

assist in some degree in aiding the project of a steamship line. Having in view as already intimated the free introduction into Canada of your fruits if shipped direct I would take the liberty of suggesting for the consideration of your Council whether a reduction in the duty on flour and fishstuffs into Jamaica from Canada might not be recommended as an equivalent. I am without data as regards the consumption in Canada of your oranges and bananas. With a duty of 20 per cent. and the extra cost incidental to the indirect mode of importation consequent upon the absence of direct means, those fruits become high priced articles of luxury. This duty might under arrangement be conceded, and doubtless by special efforts, combined with cheapened cost, the consumption would be largely increased. The articles of flour and fishstuffs are subject to a duty with you of about 40 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively. A reduction of a portion of this duty on direct imports from Canada might combine the double advantage of relieving your population of some of the burden of taxation, more particularly felt in these times of depression, and give some advantage to Canada in the sending of those supplies.

"With respect to the length of time stated by you for the voyage, I would remark, that the estimate of ten or twelve days is quite too large. From Kingston to Halifax, calling at Santiago is 1,790 miles. The steamer would average 300 miles a day, which allowing one day for detention at Santiago, would make the time of voyage but seven days. And as regards the shipping of fruit, I apprehend that the difficulty of safe stowage and transport, even if sugar and molasses should be shipped at the same time, will be no greater than is experienced in other lines.

"It being implied that Canada would receive the maximum of benefit, it cannot be extravagant to suggest that Jamaica might bear the minimum of cost, and to remove any apprehension that Canada is seeking anything unduly oppressive, I beg to add that if the sum of £2,000 per annum only were granted by Jamaica, it would serve to evince a further earnest of 'co-operation.'

"As it is necessary that I should leave Jamaica on the 3rd prox., any reply that may be deemed necessary to make to this communication might be addressed direct to the Honorable Minister of Finance, Ottawa.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"JOHN T. WYLDE,

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

"REV. J. B. ELLIS,

"Secretary of the Jamaica Society
"of Agriculture and Commerce,
"Kingston."

29. *Mr. Wyld's Letter to the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica.*

"KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 2nd March, 1887.

"SIR,—I have the honor to hand you a copy of correspondence with the Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce on the subject of direct steam communication with Canada.

"I trust that further negotiations between our respective Governments may lead to a successful issue.