

could give no encouragement whatever, as regards the grant of a subsidy; the Government having to practise the utmost retrenchment in order to make ends meet.

19. By means of steam communication, the trade between Barbadoes and the United States has developed into large proportions. More than half of the sugar produced in 1886 was taken by the Americans, while the articles of flour, meal, bread, pork, peas, lard, oil, &c., were supplied by them. Canada and Newfoundland take the bulk of the molasses. Newfoundland supplies nearly all the codfish consumed; the "hard cured" being preferred to the quality shipped from Nova Scotia.

20. The possibility of direct trade by steamers with Canada was a subject of much interest; but I think that unless flour can be supplied to meet the requirements of climate at competitive prices, and codfish of a better keeping quality sent, the volume of the trade between Canada and Barbadoes will continue small, as those articles must be depended on principally for cargo.

See Appendix R for tariff of duties.

JAMAICA.

21. Leaving Barbadoes on the 26th January, I arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, on the 30th. Obtaining an early interview with His Excellency Sir H. W. Norman, Governor of Jamaica, I explained the object of my mission. His Excellency stated that he heard me with great pleasure; but was sorry that his immediate departure for England would prevent his taking just then a more personal interest in the matter.

22. He expressed his great interest in having direct steam communication with Canada and stated that he would support any feasible measure, whereby financial or commercial assistance could be rendered. The minute made by His Excellency will be found in Appendix S.

23. Jamaica, like the other West India Islands, has suffered most seriously by the low price of sugar, and quite a gloomy view of affairs is taken by many of the merchants.

24. The revenue for the past year was not more than equal to the expenditure, and special measures would have to be taken if the Government decided to join Canada in any subsidy.

25. Finding much interest evinced by the merchants on the subject of closer trade intercourse between Canada and Jamaica, I endeavored to get an expression of opinion from them as a body. I also placed before the Council of the Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce a statement for consideration, a copy of which, with the correspondence thereon, I have the honor to submit:—

26. *Statement respecting direct steam communication between Canada and the West Indies, made to the Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce, by Mr. Wylde, Commercial Agent of the Government of Canada, to the West Indies.*

" KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 17th February, 1887.

"The attention of the Government of Canada having been directed to the fact, that by the withdrawal of the Cunard line of steamers last year direct steam communication between Canada and the West Indies had entirely ceased, the undersigned was commissioned to make enquiry on the subject, with a view to the renewal and enlargement of those facilities for direct trade.

"The countries being so mutually interested it appears most important that regular and expeditious facilities should exist, for the interchange of merchandize and mails, and for passenger traffic. The West Indies being the natural market for many of the productions of the Dominion, and Canada likewise requiring largely of the products of the West Indies, it would appear most obvious that the subject should receive special consideration.