

"The population of Canada is now computed to be 5,000,000. For the years 1882, 83, 84 and 85 the additions by immigration amounted to a yearly average of 107,268 persons, with money and effects to the value of nearly \$1,000,000 per annum. The banking capital amounts to \$230,000,000. The shipping in 1884 amounted to 1,231,856 tons, and \$1,000,000 are spent annually in the maintenance of lighthouses, and other marine services. The agricultural resources of Canada, embraced in her capacity to produce wheat and other articles, are practically unlimited. Her fisheries are unrivalled, while her manufactures are assuming very large proportions.

"Besides fish and lumber, Canada wants to send you her flour and biscuits, peas and beans, beef and pork, hams and bacon, butter and cheese, hay and oats, apples and potatoes, ale and porter, glass and glassware, soap and candles, boots and shoes, nails, paper, cottons, tweeds, cordage and canvas, coal, carriages, grindstones, agricultural implements, wire fencing and machinery of all kinds.

"Jamaica found a market in Canada in 1884 for 40 per cent. of her sugar crop, while in 1885 the quantity was under 20 per cent., owing to diminished intercourse, and if direct facilities were afforded, and special efforts made, your sugar exports to Canada would be enlarged, and the trade in fruits and other valuable products of the Island would be sensibly augmented.

"The undersigned being sanguine that, under special concessions, the volume of your fruit trade might be increased, will be glad to recommend the free introduction into Canada of your fruits, if shipped direct from your Island, and would suggest for the consideration of your Chamber, how far the prospect of bringing this about might be strengthened by your recommending some concession from your tariff as an equivalent.

"I would further state in conclusion that the Government of Canada being thus anxious to see established lines of steam communication with the West Indies, feel disposed to aid by subsidy in the promotion of so desirable an object, and I am to seek co-operation on the part of Jamaica. I would feign believe that the people of Jamaica are equally desirous of improved direct trade opportunities with Canada, and I trust they will be disposed to contribute towards the subsidy required to induce responsible steamship owners to undertake the service.

"Respectfully submitted by,

"JOHN T. WYLDE,

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

27. ANSWER.

"THE MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE,"

"KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 25th February, 1887."

"SIR,—I am directed by the Council of the Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce to acknowledge the receipt of your statement respecting direct steam communication between Canada and the West Indies, and to inform you that at a meeting of the Council held on the 24th inst., the following resolution was, after due consideration of the subject, unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved—That the Council having duly considered the proposals made by Mr. Wylde, regret that it cannot recommend the Government to aid by a subsidy the promotion of steam communication between Canada and the West Indies. The Council, however, is quite alive to the advantages which such a line as that proposed would confer and would give it its cordial support.

"I am further directed to call your attention to the fact that, at the present moment, there is no subsidized line of steamers running between this Island and the