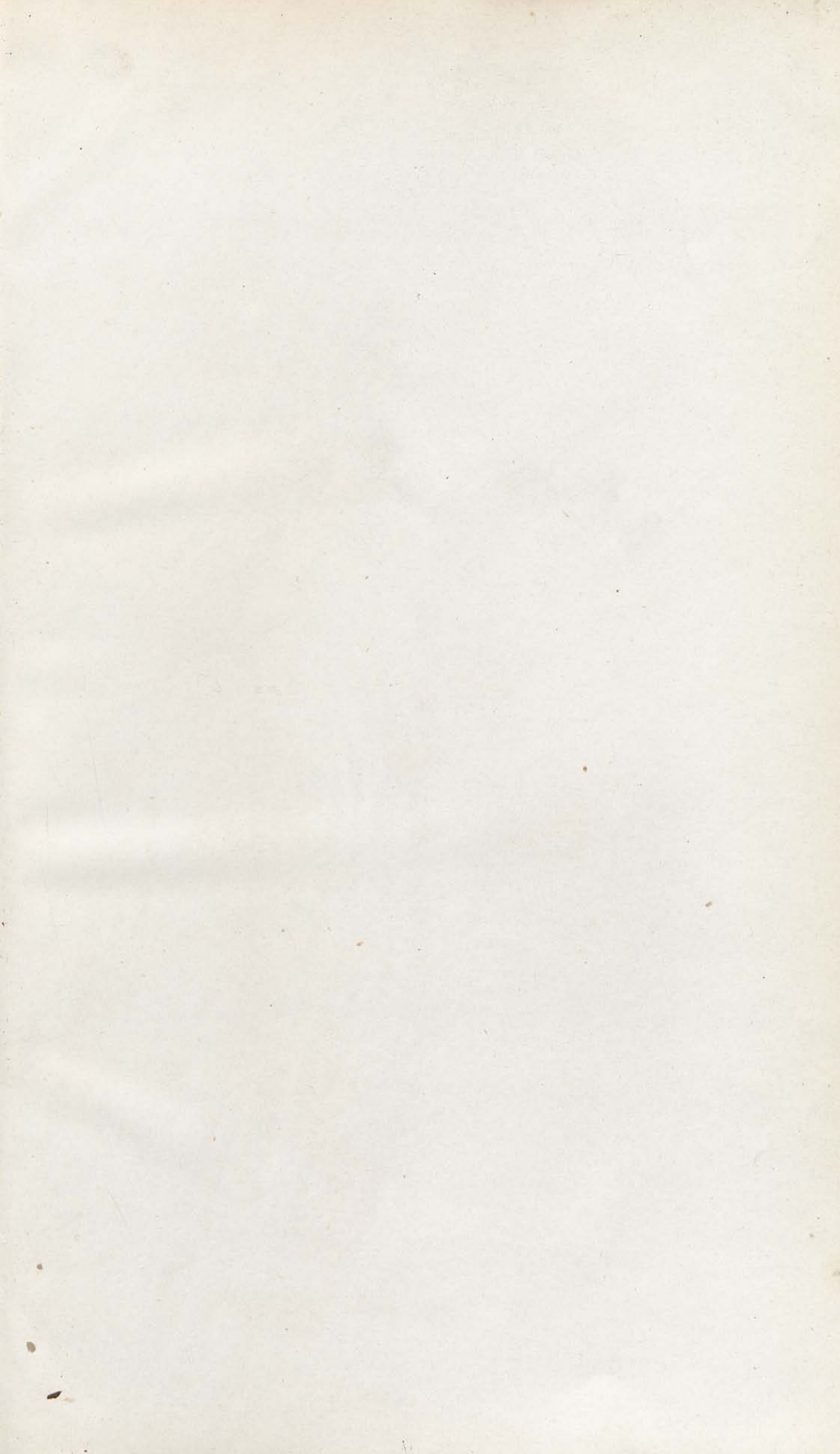
And it is further ordered, that all laws, statutes, and ordinances in force in the said colonies, or any of them, which are or shall be in anywise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Order, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

And it is further ordered, that the governor of each of the said colonies respectively shall, immediately upon the receipt by him of this present Order, publish, or cause to be published, a proclamation reciting at length the whole of this present Order, and stating the day of the month and year on which the same was so received by him; and from the publication of such proclamation this Order shall take effect, and have the force of law in each of the said colonies respectively.

And the Right honourable the Lord Glenelg, one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) Wm. L. Bathurst.





BIBLIOTHEQUE SCHOELCHER



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