

sugar tariff some years ago did more to diminish trade with the West Indies than all the steps which the Government will be able to take during this present Session or any future Session will do to extend it. We imported large quantities of grocery sugars from the West Indies under the old tariff; now we import almost none, and the grades used in refining in this country are not West India sugars, as a rule. I am glad to notice that there are certain measures proposed to improve the criminal law, and I trust that the hon. gentleman who leads for the Government in this House may be able to see that amongst the amendments to the criminal law there will be one which will dispense with the services of the Grand Jury. I take it that under our present system the Grand Jury is an unnecessary handicap to justice in its race with crime; and as it has ceased to be of any real value I hope the Government will see their way clear to getting rid of it.

As to the report of the Royal Commission on Labor we cannot say anything, as we have not the report and do not know what its nature is. I notice that His Excellency does not promise that there will be any legislation based upon that report; and I presume that the report will be like the reports of so many other commissions—it will afford pleasant reading for people interested in that particular subject, and will be of no practical value beyond that. It occurs to me that we have altogether too many commissions in this country. Government costs us altogether too much for a country as poor and as thinly populated as this, and with so many unnecessary employes in the Government service, it strikes me as being indefensible that, instead of giving some of those gentlemen who have now very little to do occupation in making enquiries into various subjects which it becomes the duty of the Government to deal with, the Government think proper to go outside of their regular servants and select gentlemen who have served them in the political sphere, and to pay those gentlemen handsome sums for doing work which generally results in nothing, and which, at any rate, ought to be done by the paid and permanent servants of the public.

I notice that the hon. gentleman who moved the Address referred to the fact

that there was now a good prospect of a treaty with Spain with respect to her West India possessions. I only hope that the hon. gentleman is not too sanguine. It is most desirable that we should have a more advantageous treaty with Spain than we have at present, but I cannot say that I feel very hopeful on the subject; for as far back as 1882, I think, the hon. gentleman who is now High Commissioner in England gave us to understand that he was on the point of completing a treaty with Spain which would give us the advantages we required, but we have not heard anything very recently to show that we are any nearer to that treaty now than we were then. Perhaps the leader of the Government will be able to tell us what the latest information is.

There is one thing I should like to say with regard to something that fell from the hon. gentleman from Alberton with respect to one of the members from St. John in the House of Commons. I think it is perhaps better that we should not refer here to the views of members of the other Chamber, but as a great deal has been said with respect to that hon. gentleman's advocacy of annexation I think it only fair to say that the case as against him has been very much over-stated. My information is that the gentleman published some months ago an editorial in his newspaper, not advocating annexation, not saying that he was in favor of it, but simply pointing out what the result of annexation would be upon the material fortunes of the Provinces. He has never since then declared that he was in favor of annexation, and I do not think that it is fair to attribute to any man sentiments which he has not expressed. There is no reason why any hon. gentleman here should not, if he chose, indicate what the effect of annexation would be.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—Does the hon. gentleman read the *St. John Globe*?

HON. MR. POWER—For my own part, I have no doubt that one of the effects of annexation would be a very considerable improvement in the material condition of this country.

HON. GENTLEMEN—No, no.

HON. MR. POWER—I have no doubt at