

United States, all the lines at present in operation being purely private enterprises: it is the opinion of the Council that the commercial community of this Island is adverse to the granting of subsidies, such as that suggested. The Council, also, while fully alive to the great advantages to be derived both by the Dominion of Canada and by Jamaica from the establishment of a direct steam service, considers that Canada would derive much greater benefit than Jamaica from such service. In illustration of this, it is sufficient to refer to the eleventh paragraph of your statement, in which are named the various articles of export, which Canada could furnish Jamaica, which articles are, at the present time, imported from the United States.

"The Council desires me also to remind you that the two principal fruit exports of the Island are bananas and oranges, the former of which is the larger of the two. Bananas, also, are admitted free of duty to the United States. In the absence of any statistical information respecting the consumption of fruit in Canada, the Council is unable to compute what the value of this trade is likely to be.

"There likewise seem to the Council to be two great drawbacks to the increase of the fruit trade with Canada, should the proposed line of steamers take the route suggested in your statement.

"(1.) The passage from Jamaica to Halifax would occupy from ten to twelve days, much too long a time for perishable articles.

"(2.) If sugar and molasses are to be stowed in the same hold it will be found impossible to carry fruit with any prospect of profit to the shippers.

"The Council directs me in conclusion, to convey to you its sincere thanks for your able statement, and to assure you of its hearty co-operation in aiding the establishment of direct steam communication between Canada and Jamaica.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. B. ELLIS,
"Secretary.

"JOHN T. WYLDE, ESQ.,

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

28. Mr. Wyld's Letter.

"KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 28th February, 1887.

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant which reached me on the 27th.

While mindful of the obligations under which I am placed by the trouble your Council has taken to consider my statement, and although the decision come to in reference to aiding in the establishment of steam communication between Jamaica and Canada is unfavorable, I am encouraged to bring the matter again to the notice of your Chamber by the concluding paragraph of your letter which assures me 'of its hearty co-operation in aiding the establishment of direct steam communication between Canada and Jamaica.'

"In noticing the statement that 'it is the opinion of the Council that the commercial community is adverse to the granting of subsidies,' I am led to observe that the subsidy granted to the line to New York, it is generally conceded, fulfilled its object in fostering and establishing a trade, which, being now self-sustaining after due development, does not require further Government aid. It would appear, with all due respect to the opinion of your Council, that such an experience might be considered sufficient to justify a recommendation to follow the same course with respect to fostering a special trade with Canada.

"Relying then on your promised 'co-operation' I would place before your Chamber a further proposal embracing reciprocal concessions which might, if adopted,