

The Journal

OF THE

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The more people do the more they can do: he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything: while we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.

VOL. XIV.

NOVEMBER, 1910.

No. 11.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, No. 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday, 20th October, 1910, at 11.40 a.m. Present:—His Excellency the Governor, in the chair, the Hons. L. J. Bertram, H. H. Cousins, D. Campbell, R. P. Simmonds, J. R. Williams, and Messrs. A. W. Douet, A. C. L. Martin, E. W. Muirhead, and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

The Secretary stated that intimations had been received from Hon. Dr. Pringle and Mr. Shore that they would be absent from the Island for a period.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Craig and Hon. Geo. McGrath.

The following letters from the C.S.O. were submitted:—

(a) No. 8432/10103, 22nd August, 1910, transmitting copy of rules, which had been approved by His Excellency, for the payment of "Authorised Persons" appointed under the Praedial Larceny Law, No. 4 of 1909, for attending Court as witnesses and for performing actual duty, and to say that the Clerks of the Courts had been instructed to pay such persons according to those rules.

The Secretary said these rules had been published in the JOURNAL for September.

(b) No. 8074/10153, 11th August, 1910, transmitting copy of letter from the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands *re* sending an Agricultural Instructor to the Cayman Islands next December, and to say that His Excellency would be glad to know if arrangements could be made as desired by the Commissioner.

Extract from the Commissioner's letter:

I am grateful for the sympathy of the Agricultural Society in the matter of my request for an Agricultural Instructor.

The best time for him to arrive would be at the beginning of December. The Annual Show is to be held on December 20th, and I should like

him to be present at that. If he arrived early in December, he could visit all the districts before the show, and I think, thus promote more interest in it than has been taken hitherto.

That a much greater interest than formerly is now taken in agriculture, is shown by the fact that there are 110 members of the local Branch, though the financial year is less than four months old. I quite expect a membership of 150 before the show.

The Secretary stated that he had asked Mr. Cradwick if he would care to go, but he replied he would rather if some one else could be got. The Secretary also wrote to Mr. Hirst, who said that while he would be quite willing if the Board desired him to go, he was not keen on it.

The Secretary was instructed to reply to the C.S.O. to the effect that it might be arranged for an Instructor to go if the local Branch would make arrangements to meet his expenses of travelling; the Instructor's services would be given free.

(c) No. 9559/11764, 20th September, 1910, stating that His Excellency had been informed by the Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, that it was proposed to hold the Eighth West Indian Conference in British Guiana from 12th to 21st January, 1911, and inviting the Agricultural Society to arrange to send two representatives.

After discussion the Secretary was directed to reply that owing to the difficulty of transport it did not seem feasible for Jamaica to be represented at the proposed Conference, as under the present shipping arrangements it would involve an absence of over two months.

(d) No. 9975/S.S. Misc., 24th August, 1910, 3rd October, 1910, transmitting copy of dispatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing copy of the prospectus of the *Bulletin* of the Committee of Entomological Research.

It was resolved to subscribe to this *Bulletin* at a subscription of ten shillings.

(e) No. 10018/S.S.251, 4th October, 1910, transmitting copies of dispatch which had been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to Foot and Mouth Disease in the United Kingdom.

Also letter No. 7754/9797, of 30th July, 1910, having reference to stock proposed to be brought out by the Secretary of the Agricultural Society.

The Secretary stated that before he bought the stock, while he was in England, he had obtained certificates from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, that Foot and Mouth Disease had only existed on two properties in the small district of Ripon, in Yorkshire, and that it would be quite safe to take stock from anywhere in the United Kingdom. The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries had since advised that all restrictions in connection with the outbreak had been

(f) No. S.S.176, 11th August, 1910, transmitting copy of dispatch submitted from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, acknowledging the letters of condolence sent from the Jamaica Agricultural Society and its Branches. (This is published on another page.)

(g) No. 10468/13243, 15th October, 1910.

I am directed by the Governor to request that you will be so good as to inform the Agricultural Instructors that His Excellency would be glad if they would bring to notice any settlements of water that can be easily dealt with, and that are likely to breed mosquitoes, in order that the proper steps may be taken to have them attended to through the Parochial Board, or, when they are on Government land, by the Public Works Department.

2. I am to ask that the Agricultural Instructors may be further requested to call attention on their rounds to the necessity for draining such places, and that they may be made Distributors of Quinine, which they can obtain from the Island Medical Department.

3. I am to say that five packets of Quinine will be supplied by the Superintending Medical Officer for a penny, which when sold at a farthing each, will give a profit at the rate of twenty per cent., and I am to say that this sum may be retained by the Instructors if the Board consider it desirable that they should do so.

The Secretary stated he had advised the Instructors accordingly, and had no doubt they would respond to the request.

(h) No. 10432/13122, 14th October, 1910.

I am directed by the Governor to transmit for your information, the accompanying copy of an extract from the report of the Inspector of Police in the Parish of Manchester, dated the 8th instant, and to say that His Excellency will be prepared to sanction an immediate expenditure of not exceeding £10 to provide a supply through your Society, of yam heads and other roots, to the people of South Manchester, and, if you can so recommend, an expenditure of a further £10.

Also extract as follows:—

In South Manchester matters still leave much to be desired, as the people have not been able to benefit by the rains, having had nothing to plant. I would beg to suggest, for the serious consideration of the Government, that some practical encouragement be given the people of that district, by supplying yam heads and other roots, through the Agricultural Society, as the small growers seem now to have got over the disappointments and trials imposed upon them by the vagaries of the Clerk of the Weather in the past, and are now willing to renew their agricultural efforts, but are handicapped in not having the necessary plants to put in.

The Secretary stated that he had had no information from the local Instructor there or from the member of the Board resident in the district, Mr. Martin, that there was any widespread shortage of yam heads, etc., for planting, but he was going to that district in the first week of November, when he would make particular inquiry.

The Board instructed him that if he considered it necessary he could apply for the proposed grant and distribute plants to any ne-

Rubber. (a) The following letter from the C.S.O. was submitted, No. 7326/8191, 20th July, 1910 :—

I am directed by the Governor to forward herewith, for the information of your Society, a copy of a report by the Director of Agriculture, on the results of the steps taken by him for the determination of the variety of Castilloa rubber grown by the Agricultural Department.

The Secretary stated that the information therein contained had been embodied in an article by the Hon. Director of Agriculture, published in the JOURNAL for September.

(b) The Secretary submitted the following report, which was accepted :—

As arranged, Mr. Campbell went to Costa Rica to secure rubber seeds from Castilloa trees giving large yields, to be planted here in districts having suitable conditions of rainfall. His report was published in September JOURNAL. As will be seen from this, owing to the Customs not allowing him to land his boxes containing ten tins with 50,000 Castilloa seeds packed in charcoal dust, these went on to New York. He had, however, fortunately, arranged for two other small consignments to come on by different steamers afterwards. We could, however, have disposed of the whole of the first consignment of 50,000 seeds and sold at ten shillings per 1,000.

From the two small consignments 15,850 seeds were sent out at twenty shillings per 1,000, and from the first lot of these we have reports of a germination averaging a little over seventy-five per cent., but of the second lot apparently only ten per cent. of the seeds have germinated. We had to bill these two lots of seed at twenty shillings a thousand, which was somewhat costly, and I have to ask the Board whether they will make an allowance off this price for those who only secured a ten per cent. germination. I think it is pretty well established that the ten per cent. germination from the second lot is a true result, as those who have grown them are responsible planters in different parts of the country.—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

Exhibition. (c) The Secretary was instructed to inquire and find out the cost of space at the Rubber Exhibition to be held in London in June, 1911, and bring up the matter at the next meeting.

Coconut Diseases. (a) The Secretary submitted the following letter on Bud Rot Disease, etc. :—

At a conference of planters and others interested in the coconut industry, held in the Parochial Board's Office here on the 29th ultimo, I was instructed to forward for the information of the Parent Society and for transmission to His Excellency the Governor, the following memorial.—(Sgd.) OSCAR M. SEATON.

At a meeting of planters and others interested in the coconut industry, held at Savanna-la-Mar on the 29th September, 1910, the following memorial was passed :—

The humble Memorial to His Excellency the Governor, of the members at a meeting held at Savanna-la-Mar for the purpose of discussing the Bud Rot Disease of the coconut trees and the best method of preventing the spread of this disease sheweth :—

That within the last few years the coconut tree diseases, especially Bud Rot, have spread with alarming rapidity, causing in some cases actual destitution, and it has been proven beyond doubt that especially in the Bud Rot, contagion is very destructive, and as experience has de-

monstrated that it is impossible to induce many growers to destroy infected trees, which are left to the danger of other coconut groves :

The memorialists pray that His Excellency the Governor shall issue some proclamation or manifesto upon all growers to destroy or cause to be destroyed, all diseased trees under their control, such proclamation to be issued pending any compulsory legislation that may be passed by the Hon. Legislative Council at its next session.

(Sgd.) B. A. KIRKHAM, President,
OSCAR M. SEATON, Secretary.

(b) Memorandum from Mr. Schleifer, Instructor :

Coconut Disease.—The coconut disease problem has again been given due attention, and with a view to having united co-operation in grappling with the situation, a conference of planters was arranged for the 29th September. I opened up the matter fully before these gentlemen, and the result was that planters, big and small, arrived at the conclusion that the first thing to be done is the removal of dead and dying trees. In order to bring this about effectively nothing less than legislation is required. As matters are at present, much of my time must be wasted, as even after I have succeeded in convincing some proprietors of the necessity of getting rid of diseased trees, I return a few weeks afterwards to find that nothing has been done.

(c) Secretary's memorandum :

This matter has been cropping up for several years. Mr. Cradwick, when he was Instructor in the west end, was continually bringing to our notice the necessity of tackling the matter of trees that had died from bud rot being allowed to stand and rot ; top and all, and more recently the same state of matters, but to a less extent in the east end. Sav.-la-Mar Society has already brought this matter before us, but nothing was done in the way of recommending legislation.

I see also that the Director of Agriculture in his Annual Report says : "To stem the ravages of "bud rot" disease, special legislation is desirable for affording compulsory powers of treatment where an owner is permitting diseased trees to infect a whole locality. The question of legislation against infectious plant diseases such as cocoa pod disease and bud rot of coconuts, is in urgent need of the serious consideration of the Government."—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

It was resolved to ask the Governor for legislation to protect such important products in a law similar to the Contagious Disease Animals Law.

The Chairman said if the matter could be referred to a Committee who would suggest some exact lines of legislation, he would then get a bill drafted.

The matter was therefore referred to the Staple and Minor Products Committee.

Birds. The following letters were submitted :—

(a) From the C.S.O., No. 8310/8866, 17th August, 1910.

I am directed to state for the information of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, that representations have recently been made to the Government with regard to the loss suffered by apiarists through the destruction of their bees by the Grey Petchary, while several letters on the subject have appeared in the newspapers (*vide Gleaner* of 22nd June, and 2nd, 5th, and 8th July). It has been suggested that licenses should be granted to apiarists to kill this bird when found around an apiary. It

has also been suggested that it should be removed from the Second Schedule of protected birds under Law 32 of 1885.

2. It has also been suggested that the Yam Cutter or Gold Finch should be removed from the First and included on the Second Schedule of Law 32 of 1885, on account of the damage done by that bird to yam vines. The changes suggested would have to be effected by legislation.

3. Before taking any action in the direction of the preparation of a bill, His Excellency would be glad to receive advice on these suggestions, and I am to ask your Society to be so good as to consider and furnish their views on the matter.

4. I am to add that in the meantime with a view to collecting further information, His Excellency proposes that the Department of Agriculture should undertake the examination of the crops of the Grey Petchary and to issue special licenses under the law to enable specimens to be obtained.

The Secretary said that this matter had been referred meantime to the Staple and Minor Products Committee, and the members were unanimous that on the evidence before them no legislation was required.

The Director of Agriculture stated that he had only one reply to his communication to the press asking bee-keepers who desired special licenses to shoot petcharies for the examination of their crops, to make application to him, so it did not appear that there was very much interest taken in the matter.

The Secretary stated that Hanover Branch was the only one of the Branches that seemed to press the matter.

(b) **Woodpeckers.** The Secretary said he had asked for communications in the matter of woodpeckers doing damage to cocoa pods, and he submitted another letter on the subject which would be published in the next JOURNAL.

Live Stock. Sale of The Secretary submitted the following memorandum;—

It was apparently decided at the Board meeting in July, that "Sir Gerald" should be sold, and that a certain sum be placed on him as a minimum to be accepted; accordingly the sale was advertised three times each in the *Gleaner* and *Telegraph* and once in the *Times*. There was only one offerer and his offer of £30 was accepted; and the animal has been delivered to him. The buyer is Mr. E. Arnett, Agricultural Instructor, and two others, who have always been interested in the Society's objects in breeding by this horse, and the animal could not be in better hands than Mr. Arnett's.—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

He had a letter from Mr. Craig stating that he was not in accord with the sale of "Sir Gerald" for £30, as he did not consider that sum his value, and did not see anything in the minutes to authorise the sale at this price.

The Secretary stated that he made inquiry of the Acting Secretary who said, that it had been decided at the last Board meeting to accept a minimum of £30, but it had not, of course, been thought judicious to publicly announce this as it might have prejudiced the sale of the horse.

It was resolved to confirm the transaction.

(b) **Hereford Bull.** The Secretary stated that the King's Hereford Bull "Sylvester," had been transferred from Mr. Roxburgh, Anandale, St. Ann, to Mr. Fursdon, Burnt Ground, Hanover.

(c) **War Office and Horses.** Letter from the Director of Agriculture was submitted as follows:—

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor, to draw your attention to the fact that the British War Office is considering the possibility of securing in Jamaica, a regular supply of horses for the purpose of mounted infantry, and to ask you to be so good as to reply to the questions attached to this letter, so that your valued advice on this project may be obtained.

The class of horse required is a strong animal of 14.3 to 15 hands, four years old, sound and unblemished.

As this letter had been published in the newspapers and circulated amongst Penkeepers, it was tabled.

Shows. The following applications for grants to shows were submitted:—

(a) Santa Cruz Show, on 9th November.

(b) Kendal Show, on 1st December.

(c) Ulster Spring, April, 1911.

It was resolved to allow the usual grant of 20 per cent. of the prize money up to a total of £10, on the usual rules being fulfilled. At the same time the Secretary was instructed to write the Secretary of the Kendal Show and say that it was a pity his Committee had fixed the Show for the same date as Hanover Show.

Branch Societies. The following matters from Branch Societies were submitted:—

(a) Ulster Spring,—asking whether the Society could see its way to induce the Fruit Companies to buy bananas by weight.

The Secretary stated that the same question had already come up from Branches in St. Mary. The Board instructed him to reply that the Society could not interfere with the system of buying.

(2) Asking if the Director of Agriculture could be asked to supply a copy of his half-yearly *Bulletin* to each Branch Society.

The Secretary said he had submitted the matter to the Director, who replied that the *Bulletin* only cost 6d. for each half-year, and he did not see why the Branches who wished to have a copy should not purchase it, the amount involved being so small.

(3) Asking whether more space could be devoted in the JOURNAL to Branch Notes, as several members who were unable to attend the meetings, were kept in touch with the Branch by these Notes.

The Secretary said that the number of Branch Societies was steadily increasing, yet the allocation for the printing remained the same.

He was asked to suggest to the Branches that their Notes be made as concise as possible and more in the nature of minutes rather than full reports.

(b) **Lucky Hill.** Asking that the persons appointed as "Authorised Persons" under the Praedial Larceny Law, be supplied with a copy of the law, and also that a list of the names of persons appointed from each Branch be supplied for the information of the Branch.

(2) Asking what arrangements could be made as regards Knutsford Park Show for the transport of exhibits by the Railway, and from the Railway to the Show Ground.

And also a letter from Mr. Cradwick, Agricultural Instructor, asking if Branch Societies could be informed of the appointment of "authorised persons" in their district. At present they only got to know by a round-about way, as no official information was sent to them.

His Excellency said that he desired to prevent any hitch in the working of the Revised Praedial Larceny Law, and if the Secretary was instructed to write the Colonial Secretary and bring the matter forward, the Inspector General could be instructed to do what was desired.

(c) **Guy's Hill.** Asking what arrangements were being made as regards the transport of exhibits to Knutsford Park Show.

The Secretary was instructed to say to both the above Branches that the best arrangements possible would be made and duly advised.

(d) **Troja.** Asking if representations could be made to the Governor with regard to desirable bridges for fordings over the river there.

(e) **Avocat.** Asking the Board to bring to the notice of the Governor, the need of roads in the Upper St. George district of Portland.

The Secretary was instructed to forward these letters, together with one from Mr. Cradwick on the same subject, to the Governor, asking for consideration of these matters.

Affiliation. The following applications from new local Societies for affiliation were submitted :—

- (a) Mt. Augus, Gayle P.O., St. Mary.
- (b) Sherwood Forest, Priestman's River P.O., Portland.
- (c) Plantain Garden River, St. Thomas.
- (d) Maldon, Point P.O., St. James.
- (e) Scotts Hall, Castleton P.O., St. Mary.

Instructors. The following matters referring to the Instructors were submitted :—

(a) Application for leave of absence in December by Mr. Palache. This was granted.

(b) Letter from Mr. Arnett regretting that he had been advised too late that the three months' leave of absence he had applied for, had been approved, and that he had therefore only taken leave for the month of August. He hoped, however, that the three months' leave would hold good next year, when he would arrange to go in May. He also hoped that the special grant made him would also hold good then.

(c) The monthly Reports of work with Itineraries, which were directed to be circulated as usual to the Instructors' Committee.

Prize Holdings. The Secretary submitted the report and awards in the Prize Holdings Competition in St. Mary

He was instructed to publish the report in the JOURNAL. The awards were approved and the prizes directed to be paid.

New Members. The following new members were elected:— H. A. Milliner, Duncans; H. P. Sewell, Duncans; P. W. T. Bell, Kingston; Arthur Engstrom, Cuba; M. Bretschneider, Italy; E. J. Hitchcock, Costa Rica; E. R. Facey, Kingston; David Lang, Grenada; D. Peterkin, Grenada; W. M. Smith, Grenada; F. H. Copeland, Grenada; Mrs. C. A. Gauntlett, Browns Town; Henry d'Aubigny, Haiti; J. A. Copland, Grenada; A. B. Jonas, Kingston; G. L. M. Jacobs, Castleton.

The meeting adjourned till Thursday, the 17th November, 1910, at 11.40 a.m.

SCHOOL GARDENS.

THE following extracts are from Mr. P. W. Murray's report as Instructor for School Gardens:—

The position which the School Gardens are assuming in the Elementary Education of our Island, is one that might well be viewed with satisfaction. The gardens are rapidly increasing in number and what is much more satisfactory, is that the quality of the work is greatly improving. The situation is much more important than one would realize, and requires most careful consideration in moulding future work along the most approved lines.

About 24,000 of our children are being taught something about agriculture in our schools, which should result in bringing the future generation into a more sympathetic and intelligent attitude towards the soil and all that is connected therewith.

I consider that the condition of the gardens in operation at present is much improved to that of three years ago, in that a considerable amount of work in reconstruction has been done which has resulted in a proper classification of the crops and an orderly arrangement of the beds. This matter of arrangement has received

almost the entire attention of the Inspector for School Gardens, as it was a first essential to useful work or study, the establishment of order.

The Agricultural Course at the Mico has been of great assistance by training teachers in matters agricultural, by giving them improved ideas about the cultivation and management of our staple crops. It is, however, a matter of regret that most of the teachers who attend these valuable courses do not go back to the school and improve their gardens as they are certainly capable of doing. They do not make their beds as neatly or cultivate the land as well as they made and cultivated their beds at the Mico plots.

The Hon. Director of Agriculture has insisted on teachers attending the Mico and receiving lectures on agriculture at Hope, making and keeping in order at Hope, a Model Garden, in which all work done, of whatever nature, is done by the teachers themselves.

The prizes given by the Department in each Inspector's district as special prizes for the four best gardens, have resulted in stimulating the work, as perhaps nothing else would have done.

Fencing.—This problem still remains unsolved in most cases. It is time that the Department insisted on having properly constructed school garden fences. It seems desirable that it should insist on a fence of a certain quality. This would ensure stability and would also be economical. It would be to advantage if the Department were to pay the full cost of this fence, not as is at present done, allowing the teacher to find a portion of the amount, but from the first grant awarded to the garden, deduct half the cost of the fence. If after five years the fence should require repairs, then the Inspector should have the power to order that it be done, deducting from the grant, half the cost of such repairs.

Tools.—I would submit that the Department arrange with some reputable firm in Kingston, to stock garden tools suitable for children, and that instead of giving a grant for tools, send the school a stock of suitable tools.

It is sometimes necessary to supplement the stock of tools—let this be done by the Department, deducting half the cost from the annual grant to the garden.

Marking School Gardens.—About two years ago, a system of marking the gardens was introduced for the purpose of arriving as nearly as possible at the true value of the work done by the teacher. This was done by awarding marks for the garden just the same as was done for the school on a regular form, each detail of the work receiving special notice. I think it most desirable that it should also be attached to the mark sheet sent to the school, as this will give the teacher an idea of the points wherein he is weak and along what lines he should work to meet the wishes of the Inspector.

Seed Distribution by the Department.—Through the co-operation of the Agricultural Department, a circular was issued by the

Education Department to all teachers having school gardens. This circular contained a list of vegetable and flower seeds suitable for school gardens, as well as a list of ornamental and economic plants and shrubs which the Hope Gardens were prepared to distribute freely to school gardens. Mr. J. T. Palache very kindly named the best varieties of vegetable and flower seeds, which he had found from his great experience to do well in this Island. As a result of this circular, over 600 packets of seeds were ordered from Peter Henderson & Company, of New York, at a cost of 2d. per packet.

THE PROPAGATION OF PIMENTO FROM SEED.

BY H. Q. LEVY, AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTOR.

ONE of those fallacies which die hard, is the opinion held by so many, that pimento "walks" can only be established through the agency of bird-sown plants.

One has not to seek far for the cause of such belief, or for the failure of most planters to grow a stock of seedlings.

Birds after swallowing the whole berry, digest only the fleshy part, ejecting the seed in its entirety, and devoid of any covering, and as nine-tenths of the would-be planters have made the mistake of planting the entire berry, pulp and all, no wonder their non-success.

Pimento seedlings are very easily grown if certain rules are strictly followed. For years I grew and planted out thousands of such seedlings, at times having as many as 10,000 in my nursery.

To be successful, only fully ripe and freshly gathered seeds should be selected. Put them in some receptacle and reduce to a pulp by pressing through the hands; no method ought to be used to do this that would tend to injure the seeds. Wash thoroughly with water and strain until only clean seeds remain.

To propagate, sow lightly in drills. The drills must be at least six inches apart, and the seeds should not be planted deeper than a quarter of an inch. Keep always moist and in ten to fourteen days, most of them ought to germinate; but I have seen seeds that took a month and more to show above ground.

If from any cause you cannot sow immediately after obtaining the clean seeds, they may be kept for some days by mixing with clean sand and keeping barely moist. If once allowed to get dry they immediately lose their germinating powers; the seed bed also should never be allowed to become dry. A light covering over the beds to keep off the direct rays of the sun, will help germination.

After the seedlings have developed four leaves, they must be transferred to bamboo pots or a regular nursery established, the plants in the nursery should be no closer than six inches by six inches. In taking up and transplanting, the bed should first receive a good soaking, and after being taken up the young plants should have the tap root nipped off for half its length, they must then be

immediately put in water until ready for placing in the soil. Never expose the roots, even for a moment, to the direct rays of the sun or to strong winds, both of which are fatal to the life of the young plant.

When the plants get to about one foot high they are ready for planting in their permanent positions. In transferring plants from the nursery to the fields, they should have all their leaves and main roots cut back for say fully half their growth, and the same care should be exercised in keeping the plants from the direct rays of the sun, by placing in, and planting with water.

The growth of the plants during their stay in the nursery, may be greatly accelerated if a permanent light shade is kept over the bed, raised say at least seven feet above the tops of the plants. Coconut boughs answer well for this purpose.

Under wire fences and at the base of stone walls make excellent places for planting pimento seedlings; in those positions they are almost immune from the "ringing" of cattle.

Some hold that pimento may only be planted for posterity to reap. This is another fallacy as I have picked a small crop of berries from a tree in cultivated land that was only five years old from the seed.

Browns Town.

TWO DIFFERENT METHODS OF CULTIVATING COFFEE.

By J. HIRST, AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTOR.

WHICH is the better system of cultivating coffee—long top or short top?

This is a frequent question at agricultural meetings, and has many times been the cause of long and sometimes heated argument. So long as coffee continues to be cultivated, I have no doubt it will still remain a point of difference and argument among coffee planters.

I do not propose to write a treatise in favour of one system or the other; but to show the different principles underlying each method, and that each has its merits under certain circumstances when carried out on right lines and with due knowledge and regard for the principles governing it.

I shall also try to point out what I consider to be the chief points of misunderstanding, and the mistakes commonly made in cultivating under each system.

Distance apart.—First of all is the distance apart at which the plants are set under each system.

It is I think, commonly accepted in Jamaica, that long top coffee should be planted closer than short-top coffee, because as it is said "it goes up." This I consider a great mistake, and is proved by experience. It does "go up," and usually bends over at the

top, thereby excluding light and air and causing the loss of many branches and the non-fruiting of others.

In Mexico, where in different localities both systems are practised very successfully, the long-top is invariably planted wider than the short-top. The usual distance for long top is twelve feet apart. It is usually grown with three or more stems, which "go up" and are weighted down with crop, and having the necessary space and soil area to support them, assume the habit of a weeping willow tree and are loaded with berries throughout the tree. Even at what we should consider such a wide distance, it is often difficult to walk between the trees, and the crops are such as I have never seen in Jamaica.

In growing long-top coffee it is well to follow this system of having three stems or suckers from the stem (not three individual roots); and with sufficient room it will grow to a considerable height with strong stem and primaries and bend over, making a large tree with a great amount of bearing wood.

Planted at close distances it will go up to long switches, with a few small branches and fewer small berries up at the top, plenty of dry firewood, but no coffee.

I suggest that it should be planted here at distances varying from eight feet to twelve feet, according to soil and climate.

Pruning.—Next we must consider the difference in pruning; and here I may say that under both systems pruning is required, and I may quote an extract I came across some time ago from "Notes on the Cultivation of the Coffee Plant," by Nicholas Saenz, Professor of Natural Science at the National University of Colombia:

"In some countries pruning is practised, in others, not. Both parties have arguments for and against each system; in most places, however, there is a marked tendency towards the practice of pruning. It is done in Andimarca, Solima, and Boyaca, as well as in the British West Indies, Arabia, etc.; indeed in most places where fine coffee is produced; and I very much doubt whether any planter in possession of good soil, and who has been accustomed to prune, would be inclined to adopt the free growth system."

There is, however, a difference in the main principle governing the pruning of short-top and long-top coffee. First of all we must remember the fact that a primary branch, once destroyed never grows again, whereas the secondary and tertiary branches if destroyed, will be renewed.

For the benefit of those not well acquainted with coffee pruning, I may explain that a primary branch is that springing direct from the stem or trunk of the tree. A secondary branch is one springing from this first or primary branch. A tertiary branch is one springing from a secondary branch.

Short Top.—In exposed and windy situations, short-top coffee will always be grown; as being lower it is less subject to wind damage.

Now apart from the above consideration, the main object of topping a coffee tree is to strengthen the primaries; and cause it to send out secondary and later, tertiary branches, on which the coffee is borne.

Under this system the primaries become thick and strong, and support a large number of secondary branches bearing the coffee. When these branches become injured, or decayed by overbearing or other causes, they can be pruned off, when new ones will be formed to keep the tree in full bearing. A common system is to take off the alternate secondaries, with two objects: first, so that there may be a constant renewal of bearing wood on the tree; second, to allow greater room for the extension of tertiary branches.

Now it will be readily seen that by topping the tree we place it under artificial conditions; and to keep it in good bearing we must keep up those artificial conditions by constant, regular, and thorough pruning, suckering and opening. Neglect of this is fatal, and here is one of the many reasons why short-top coffee does not thrive in certain districts. The people do not understand its proper care and pruning, or will not take the trouble to do it. Consequently the tree becomes choked, decays and dies out.

Long Top.— Now the tendency of the untopped or long-top coffee is quite different. It grows upward, and consequently the sap is not directed to so great an extent as in the short-top coffee, into the primaries, which do not grow so short and powerful, and do not exhibit the same tendency to send out secondary branches. The coffee berries are borne mainly on the primary branches, and consequently we have to prevent the decay of these branches by allowing them sufficient room, light and air; and occasionally when from overbearing, they become decayed, they have to be shortened when they will usually recover, and perhaps send out secondary branches to take the place of what is lost.

In the short-top coffee we allow no suckers to grow, excepting when the whole tree becomes decayed and it is necessary to renew the tree by a new growth from the root. In the long-top we have to encourage the growth of a certain amount of new suckers to replace those stems, or parts of the stems, on which the primaries have become decayed from overbearing or other causes.

Directly we see one of the stems becoming unfruitful, weak, or losing a number of its primary branches, we should allow a sucker to come up to take its place, when the decayed stem is cut away, thus renewing the tree and keeping it in constant bearing.

A common mistake, however, is to allow a mass of suckers to grow up together, when they grow weak and whippy, lose the greater portion of their branches, and become useless. At an early stage all but the required number of suckers should be cut away, by which means the remainder become strong and healthy, with their full complement of branches.

The real objections to long-top coffee are that from planting too close, neglect, and lack of attention to the above details it be

comes switchy, loses its branches, is no longer fruitful, and bears only small berries. Its cultivator usually has an equal objection to short-top coffee, because from his lack of attention and knowledge of its proper handling, it assumes the same form.

Properly planted, properly cultivated, and properly handled, long-top coffee can bear equally good crops of good coffee as short-top.

Whether it is that short-top coffee is more generally cultivated at the higher elevations, whilst long-top coffee is more general at the lower or not, but the fact will I think, be generally admitted, that short-top coffee gives a bean of better colour and aroma than does long-top coffee.

I am, however, more inclined to think that this is due to elevation, and the fact that in Jamaica at any rate, short-top coffee is an estate cultivation, whilst long-top coffee is a small settler's cultivation.

Where the proper handling of short-top coffee is not fully understood, or where from any cause the people are not prepared to carry it out in its entirety, the long-top method will be the best for our small settlers.

Summary.—Short-top coffee has one stem, and a limited number of primaries, with a considerable number of secondaries and tertiaries on which the coffee is borne. The object in pruning is to preserve the primaries which if destroyed, lessen the bearing surface of the tree, encourage the growth of secondaries and tertiaries, and to destroy gormandizers and suckers.

Long-top coffee has a greater number of stems and primaries, on the latter of which the coffee is principally borne. The object in pruning is chiefly to cut away dead, decayed and exhausted wood, and to replace these by a new growth of suckers.

Mocho P.O.

HIDDEN WEALTH AND HOW TO OBTAIN IT.

(PAPER read by Mr. J. J. Wright on 7th October, at the Quarterly meeting of the Christiana Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and published at the request of the members present).

There is an aphorism which says, "When wealth is lost nothing is lost." I do not agree with this saying, for wealth in most cases is only to be obtained through much labour and sacrifice. Men have risen from poverty to positions of wealth by their industry, tact, and perseverance, therefore it is a great misfortune to lose that which has cost so much to obtain. To get wealth is therefore regarded as a blessing, and to lose it is considered a curse.

Sometimes men who seek for wealth are disappointed in their expectations. Gold-diggers for example, spend weeks in a vain attempt to find gold, and after much toil and labour, they have had to give up their fruitless search. There is, however, wealth hidden in the soil, which every one who searches for it will find, and the reward will surely come in weeks, or months, or years, according to the nature of the search. This wealth is not in hard cash, but in that which may be very quickly turned into money. When I speak of hidden wealth in the soil, I am

chiefly referring to the soils in this neighbourhood and in the surrounding areas, including some portions of Trelawny and Clarendon, as well as the northern boundary of Manchester. These lands which have been deforested but a comparatively few years ago, possess untold wealth which has never been searched for with diligence, tact, and perseverance. I make bold to lay down this statement without fear of contradiction. I say unhesitatingly that there is great wealth in these soils, because I have been personally making what may be termed an experimental search during the last seventeen years, and I have been amply paid. I am still engaged in this search, and past success has made me double my efforts in this direction.

There is an abundant supply of plant food in the soil, which must be got at, improved and utilised, if it is to become a source of wealth. How to obtain this wealth is therefore a matter that deeply concerns the sons of Jamaica, for on it their material prosperity and independence depends. It is a striking fact that as soon as the earth was made habitable as the abode of man, the Great Ruler of the Universe caused to grow out of the soil, that which man needs for subsistence—a source of wealth was provided for him. Through the application of science and by means of industry and steady perseverance, there has been a wonderful development in the methods employed for the treatment of plants, so that changes have been produced in the plants themselves—changes that have produced wonderful results. It is also a striking fact that no other single work at the present moment, occupies the attention of so many people in the world. Think of the mighty army at work to-day, endeavouring to get wealth by means of that which grows out of the soil. Think of the vast areas of wheat, rice, maize and other grains, as well as the thousand and one articles raised from the soil to feed the world's millions. It seems to me that those who are engaged in this calling occupy the front rank in importance, and form a mighty force that cannot be ignored. They are the world's producers, and every encouragement and help should be extended to them.

We in this Island who have no mines nor manufactures to give us employment, but who are solely dependent on agricultural work for a livelihood, should embrace every opportunity to learn how this great wealth is to be obtained from the soil.

First of all, if success is to attend our efforts to obtain knowledge in this direction, we must fully realise the *dignity of labour*. I am filled with amazement when I see, read, or hear of young men pining away because they could not get behind the counter in a shopkeeper's place of business, or become a clerk in some office. Such young men have never realised the dignity of labour, and that manly independence, that freedom of thought and action which is enjoyed by the agriculturist, and which, to say the least, is denied to the man who is another's servant. No work is more dignified or is accompanied with a greater degree of manly self-respect, than the work of the agriculturist. If we fail to realize these things, we lose that zest for the knowledge that is necessary to enable us to obtain the great wealth contained in the soil.

Then we must realise that agricultural work is a most healthy as well as profitable exercise. I stand ready for correction, but statistics prove that the steady, sober agriculturist, is the most healthy man in the community. He can eat well, sleep well, and do his work well. Some of my best days are those that were spent in the open field enjoying the delightfully fresh air, with the waste matter streaming away from my body in the form of perspiration. There is no work that affords so great an opportunity of enjoying the purifying fresh air as the work of the agriculturist, and as you know, fresh air is essential to health.

Our Island is a great health resort, and this district with the adjoining areas, seem to me to be an ideal place for the agriculturist. The climate is beautiful, the soil very productive—I know of no plant, that with sufficient care, will not thrive here—and the rainfall amply sufficient.

We do not suffer from long periods of drought as in South Manchester, and the adjoining portions of St. Elizabeth. Then, thanks to the Government of Sir Henry Blake, we have good roads and railway facilities. For these reasons we are peculiarly well situated, so that all things taken into consideration, this district is really an ideal one for carrying on agricultural work. There is also another fact which must be borne in mind. Proprietors or owners of land deal most leniently with their tenants. I have lived in several parishes, and I know something of the conditions existing in them, so this I can say: I know of no other part where tenants have so many privileges, or receive greater consideration from the hands of the proprietors. I mention these subsidiary facts in order to let you see that you have every encouragement to search for the wealth that is hidden in the soil.

But now we come to the practical part of the subject—*How to obtain this great wealth?* It is to be obtained by dint of hard work, energy and perseverance. I feel sure there is no one here who is afraid of hard work. Young men who leave the land here and rush to Central America, find when they get there, that if they are to earn a livelihood, they have to do laborious work, and at great risk of health—often working in water and mud reaching to the waist. They perhaps earn a little more than they do here, but there the cost of living is so high, that it is exceedingly difficult to save anything. In most cases they work harder, save little or nothing, and if they do return to the Island, they return in broken-down health, without a homestead, and with insufficient capital to settle down comfortably. We who remain at home can arrange for ourselves periods of rest during the day, and by so doing escape the mid-day sun when the heat is excessive. We can, if we are wise, spend these periods of rest in some handicraft work, such as rope or basket-making, or the making of ginger-mats or hampers, etc. Such work would be a profitable exercise and we could effect a ready sale for these articles.

Let me now briefly explain how this agricultural work should be carried through. Have your land thoroughly forked and turned over weeks or months before the planting season commences. Fork to a good depth, especially where a good deal of the surface-soil has become exhausted by the crops taken off. There is a considerable amount of plant-food locked up in the subsoil, and if this is brought to the surface and left exposed to the action of the sun, and the air, and the water, it will be brought into such a condition as will enable the plant to make use of the food contained in it. Without this thorough preparation of the soil, your efforts will not be successful. Set your plants in the soil in regular order, and at proper distances. Have your soil thoroughly mulched before the dry season begins. Any kind of bush or trash is good as a mulch. Spread thickly over the fields. Mulch your yam patch, cocoe and cassava patch, as well as your bananas and coffee. In fact, if you can get sufficient mulch, spread it over every piece of ground in the cultivation, no matter what is planted in it. Don't think mulching a waste of time. It is absolutely necessary. By doing so you retain moisture, you add a fresh supply of plant food to the soil, and when there are heavy rains mulching prevents the washing away of the very valuable fine surface soil, and further prevents the soil from becoming baked and in cakes after the rains are over.

I feel that I would be fully satisfied if I could succeed in bringing home to you this one lesson of the importance of mulching.

Then there is another lesson which I would like you to take to heart, and I shall try to teach this lesson by an illustration. If you have a few pounds in the Savings Bank and you begin to draw out month by month without putting in anything more, you will soon have nothing left in the Bank.

The soil is just like a bank. If you constantly take away the food that is in it when you carry away the crops grown, it will, after a time, become exhausted, and will fail to give good crops. How must you pre-

vent this? Let me briefly explain. Get two small pigs. Put up a movable pen in your coffee field. Give the pigs a good bedding of trash, and have them well fed. At the end of every week shift the pen, and in this way manure the land. At intervals put banana or plantain suckers where the pig pen had been. Put up your goats in a covered pen at nights, and when the heat is great during the day. Feed them in the pen and get the manure. Do the same with your donkey. Put up a rabbit pen and every other day clean it out and get the manure. If you have a horse, put up a good stable in the centre of your coffee field. Feed the horse there night and day. Clean out the stable regularly, say once a week. Bury the manure in little heaps, and at short intervals throughout the coffee field. You may put a yam head in some of these heaps where the coffee is not too thick, and if there are trees that show signs of failure, put in fresh suckers in some of these heaps of manure. I have been telling you what I have been doing in my own coffee field, and I am perfectly satisfied with the results.

In conclusion, let me say to you: Stay on the land, cultivate it thoroughly, join the Loan Bank, and save a few pounds which you can always borrow again to assist you in keeping up your fields in order and in planting out new ones. If you bear in mind and put in practice, all that I have been telling you, the soil will in due course yield to you its wealth.

[We commend the perusal of the above article to every small settler. We agree with all that Mr. Wright says. We know Mr. Wright and we know the districts he writes about. We have seen the successful results from the practices he recommends—practices we have always strongly recommended ourselves. The suggestions for stabling and penning of stock, for manuring the land and for using the many hours when outside work cannot be done, through wet weather, and in the long evenings when dark comes early in the afternoon, in working at some handicraft, are especially noteworthy.—Ed.]

RUBBER.

SINCE writing the article on Rubber in Portland, dated June but only published in the *JOURNAL* for October, there are certain further particulars I should wish to add. Instead of having had experience in tapping thirty-seven trees I have now tapped seventy-six trees, besides tapping a second time twenty-one trees, which I am keeping a gross account of in regard's yield.

I tapped at one place twenty-two trees that had been very badly injured by the hurricane of 1903 and had besides been hacked about two years ago by a tapper from Central America, who used a cutlass to chop out bits of the bark. None of these trees reached over thirty six inches in girth three feet from the ground, except one. The result was two pounds thirteen ounces of rubber.

It may be interesting to record the result from twenty-one trees tapped at one time in May and June. The yield was four pounds, thirteen inches, but on my second trial three months later, the result was six pounds, ten ounces of dry rubber. In the first case, an average of three twelve-twenty-one ounces per tree, and the second tapping five one-twenty-one ounces. This is encouraging, and already these twenty-one trees, with an average girth of forty inches, have given a yield of over half-pound per tree.

To my mind, however, the most interesting and encouraging results are those last obtained from tapping trees situated as follows :

On one-sixth of a chain of land, left I suppose as poor plants in an old seed bed, were eleven *Castilloa* trees, the largest forty-three inches in girth, the smallest twenty-two inches. Two of the eleven were rotten on one side from ill-treatment, as the place has been a cow pen for the last three years, so that only nine were able to be tapped. These trees are covered with chops and scars, and a crumbling, broken outer bark, caused by tying ropes around to head up cattle. They are exposed to the prevailing north winds. On the same land on which these stand are six well-grown cedar trees, one *fastic*, one whitewood, two large *Castilloa*, two grape-fruit. The age of the trees must be ten years at the outside, the soil is red dirt. The result was twenty-three ounces of dry rubber, that is one-sixth chain of land gave one pound, seven ounces of rubber, therefore an acre should give eighty-six pounds at one tapping, or at quarterly tapplings, thirty-four pounds of rubber at \$1, equal £68 16s.

When we consider the abominable conditions under which these trees have grown and the surprising result of the tapping, I think the figures given by me in the first part of this article should appear conservative, and by no means exaggerated.

I find I did not describe the Thompson tapping tool, which is simply a piece of bent one-inch galvanised pipe for a handle, about fifteen inches long; the cutting edge is a piece of steel plate bent to form a loop outstanding from the pipe to which it is bolted. This is controlled by a screw gauge so that any depth can be arranged for in cutting. On the end of the tool is a knife point to cut the inner layer or bark. I have found that the carrying of a pan of water to dip the brush in during use is unnecessary and useless, as water hardens the rubber on the brush. All that is needed is to knock the brush on the tree sharply every four minutes or five minutes and after using, carefully clean the brush before it becomes hard with some pointed instrument, say, the blade of a penknife.

I have also come to the conclusion that a V-shaped cut is best for this method of collection rather than the herring-bone, as the centre cut is unnecessary and only serves to cut out more bark. There appears also no need for more than four V's on each side of the tree at each tapping, as quite as much rubber flows from this number of cuts as from more: on large, tall trees one may use five or even six. This gives more fresh bark admissible for a longer period of tapping at three months apart and gives a longer period for the cuts to grow new bark. The system of drying the rubber I use is very simple and though it may be much improved upon, no doubt serves the purpose for these experiments.

The latex as collected in the screw-top glass bottle, has no rubbish or scraps of bark in it by the new method used, and is pure latex except for the water contained in the tree itself. All that is needed therefore is to get it spread out on a surface to dry by natural agencies.

I have used an old sash of a window which still has the glass in it. By pouring the latex into this, a smooth, thin sheet of rubber is obtained after three or four day's drying, a sample of which sent to the Director of Agriculture, received the commendation "credible."

This method is simple and easily adopted by those desiring to experiment with their trees.

(Sgd.) LEO. A. WATES, Agricultural Instructor.

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"When dealing with this subject on previous occasions, we have expressed the opinion that it will take *some* years for the production of rubber to so far overtake the demand as to bring about anything like over-production. Our opinions are based on the anticipation that there will be hardly any appreciable increase in the output of wild rubber, and as we consider that with lower prices, it will no longer pay to collect many of the inferior qualities, or to collect from those regions which are so far from the ports of shipment as to make the cost of transport to the port a very heavy item. It is undoubtedly a very difficult matter to make any estimate of what the production of plantation rubber will be three or four years hence, but if it increases so rapidly as to lower the price to a figure comparable with the prices of twenty years ago, we believe that the demand will grow in proportion owing to the development of existing uses, and the introduction of new uses, for rubber, which will follow the fall of prices of the raw material."

This opinion is from a most authoritative source and represents the best forecast possible at the present time.

TICKS.

THE heavy rains we had in October and spread over weeks (not like the sudden flood rains of last November which beat the earth hard), will give us a great burst of vegetation and at the same time have diminished the quantity of ticks. We have thus excellent conditions to help us in making a grand combined attack on ticks. Cattle will have the feeding to keep them in sleek condition, and if only all those who keep stock, from the largest proprietor down to the man with one cow, only determine now to give not one tick the chance to mature and reproduce its species, there never was a time before when there was a better chance to do so. For there is absolutely no doubt now that the mixture of Paranaph and Cooper's Dip Powder, is perfectly effective in killing off ticks and in keeping them off longer than any of the preparations mostly in use—at the low cost of a penny a cow, if the materials are bought in large quantities and used over a herd. As the effect of one wash or spray lasts a long time and labour is saved, this is a cheap tick exterminator compared with methods formerly in use.

Paranaph, as has been often mentioned before (yet still we meet those who never heard of it), is made at the Government La-

boratory of soft soap, kerosene and naphthaline, and is sold in a form like soft soap, at 2d. a pound in wholesale quantities, and 3d. a pound in smaller quantities, from our advertisers D. Henderson & Co. Samples can be had from this office at 3d. a pound to those who have not used this stuff and wish to experiment first.

Cooper's Dip Powder is also sold by D. Henderson & Co., the smallest packets being two and one-quarter pounds weight at 1 9. However, to encourage the use of this powder as recommended, we shall send out large packets at 3d., which quantity will serve to wash or spray five large cows or ten half-grown beasts. One such packet should be used with two gallons water (a half kerosene tin) and two and one-half pounds Paranaph. It must be borne in mind that the Dip Powder is a preparation of Arsenic and so is poisonous to man and beast in anything but very small doses. The mere licking of the skin that a cow may do after she is washed will not harm her but act as a slight tonic. In minute doses arsenic is used medicinally. Use the powder strictly according to directions. Each packet is marked *Poison*.

COFFEE.

THE Sao Paulo Government in Southern Brazil, are putting in the market "Fazenda" coffee. They have offices in London and they have this coffee with its registered trade name and trade mark put up in attractive fashion, while they advertise the product in a most comprehensive way. We saw this coffee in shops even in little villages, and on some mornings almost every prominent newspaper in the United Kingdom had a full page advertisement of Fazenda Coffee. There is no doubt that they will thus make a name for this coffee and sell it if it has any good qualities at all.

The consumption of good drinking coffee has very largely increased in the United Kingdom. Instead of men doing business over a "bar" many now do business over a cup of coffee. Not many years ago there was very little coffee drunk in the United Kingdom in the morning; it is, however, coming more and more into regular use now in many middle class households because good coffee can now be easily obtained. The city of Glasgow, for instance, is now swarming with coffee shops where splendid drinking coffee may be got. This coffee we found was nearly all a blend of Costa Rica coffee, which is thus being largely used and is advertised in many shops. Jamaica coffee is practically unknown. We are persuaded that if a good many of our products, especially coffee and good drinking rum could be put on the British market in a systematic way, a very large consumption could be worked up. The consumption of coffee is not unsatisfactory just now, but in the best shops it is mostly Costa Rican that is sold.

It seems impossible to obtain a good drinking rum at licensed places throughout the United Kingdom, yet in the winter time

people would take to drinking rum and milk very readily, as this combination has received the best recommendation from Sir James Creighton Brown, the famous physician, and other physicians, that any article ever received. Yet we in Jamaica have made nothing of this as an advertisement.

THE LATE KING EDWARD.

THE following acknowledgements have been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor, to the various letters of condolence that were forwarded by the Jamaica Agricultural Society and its Branches :

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches forwarding messages of condolence on the occasion of the death of His late Majesty, King Edward VII., and to inform you that they have been laid before the King, who has commanded that it should be known throughout Jamaica how profoundly touched, he himself, Her Majesty Queen Mary, and Her Majesty the Queen Mother, have been by the expressions of sorrow from all classes of the community in Jamaica, and the sympathy shown for them in their bereavement. His Majesty greatly appreciates the assurances of devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's Throne and person."

LIMES.

THE West India Committee have been sending through the United Kingdom neat packets of Dominica Limes as samples, together with an extract from an article in the *Lancet* on Limes, comparing them favourably with Lemons. We saw packets of these Limes and the fruit was exceedingly fine. There could be a large consumption of Limes in Great Britain if the supplies were regular and the fruit as good as the samples. The trouble about Limes is that they do not keep so well as Lemons, and there would be greater loss in keeping them. The importation too of Italian Lemons into Great Britain are very large, but at the time of writing we have not the figures.

There is no doubt that any article of commerce we wish the public in the United Kingdom to use, has to be advertised and brought to notice in a practical way. The markets of Great Britain are open to the world without restriction and they are a happy hunting ground where the governments of many countries are pushing their products in organised ways.

The West Indies and especially Jamaica, have pretty much left their products to find markets for themselves, but this will not do in these times against the strong competition and effort that prevail.

KNUTSFORD PARK SHOW.

It has already been notified and probably is already widely known, that an Island Show is arranged to be held at Knutsford Park Race Course, Kingston,—which is two and one-half miles from Kingston, half-a-mile beyond Cross Roads on the car line,—on Wednesday and Thursday, 15th and 16th of February. The Show is under the auspices of the Jamaica Jockey Club, with which the Jamaica Agricultural Society is co-operating. The Show is under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor.

In the next JOURNAL we shall be able to state definitely, we hope, what facilities the Railway will be able to give us for the transport of exhibits.

To prevent hurry and rush it will be well if all exhibits of Agricultural Products arrive in Kingston a day before the show. Exhibits for the Competition among School Gardens and for Branch Societies will require to arrive two days before the show, as they will be staged and judged the day before the show.

Notice of the number of exhibits to be sent in connection with these two classes must be given at least two weeks before, in order to arrange accommodation.

The Board of Management has authorised the whole force of Agricultural Instructors to attend this show and assist, and each Instructor will, to some extent, superintend the exhibits of Branches from his district, but in every case it will be better if some member of a Branch can accompany the exhibits.

We trust to be able to publish in the December JOURNAL very full and complete information about all arrangements.

The Secretary of the show is Mr. C. A. T. Fursdon, c/o Agricultural Society, 11 North Parade, Kingston, to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

BEE NOTES FROM CLARENDON.

THE bees are making a little move with us here just now (October) as akee, prickly yellow and wattle wood are in bloom. These are just what we wanted and queens are laying strongly. I am feeding a half ton of sugar this week, as now is the time to attend to all weak colonies, feed, see that they have plenty of stores and then feed about half-pint of sugar syrup every night for about a week. This will stimulate the queen to lay and you will find all colonies so treated will soon get ready to work at full strength when the logwood opens in January.

I try and push on all weak colonies particularly at this time of the year, so as to get a good force of bees ready for the chewstick bloom in November. This vine is now putting up to blossom with us and if the weak colonies are attended to early so as to get a strong lot of young bees ready, they will give you no further trouble this season and will be ready for the principal flow.

Now is one of the best times to re-queen those colonies that are not building up as they ought—and moreover, queens removed now will not swarm next season (*i.e.*, if you attend to them properly and give them plenty of room). Be very particular and feed your colony-rearing queen cells, although we have a light honey flow on (a condition very favourable for rearing good queens) still feed about one pint of syrup every night until all cells are sealed and then you may be sure of getting good, large, fine, queens.

So far, this has been a very favourable year for bees, no very heavy weather (like last November, which killed thousands of colonies), ordinary colonies are very strong and have plenty of stores, in fact I saw a few storing a little honey in supers last week. I want all my nucleus colonies, however, to give me early returns, and the only way you can make them do so is to feed them now and keep at it; even if heavy rains set in you must keep at them and when the main flow comes on you will be amply rewarded, for remember all these small colonies have young, vigorous queens and only want sufficient bees to take care of their eggs, to soon be rousing colonies that will be among your finest honey gatherers next season.—F. H. B.

POULTRY NOTES.

FEATHER EATING.—Just at this time of the year towards the end of the hot weather when the blood of fowls is apt to be in a heated condition through the effects of the weather and a wrong diet or through being kept under wrong conditions, and when fowls at the same time are moulting, the vice of feather eating is not uncommon. The new feathers of the moult are not allowed to grow, through the fowl continually pecking at them, and a fowl which is too bare to get many feathers of her own to peck, sometimes pecks the feathers of her neighbours. In moulting, the skin of the fowl also undergoes a change besides the shedding of her feathers, the outer surface peeling off in scurfy scales. To help to get rid of this skin the moulting fowl at liberty often takes a dust bath when she can get one. This is her way of cleaning herself. The more heated fowls are in their blood the more they want to frequent the dust bath. In the hot weather, too, vermin, various kinds of lice, are more in evidence, and if fowls cannot get a dust bath often—cannot roll in loose dirt and shake it over their bodies, until every part of their bodies is in contact with the loose dirt, which, by a series of shakes is then thrown off carrying with it scurf and lice,—then the fowls begin to peck at their irritated skin to relieve the prickly sensation. Accidentally perhaps they swallow some feathers, and thinking these the offenders causing the irritation, continue the operation.

Where fowls have contracted this habit—and it particularly occurs in backyards where birds have little exercise, little green food, and a monotonous diet of corn the same all through the year—the remedy is keep the fowls busy, scatter the grain food among

loose trash, so that the birds must scratch to get it, and if good fresh green grass is scarce, supply them with green food; feed a little sulphur and salt (a teaspoonful of each to a pint of meal every day), in the soft food during the moult; and see that heaps of loose dirt are available for dust baths. Where the fowls have made their baths, sprinkle some sulphur in the dust. When pumpkins are cheap one of these split open will keep the fowls busy picking and is good for them.

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By this time of the year the poultry breeder should have cockerels and pullets about full grown and the best ready to lay in December. The best of these pullets should be selected for adding to the stock for next year. In birds meant for table, select those that are most easy-going and contented, always moving about looking for food without flurry. In the laying breeds select those that are sharpest, those that are out earliest looking for food in the morning and last to go to roost at night. It is in the all-round breeds that most difficulty occurs in choosing stock birds from the young stock. Pick medium-sized fowls that are active and diligent in seeking food, short in the leg and rather heavy behind. It is also as well to select a few more than you will need to make a final selection when they start laying. Then sell out all you do not need. Do not keep crowds of pullets into the spring eating their heads off unless you happen to know of a specially good market to sell them then.

The curse of the poultry yard is the keeping of a crowd of cockerels running among the hens and pullets. Even when fowls are always kept at large there should be a run made, fenced with wire mesh or wattling, where the cockerels at three months old for Leghorns, four months for Minorcas and Old English Games, four and one-half to five months for Orpingtons, Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks; and six months for Indian Games, can be separated. They may fight among themselves at first but after a week settle down contentedly. A wattled fence is probably better than wire mesh as the cockerels do not worry through seeing the hens outside; they grow and fatten better thus. The pick of the lot—if they are pure-bred—can probably be sold and with the proceeds some fresh blood bought. The others can be transferred to the fattening pen as they are required and kept there for a week. When cockerels are kept at large among the hens, they do not grow well, become degenerated, are tough to eat, and never are of much use afterwards for stock birds; furthermore they worry and ill-treat the pullets and hens. It is one of the first principles of stock breeding that the young males should be kept apart from the females until they are mature.

[We regret these notes were crushed out of the October number.—Ed.]

WATER is a nerve food. It has a distinctly soothing effect when

COMMENTS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Will members of the Society on reading this please ask themselves whether they have yet paid their subscriptions for the current year. If not their duty is obvious.

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SHOWS have been arranged to be held at the following places ;

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Kendal | Manchester | 6th December |
| Luca | Hanover | 1st December |
| Grand Cayman | Cayman Islands | 20th December |
| Knutsford Park | Kingston | 15th & 16th February |

And in the next financial year the following have been advised :

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| Clarendon | Chapelton | 20th April |
| Plantain Garden | River St. Thomas | April |
| Ulster Spring | Trelawny | April |

We hope, however, that at least one of these will be altered for another month. Three shows in one month are not advisable.

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POTATOES.—Our supply of seed potatoes arrived in the third week of October, were assorted and sent out. As usual many belated orders were received that we could not meet. We asked for orders in July and August. We are, however, importing more to arrive end of November and will also import in January for spring planting.

* *

VEGETABLE SEEDS.—THE price of seeds depends upon the varieties. For instance, Henderson's Succession Cabbage which we send out costs thirty-five cents an ounce (New York), the ordinary kinds only cost twenty-five cents an ounce. Some varieties of Turnip cost fifteen cents an ounce, others ten cents an ounce. Tenderloin Tomato, which we stock, costs sixty cents an ounce, common varieties thirty cents, thus, in a threepenny packet you get half the quantity of Tenderloin that you get say of Acme, Perfection or Stone.

Our usual supply of fresh seeds came to hand in the third week of October and within a few days all the cabbage seeds were finished. Orders of quantities like fifty packets and one pound of cabbage seed should really be received a month ahead, as we do not stock vegetable seeds other than to encourage the growth of vegetables.

* *

SHORT TOP AND LONG TOP COFFEE.—Mr. Hirst's article on this subject is one that has long been needed, as much condemnation of all long-top coffee under all circumstances has been made and quite unjustly. It is a matter of soils and circumstances whether long-top or short-top is best. But some writers seeing only neglected coffee run to "bush," condemn it as "long-top" and compare

it to well-kept "short-top." In Costa Rica, where a very high grade of coffee is grown, the estates are admirably cultivated and the coffee is all "long-top."

* *

GREEN DRESSINGS.—It is a pleasure to see, and hear of, the wonderful growth of the various legumes sent out for supplying green dressings to the land. It is a sight to see Bengal and Velvet Beans waist deep, Jerusalem Peas knee deep,—both a tangled mass of vegetation. Jerusalem Peas flower in October, and new seed will not be available till the end of the year.

A small settler in Portland, who cultivates bananas and cocoa writes:—"I do not think there is a better mulch and green manure than Jerusalem Peas. I planted some in a very dry and poor soil, where I had only recently planted bananas. I circle forked these bananas in June, four feet width, turning in whatever peas came in the way. The result has been an agreeable surprise. I subsequently turned under the rest of the peas throughout the bananas, leaving only a little for seed and I see very good results."

* *

BRANCHES.—We should like to print all reports received from Branch Societies and we have tried to do so, but it is obviously impossible to print in the current month's JOURNAL, reports received only a few days before the JOURNAL is issued. Will Branch Societies try to help us by please noting as follows:—

- (1) To make their reports concise as possible.
- (2) That the JOURNAL is issued on the 15th of each month, and is all in print a few days before that.
- (3) That it is being printed from the middle of the previous month so that only a certain number of pages is left for Branch Reports.
- (4) That all Branch Reports should be received by the end of each month for publication in the following month's issue of the JOURNAL.

* *

BANANA DISEASE.—For some years there were rumours of a disease existing among bananas in Central America, but little definite information was forthcoming about it until lately. We have, however, published articles by natives of Jamaica in charge of plantations in Costa Rica giving some particulars of this disease. We also published a letter from an English planter in Nicaragua telling of the ravages of the disease there and what loss it had caused him. Then we have since seen the report of Dr. McKinney, employed by the United Fruit Company to investigate this disease specifically. This is what he has reported:—"At least 15,000 to 20,000 acres of bananas are seriously affected in Panama, while in Costa Rica the damage has been even greater, so that it is safe to estimate at least \$2,000,000 capital loss in those two regions in the last five years."

He goes on to say that while in 1904 whole districts

were free from the disease, there is now scarcely a single locality in these parts that is not suffering from its ravages. Neither the age of the plant nor the soil in which it grows seems to modify in any way the virulence of the disease. It has been proved that the disease is not due to local conditions, such as too wet or too dry soil, though such conditions may predispose to the disease, and neither drainage nor improved methods of cultivation and pruning have checked the evil, so far.

In Dutch Guiana (Surinam) the government has tried to foster a banana industry and the United Fruit Company have been at work there. Their manager for Dutch Guiana, Mr. Goldsmith Williams, personally gave us the particulars of the disease as it existed there and in Central America. He stated that he was trying to find a variety of banana that might be immune to the banana disease.

In British Guiana they have been aspiring to start a banana industry, and so lately sent delegates consisting of the Director of the Department of Science and Agriculture, the Assistant Director, and Mr. J. Wood Davis, F.R., to visit Surinam and inquire into the banana industry of that country, and to find whether a similar industry could be undertaken in British Guiana. They reported that there were at the present twenty-four estates with an area of 6,933 acres, growing bananas with the aid of government loans, and seventeen estates with 1,298 acres under bananas receiving no loans. This makes a total area of 8,231 acres, but it is estimated that 2,954 acres are either dying or dead from the effects of the "Panama Disease."

We have no disease in Jamaica so far, and it will be great carelessness on our part if disease is allowed to be introduced in any way. At present the banana industry in Jamaica appears to have better prospects than ever. Lands are being eagerly bought up and at greatly increased prices over what prevailed a few years ago.

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MULCHING.—There are bananas now being grown on soils and in climates that a few years ago would have been deemed absolutely unsuitable to grow bananas commercially. Bananas of as good grade as anywhere else are grown now in the red soils of St. Ann, and in the rather dry soils of Trelawny with a low rainfall. These soils are first thoroughly forked, and then immediately mulched heavily with guinea grass. It costs about £2 10s. per acre per annum to keep the plants mulched all through to a depth of a foot or more, but then there is little if any weeding to be done, and no forking, for as long as two years. Only when the bananas are grown out of the soil forking has to be done and the mulch turned in. The surface mulch keeps the ground soft and cool and moist, so that in these rather dry climates the expense of the production of bananas is not greater in the end than in districts of heavy rainfall, yet a great deal of the expense of weeding and forking in wet districts can be avoided by growing heavy green mulches, as a dry mulch does not last long, or act so well there. Then there is the additional profit in growing or adding a mulch, in the land being constantly made richer rather than

becoming poorer. The Jerusalem Peas can be planted immediately the plants appear and the ground is thoroughly forked. The vines will soon cover the ground, and they do not run so much as the Velvet Bean or Bengal Bean, so causing expense in keeping the vines within bounds, and at the same time the Jerusalem Peas last longer than Cowpeas, so are found to suit better as a more permanent mulch. No matter when planted, the Jerusalem Peas only blossom about October, so if planted in February or March when the bananas are put in, they will cover the ground till December.

We hope to have fresh seed about the month of January for planting.

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COCOA.— When one looks round and sees the substantial stocks of cocoa about and the good supplies coming forward, resulting in prices a good deal too low to please the producers, it is certainly a little disappointing that up to now the United Kingdom has not responded by increasing her demand to a corresponding degree. It is generally acknowledged that when a man sells at a low margin of profit, he expects to recoup himself by a greatly increased turnover. Great Britain certainly has not proved a good customer to the cocoa planter this year from this point of view. Towards the end of May the weather became warmer, but up to that date even the weather, which was cold and damp, should have greatly stimulated and increased the consumption. Instead of a substantial increase, as in America and Germany, our own figures still show a heavy falling off in the deliveries for home consumption. Why is this? What is the matter with the cocoa or the consumers that we do not show a substantial increase, with everything favouring such a thing!—*Tropical Life.*

Yes, why? We travelled recently by three different lines of British steamers, and on neither of them was cocoa or chocolate ever offered to passengers. Tea and coffee were on the bill of fare, but not cocoa.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Only letters with replies likely to be of general use are published here).

WOODPECKERS.

I beg most respectfully to point out to you in order that you may put the subject matter before the Chairman and members of the Agricultural Society and ask them to place it before His Excellency the Governor, the necessity of allowing the *Woodpecker Birds* to be placed on the Schedule with the Baldpate, Whitewing, and Blue Pigeon, as they are very destructive to our cocoa, oranges, pineapples, and moreso to the coconut trees. They bore holes in the coconut tree and causes the tree to rot and die. I have seen with my own eyes on this property, the woodpecker repeatedly destroying the cocoa pods on the trees; as to the sweet oranges, I have suffered very much with my crops here on account of those birds. They eat more of the fruits than I get. They start to eat the oranges as they are getting ripe and fit. I have never seen more woodpeckers in all my life than I see on this property, and I now pray

that the Society will take steps to approach His Excellency and get him to consent for them to be dealt with as the other birds.

Mr. John T. Bayliss, of Berkshire Hall, Linstead, is quite correct in saying they should be removed off the protected list.—R. F. LINDO.
Fish River Pen, Green Island.

[Further correspondence is invited on the subject of damage to cocoa pods alleged to be done by woodpeckers.—Ed.]

BRANCH NOTES.

Mt. Regale, St. Mary.—On the 14th September a meeting was held at Mt. Regale in the Schoolroom for the purpose of starting a Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. There were present: Messrs. W. Cradwick and E. Arnett, Agricultural Instructors, and eighteen other persons. The Instructors addressed the meeting, pointing out the many benefits to be derived from such an organisation. It was made clear "that such a Society should not be supported chiefly from an agricultural point of view, as the getting of new ideas to plant yams and cocones, but also for the selling of our produce. If worked on right lines, such a Society tends to improve our lives, and we are to work not only for the good of the few, but also for the many." The Instructors were listened to with marked attention. At the close of the addresses it was moved by Mr. S. A. Bonner, seconded by Mr. C. E. Clarke, and unanimously agreed that a Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society be formed here. Those present were then enrolled as members and nearly all paid in their subscriptions. Miss A. V. Thompson was elected Treasurer and W. A. Chambers, Secretary. A vote of thanks was accorded the Instructors by the Secretary. The next meeting was held on Saturday, the 1st October. There were present: Rev. R. H. McLaughlin, Messrs. W. Cradwick, E. Arnett (Agricultural Instructors), S. A. Bonner, T. W. Mattock, A. S. Bryan, T. White, M. White, J. Minott, C. A. Robinson, H. W. Clarke, S. F. Clarke, Solomon Clarke, C. E. Clarke, M. A. Johnson, D. Hannan, A. S. Spalding, G. E. Roberts, Sigismund Francis, Thos. Walker, Jas. Saddler, Miss A. V. Thompson, Miss Walker (visitor), and the Secretary. After a few preliminary remarks by Mr. Cradwick, Mr. Arnett was called to the chair. This gentleman gave another very interesting and inspiring address and was again listened to with marked attention. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting, the election of officers for the current year was proceeded with and resulted as follows: Rev. R. H. McLaughlin, President; Messrs. S. A. Bonner, and T. W. Mattock, Vice-presidents; and A. S. Bryan, Assistant Secretary. These gentlemen promised to serve the Society to the best of their abilities. The election of the Managing Committee was deferred until next meeting. Rules for the working of the Society were read and amended. It was moved by Mr. C. A. Robinson, seconded by Mr. D. Hannan, that the Society be affiliated to the Parent Society as early as possible. It was agreed that the Hon. R. P. Simmonds be invited to one of our meetings on a date to be fixed. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Instructors on behalf of the Society, by the President. The next meeting was fixed for Friday, the 14th instant, at four p.m. The meeting was then closed.—W. AUGUSTUS CHAMBERS, Secretary.

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St. John's (St. Catherine).—Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the regular meeting of this Branch on the 20th October, was attended by only seven members and nineteen visitors. Among those present were Messrs. H. L. Mossman, Agricultural Instructor; F. A. Vernal, President; H. A. Smith, and S. A. Banton, Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting as well as those of the last but one, were read and confirmed. Mr. Vernal in a few words, called upon Mr. Mossman to address the meet-

ing. An instructive lecture on manures was delivered. The different kinds of manures were dealt with. The planting of legumes and the forking in of these when they have reached the flowering stage, was strongly advocated, for in so doing these legumes will be very beneficial, for they (a) let loose nitrogen (b) the leaves will form humus, and (c) they will set bacteria in the soil to work on the humus and the nitrogen, which had hitherto remained useless. The Instructor is of opinion that in spite of our red and poor soil as we term it, he was not yet convinced that if intelligent methods be used, cocoa would not thrive at Kitson Town. A vote of thanks was accorded him, to which he suitably replied. The meeting was informed that a Committee from the St. Catherine Board would visit the district the next day in order to make more sanitary our poor and insanitary water supply. With the singing of the National Anthem, the meeting adjourned.—S. A. BANTON, Secretary.

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Troja (St. Catherine).—An interesting meeting of this Branch was held on the 22nd September, at which there were twenty members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A resolution from Upper Metcalfe Branch dealing with the buying of bananas by weight, was discussed, and on a motion by Mr. V. N. Magnus, seconded by Mr. R. A. Crookshank, and carried *nem. con.*, the Society pledged itself to support the resolution. The Committee dealing with the subject of "authorised persons," then presented its report. Some of the applications came from persons living in the same districts, and therefore could not be favourably considered. The report was accepted. Some of the members were of opinion that the matter should be deferred, while others were desirous of having it put through then. This necessitated the taking of votes, and this course was adopted. By a majority of votes Messrs. W. Wood, H. N. Ross, and Solomon Lee, were declared elected to serve as authorised persons. At this stage the President suggested the starting of a Penny Bank by the Society. This won the approval of all the members, as it was obviously seen that this bank would be of great advantage to the members. Accordingly a Managing Committee was formed to consist of: Messrs. W. Ferguson, R. A. Crookshank, E. A. McNeil, H. N. Ross, C. C. Lewis, A. M. Dawkins, V. N. Magnus, and A. Gardner. The Secretary of the Branch was instructed to forward to the Secretary of the Parent Society, the names of the persons elected to serve as authorised persons, also to write to the manager of the Government Savings Bank for directions to start and manage the Penny Bank. The following resolutions were next passed: (1) Resolved—"That having been informed that the Government is about erecting foot bridges over the fordings in proximity to the Railway Station and Post Office at Troja, the Jamaica Agricultural Society be asked by this Society to approach the Governor and respectfully ask His Excellency to also sanction the erection of bridges over the Pear Tree Grove, Hamwalk, and Rio Magno to Cedar Valley Fordings." (2) Resolved: "That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Cedar Valley Agricultural Society asking its co-operation in this matter." Two new members, Mr. Joseph Reynolds and Miss Editha Smith, were elected. The roll was called and the meeting adjourned.—A. VIVIAN HAGGUS, Secretary.

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Santa Cruz (St. Elizabeth).—The bi-monthly meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, 22nd September, at six p.m. Owing to the state of the weather the attendance was less than it might have been. Apologies for absence were received from the Instructor and Mr. C. P. Jackson. Messrs. F. H. McDermott, presiding; T. W. Darien, H. W. Miller, J. F. Miller, J. E. Clarke, W. Hutchinson, J. G. Facey, A. Tomlinson, P. J. Obanner, Mrs. B. I. Blythe, and the Secretary. The minutes of the July meeting were read and confirmed, after which many communications

were dealt with, chiefly those from His Excellency, the Custos, Hon. H. H. Cousins, the Parent Society re Knutsford Park Show, and letters from the *Times* and *Gleaner* dealing with printing matters. The Secretary was instructed to convey to His Excellency the thanks of the meeting for his subscription of £2 2s., and to remind him of his promise to open the show. With regard to the letter from the Parent Society offering prizes of £4 and £3 for collective exhibits from Branch Societies at the coming Knutsford Park Show, the Secretary was directed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and to state that the matter is receiving the careful attention of the Society with the hope that it will be found possible to send exhibits to the show. In making provision for the show to be held at Northampton on the 9th November, the meeting agreed to hire the tents owned by the Parent Society, and the Secretary was accordingly instructed to make the necessary inquiry and submit the correspondence to the Ground Committee for decision. Mr. McDermott suggested, and the meeting unanimously agreed, that Agricultural Instructors should not be overburdened with the show work, but be allowed a free hand in everything and treated as visitors that they may have a greater facility of instructing the exhibitors and others at the show. After instructing the Secretary to call an early meeting in October on a day that will be suitable to the Instructor, the meeting adjourned.—S. AUG. BLYTHE, Secretary

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Trinity Villa (St. Thomas).—The September meeting of this Branch was held on the 23rd of the month. There were present: Messrs. W. A. R. Carr (President), J. Briscoe, Agricultural Instructor; E. S. Edwards, A. Taylor, R. Barnes, W. P. Grant, J. T. Edman, Secretary, and L. Jacobs, a visitor. The minutes of July meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary reported that owing to rain no meeting was held in August and the September one fell through for want of a quorum. Mr. Briscoe wrote that he would be here, so he issued notices for a meeting to-day. The Secretary also reported the death of the Society's rooster in one of the member's hands. Correspondence was read and dealt with. The Secretary reported that he got in a very small amount in connection with the show from the numerous letters he wrote soliciting donations. He presented replies received. A discussion followed, after which the following resolution, moved by Mr. Briscoe, seconded by Mr. Edwards and carried:—"That in view of the poor response to the appeals for subscription to the proposed Agricultural Show, which should have been held by this Branch on December 22nd, 1910, and to the gloomy financial outlook resulting from bad crops, it is decided to postpone the show indefinitely, and that subscriptions collected be refunded." The President brought to the notice of the Instructor that some members complain that he does not visit their cultivations. Mr. Edman also said he observed that most of his time is spent in St. Andrew. Mr. Edwards also spoke on the same subject. The Instructor said that he would be too glad if those who complain were to apply when he comes over, he would do his best for them. Mr. Edwards said if a field were selected and the Instructor demonstrate there where anyone could go, much more would be done than "field to field" visits. It was finally decided that the Secretary co-operate with the Instructor to select a cultivation in the district for a demonstration when next he visits. Other matters were dealt with and the meeting adjourned.—J. T. EDMAN, Secretary.

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Stewart Town (Trelawny).—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, evening, September 29th. The Hon. and Rev. W. M. Webb, President of the Branch, took the chair. The meeting was opened with prayer offered by the President. The members present were: Messrs. H. Q. Levy, Instructor, John Stockhausen, Vice-President, the Secretary, and ten others. Messrs. Herbert Grant and Isaac Smith,

were visitors. The minutes of the last meeting being read, it was moved, by Mr. Charles McFarlane, seconded by Mr. Thomas Moreland and agreed to, that they be confirmed. The members expressed their dissatisfaction that for three months in succession reports of the meetings of the Branch have not been published in the JOURNAL. Mr. Levy, the Instructor, stated that he did not think it was the fault of the Secretary of the Agricultural Society. The Branches had increased in number, and there was not space enough in the JOURNAL for all the monthly reports from the various Branches. The matter being discussed, the following resolution was moved by Mr. John Stockhausen, seconded by Mr. J. Ferguson, and unanimously agreed to:—"That this Society in view of the Branch Notes not having been published in the JOURNAL for three months in succession, and as it might be for want of space, would ask that at the next financial year, arrangements be made that more space be allocated in the JOURNAL for the purpose." Arrangements have been completed for the purchase of an Anglo-Nubian billy-goat for the Branch. At the next meeting of the Branch Mr. Levy's Local Prize Holdings Scheme will be fully considered. It is thought the scheme, if carried out, would prove of immense benefit to the district; and the President has promised his hearty support. Mr. John Stockhausen suggested that cassava starch being a scarce commodity in the district, it would be profitable if the members take up the cultivation of cassava. The Instructor advised those who planted to place the cassava stick in a flat position in the banks with its ends sticking out, instead of in the standing position. He had found this method of planting a successful one. Mr. Levy having noticed in the district that the recent local blow which threw down many banana trees, causing a number of suckers to be growing in one root, advised the members to give attention to suckering, taking out of each root at once all the suckers except the healthiest one. A few other matters affecting the interests of the Branch were attended to, and the meeting brought to a close with the Doxology and the Benediction.—**JOSIAH JOHNSON**, Secretary.

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Purus (Manchester).—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Church of England Schoolroom on Monday, 3rd October 1910. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Business arising out of minutes were the model ground. Mr. Thomas offered about three-quarters of an acre of land if the site was considered suitable. The Committee will inspect the spot. A letter was read by the Secretary from the *Daily News* Publishing Company. The Secretary was instructed to write informing the company that so soon as they start they will promise their news. Mr. Robertson spoke of the unhealthy state of the town. The President said he was aware of it and especially in front of Mr. Morgan's dispensary where the water-table was indeed bad. It was moved by Mr. W. E. Robertson, seconded by Mr. W. A. Morgan, that a resolution be sent to the Superintendent of Roads, and one to the Parochial Board on this subject. Mr. Thomas Hibbert moved a resolution, seconded by the President, that owing to the cheap price offered for the breaking of stones, the people will not prepare same to sell. This is responsible for the flatness of the road. Mr. Morgan called the Branch's attention to an article which appeared in the newspapers re the Collector General's report on uncultivated land, which will be brought up at next meeting. Before the business of the Branch had been gone into it was decided that the Instructor go on with the reading of his paper on poultry. There were over 150 children present from the different schools, also big people. The President said that chickens are very pretty and useful little creatures, and every child should try and get one. The Instructor promised to read the other half of his paper at next meeting, on the breeds of fowls that give the most weight. At the close of his lecture some questions were asked by members and replied to by the Instructor. A vote of thanks to

the Instructor was moved by the President, seconded and supported by Messrs. Morgan and Robertson and carried. At the close of the business the meeting adjourned until the first Monday in November.—C. ROWLAND, Secretary.

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Windsor Castle (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, October 6th, at Windsor Castle. There was a good attendance of members, amongst whom were: Revs. T. B. Prentice and J. G. Peterkin, Messrs. Brooks, Kelly, Reid, Rogers, Wynter, Mitchell, Turnbull, McClure, Goulbourne, Burnett, Matthews, Tucker, and others. After the reading of the minutes the President, Rev. T. B. Prentice, was introduced and called to the chair by the Rev. Peterkin. The following business was done: Members were instructed how to secure vegetable seeds through the Rev. H. B. Walcott at a cheap rate. The Post Office for Windsor Castle was discussed and a deputation to wait on the Post Master General was appointed. The time and place for the visit of Hon. R. P. Simmonds were fixed. How to secure deeper interest in the Prize Holdings Competition, was brought up by Mr. Crooks, and dealt with by the President and Rev. Peterkin. Information regarding Knutsford Park Show was to be asked for. Mr. Reid's paper on "Tillage" was deferred for next meeting, which is to be held at Seafield Schoolroom November 17th.—W. J. ROGERS, Secretary.

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Christiana (Manchester).—The quarterly meeting of this Branch was held in the Court House on 7th October, 1910, the President, R. J. Miller, Esq., presiding. Among those present were: Rev. W. Hardie, Messrs. J. T. Palache, Agricultural Instructor, H. T. Cambridge, J. J. Wright and several others. The following men were recommended to be authorised persons under the Praedial Larceny Law:—F. A. Bailey, Christiana; James Bateman, Christiana; G. P. Steers, Christiana; James Folkes, Spaldings; John Francis, Coley Ville; John Butler, Coley Ville; Benjamin L. Reid, Walderston; David Smith, Halifax, Devon; William Myrie, Halifax, Devon; Joseph Rattray, Dunbar, Devon. In response to a letter from the Acting Secretary of the Parent Society, *re* exhibits for the Knutsford Park Show of February, 1911, the following resolution was adopted, Messrs. Easy, Shaw, and the President dissenting: "That a Committee be appointed to get up and secure exhibits for the proposed Knutsford Park Show to be held in February, 1911, and that the sum of ten pounds be placed at the disposal of the Committee to effect such purpose." Messrs. E. A. Bayley, W. H. McCaulay, R. H. Easy, G. P. Steers, J. J. Wright, and H. T. Cambridge were named as the Committee. An interesting paper on the "Hidden Wealth in the Soil and how to obtain it," was read by Mr. J. J. Wright of Baillieston. A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Wright, and the Secretary was instructed to have it inserted not only in the JOURNAL, but in all the widely-read papers of the Island.

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Castleton (St. Mary).—The annual meeting of this Branch came off on the 16th September, at five p.m. In consequence of the inclement weather and overflow of the Wagwater River, there were only nine members present along with visitors. Mr. Briscoe, the Agricultural Instructor, was present and delivered a lecture on behalf of the Branch, after which the President spoke, showing the necessity of co operation. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. After this the election of officers for the new year, by motion, took place. The President and Secretary were re-elected, Mr. W. R. Saunders was appointed Vice-president, Mr. J. H. Graham, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. J. T. Graham, Treasurer. The members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Briscoe for his presence

ing the amount received during the past year, also expenditure and balance in hand to July 31st 1910. Four members paid their subscription for the ensuing year. Mr. J. T. Graham gave notice of motion for next meeting regarding the improvement of membership for the uplifting of this Branch. This brought a very pleasant and interesting meeting to a close.—JAMES HARDIE, Secretary.

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The usual monthly meeting of the above-named Branch came off on 3rd October, at five o'clock. There were nine members present also six visitors. The President read notes from the Colonial Secretary regarding quinine to cure and prevent malarial fever; instructing members who require to obtain it from the Post Office in farthing packets. The newly-appointed Treasurer, Mr. J. T. Graham, spoke on his motion of the last meeting, suggesting methods for making meetings more interesting, viz., sending round of circulars inviting new members and informing regular members of the time and date fixed for meeting, also giving out subjects at each meeting, such as cocoa, banana cultivation, etc., for discussion at the next meeting—as to the planting and general handling of the crops so as to secure the largest returns. The Vice-president, Mr. W. R. Saunders, made his first speech in connection with his appointment. Speaking on co-operation and the usefulness of the Society, also asking that the Instructor, Mr. Briscoe, recommend a remedy for canes taken up with worms. The Secretary seconded and suggested sending to invite the Instructor to look over members' cultivations, and give advice as to how best to prevent and remedy the diseases of crops. The President advised that in the case of canes taken by worms, the best thing to do if they are ratoons, would be to dig them all out, run fire through, and then plough up properly, replanting with fresh, healthy suckers. The Secretary then introduced the *Daily News*, a half-penny paper, and suggested that the Society take shares, but members did not think the dividends would prove profitable enough to sanction the investment. Two new members were enrolled and the meeting came to a close in the usual way.—JAS. HARDIE, Secretary.

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Grand Cayman.—The usual quarterly meeting of this Branch was held in the Victoria Hall, Georgetown, on October 4th. There were present: His Hon. G. S. S. Hirst (Chairman), Messrs. N. Merren, T. Coe, G. E. Wood, R. McTaggart, R. Jackson, J. H. O'Sullivan, T. L. Bennett, T. Ebanks, H. Haanks, J. Ebanks, E. Parsons, J.P.: W. T. Watler, J. Hurleston, S. Rooves, M. Jackson, M. McTaggart, R. Bodden, Capt.'s Alex. Crighton, J. Crighton, and R. Crighton, Revs. R. C. Young and W. B. Pouchi, Mrs. G. S. S. Hirst (Secretary and Treasurer), Mrs. H. Bodden, Mrs. E. Bodden, Misses E. Nixon, R. Ebanks, L. Ebanks, G. Ebanks, M. Roberts, M. Miller, S. A. Saunders, R. Russel, N. Feurtado, and Mrs. T. Ebanks. The chief business of the meeting was to make arrangements for the coming show to be held on December 22nd. The Chairman pointed out that marmalade had been omitted from the schedule, and it was agreed that this exhibit and black eye peas be added to Class A, Section 1, prizes 2/- and 1/- as usual. The Commissioner having been officially informed that an Instructor will pay a visit to the Island in December, suggested that he be asked to act as judge in all section 1 with the exception of classes A and B, and section 2, not including Nos. 7, 8, 9. Some of the members present thought that this was asking too much of the Instructor and said it was imposing upon his good nature quite enough if he be asked to judge the live stock only. After a little discussion on the matter the Secretary pointed out that there was sufficient time in which to write to the Secretary in Jamaica to ascertain whether Mr. Cradwick would consent to act as judge or not as the election of officers of the show would

letter was read from His Excellency Sir Sidney Olivier, in which he thanked the Secretary for sending him a schedule of the show, and enclosed a cheque for £2 2s. to be devoted to expenses of the show. The Chairman proposed that a cup be purchased for that amount to be competed for annually, and held by the exhibitor gaining the highest number of points in the show; the person winning it for three years in succession to become the owner. The proposal was enthusiastically received by all present except Mr. Thomas Coe, who thought it should not be competed for until next year. A letter was then read from the Clerk to the Vestry in answer to an appeal from the Society, that a sum of money be voted for the object of draining two of the swamps in the Island. The request was refused by the Justices and Vestry at their last meeting and Mr. Timothy Ebanks proposed that the request be sent to them again and again, until the sum of £40 named by the Commissioner was granted. This was seconded by Mr. Malcolm McTaggart and carried unanimously. It was decided to purchase a boar for the Society from Capt. Alex. Crichton, J.P., and though a lot of objections were raised, on its being put to the vote, was carried fifteen to thirteen. The only "sport" fixed for the afternoon of the show was the "greasy pole." Mr. Thomas Coe undertook to manage that. The Secretary asked for a small sum of money with which to provide officers of the show with a little refreshment, as some of them came from a distance and last year were unable to leave the show grounds, and therefore had to go without food practically all day. Mr. Coe proposed that the sum of thirty shillings be spent. This was unanimously approved. The number of members of this Branch is 115, an increase of twenty-two on last year.

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Portland Central (St. Margaret's Bay).—At a special meeting of this Branch held at St. Margaret's Bay on Saturday, the 15th October, there were present among others, Mr. W. Cradwick, Agricultural Instructor (in the chair in the absence of the President and Vice-president, who both came in later), Dr. F. G. Grossett, Rev. P. A. Conahan, Messrs. I. S. Williams, J. M. Roper, J. D. Brown, Albert Roper, J. Napair, W. Carr, J. O. Thompson, also Messrs. S. S. Steadman, D. Horn, and J. E. Boothe, who subsequently enrolled their names as members of the Branch. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes, the report of the delegates who attended the meeting at Richmond on the 17th September, was read by Mr. J. M. Roper. This was a report relative to the amalgamation of the parishes of St. Mary and Portland for the holding of larger shows alternately. This Branch was quite in sympathy with the proposal. A full report of the meeting was published in the newspapers. After some explanation on the subject by Mr. Cradwick, Mr. Steadman was asked to give his views on the subject. He gave, among his reasons in favour of an amalgamation, the necessity for more correct judging and better display of exhibits, sympathy with contributors, less dissatisfaction by having a two-days show and more unity in the amalgamation of efforts. *Re* the sanitary arrangements for St. Margaret's Bay, Dr. Grossett promised to do his best for the village, and on the suggestion of Mr. J. M. Roper, the doctor also promised to get a Committee of the Board to visit the village. Mr. J. M. Roper is enthusiastic on more instructive and interesting meetings, and at each meeting hitherto papers and various topics will be read and discussed. At the next meeting Mr. Roper will read a paper on "Co-operation," and at a subsequent meeting a paper on "Roads Development in Portland," by Mr. Horn. Mr. Cradwick again encouraged the members to compete at the Knutsford Park Show in February next. Mr. Steadman gave some valuable suggestions on the necessity for a representative for Portland on the Board of Management. This matter will be considered at the next meeting. Owing to the heavy rains the full programme of the Instructor could not be carried out. The special meeting at Hope Bay and the demonstration at Mr. Wm. Carr's field, had to be

postponed. He will, however, be at St. Margaret's Bay on the 19th November and 17th December, and at Hope Bay the 15th December. A special meeting is to be held at Hope Bay in November, the date to be fixed. Mr. J. H. Smith is using every effort possible to get as many members in and around Hope Bay.

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Lamb's River (Westmoreland).—The usual quarterly meeting of this Branch was held in the Mount Hermon Schoolroom on Friday, 14th October, presided over by Mr. G. R. C. Heale. Present: forty members and ten visitors. The minutes of the last regular meeting and of special meeting held on the 17th September, were read and confirmed. The Chairman introduced Mr. A. B. Ventresse to the meeting, and privilege was given him to take part in the discussions of the day. Mr. Ventresse replied thanking the meeting for the courtesy. The matter *re* the purchase of the goat for the Society was brought up, and it was moved by Mr. Malcolm and seconded by Mr. Warburton, that the idea be dropped,—carried unanimously. Mr. Schleifer proposed that as the idea of purchasing the goat was dropped, then a pair of pigs may be bought instead. The proposal will be discussed at next meeting. At this stage of the meeting the Rev. Mr. Ross entered and was introduced by the Chairman to the meeting. He expressed his pleasure at being present, and offered himself forthwith a member of the Society. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Barclay *re* arrowroot. All arrangements regarding the crop were entrusted to the Secretary. Another letter was read from Mr. Fursdon *re* "railway freight." The matter was discussed and it was resolved that a reply be sent stating that the Society is in sympathy with the findings of the Select Committee, especially in reference to the reduction of freight on agricultural produce. The Treasurer's report was given and adopted. The Secretary moved that Rule seven of the Society be amended. Notice was given at last meeting. It was decided that in future the regular meetings of the Branch be held on the Second Friday of every other month, at eleven a.m., instead of on the second Friday in each quarter. A Managing Committee was appointed, to consist of the officers of the Branch and six others, to discuss minor matters at special meetings, four members to form a quorum. The report of the Committee appointed to inspect the Coffee Ground Road was given, and certain resolutions were passed to be sent to the Parochial Board of Westmoreland for the same. The Secretary reported on the condition of the Society's fowls. At present both the Indian Game rooster and the Plymouth Rock hens are sick. Mr. Schleifer and the Secretary promised to treat them until next meeting when permanent arrangements will be made as to their keep and care. It was proposed that a show be held in March of next year, under the auspices of this Society. Mr. Aug. Somers of Seaford Town, agreed to give his pasture for the purpose. Mr. Somers gave hints on the treatment of the following diseases amongst horsekind:—strangles, pneumonia, and worms. A vote of thanks was accorded him for the same. Mr. Schleifer gave a stirring address on the cultivation of cocoa and banana. He advised that planting generally of banana, be done in November and December, so as to catch the "spring prices." A vote of thanks was accorded him for his valuable suggestions. He moved the following resolution:—"That this Society offers three prizes of not less than £1 15s. for best chain of banana and cocoa planted and cared so that the bananas may meet the 1912 spring prices, the land to be approved by the Agricultural Instructor, and the judging to take place in April, 1912. Persons other than members may join the competition, if they become members not later than February, 1911." It was decided to send a resolution to the Westmoreland Parochial Board, asking that Lamb's River be made a Polling Station. The election of a new President was deferred until the January meeting of the Branch. Vegetable seeds were distributed. Meeting adjourned till ninth December.—U. BROWN, Secretary.

Avocat (Portland).—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Schoolroom on the 15th October, at five p.m. There were present sixteen members. The President being absent, one of the Vice-presidents, Joseph Smith, Esq., was voted to the chair. As it was growing rather late, the minutes of the previous meeting having been epitomised, were read and confirmed. In addressing the meeting the Chairman said he was very pleased to see such a representative gathering of members, and he was sanguine that other subsequent meetings would be as largely attended as the present one. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Castillea rubber plants which he had obtained from the Hon. Director of Agriculture for the members, were ready for distribution. The Chairman said that each member should give a small subscription to aid in defraying the expenses relative to the conveyance of the plants from the Railway. Each member gave threepence, and the Secretary was instructed by the members to convey their thanks to the honourable gentleman from whom they had received the valuable gift. One new member of the Committee was elected, namely: Mr. F. E. Neisbit. Mr. David Moodie panegyricised the Secretary for the good work achieved during the year under review with regard to the management of the Society. After his remarks were finished, he was supported by Messrs. McLarty, Lafayette, Neisbet and McBayne. The President and other members generally expressed regret at the Secretary's leaving to take up work in another district. Mr. F. E. Neisbet made a suggestion to the other members that at the next meeting, each should bring a visitor who might probably become a member, so that the numerical strength of the Society be augmented. He concluded by enumerating some of the good work that is being done by Branch Societies throughout the Island. An address was presented to the Secretary and he replied in suitable terms. There being no other business on the agenda to be dealt with except correspondence, the meeting closed with the National Anthem. The next meeting will be on the 12th November.—J. N. PERKINS, Secretary.

The following is the address presented to the Secretary:—

Mr. J. N. Perkis, Dear Sir,—We the members of the Avocat Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, utilise this opportunity in expressing our heartfelt appreciation of your valuable services rendered to this Branch as Secretary since its formation.

It is with the utmost regret that we must say good-bye to you as Secretary of this Society, while we review with pleasure the benefits derived and the success achieved through your instrumentality, we cannot but admire the painstaking and conscientious manner in which you have performed the work delegated to your office and generally your affable disposition and genial manners has endeared you to us all.

You have shewn keen interest in the advancement of the privileges of our Society and the district in general; your school-garden being also a model for the children and people, has been the cause of the improvement of our homesteads.

On behalf of this Society and the community, we must also mention our acknowledgement with gratitude, your beneficial influence in securing some improvement on our roads—a long-felt need in our district, and although our entire expectations has not been realised, yet we hope by degrees to reach our goal from the good start you have made.

Feeling confident that if you were to remain longer with us, greater good would accrue from your efforts, we wish you and yours continued success and a prosperous career, and greater usefulness in your new sphere of labour, and wherever you may go, while we pray that the interest shown on our behalf in the past may continue notwithstanding the distance that lies between us. We beg to remain yours sincerely.—Joseph Smith, Acting President; F. Emanuel Neisbet, Secretary; J. B. McLarty, R. P. Murray, J. E. Minott, P. B. Murray, J. Barnes, E. Ellis, T. Yafa.