

37. I had the honor of meeting members of the Board of Trade of St. John, N.B. this week, when the subject of supplying traffic was very fully discussed. Assurances were given of co-operation; and I am inclined to think that in due course much trade might be developed, that now lies dormant. In the light of development, it might be considered judicious to use the ports of Halifax and St. John alternately in establishing the line of two steamers to Cuba and Jamaica as suggested.

38. If direct steam communication be established, the merchants and manufacturers of Canada should be alive in the use of modern methods to push business and meet competition. A knowledge of the Spanish language is most useful, in fact indispensable, in any attempt to introduce Canadian products into the Spanish West Indies by samples or personal intercourse; and in the general desire to extend Canadian trade, it would be well to keep in view this essential qualification.

39. If our cotton manufacturers are able to supply white cottons or colored prints to meet the requirements of the West India people, in point of texture, and at competitive prices, the islands afford a wide field, as the climate necessitates the wearing of such goods all the year round.

40. The following statements will be found in the appendix, viz.:—

Statement of duties payable in Jamaica on sundry articles, Appendix T.

Statement of imports, Appendix U.

Statement of exports, Appendix V.

Statement of steamship lines, Appendix W.

*Pro forma* port charges account, steamer 1,000 tons, Appendix X.

*Pro forma* account sales, flour, Appendix Y.

*Pro forma* account sales, fish, Appendix Z.

41. In closing this report, I cannot refrain from mentioning the satisfaction I experienced in hearing so many expressions of respect and admiration on the part of eminent gentlemen of the West Indies for our Dominion of Canada. The excellent position taken by Canada in the late Exhibition, London, both as regards the extent of exhibits and the ability of the Agent, the High Commissioner, was frequently commented upon in most favorable terms.

I also gladly bear testimony to the valuable assistance rendered me by Consul General A. de C. Crowe, and Acting Vice-Consul V. F. Butler, of Havana, Vice-Consul Fowler of Cienfuegos, Hon. E. N. Walker, Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, Collector General Gillard and other gentlemen of Kingston, Consul General R. H. Hertslet of San Juan, Porto Rico; all of whom evinced their respect for the Dominion of Canada by a cheerful rendering of valued service to her Agent.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. WYLDE,

*Commercial Agent of the Government of Canada to the West Indies.*