

MEMORANDUM

On the trade of the British West India Islands by Mr. Watson Griffin, of the Department of Trade and Commerce, in the form of two letters addressed to Sir Joseph Pope.

In preparing the statement asked for I have assumed that you want only the percentage of British West Indian trade with the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, respectively. I have included in the British West Indian colonies British Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, the Leeward Islands, Jamaica and the Bahamas. All of these, except the last two colonies, are included in the Preferential Agreement with Canada. I have not included Bermuda as it is not regarded as one of the British West Indian colonies, and is not in the Tropics. I have not included British Honduras in Central America as it is seldom regarded as belonging to the British West Indies. I can furnish the figures for British Honduras and Bermuda if desired.

The following is a statement of the British West Indian trade:—

TRADE OF BRITISH WEST INDIES.	
Imports of Merchandise, 1914.	
British Guiana.....	\$ 7,332,320
Trinidad and Tobago.....	811,720 Transit trade.
Barbados.....	12,181,104
Grenada.....	5,349,576 Transit trade.
St. Lucia.....	6,222,646
St. Vincent.....	1,310,481
Leeward Islands.....	1,466,319
Jamaica.....	387,644 (year 1913).
Bahamas.....	2,682,207
	12,422,249
	1,786,617
	\$53,573,321
Exports of Merchandise, 1914.	
British Guiana.....	\$10,485,540
Trinidad and Tobago.....	811,720 Transit trade
Barbados.....	14,022,345
Grenada.....	3,349,576 Transit trade.
St. Lucia.....	4,426,753
St. Vincent.....	1,622,420
Leeward Islands.....	522,332 Ordinary exports.
Jamaica.....	620,013 Bunker coal.
Bahamas.....	530,715 (year 1913)
	2,937,798
	13,775,881
	1,087,656
	\$56,192,879

I have chosen the year 1914 because the year 1913 was considerably affected by the war and the year 1914 only slightly affected by it, and moreover all the statistics for the year 1915 were not available. In the year 1913 the Preferential Agreement was only in force for part of the year, so that it was not a representative year. In the case of St. Vincent I found it impossible to get the figures for the year 1914, and was obliged to use the year 1913.

You will note that under British Guiana there is an amount of \$811,720 for transit trade in both the columns for imports and exports. In Trinidad and Tobago the transit trade both for exports and imports is \$5,349,576. This transit trade is not included in the ordinary imports and exports in making calculations of percentages, because the transit trade does not represent actual consumption of goods in British Guiana and Trinidad, but merely the handling of goods for other countries. For instance, Trinidad being very close to Venezuela, is a most favourable point for transshipment. Great quantities of goods intended for Venezuela are transhipped at Port of Spain, Trinidad, and sent up the rivers of Venezuela in small boats. In the same way considerable quantities of Venezuela products are brought to Trinidad for shipment abroad. British Guiana's transit trade consists chiefly of goods transhipped to small boats running up the rivers of French Guiana and Dutch Guiana. Large boats take the cargoes to Georgetown, British Guiana, and there tranship to small steamers which run up the rivers of the neighbouring French and Dutch colonies.