

these are parties to the reciprocity agreement.

There is a direct and regular steamship service between Canada and the first group. Under the terms of the reciprocity agreement it is subsidized wholly by Canada, at a cost of \$340,666.66 per annum, worked out on the basis of so much a trip for each ship. There is no direct steamship service between Canada and the second group, the result being that Uncle Sam acts as the intermediary for most of whatever interchange of trade there is between them and Canada, and incidentally captures a large part of the trade for himself. The total imports of the preference colonies, computed on a pre-war basis (the figures of 1912) are \$44,237,839, and the total exports \$41,304,363. The total imports of the non-preference colonies are \$19,858,144, and the total exports \$17,186,057. Of the non-preference colonies, Jamaica, with its dependent islands of Turks, Caicos and Cayman, is by far the most important, being credited with \$14,642,303 of the total imports given above and \$13,004,562 of the total exports.

Now the reason why Jamaica chose to stand out of the reciprocity agreement was that a very large proportion of her exports go to the American markets, and she feared that if she gave a preference to Canada, the United States would retaliate by a countervailing duty against Jamaican products. There are reasons to believe that she regrets that decision, and is now anxious to pull the latch-string which Sir George Foster told her at the time would always be hanging on the outside of the door for her.

We know now that not only are the West Indian colonies which are included in the agreement anxious to continue and extend the arrangement, but that Jamaica, the Bahamas and British Honduras would also like to come in. The Canadian Government, on its part, has made it quite evident that it is willing and anxious for such an arrangement.

The problem now is, what form shall this arrangement take? Both sides are demanding something better than a reciprocity agreement covering a term of years. They want a permanent union in some form or other.

Mr. T. B. Macaulay, the President of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, and the President and founder of the Canadian-West Indian League, is an advocate of a fifty per cent. preference between Canada and the West Indies, and has recently toured the preference colonies preaching that doctrine. Under this agreement there would be a trading advantage between Canada and the West Indies. Mr. Harry Crowe, a wealthy Canadian of Toronto, and a prominent member of the League of which Mr. Macaulay is president, is an advocate of out-and-out Confederation between Canada and the West Indies, and has been touring the West Indies, including Jamaica, telling of the advantages of such a union. Others, both in Canada and the West Indies, who have given much study to the question, advocate some such arrangement as that which at present exists between the United States and Porto Rico.

The main difficulty in connection with the question is one of population. The present population of the West Indies is about 2,000,000. This is capable of great expansion, for if all were as densely populated as Barbados is to-day, the British West Indies would have a population of 113,777,978. It is obvious, therefore, that this possibility of future population has to be taken into account in any arrangement that may be effected for union with Canada.

The population is made up of whites and black and coloured races. In every colony the black and coloured races are in an immense majority. For instance, in Jamaica, the black and coloured races are ninety-five per cent. of the population. There is every prospect that this proportion of black and coloured races will be maintained.