

respect, but there is a labouring class of Italians and navvies who come from the farms which they have cultivated and from their work on railways who are industrious and a most desirable class. But in my estimation one of the most desirable classes—I have not been out on the land, but I have seen them and know something of their capacity—are the Galicians who have been inveighed against and almost repulsed from our shores by our hon. friends opposite. They began at the bottom, worked early and late and elevated themselves more in proportion than any other class that has come to the country, and they will make the very best settlers because they have begun at the bottom and worked upward and are adapting themselves to our institutions.

Another subject to which I wish briefly to refer and upon which my hon. friend from St. John (Hon. Mr. Daniel) congratulated himself is the prospect of increased trade with the West Indies. I think it is in the minds of some gentlemen that possibly the West India Islands will expand and will bring an off-set to the trade which they lost with the United States. At any rate they put it forward as a resource and although we have lost trade in raw material with the United States we have continued and will increase the trade in our raw materials with the West India Islands. I would remind my hon. friend opposite—and he knows them very well—that the West India Islands are very small and very much exhausted, that the machinery they use is now largely obsolete, that they are owned in England and very largely mortgaged in England, that their machinery comes from England and that the produce from those estates must go to England to pay for advances made. They are small in extent and cannot be greatly increased, neither can the trade with them or from them be materially increased, and why? A large proportion of the population are coloured people. They are living in a tropical climate. They have not such wants as people in a northern climate. Very little of the products and manufactures of this country are used by them, and they are becoming mere cultivators of their own ground. When

our products were introduced there it was only because of their cheapness, and as prices increase the quality will be diminished. I am sorry to hear that one of the British islands has been partially engulfed by a tidal wave. I hope the damage has not been as extensive as reported. Part of that island from which we hoped so much is mountainous and probably the tidal wave did not extend far into the interior, but it caused a diminution of trade for a time with that island. Trinidad is the other large island, but who can compare those islands with Porto Rico and Cuba, with their extensive trade in products of the soil and valuable minerals and with large areas of land in the interior to be brought under cultivation? Large amounts of capital from the United States are pouring into those islands to develop their resources, and they can grow West India products at a cheaper rate and in greater quantities than the British islands ever can expect to do, even with the addition of Demarara. Therefore, I think our expectations may be too great. I am afraid they cannot be realized to any great extent to augment our trade, and though we may put on modern steamers and make elaborate preparations and persuade ourselves that we may develop a great trade, I am afraid from the material dimensions of those islands it can never be greatly increased. I am reminded of the fact that a few months ago in the Carribean sea, off the mouth of the Orinoco, two islands came up, like McGinty, from the bottom of the sea. Now there is my hon. friend's opportunity. Let him send his friends, who so eloquently expatiated on the trade which is to be done with those islands, to these islands when they cool down. No doubt they will have great mineral resources and probably will lead to a great development of our trade with the West Indies, from the numerical increase of the islands.

I may be pardoned, at this stage, for saying a word or two upon the naval question, which is one of great importance. And I approach the subject with great diffidence because I do not know what the naval question is. My hon. friend the leader of the House has exhibited himself like Dido, enveloped in a cloud, and sometimes he comes out of that cloud and gives