

They hope no doubt some day to become producers, but at present they cannot be considered other than as traders only, neither can their territories, strictly speaking, be classed as colonies at all, as they are not officially recognised as such; but since, by the grant of Royal Charters or Protectorates over them and theirs, the Colonial Office has become more or less responsible for their doings, they cannot well be omitted from a general review of the colonies.

Of late years, it has not been the fashion to encourage this form of colonization, but, nevertheless, there is much to be said in its favour, and not a few of our possessions in the past and present had a similar origin, notably some of the United States, the Hudson Bay Territory in Canada, the West African Settlements, the Straits Settlement, and India itself.

Sixthly and lastly of the First Division, we come to the important group which are distinguished as producers; they include Ceylon, Mauritius, all our West Indian possessions, embracing some five and twenty chief islands, with the two colonies of British Honduras and Guiana, on the mainland, and the Fiji group.

They are all situated in the tropics, and in annexing them we have incurred special responsibilities, which I think we must all recognise, and which involve, in my judgment, in order that these responsibilities may be adequately discharged, that we should retain possession and continue to administer them, at least as far into the future as we need trouble ourselves about.

These responsibilities are two-fold—First, to the native population; Second, to the English or Creole settlers.

Ceylon, by far the most important of the lot, contains a population of about 2,800,000—roughly, three millions—the vast majority of whom are Cinghalese and Tamils, the latter originally from Southern India; there are, in addition, a considerable number of Moormen or Mahommedans, the descendants of Arabs, who have made their homes in the island for centuries past, some remnants of the aboriginal inhabitants, and a few thousand white settlers.

In Mauritius, with a population of about 360,000, about two-thirds are Negroes and imported Tamils from India, many of whom are now permanently resident; the remaining one-third consist of Creoles, the pure blooded descendants of the early French settlers, and a small number of Europeans.