

the production of cane juice was augmented fully 14 per cent. If sufficient capital can be obtained to introduce the improved system generally, it is thought that the battle with beet root will be continued on more even terms.

13. The great bulk of the population of Cuba, while owing allegiance to the flag of Spain, are essentially Cuban in their aspirations. In consequence there is far less of that absenteeism which prevails in the British West Indies. The Cuban preserves and perpetuates the race characteristics, and the result is a homogenous people affording a striking contrast to the Island of Jamaica and other British West Indies, where the Negro race so largely preponderates.

#### PORT RICO.

14. After four days' passage by the Spanish Royal Mail Steamer, "Ciudad de Cadiz" to Porto Rico, I arrived at the city of San Juan. On explaining my mission to the merchants, I found considerable interest manifested in the subject. Very general expression was given to the desire for more regularity in receiving fish supplies from Nova Scotia, the bulk of the import trade from Canada being done with that Province.

15. The Ports of Halifax, Lunenburg, and Yarmouth carry on a large trade with Porto Rico by sailing craft. I do not suppose it would suit the shippers from Lunenburg and Yarmouth to send their cargoes in steamers from Halifax, but the opportunity might sometimes be used. To those engaged in the trade in Halifax with their own craft, such a change in the mode of doing business would doubtless cause inconvenience; but the change from sailing vessels to steamers has been made in other countries; and steamships are recognized in all parts of the world as necessary for the regular and expeditious transportation of merchandise.

16. There should be an opening in this Island for other products of Canada besides fish and lumber. Flour supplied in moderate quantities and at regular intervals should find a ready sale. A large quantity of cheese is consumed which comes chiefly from Germany. Canada, being eminently a cheese-making country, should be able to compete in that article. A good deal of wire-fencing is used, some of which, I was informed, was of Canadian manufacture, received through the United States. Potatoes, apples, beans and peas, hams and bacon find ready sale.

The population of Port Rico is estimated at 800,000 and the annual aggregate trade amounts to about \$30,000,000. For particulars of trade and *pro forma* accounts, tariff and line of steamers, see Appendices I to Q.

#### ST. THOMAS.

17. I left San Juan by the R. M. S. "Eden" for Barbadoes, in order to connect there with the R. M. S. "Nile" for Jamaica. The "Eden" remained at St. Thomas three days, giving me an opportunity of conversing with some of the merchants. The withdrawal of the mail lines from St. Thomas, and the importance Barbadoes has obtained as a port of call, has had a depressing effect on the trade of the place. It was thought, however, that if St. Thomas could be drawn into closer intercourse with Canada by a steam service to the Island a certain amount of trade might be developed.

#### BARBADOES.

18. Leaving St. Thomas on the 20th of January, a visit of a few hours only was made at the Islands of St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Guadaloupe, Dominica, Martinique and St. Lucia, Barbadoes being reached on the 24th of the same month. The interval of three days at Barbadoes before leaving for Jamaica was occupied in calling upon several of the prominent merchants of Bridgetown. I also had the opportunity of an interview with the Honorable C. C. Knollys, Colonial Secretary. I was informed by Mr. Knollys that the finances of the Island were in such a state that he