

3d. That this meeting desires no other laws for the regulation of agriculture, trade and labour in Trinidad, than those existing in Great Britain, and is contented to adopt the principles contained in certain Resolutions brought forward by Mr. Hume, in the House of Commons, on the 23d June last, of which a copy is subjoined, as follows:—

“ 1st. That the improvement of the agricultural resources of the British West India Colonies is an object of great national importance, inasmuch as it would be beneficial to all her Majesty’s subjects engaged in their cultivation, and advantageous to the trade of the mother country, as by increasing the supply of produce, prices would be reduced, competition with the produce of slave labour would be increased, and this result would contribute in the best way towards the suppression of the slave-trade.

“ 2d. That the restrictive policy hitherto pursued towards these colonies, has not only failed to promote their prosperity, but has, by decreasing their resources, actually impeded its advancement, and that therefore other measures ought in justice to be speedily adopted, to prevent their suffering still farther injury.

“ 3d. That all laws and regulations which interfere with the freedom of labour, are alike injurious to the labourer and to the employer, as they prevent the former from obtaining employment with the full benefit of his industry, and the latter from seeking free labour wherever it may abound, and from realizing that fair profit upon capital which, but for these restrictions, might be advantageously employed; that, therefore, all such restrictive laws and regulations ought to be abolished, and that in future all practicable encouragement should be given to the introduction into these colonies of such immigrants as are best suited to the climate.

“ 4th. That all discriminating duties levied upon imports into these colonies should be abolished, and all unnecessary expenses therein reduced; that rum should be admitted into the United Kingdom at the same rates of duty as are charged on home-made spirits; and that the use of sugar and molasses should be permitted in all manufactures in which these articles can be employed.

“ 5th. That after the removal of the existing restrictions on labour; after the repeal of all discriminating duties on imports into the British West India colonies; and after sugar and molasses shall be permitted to be used generally in the United Kingdom, then all discriminating duties in favour of the produce of these colonies should, within a time to be limited, be repealed.”

4th. That in the crisis which is now inevitable, this meeting earnestly and respectfully begs his Excellency the Governor and the Legislative Council, to take such measures as may best enable the country to meet its altered circumstances, and without which the struggle will be hopeless; amongst these may be noticed the regulation of the rights and duties of employers and employed, and the assimilation of the laws of labour to the existing laws of England; the prevention of squatting; the sale and settlement of Crown lands in approved locations and under judicious limitations, with the view of inducing immigrants who have gained money to remain in the island, and for the purpose of obtaining a fund for future immigration and internal improvements; and the revival of African immigration on a sound basis and more extended scale, and with no harassing restrictions.

5th Resolution, moved by Colin Campbell, Esq., seconded by Dr. Meikleham, and carried unanimously, That the Honourable St. Luce Philip, Messrs. Huggins, Cummings, Agge and Henry Stewart, be appointed a deputation to wait on his Excellency Lord Harris with a copy of the foregoing Resolutions, and that they be instructed to request his Excellency to forward a copy of them to the Right honourable the Secretary for the Colonial Department.

6th. Moved by Colin Campbell, Esq., seconded by the Honourable St. Luce Philip, and carried, That this meeting feels it incumbent on all parties interested in the staples of this island to renew their efforts to obtain a reduction on the heavy charges now made on the sale of colonial produce shipped to the mother country.

7th. Moved by H. Stewart, Esq., seconded by Peter Campbell, Esq., and carried unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be given to Anthony Cumming, Esq., for his able conduct in the chair.

(signed) *H. B. Darling,*
Secretary.

— No. 8. —

(No. 73.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Lord *Harris* to Earl *Grey*.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 3 October 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of certain Resolutions decided on at a numerous and respectable meeting in Port of Spain, on the 18th of last month.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Harris.*

Enclosure

No. 8.

Governor Lord
Harris to Earl
Grey.

3 October 1846.