

bicycles, etc., while the products which Canada could take in return in any large quantity would be sugar, oranges, and bananas, supplemented by cocoanuts, pineapples, coffee, ginger, tobacco, and allspice.

From this it will be seen that any extended trade de-

velopement between these two countries is quite a long way off, unless a direct line of steamers is established between St. John, N.B., and Jamaica. This would reduce the present ocean route by over 500 miles, and railroad freights by the same distance, and save five days in time, and reduce freight time to less than shipping through New York.

contract with the planters; and the banana trade is principally in the hands of the Boston Fruit Co.

Mr. Ventresse is very enthusiastic about future business in fruit by direct line to St. John, N. B. He has visited nearly all the leading wholesale fruit dealers in Canada and speaks very encouragingly as to the outlook for trade. There is no direct trade in fruit between Canada and Jamaica. All the oranges that come here pass through the middleman's hands at New York and Boston. Mr. Ventresse hopes before he returns to arrange matters so that oranges will be sent direct from the grower in Jamaica to the dealer in Canada. If this is done the fruit will come through quicker and in better condition, and the dealer here will be surer of the quality of the fruit he is getting. By this means a trade in Jamaica oranges should be established that will be of great advantage to the Canadian consumer, and he will not be eating Jamaica oranges under the delusion that they are Florida oranges because they are repacked and shipped from New York in boxes with printed Florida wrappers, to the great disadvantage of Jamaica.

In some respects agricultural conditions on the island

are very crude. The only grain crop grown, or that can be grown, is corn, which forms the stable grain for horses, but large quantities are imported. Cattle, horses and other stock are allowed to run on the fields winter and summer and do not get any special care or feeding except the working stock. Some idea of the ordinary Jamaica cow may be gathered from the fact that it takes from ten to fifteen cows to supply a gentleman's house with milk and butter. It is a good cow that gives three quarts of milk at a milking, and they are only milked once a day. The calves always suckle the cow. They are hard to raise and sometimes farmers lose 90 per cent. of their calves in the rearing. The Texas ticks are very troublesome. The only remedy used is to paint the animals with oils, etc. Dipping has not been used to any great extent. Of late years some little attention has been given to breeding. Several Herefords have been imported for improving beef stock, Holsteins for dairy, and the Indian cattle for working purposes. Jamaica raises all the horses and mules she needs, but a great many are sired by imported stock. All poultry is sold alive on the Jamaica markets, and brings about 18c. per lb. live weight at Kingston. The great enemy of the poultry on the island is the mongoose like a ferret in size and shape and a grey squirrel in color. It is also an enemy to all ground birds, of which there used to be a great variety.

Fruit at the Industrial Fair

By John B. Pettit, Fruitland, Ont.

No person who had the pleasure of visiting the Industrial Fair at Toronto could go away without entertaining the thought that Canada is a favored land, that her soil is rich and productive, and that the climatic conditions are favorable to the bringing to perfect maturity of all kinds of fruits, vegetables, and grains, and every other product of the agriculturist. Besides the general spirit of progressiveness that seemed to pervade the whole exhibition, the most excellent display in the horticultural building pointed



A Jamaica Banana Market

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Mr. A. Byron Ventresse, of Darliston, Jamaica, a Canadian by birth, but who has been a resident of the island for the past ten years, where he has a farm corresponding to our idea of a cattle ranch, which also produces oranges, is on an extended visit to Canada in the interests of the trade we have outlined. In a recent interview Mr. Ventresse gave some valuable information in regard to trade relations between the Dominion and the land of his adoption. Canadian flour has never been properly handled in the Jamaica market. A large consignment was sent down a few years ago and sold at auction; then a smaller lot was sent, over a year ago, and received no better treatment, in fact, might as well have been so sold; and to-day a barrel of Canadian flour cannot be bought. A good firm to handle only Canadian goods has never been established, and such seems to be a reasonable and intelligible solution for permanent and extended trade relations. The consumption of high grade flour is limited, but a profitable and increasing trade could be established. There is an immense consumption of canned goods, of which Canada supplies practically nothing. A small quantity of cheese and butter goes from the Maritime Provinces, but as the common people do not know butter from oleo, and as there is no law to prohibit the importation of the latter product, good butter is placed at a decided disadvantage. Nearly all the fish imported comes from Canada, and that is about the only line of trade that occupies an important place just now.

Turning to the other side of the question, we find that the two products for which a considerable direct trade might be worked up in Canada, are oranges and bananas, with something in sugar; but, as Mr. Ventresse points out, the bulk of Jamaica sugar goes to Great Britain under