

dered it possible even to bring the subject under the consideration of that Government.

It will, we presume, be admitted, without argument, that negotiations of such an important character could only be conducted by parties clothed with proper authority. Jamaica, it is scarcely necessary to remind our readers, is a Crown colony, and Mr. Solomon and his confreres in London have no authority whatever to make proposals of the character which we find detailed at some length in the *Toronto Mail* under the headings of "The Jamaica Boom" "Jamaicans are willing" "History of the negotiations in London." It is alleged by the *Mail's* Ottawa correspondent that the Jamaicans are favorable to the scheme of a federal union with Canada. It is known that some time ago a commissioner was appointed to enquire into and report on the condition of several of the West Indian colonies, and that more than six months ago the Earl of Derby, Secretary of State communicated to the Governor of Jamaica the conclusions he had arrived at after consideration of its report. The *Mail's* correspondent refers to the desire of the Jamaicans for "a restoration of the self-government they enjoyed for 200 years." The *Globe* describes "a population which the Imperial Government deprived of Responsible Government," and the London *Advertiser* writes "when they possessed self-government." Our contemporaries are all completely astray. No West Indian colony has ever enjoyed "self-government," as the expression is understood in Canada. There are two systems of government in the West Indies, viz: the Crown Colony system, which prevails in Jamaica as it does in British Guiana, Trinidad, and St. Lucia, and the colonies described in the Colonial office list as "Colonies possessing representative institutions, but not responsible Government," in other words, the system which prevailed in Upper and Lower Canada prior to the Union in 1840, and for a few years afterwards. It is desirable that our contemporaries should bear this distinction in mind.

We are not willing to assume, in the absence of a particle of evidence, that Sir Charles Tupper has entered into negotiations with persons in the position of Mr. Solomon, who is said to have resigned his position as a member of Council because the Imperial Government arrived at a decision in the case of the *Florence*, which displeased him. It appears that a Mr. Spencer Jones, said to be a Canadian, is acting in concert with Mr. Solomon, and that he wrote a letter to the

Mail on Jamaica affairs, which was published in June, 1882. It is stated in the *Mail* that a number of Jamaicans wished a public meeting to be called in London, "to discuss the advisability of asking the Imperial authorities to allow the Island to make overtures to Canada." This is an admission that nothing could be done without the previous sanction of the Imperial authorities, and yet it appears from the *Mail* that at the request of certain Jamaican proprietors in London "the Hon. Michael Solomon has had informal interviews with Sir Charles Tupper," and that proposals for terms of union have actually been printed.

It is tolerably clear that not Jamaica only, but British Guinea, Barbados, Trinidad and the minor colonies are all suffering most severely from the present low price of sugar, and that it is at least problematical whether the cultivation of cane sugar can be maintained in competition with beet. Canada is peculiarly situated. Without discussing at present the merits of her policy as regards the sugar trade, she has imposed heavy duties on raw sugar, avowedly to protect her sugar refineries, and she has moreover given great encouragement to the cultivation of beet sugar, and the establishment of factories for its manufacture. To permit the introduction of cane sugar from one island duty free, would be a complete reversal of her own policy, and would, moreover, inflict a serious loss on the more prosperous sugar colonies,—all of which would probably, if the sugar planters alone were consulted, be as ready as Jamaica to try the experiment of joining the Canadian Federation. Of all these colonies Jamaica is probably the one which is most discontented.

The *Mail* has published several extracts from Jamaica newspapers with the view of establishing the popularity of the scheme, which, we regret to notice, seems to meet the approval of the ministerial papers. We must own that we place not the slightest reliance on the extracts furnished by the *Mail* being faithful representations of the opinions of the black or colored classes constituting about 97 per cent of the aggregate population. The people in London who are trying to negotiate with Sir Charles Tupper are of course interested in sugar cultivation, as are the merchants, and other white inhabitants, including the professional men; but no one who considers the question can for a moment imagine that the people at large would be satisfied with our high tariff on articles of general consumption. We sincerely hope that the *Globe* is mistaken in his

supposition that the ministerial organs have been instructed to write up the admission of Jamaica, and yet we must admit that the course taken by the *Mail* and the *Citizen* is calculated to excite suspicion. What strikes us as most extraordinary is that, although Jamaica is a Crown Colony, there is not before us a particle of information as to the views of the Secretary of State on the subject and yet it is difficult to believe that, without the express authority of the Earl of Derby, Sir Charles Tupper would have held informal interviews with Mr. Solomon, or that "an official paper," containing "proposals for terms of union" would have been sent to Canada, and published in the leading organ of the Government. The Imperial Government can hardly fail to realize the consequences of its being committed even to the discussion of such a scheme. That there would be intense dissatisfaction in the sugar colonies generally at the admission of Jamaica sugar into another British Colony on more favorable terms than their own can no more be doubted, than that there would be an outcry from the manufacturers of Great Britain at the Canadian tariff being extended to Jamaica, while all the products of Jamaica are admitted duty free into the United Kingdom. We have probably treated the subject too seriously, for in truth the scheme is impracticable, but the tone of the Ministerial press has been, to say the least, not a little alarming.

SHIPMENTS OF COTTON GOODS.

The shipment of about 500 bales of grey cottons to England last week has alarmed one or two of those journals who never can believe that good can come of any enterprise not under the special sanction of their own omniscient wisdom. This movement of cottons is in accordance with the conclusions arrived at by manufacturers early the present year in order to relieve the market of its surplus goods, although the endeavor, for one reason or other, has not met with any great degree of success. It is not alone in cottons that this course has been deemed necessary; the system inaugurated so successfully in 1869 of placing quantities of Canadian woollens in the British market, and which has meantime been discontinued, was again attempted early the present season, and has been going on for some time. This presumably is the basis for the statement in a city contemporary that a Montreal wholesale house had instructed their agent to purchase Canadian goods in England where "they would be disposed of at an exceedingly low figure;" for we cannot fancy