

While there are many well-educated and extremely able black and coloured men high up in the professions and industries, the majority of the population are considerably below the standard of civilization prevailing in Canada, and here is where the difficulty of out-and-out Confederation at once presents itself. Canadians, it is felt, would object to black and coloured populations being admitted to Confederation on terms of equality with themselves, and would not relish such men sitting in the Canadian Parliament and voting on questions concerning the government of the Dominion. West Indians, on the other hand, have indicated (or at least some of them have) that they would not like out-and-out Confederation because any representatives they sent to Canada would be in a distinct minority, and would always be voted down in any matter raising a question between white and coloured populations.

There are other difficulties arising from the same source. The form of government varies in the West Indies. Some have a limited form of self-government. Others have not. On the whole, the population is well satisfied with the present forms of government. The British Government exercises a paternal attitude towards the West Indies and the governing institutions are regarded with great affection and loyalty by the people as a whole. British colonial administration has behind it long traditions which make for respect and contentment. It is to be doubted whether a transference of allegiance from Downing Street to Ottawa would be regarded with the same contentment and respect, even if the British authorities were agreeable to it.

Commercial union, which would leave present administrative institutions in the West Indies undisturbed, is therefore what many are advocating. Its leading advocate, Mr. T. P. Macaulay, says: "Both sides have everything to gain and nothing to lose by it. But I believe political union

would be a great mistake, on account of the great distance of the islands from Canada and the mutual lack of knowledge of each other's needs. It would be unwise that either should attempt to control the government of the other. The idea that a Canadian federal election should turn on the vote of the British West Indies would be equally as ridiculous as the controlling of West Indian affairs by a Canadian majority."

To this Mr. Harry Crowe, the leading exponent of confederation, replies: "Having regard to the annihilation of distance brought about by improved seaplane, steamship and cable services, I do not consider the objection of distance to be insuperable. As for not knowing each other's needs, unless we gain a knowledge of these, and have a mutual interest in each other's welfare, not even a commercial union would be successful. As to the objection of controlling each other's governments, the West Indies should have control of their own local affairs through a system of provincial governments similar to their present administration, while the affairs in which British America is interested as a whole would naturally be vested in the Federal Government. My principal objection to a commercial union, as opposed to confederation, is that no Parliament could legislate a commercial treaty to stand for all time, and even if it were possible the United States or some other country might make such overtures to the West Indies as would result in a treaty that would destroy any advantages there might be in a purely commercial union."

The arrangement between the United States and Porto Rico, which has been put forward by many as a model for the consideration of Canada in dealing with the West Indies, is one that was adopted after seven years of experimenting and consideration. Under this arrangement, Porto Rico has been admitted to the Union on a federal basis, but with some important conditions. Porto Rico has the same