



JAMAICA.—NEGRO HUTS IN THE COUNTRY.

nests and eating the eggs for food. There is one bird, however, that makes up for the absence of the others—the nightingale, or American mocking-bird. As a songster, this bird is a marvel. We were told by a native that this bird has twelve distinct songs, and we would believe it if we were told it had a hundred—for we tried to find a similarity of song but failed—a most excellent singer.

The traveller through Jamaica will have an impression that much of the country is in a wild state, until it is learned that the bushes that appear to be wild growth are logwood trees of much value, or pimento (allspice), coffee, etc.

Jamaica is a fruit paradise. Nothing can be finer than the oranges around Mandeville, although for want of a paying market they are allowed to drop off the trees to rot. Grape fruit is the finest, banana is king, and the lemon, limes, and pineapple are at their best. The purely native fruits such as nase-berry, sweet sop, granadilla, guava, shaddock, paw-paw, mango, star apple, etc., have to be used for a

while to have a taste acquired. The mango has a peculiar flavor and is held in high favor by the Jamaicans; there are some eleven varieties, and is a source of food supply without much effort.

Banana cultivation has increased in acreage during recent years. In 1901 there were 30,188 acres under cultivation; at the close of 1910 this had increased to 69,066 acres. Sugar cane cultivation is not showing any very marked increase, there being 30,153 acres of canes in 1910. Tobacco growing is advancing, the acreage increased from 352 acres to 837 in the past ten years. Cocoa has also shown a great increase in more recent years. Ten years ago there were only 1,022 acres and in 1910 11,350 acres were given to cocoa. Coffee growing shows a very slight increase.

The exports of sugar and rum after providing for home consumption, were, at the close of 1909, valued at—sugar, £118,733; rum, £234,151.

Jamaica is well supplied with hotels. The Myrtle Bank, at Kingston, is a favourite tourist resort. There are also many good private hotels.

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