

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. XVII.

FEBRUARY, 1913.

No. 2.

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 Wednesday, the 15th January, 1913, at 3.30 p.m., to allow of the Half-yearly General Meeting having the whole time on the usual day, Thursday.

Present:—Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G., Vice-President, in the chair; the Hons. D. Campbell, George McGrath, R. P. Simmonds, J. R. Williams and S. S. Stedman; Messrs. R. Craig, A. C. L. Martin, Rev. W. T. Graham, A. W. Douet, E. W. Muirhead, Conrad Watson, and the Secretary, John Barclay.

The Minutes of the previous meeting having been published in the current month's JOURNAL, were taken as read and confirmed.

Notice of Motion. Mr. Watson gave notice of the following motion he would move at the next meeting:—

That this Board ask the Government to make the same concessions to other industries as was made to the banana industry; that lime for use as an Insecticide or Fungicide, be conveyed by the railway free of charge, and that this concession should cover all Insecticides and Fungicides.

Rules of Society. The Secretary submitted the Rules of the Society, which had been revised by a Special Committee, for acceptance by the Board previous to being submitted to the General Meeting. The Rules, as revised, were accepted.

The By-Laws of the Board of Management were also submitted, as revised by the Committee.

The Chairman queried the hour of the meeting of the Instructors' Committee at 10 a.m. on the morning of the day that the Board of Management met, but after explanation that this hour had been fixed as the most suitable, unless the Committee were to meet on another day, thus involving two days in the month, the By-Laws were accepted and ordered to be printed.

Grants for Seeds. The Secretary submitted letter from the C.S. O. No. 53-18679-12 of date 3rd January, in reply to his request, approving of small supplies of peas and beans being given for free distribution in certain districts outside of the western parishes, in cases where there was evidence that need for such gratuitous help had been caused by the hurricane.

Yams. The Secretary submitted a special report on the yam crop. He stated he had communicated with all the Branch Societies, and he had received reports from most of them. He had also reports from the Instructors. Generally speaking, the yam crop had suffered severely all over the island, with the exception of a few fortunate districts. Early planted yams were nearly mature when the hurricane came, and were fit to use; the later planted yams were almost a complete loss, and in some districts, through the effects of the summer's drought and then the hurricane, the loss of the yellow yams had been so great that there would be no heads for replanting. His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier had asked him to get such a report, and if it was found that the loss had been so severe that there would be a general scarcity of yam heads for replanting, he (Sir Sydney Olivier) might consider the question of importing. The Secretary said he had accordingly written to the Island of St. Vincent, asking what yam heads might be available there, and the price thereof. He did not think, however, that it would be necessary to import, as he thought he could get sufficient surplus from some districts to supply to other less fortunate districts sufficient to renew the variety. There, however, would be a shortage of yellow yams in many districts for some years to come.

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

() No. 15368-18040.

3rd December, 1912.

With reference to the letter from this office Nos. 11540-1640, dated the 19th ultimo, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that, on the recommendation of the Surveyor-General, the Governor has approved of permits given to people who have lost their houses during the recent storm to obtain sticks and thatch from the Crown Lands in Trelawny being issued only by the Crown Bailiffs, Mr. Carter and Mr. Powell, and of such permits being personal to the holders only for two weeks and not to their friends and relations.

2. I am also to say that each permit will specify the number of round sticks and bundles of thatch which each permit-holder will be permitted to cut.

3. I am therefore to ask that you will be so good as to appoint Mr. Carter and Mr. Powell for the special purpose, and inform the Surveyor General and this Office when the matter as been arranged.

4. I am to add that no person will be permitted to cut or saw any lumber from Crown Lands.

5. This letter should be regarded as in substitution for that of the 19th ultimo.

(b) No. 15043-17653.

18th December, 1912.

and for publication, Governor to transmit herewith for your information. I am directed by the copy of letter from Messrs. Marriott & Stewart

(1912) Limited, on the subject of the making of paper from Sugar Cane Megasse.

"Gould Road, Twickenham, 12th November, 1912-

"Gentlemen,—We have much pleasure in informing you that we have had special opportunities of investigating the possibilities of sugar cane megasse as a paper-making material, and that we could supply pulp and paper plants in conjunction with sugar cane mills, operating throughout the year in place of only a period, like that of ordinary sugar mills.

"The pulp obtained from the sugar cane megasse is very much like pulps made from Esparto, and which are most suitable for book paper. Grease proof wrapping paper can also be readily made, but the particular field interesting in the book paper line, is paper made for illustrating magazines. This field is very large, as it has been found possible to carry a large quantity of China clay in a megasse sheet, and when so carried, paper is subject to very high finishing by ordinary super-calendering.

"The paper takes half-toning, and is equal to a coated sheet for this purpose without any coating plant whatever. The equipment of sugar cane megasse pulp and paper mills is therefore a great field for sugar cane growing countries.

"Sugar cane megasse yields easily to bleaching, and has the qualities of Esparto pulp with a higher finishing capacity. Esparto grass is becoming very scarce, and the price to-day is something like £5 per ton, with a yield of only 47 to 48 per cent in pulp, and Esparto pulp is at present quoted at about £15 per ton. There is no doubt that megasse can be substituted for Esparto.

"An estimate recently submitted by our Company for the supply of a paper-making plant for making fifty tons of paper in 24 hours, out of sugar cane megasse, using weekly 600 tons of sugar cane megasse, including two complete paper-making machines, working width 10 feet, steam production, pulp factory finishing machines and water plant, was estimated at about £75,000. Megasse yields 70 to 72 per cent in actual pulp.

"We think that this proposition would be of great interest to the Government of the Colonies, as without a doubt, to make paper out of sugar cane megasse would assist the development of the natural resources.

"We hold ourselves entirely at your disposal for giving you any further information on the subject, and shall be glad to hear from you.—MARRIOTT & STEWART Limited (1912)."

This communication was directed to be printed in the JOURNAL.

(c) No. 284-18680.

8th January, 1913.

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4915 dated the 19th ultimo, asking by direction of the Board of Management of your society to be furnished with a return of the number of deaths in St. Elizabeth in the districts mentioned by you, and to say, that before considering whether this request can be complied with, His Excellency would be glad to be informed in what manner it is conceived, that the information asked for has a bearing on the functions of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The Rev. Mr. Graham said the information was desired by him and the request approved by Board because in the Gazette he had seen that the death rate in the second quarter of last year in St. Elizabeth was far in excess of the death rate for the corresponding period of 1911. The figures furnished in the Gazette of the 14th November, showed that the deaths in four registration districts in

the drought stricken areas numbered 131 for that quarter ending 1912 as against 55 for the corresponding period of 1911. He had brought forward the matter and the Board had accepted his resolution asking the Government to furnish statistics, so that the figures published would be verified by the Government. He thought he was entitled to get an explanation from the Government as to the cause of the great increase in the death rate in a small section of this Island and one of the healthiest districts. He believed that a large number of people in those districts had died from actual want. If he could not get information from the government of Jamaica he would carry the matter to the British Government.

Mr. Muirhead supported the position taken up by Mr. Graham and resented the attitude taken up by the Government in this matter. He claimed that as a representative and responsible board they had a right to get this information.

The chairman held that statistics for a more extended period should be furnished by anyone making charges, and that such an involved matter could not be settled on figures merely for three months. There was a disparity in the vital statistics in his parish of St. Mary for instance.

The Secretary said that the Secretary of the Nain Branch who had first brought up the matter of deaths by starvation in his district of St. Elizabeth, had written stating that he had not been aware that any independent enquiry had been made; the only enquiry had been made by officials of the Parochial Board.

Mr. Craig said that his opinion was that the matter had been quite thoroughly handled by the Board already, and it should not be further proceeded with; it was not their duty to look into the question of deaths by starvation. At the same time he would say he did not think there had been an independent enquiry.

Mr. McGrath said that at the previous meeting a resolution had been passed asking the Government to make an independent enquiry into the condition of destitution in the drought stricken districts.

The Secretary said that that was so, but his minutes said that he was first to ask for vital statistics.

After further discussion the Secretary was instructed to send on the motion passed at the previous meeting asking that an independent enquiry be made into the reports of deaths by starvation in the drought stricken districts of St. Elizabeth.

The Secretary submitted letter from Mr. E. **Authorized Persons.** Foster, Montego Bay, asking for his headman Daniel McBean, Porto Bello Pen, Montego Bay P. O., to be appointed an "Authorized Person" as there was no constable within a radius of 3 miles or more of his district, and there was no local Branch of the Agricultural Society to take this matter to.

The Secretary was instructed to forward the nomination to the Inspector General of Police.

Printing of Journal. The Secretary said that the production of the JOURNAL by the printers was not giving satisfaction owing to the great delay in its issue. The JOURNAL Committee had considered the matter and had recommended to the Board that new tenders be advertised for.

The Secretary was instructed to do so.

Copying Machine. The Secretary stated that as he had often to send circulars numbering over 100, to Branch Societies for instance, it was expensive and caused delay printing these, and owing to the amount of correspondence that had to be done in the Office it also caused delay to get over 100 circulars typed. The Office Committee had recommended the purchase of a copying machine which could turn out 150 to 200 circulars at a time. This was authorized.

Prize Holdings Competition. Letter from the Trinity Ville Branch re the Prize Holdings Competition was submitted, protesting against the abandonment of the Competition in that part of St. Thomas.

The Secretary said the matter had been well considered by the Instructors Committee, who had acted on the principle of doing the greatest good to the greatest number. The Judge Mr. Arnett was urgently required in the west end to supervise the seed distribution and the work of the local Instructors there. The hurricane had happened just when the judging was proceeding, and those holdings judged before the storm would require to be re-judged to give a fair comparison with any judged after the storm; it was therefore thought judicious to abandon the Competition for this year. It could probably be arranged for St. Thomas to be again included next year.

The Secretary was instructed to reply to the Trinity Ville Branch accordingly.

The Instructors Reports and Itineraries were submitted, and referred as usual to the Instructors Committee.

New Members. The following new members were elected:—
Rev. S. A. Brathwaite, Islington; Major Caws, Camp; N. A. Rudolf, Spring Valley, Green Island; O. L. Rudolf, Cranbrook, Laughlands; A. E. Bayliss, Caymanas, Spanish Town; G. H. Deer, Melrose, Half-way-tree.

The Meeting adjourned until Thursday the 20th, February, 1913. at 11-40 a.m.

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

The Half-Yearly Meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the Society's Office, No. 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday, January 16th, at 11.40 p.m. There were present: His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, President of the Society in the Chair; Hon. Sir John Pringle, L. J. Bertram, H. H. Cousins, Dugald Campbell, Geo. McGrath, R. P. Simmonds, S. S. Stedman, J. R. Williams; Messrs. R. Craig, A. W. Douet, A. C. L. Martin, E. W. Muirhead; Hon. and Rev. W. B. Esson, Revs. W. T. Graham, J. F. Gartshore, (Hanover Branch) S. R. Brathwaite, (Albany Branch) and Mrs. K. Bourne; Messrs. C. H. Abrahams (Richmond Branch), Robt. Barnett (Gibraltar Branch), T. O. Duhaney (Swift River Branch), H. T. Rushie Gray, W. G. Gray, W. B. Hannan, J. Hirst, B. N. Johnson (Yallahs Branch), Josiah Johnson (Stewart Town Branch), J. M. Lewis (Yallahs), George Thomas (Spring Hill), A. B. Ventresse, E. Arnett, (Supervisor of Instructors) J. T. Palache (Agricultural Instructor), and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

The minutes of the previous Half-Yearly Meeting having been published in the August JOURNAL were taken as read and confirmed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary presented the following Half Yearly Report:—

To His Excellency the President and Members.

Gentlemen:—

I have the honour to submit my report for the first half of the financial year ending 30th September, 1912, as follows:—

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.—A meeting of the Board of Management was held each month and there was always a good attendance. The half Yearly General Meeting held on the 18th of July, was well attended, a new feature being the interest the Branch Societies took in this meeting by sending representatives.

Six meetings of the Instructors Committee, which meets at 10 o'clock a.m. on the same day as the Board meetings were held; and three meetings of other Committees. Matters referred to Committees however are principally dealt with by circulation of the papers for consideration.

The following is a record of the attendance of members of the Board:—

	Monthly Meetings.	Half Yearly General.	Committees	Total.
*† His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G.	2	0	0	2
* Hon. Lieut.-Col. C. J. Ward, C.M.G.	0	0	0	0
*† Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G.	4	0	1	5
* Hon. H. H. Cousins, M.A., Director of Agriculture	3	0	4	7
His Grace the Archbishop	0	1	0	1
* Hon. L. J. Bertram, C.M.G.	1	1	1	3
† His Lordship Bishop Collins, B.J.	2	0	0	2

	Monthly Meetings.	Half Yearly General.	Committees	Total.
Robert Craig	5	1	8	14
* Hon. D. Campbell	3	1	3	7
† A. W. Douet	2	1	3	6
Rev. W. T. Graham	4	1	0	5
† Hon. Geo. McGrath	2	0	0	2
A. C. L. Martin	5	1	8	14
E. W. Muirhead	6	0	2	8
* Hon. H. T. Ronaldson	2	1	0	3
* Hon. S. S. Stedman	4	1	5	10
*† Hon. R. P. Simmonds	1	0	2	3
Conrad Watson	2	0	0	2
*† Hon. J. R. Williams	3	1	6	10
The Secretary	6	1	8	15

During this period several members whose names are marked † were off the Island and the Legislative Council was in session in April requiring the attendance of those members whose names are marked *.

The Half Yearly General Meeting discussed the following matters:—Guinea Grass, Authorized Persons, Cotton Growing and School Gardens, Banana Disease, Canada-Jamaica Steamship Service, Ornithologist, Entomologist and Mycologist, Citrus Fruit Measure, Contagious Diseases Animals Law, Exhibitions, Re-afforesting, Produce Protection Law, Train Service—St. Mary, Coconut Leaf Disease, Illustration of Journal, Corn Growing, Water Supply, Selling Produce, Cocoa Nursery, Improvement of Pigs and Goats, Crown Lands.

Committees have dealt with the following matters, in addition to the ordinary work of the Instructors Committee:—(1) Revision of the Contagious Diseases Animals Law, (2) Revision of Rules for Branches, (3) Rules Governing Grants to Shows, Rules for Instructors attending Shows and Recommendations to Show Committee, (4) Entire Horse Law, (5) Registration of Stallions, (6) Butchers Licenses, (7) Produce Protection Law, (8) Standard Measure for Citrus Fruit.

The following are the chief item of business dealt with by the Board:

LIME.—A motion brought forward by the Rev. W. T. Graham that lime which was scarce in the chief banana parish, St. Mary, yet was common and cheap in other parishes, be carried free on the railway for use on banana fields declared to be affected with any disease, was approved by the Board and sent on to the Government who granted this concession, on condition that the Agricultural Instructor for the district certified that the lime was required for the specific purpose named.

CITY MANURE.—A resolution by Mr. Graham that the Board should take some steps to find out whether the manure and refuse from the city of Kingston could be removed and utilized on banana fields was approved.

After enquiry by the Secretary, he reported that the Kingston City Council on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health considered it inadvisable to disturb the deposits of manure at the City's dumping ground.

SCHOOL GARDENS AND COTTON GROWING.—A resolution having been sent from the Half Yearly General Meeting to the Director of Education, asking that some special encouragement be given to the growing of cotton in plots in School Gardens in districts considered suitable for cotton growing, and the reply being that instruction would be given to teachers to do so if the Agricultural Society would provide prizes, the Board of Management agreed to offer two first prizes of £1, and two second prizes of 10/ for the four districts chosen, together with a special prize of 10/ for the best sample of the cotton grown sent in to the Secretary (Journal for July, page 347).

CORN GROWING COMPETITION.—Prizes were offered in four Instructural Districts for the best cultivations of corn of not less than half an acre, but unfortunately after fine planting seasons, the long continued drought through all the growing period, spoiled the competition. However, excellent results were obtained by three competitors in Manchester and northern St. Elizabeth and prizes awarded to them.

COTTON INDUSTRY.—On the motion of Mr. Conrad Watson, the Board agreed to make another effort to encourage cotton-growing as a suitable industry for the dry districts of St. Elizabeth and made a grant of £50 to Mr. Eric Anderson, who had successfully grown cotton in one of the driest parts of the Island. Vere had bought over £600 worth of cotton that year grown by small settlers around, and who had expressed his willingness to try the experiment in southern St. Elizabeth. Mr. Anderson agreed to distribute seed to small settlers, instruct and guide them in the growing of cotton and buy their crops. Unfortunately, the prolonged and severe drought there lasted until the season for planting was over and the experiment was not begun. It is hoped however, that the same experiment may be made next year.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.—Owing to matters being discussed and resolutions passed, by some Branches that were considered by the Board altogether outside the scope of the Agricultural Society, a particular instance being given, the following resolution was passed:—“That it is undesirable for the Society or its Branches to discuss matters which had no connection with agriculture and were of a personal, public, or political nature.”

The Secretary was instructed to bring this to the notice of Branches. Arising out of this it was resolved to revise the Rules covering the formation and running of Branches, which had existed from the beginning of the Society with only slight revisions and additions.

The matter was referred to a special committee for consideration, and to submit their suggested Rules to the Board. (*Journal for June*).

ENTIRE HORSE LAW.—On the suggestion of Mr. Martin, the Secretary was directed to enquire of the Collector General the amount collected for the tax on entire horses used on the public roads. The reply was that the total number of horses on which the tax was paid was 47, and the amount collected £94, which was merged in the Parochial Board Funds.

Mr. Martin urged that some revisions were necessary on this Law which was not the Law originally recommended by this Society. The matter was referred to the Live Stock Committee for consideration.

CITRUS FRUIT MEASURE.—The Government having submitted the draft law suggested by the Society for a Standard Citrus Fruit Measure providing that citrus fruit purchased by measure could only be bought in a standard box prescribed by Law, the Board recommended as an addition that the measures used be stamped with the Government stamp as a guarantee of their being the proper measure to use. The Legislative Council however, did not approve of this addition.

The Board still adhered to their opinion that the Standard Measures should bear the Government stamp of approval, otherwise there would be room for trickery.

CANADA-JAMAICA STEAMSHIP SERVICE.—The subject of a subsidized steamship service between Canada and Jamaica was discussed at the Half Yearly General Meeting held in July when representations were made that such a service would be of no use to small shippers unless provision was made in any contract carried through ensuring that a certain amount of space could be left open for such shippers, i. e., a monopoly of the space by one or more large shippers prevented. At the August

meeting of the Board a resolution was passed to the above effect and sent to the Government. An acknowledgment was received that the suggestions made in the resolution would receive consideration before the terms of any contract were finally settled. (Journal for October).

SOUTHERN ST. ELIZABETH.—The position of this district in which crops had failed for two seasons owing to prolonged drought, was discussed in a letter from the Agricultural Instructor for the district, Mr. E. J. Smith, who pointed out that the majority of the people would have no seeds or plants to renew their fields when rain came and asked if a grant could not be obtained from the Government for providing these.

Members of the Board conversant with the state of things prevailing in the district, spoke strongly on the subject, representing that the Government was failing in its bounden duty in not having taken steps to provide a water supply for the district if the Parochial Board for St. Elizabeth could not tackle the matter. At the August meeting a definite resolution was moved by the Rev. W. T. Graham and unanimously carried asking the Government to appoint a Committee to investigate the conditions and needs of the inhabitants of South Eastern St. Elizabeth, to thoroughly consider the water question and to suggest to the Government how the whole drought area may be provided at a reasonable cost with an efficient water supply.

A first grant of £50 was made by the Government followed by other grants to a total of £200, part of which, however, was used for the same purpose in other districts which had suffered severely by drought. (See paragraph dealing with Grants for Seeds).

At the September meeting the Governor made a clear statement as to what the Government was doing and proposed to do with regard to a water supply for these parts of the Island. He made reference to the geological formations and fully explained the position with reference to supplies of water available or what could be made available, from wells, tanks, reservoirs or streams.

The Board expressed gratification at the steps which had been taken and the work proposed to be done.

AUTHORIZED PERSONS.—Several Branch Societies at various times having pointed out that their "Authorized Persons" had in the course of their duty to make arrests of persons who violently resisted them, and suggested that handcuffs might be supplied to assist them, this recommendation was made to the Government which accepted the suggestion.

Complaints having been made to the Board several times that "Authorized Persons" sometimes went beyond the scope of their duties as defined by Law, or that they did not understand what they could do and could not do under the Law, the Secretary reported he was recommending each Branch Society to nominate only members of their Society for the positions and to require their "Authorized Persons" to give a monthly or quarterly report on their work, personally to a meeting of the Branch.

COCOA NURSERY.—On the representation of Savanna-la-Mar and other Branch Societies in Westmoreland and Hanover; that something more ought to be done to facilitate the extension of cocoa growing in the western parishes and that a local cocoa nursery would be most useful, the Board after investigation and report by the Travelling Supervisor of Instructors recommended to the Director of Agriculture the establishment of such a nursery at Montpellier as the site offering the best facilities and being most conveniently situated. The Director of Agriculture having approved, made the necessary arrangements and the nursery was started in October the work being placed in charge of Mr. Hoare one of the new Assistant Agricultural Instructors. It is intended to raise the

young cocoa plants in bamboo pots, delivery to be taken at the nursery by those within easy reach, while arrangements will be made to send supplies for other districts to central depots. The regulations are that *bona fide* small settlers will receive supplies up to 250 plants each on the recommendation of the Agricultural Instructor that they have suitable land, and are ready to plant; any over that number of plants wanted to be paid for; while large planters will get plants at the rate of 15/ per 1,000 on the spot. Supplies of these plants will be carried free on the railway.

COUNTRY FIRES LAW.—A recommendation was made to the Government that it should not be left to private parties to prosecute in cases of breaches of the Country Fires Law but that it would be to the interest of agriculture for the police to make the prosecutions, and that the Law should be rigidly enforced.

The reply was that instructions had been issued to the Police to take up the prosecution in all clear cases of breach of the country Fires Law that they became cognizant of, or which might be reported to them by private parties.

BANANA DISEASES.—At several meetings the subject of diseases of bananas was referred to, chiefly, Panama Disease, and in reply to enquiries and questions, a report from the Director of Agriculture dated the 5th September was submitted through the Government giving a full report on the state of affairs in this connection to date, made after personal inspection of the chief site of Panama disease. (October Journal.)

ORNITHOLOGIST, ENTOMOLOGIST AND MYCOLOGIST.—The Board having made representations to the Government on the desirability of appointing a fully qualified Ornithologist and Entomologist and also of an experienced Mycologist and Microbiologist for a term of say three years; a Mycologist and Microbiologist was appointed on the staff of the Department of Agriculture. At the last Half Yearly General Meeting in reply to a question, the Acting Governor replied that the Government had not seen its way to appoint an Ornithologist and Entomologist also as such an appointment did not appear to be so urgent as the former appointment which was especially pressing on account of diseases of bananas and other economic crops. The meeting still held, however, that an Ornithologist and Entomologist was a pressing necessity.

BUTCHERS LICENSES.—The Government having submitted to the Board, copies of Minutes from the Inspector Generals Department, calling attention to the prevalence of goat stealing, and the difficulty of detection where the thieves killed the goat on the spot or in the bush and left the skin behind, only taking the meat away, with suggestions by the Police that vendors of goat meat should be required to take out a license in the same way as a hawker, and be compelled to account for the possession of such meat if called upon by the police to do so,—the matter was referred to the Live Stock Committee.

In September the Live Stock Committee made a report to the Board recommending, (a) "That every person offering for sale to the public butchers meat of any description should be licensed, the license to be mainly for registration purposes and obtainable at a small fee on application to the Resident Magistrate on the recommendation of the police, the license to be endorsed on every conviction, and also to be liable to forfeiture at the discretion of the Magistrate; (b) That persons offering butchers meat of any description for sale to the public, may be required to account for their possession of it to any constable or district constable and be liable to arrest if they fail to do so."

— The Board adopted these recommendations and they were sent on to the Government.

EXHIBITIONS.—The Society is represented on the Permanent Exhibitions Committee by the Secretary who also acts as Secretary of that Committee.

It was resolved not to be represented at the Rubber Exhibition to be held in New York from 3rd September to 3rd October as owing to the demands on the time of the Agricultural Instructors, arrangements for tapping *Castilloa* rubber trees could not be made.

The Government made a grant of £300, for the representation of the Island at Toronto Exhibition, and a very effective display of exhibits has been sent in charge of Mr. E. J. Wortley of the Department of Agriculture. The exhibits of Island products were mostly collected and arranged here by the Secretary.

The amount of £250 was granted by the Governor to the Permanent Exhibitions Committee (£125 last year and £125 this year) for the preparation and issue of a new Handbook, "Jamaica in 1912," and for making a collection of Photographs, Paintings, Maps, Statistics, Specimens of Native Industries, Island Products, etc., suitable for Exhibitions.

FORM OF MINUTES.—The matter as to what form the Minutes of the Board Meeting and the Half Yearly General Meeting should take, has been frequently discussed at Meetings but never previously settled. In August, however, it was decided that the account of the Board Meetings as published in the Journal should not take the form of a report in any way, but should simply appear as Minutes in the proper sense, while a full report of the proceedings of the Half Yearly Meeting, as taken by a stenographer, should be published for the information of members of the Society. (Sept. Journal.)

The following are the items of the Society's work for which allocations of expenditure are made :—

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.—The competition for this year falls in the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. James and Trelawny. Owing to the long drought it is not expected that there will be so many entries as before, or that the holdings will be in their best condition.

SHOWS.—The following Shows were held during the half year, with the Grants made :—

Cambridge (St. James)	....	11th April	....	£10	0	0
St. Thomas (Port Morant)	....	24th "	....	10	0	0
Goshen (St. Mary)	....	25th July	....	10	0	0
Hanover	....	1st August	....	10	0	0
Upper St. John	....	" "	....	7	3	5
Upper Trelawny	....	22nd August	....	10	0	0
				£57	3	5

Rules governing grants to Shows and Recommendations to Show Committees; also Rules for Instructors attending Shows, as prepared by the Secretary, revised by the Shows Committees and finally approved by the Board, were printed. Copies of these are sent to the Secretary of each Show for his guidance.

EXPERIMENT GROUNDS.—The three Central Experiment Grounds No. 1 at Southfield, St. Elizabeth, Nos. 2 and 3 in South Manchester, naturally suffered through the long and severe drought which caused the loss of almost all the people's growing crops, but the plots being very heavily mulched no crop was absolutely burned out, not even bananas, which are so sensitive to high breezes and drought. Indeed it was reported in September that almost the only green spot in St. Elizabeth was Experiment Ground No. 1.

These Experiment Grounds receive no grant but are now expected to be self-supporting and will be, I hope, despite drought. The worst enemy to the crops has been the pradial thief. The crops grown are such as are usually grown in the district.

All the other experiments in these dry districts were discontinued, such as experiments on the peoples own lands and the cotton plots, the former because it was considered they had served their purpose, the latter in order to save the money to help the grant of £50 made to Mr. Eric Anderson for a large cotton growing experiment proposed to be made in St. Elizabeth, (see par. under Cotton). Cotton if on the right soil for it, seems to withstand drought better than any other crop once it gets a good start, and so would be a valuable crop for the dry districts of the lowlands.

JOURNALS :—For the closing months of this period we required to print 6,000 copies of the JOURNAL and the average for the six months was 5,766 $\frac{1}{2}$ copies averaging 40 pages but sometimes containing up to 50 pages of reading matter. Its compilation and preparation by me as Editor without assistance is a matter I have continually called attention to as being entirely unfair to the work in general, and the production of the JOURNAL in particular. If poor reading matter, or badly prepared matter, or matter not carefully considered, is published, it is not creditable; but it is not possible for anyone to keep up the JOURNAL to a fair standard of efficiency when month after month regularly for years, all the literary work in connection with it, the proof reading, etc., have had to be done at night. The ordinary secretarial work together with the special work that is regularly required of me, leave no opportunity during the day to do any journalistic work. I may remind you that when the JOURNAL was started in 1897 it was thought necessary to engage an Assistant Secretary, primarily to run the Agricultural JOURNAL. The addressing and despatching of these JOURNALS, in steadily increasing numbers is a serious item of work each month.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.—Sixteen more local Agricultural Societies have been affiliated as Branches during the six months with a membership of 702. These are as follows :—

St. Andrew	Mount Charles * Above Rocks.
Clarendon	Rock River, Prospect, Moravia, Brandon Hill.
St. Elizabeth	Bull Savannah.
Manchester	Mizpah, * Davyton.
Westmoreland	Bluefields, St. Pauls.
Hanover	Windward.
St. Catherine	Browns Hall.
St. Thomas	Wilmington.
St. Mary	*Hampstead.
Portland	Kensington.

Those marked * were formerly Branches but became defunct and have again been revived.

The total number of Branch Societies as at 30th September is 118 with 5,216 members, an average membership of 44.

OFFICE WORK:—For the half year ending 30th September, 4,230 letters were received and 3,463 despatched; the latter figures however do not include circulars and advice forms issued, nor the letters written on Exhibition business which are now kept separately. For the same period of last year the numbers were 2,905 and 3,635. Receipts for money paid in during the half year numbered 847 and for money paid out 826. For the same period last year the figures were 643 and 816 respectively.

The various branches of ordinary work engaged in by the Society steadily extend.—The correspondence increases, the number of Branches increases, the number of JOURNALS increases, the financial transactions increase: there is more and more call upon the Office to give information pertaining to agricultural matters and to furnish reliable seeds; and this last I consider particularly useful and practical work, but it is work that necessitates exercising great care in securing reliable supplies of seeds.

in storing these safely, and in estimating the possible wants so that seeds may not be stored too long and be wasted. The instructional work too is extending and it is work that now is very exacting and requires very close attention from this office.—There is constant correspondence between the Office and the Instructors.

Then there is always some special work being thrown on the Office such as administering grants for seeds, collecting exhibits for Exhibitions, etc.

During the six months grants were made by the Government to supply seeds and plants for the drought stricken districts, and Cowpeas, Black Eye Peas, Red Beans, Gungo Peas, Guinea Corn, Country Corn, Vegetable Seeds, Pumpkin Seeds and Sweet Potato Slips were sent out. The two last named were got free from the Prison Farm. I take this opportunity of thanking the Superintendent of that Institution for his valuable co-operation in saving supplies of pumpkin seeds for me and in keeping me advised when potato slips were available. Then the work as Secretary of the Permanent Exhibitions Committee and of accounting for the grant, falls upon me: also the collecting and arranging of the exhibits for the Exhibitions held.

A new Chief Clerk was appointed in place of Mr. Carrington who took up an appointment at the Stock Farm at Hope on 1st April. The new Clerk however did not take up his duties until 5th August, and meanwhile I was much handicapped in keeping up the Office work efficiently and much late work was required to be done.

The position of the finances of the Society is not dealt with in this half of the year but at the end of the financial year. A statement however is issued with the estimates and is usually published in December JOURNAL. So far we have been working within our means.

The Grant received from the Government was increased from £4,200 to £5,000, owing chiefly to additions on account of Instructors, viz. £750.

JNO. BARCLAY,

Secretary and Treasurer.

It was agreed that the Report should be considered as usual paragraph by paragraph so that any one present could remark on any matter.

On the subject of Cotton Industry, the Secretary said he would take the opportunity to state that he had just received returns from Mr. Conrad Watson along with a cheque for £7 13s. 6d. for 173 lbs. of cotton which he had thought was almost hopeless so far as fetching a good price was concerned. The cotton was grown by a small settler in St. Elizabeth and in a district that was exceedingly dry, but had been picked roughly. It was ginned by Mr. Watson and realized 1s. 1d. per lb.

The President remarked that this was very encouraging and satisfactory.

ENTIRE HORSE LAW.—The chairman asked if the committee had yet made their recommendation on this matter. The Secretary explained that so many matters had been before the Live Stock Committee lately that they had not yet reported on this matter. He would, however, put the matter before the Committee very soon.

CITRUS FRUIT MEASURE.—The President said it would be interesting to know if the Law, which had been passed on the subject, had been put in operation in the orange producing districts and with what effect.

Mr. McGrath said it had not been put in force in his district (Ewarton). Those persons interested in the orange trade were using the same old measure, as there was no one to compel them to use the standard measure. If the land was to be of any use, it would be necessary to appoint a person to see that the proper measure was adopted by buyers

Mr. Muirhead said the law had not been enforced in Manchester, his parish. People were still using the old measure, but at the same time there were many Florida boxes to be found in the homes of buyers, and each buyer could, of course, say if he were called upon for an explanation, that he had used the Florida box in buying his fruit. So far, he did not know if the law was of any particular value.

Mr. Esson said while the Florida box was used as a measure in Porus, there was a system of piling up the fruit in a pyramid, so that the buyer really got more than what the box was intended to hold.

The President stated that in order to enforce the law, it might be necessary to inaugurate a system of inspection.

Mr. Ventresse remarked that unless the Government was prepared to furnish an unlimited quantity of stamped boxes, it would be impossible to achieve the object aimed at.

How could it be otherwise possible to handle fruit by measure when the most of the trade was on.

Mr. Campbell said some people called the boxes they used for buying, Florida boxes, but they were of various sizes. The standard measure in a district should be a box with the Government stamp on it, and if as a seller he was not satisfied with the box being used by the buyer, then he could call for the Government stamped box. In fact, unless stamped boxes were used, he thought the law would not be of the use intended.

Mr. Martin asked if the police could not enforce the law.

Mr. McGrath asked what was the penalty for the non-observance of the law; the Hon. Director of Agriculture stated that it was five pounds.

The President said it was not thought necessary that there should be stamped boxes, seeing that almost every person in the citrus trade knew what a Florida box was. It would be a little too grandmotherly for the Government to try and teach the people what the size of a Florida box should be when they were supposed to have full knowledge of such a box. Boxes of this class were imported into the island in hundreds of thousands, in shooks and made up here; consequently, it was not necessary that the Government should direct that such boxes should be stamped to be used as a standard measure.

Mr. Campbell said a large number of the peasant class knew nothing about the proper size of a Florida box; besides which there were several sizes in use by buyers, called Florida boxes.

The President replied that it would not be an easy matter to convince him that the peasantry did not know about the Florida boxes, seeing that large numbers of such packages are used in every orange producing district of the island every year.

CANADA JAMAICA STEAMSHIP SERVICE.—The president stated that this matter was still under consideration. The local government was in communication with the Canadian authorities on the subject of what the last named Government would be prepared to contribute to the subsidy; but beyond this, he was not in a position to say more pending the receipt of news as to the decision of the Canadian Government.

SOUTHERN ST. ELIZABETH.—A paragraph dealing with distribution of seeds in Southern St. Elizabeth.

The president said that morning he had noticed a report of the meeting of the Board of Management of the Society held the previous day. In that report he noticed that some exception was taken to the reply from the Colonial Secretary's Office with a regard to the request from the Society's Board of Management for statistics as to deaths in southern St. Elizabeth. On referring to the constitution of the society, he saw what might be looked upon as the limited purposes for which it was formed, viz., to develop agriculture. He noticed also that the society had only a few months before issued instructions to branches that they should not

discuss questions outside the constitution, and so he desired to be informed, as Governor and President of the Society, in what connection the question was asked, seeing that from its own constitution the scope of the society was limited and that the statistics asked for would probably lead to the discussion of matters outside the definitely laid down functions of the society. It was like going against the very restraint they had placed upon branch societies. It was not his desire to stifle discussion on matters of importance, but he did not think it was proper for the Board of Management of the Society to discuss other than agricultural matters. In view, however, of the remarks of the Rev. W. T. Graham at the previous day's meeting of the Board of Management on the condition of the peasants in the dry districts, and as this would be the last occasion he would have an opportunity of speaking at a meeting of the society, he would like to state how the situation in those district appeared to him. Representations had been made from time to time with regard to deaths from starvation in St. Elizabeth, and enquiries were made into such reports by the Government. The Government had communicated with the Parochial Board of the parish, and they had received a report from the Board to the effect that the statements made about deaths from starvation were unfounded. The correct situation existing in St. Elizabeth was this. There had been a great scarcity of foodstuff as a result of the prolonged drought in the Nain and other districts: the whole population was in a state of mal-nutrition, and there was no room for doubt that the ailment from which the people suffered, and in many cases caused death, was mal-nutrition. This was the cause of the deaths referred to. It was plain that such deaths were due to under-feeding and no person who had studied the situation in Southern St. Elizabeth could fail to observe this matter. There was no doubt that a number of sickly children and other persons, whose vitality had been run down for want of proper food during a long period of drought, had helped to increase the death-rate. Although particular investigations had revealed the fact that people were clamouring for money, and money had been distributed, with the assistance of special almoners appointed—although the Parochial Board of St. Elizabeth had been actuated with a full desire to afford poor relief where it was required—yet all that had been done was not sufficient to meet the case of persons whose vitality had been diminished by the want of proper food. That was the state of things in the districts referred to; and it was due to chronic under-feeding. While the Agricultural Society might be approached, with a view of improving the state of things, he did not see that there could be any great improvement unless Nature was more bountiful to them, and so increase the water and food supplies. The problem appeared to him to be a very difficult one. The Government had been appealed to for help, and had done all it could possibly do. The Parochial Board had to spend a large sum of money on parochial roads, in order to provide work for the people. Those roads had been put in such a position that it would be ridiculous to expend further sums on them. In response to applications for relief, the Government had started such work. At the present time the Government were carrying out relief work in three directions in the Nain district, viz., Unity Hill, Plowden Hill, and Spur Tree. He was not in a position to say how far other relief work had been started, as there was bound to be a delay in the commencement of such work. Persons who were acquainted with relief work matters would agree with him that such work could not be started at a moment's notice, seeing that lands had to be acquired and surveys made. It, therefore, appeared that the Government had done all that it was reasonable to expect them to do with regard to able-bodied men; but it was different with regard to the case of women and children: it was one that presented many difficulties, and he had asked that the matter be considered, at any rate in one district of the island from which repeated representations had been made to him. What did persons in the distressed area propose should be done to remedy the existing state of affairs? So far as he could see, this

only thing that could bring about a change—remedy the weakening effects of the want of nutritious food in the distressed districts, would be the free distribution of food: the taking in hand of the feeding of suffering portions of the community. To provide wholesome food free to those persons who could not provide sustenance for themselves, was the only practical solution of the difficulty, and he had to ask those who were interested in the subject to say whether it was desirable for the Government to embark on such an undertaking. Was there any other way in which the Government or the Parochial Board could alleviate the situation? He saw none. But he wanted advice on the matter. Was it desirable that the Government should start soup kitchens in order to feed the needy ones? This was a radical departure, which he had not seen his way in the past to undertake, for there was a great difference between relief work and poor relief. He desired to see the question dealt with on broad lines—to hear persons in the districts in which the unfortunate state of things existed, suggest a remedy for the difficulty. The Government had done their best, but all that had been done could not improve the condition of that section of the people who were suffering from under-feeding. This was the condition of affairs in Southern St. Elizabeth and other parts of the island where persons suffered from mal-nutrition. The blame had been laid at the door of the Government and Parochial Boards, but what could either body do to get the people nourished? It might be urged that the State should see to the nourishment of children and weakly grown-up persons, seeing that the latter lived in localities where they could not be nourished. This was a question that had to be faced; and if the Parochial Board or Government should step in and provide for those who were deficient of nourishment, it would be necessary that they should get the advice and support of persons who lived in the districts, and were able to advise the Government.

Mr. Graham said the system of affording poor relief in St. Elizabeth was faulty, and he desired to point out in what direction it was faulty. If they would take the population of the parishes and compare them for outdoor relief purposes, it would be seen that St. Elizabeth came nearly at the foot of the list; indeed, the only parish in which the rate was lower was west St. Mary. He had such a list before him; Kingston was first, affording relief to 15 out of every 1,000 persons; St. James next, with 12. Manchester 10, Trelawny and Hanover 9 each, St. Andrew 6½, St. Thomas 6, Portland 5½, St. Ann 4½, and St. Elizabeth 3½. The system by which money was raised for the relief of the poor was faulty, and it was only to be expected that the poorer a parish, the greater the number of paupers. In view of the present system, he did not think that very much blame could be put on the shoulders of the Parochial Board of St. Elizabeth; for it was impossible for the Board to raise sufficient money to take care of all the needy ones. He had been labouring in the stricken area of St. Elizabeth for some time, and could assure the President that the matter was a very serious one; and while he had no desire to go over the statements he had made the previous day with regard to the state of the unfortunate people residing in the dry area of the parish, still, he would like, in reply to His Excellency's request for suggestions as to what should best be done to help the people, to state that an industrial school and place of refuge could be established for children whose parents were not in a position to provide them with food. Needy children could be received at such a home, cared for, and given such work as they could undertake. For an industrial school and place of refuge, we could not think of a better place than Bellview. While his position in the matter was not a pleasant one, he felt that as a Minister of Religion it was incumbent on him to take up the stand he had assumed, and he would not resign from such a position until the proper authorities came to the assistance of the people in a proper manner. He could say much more on the subject, but he would wait for a commission of enquiry which he felt sure would be appointed to look into the matter. At the same time he was not blaming

the Government for the situation ; it was purely the result of a faulty system,

Mr. Esson was glad that the matter had been brought up for discussion at the Society's Half-yearly Meeting. He felt that the questions involved should be discussed in the Legislative Council, but yet they affected the agricultural interests of the colony. He was in agreement with Mr. Graham, that industrial schools should be established in districts where people were suffering from the want of food. Industrial farms were required here ; and while it may be stated that such institutions should be established by philanthropy, it must be borne in mind that Jamaica was not a land of philanthropists. Take the case of Porus for instance. A large number of persons were attacked with vomiting sickness. The majority of those who were attacked were sickly persons. On the other hand, a larger number of ill-fed children were thrown upon the country by fathers who had either gone abroad or would not provide for their sustenance. In some cases it was true that the mothers were too lazy to work. This condition of things had contributed to an increase in the number of praedial larceny cases ; and he felt with Mr. Graham that the establishment of industrial schools or farms would have the effect of improving the lot of the unfortunate section of the community. For some time past he had been trying to get Parochial Boards to take such steps as would result in fathers of illegitimate children supporting their children ; and as the points involved were of the greatest importance to the community, he had no doubt that the matter would probably have to be dealt with in the Legislative Council. It was very difficult to find an honest labouring man now, and he felt that if a commission of enquiry were to be appointed to go into the matter and make recommendations as to the best means of coping with the situation, it would be of the greatest possible help to the Agricultural Society and the Legislative Council. He was certainly of opinion that the establishment of soup kitchens and industrial farms would go very far in diminishing the distress prevailing in more than one district of the island.

Mr. McGrath said in connection with the president's request for suggestions for the better nutrition of the people, he desired to mention the existence of a pernicious disease which had been responsible for many deaths in certain districts of St. Catherine. He would like to see aid given the people by the appointment of qualified nurses to such districts where the disease was most prevalent, nurses who would be able to advise the people what kind of food they should take ; and in such cases he felt sure that nurses, if appointed, could get the assistance of district constables in the carrying out of their work ; for it was a well-known fact that the people were ignorant of what food they should partake of when attacked by dysentery. Recently Dr. Neish was sent to St. Catherine to enquire into the disease to which he had alluded. He extended an invitation to Dr. Neish to make his residence his head quarters during his stay in the Ewarton district, and afforded him every facility in carrying out his investigations. He accompanied the Doctor on some of his visits, and the first case they visited convinced him of the need of qualified nurses being sent to afflicted districts. They found a man, a quiet and respectable man, who was known to him suffering from dysentery. He was in fact dying. He asked the man if he had taken any food and the reply was " No custos, except a little this morning." He asked : " What did you take ?" The reply was a roast plantain ! This was not an isolated case. The ignorance on the part of the people as to the nature of food required by persons who were stricken down by disease extended over a wide area. Qualified nurses would advise the people what should be taken in the shape of food, and thus help to eradicate the disease. He had given the matter a good deal of consideration because the people looked to him for protection. He had done all he could : he had given monetary aid ; but help was required in the direction of qualified nurses.

The President said some of the Parochial Boards had already adopted such a suggestion, and had appointed district nurses to see that persons who became ill had the best chance of recovery. That would, no doubt, help to solve the difficulty, but this question was not germane to agriculture: he had decided to allow it to be discussed as that was the last meeting of the society he would attend, and he had no desire that it should be said that his interest did not extend to matters other than agricultural, or that he desired to stifle discussion on important matters. With regard to the establishment of industrial schools as suggested by Mr. Esson and Mr. Graham, he wished to state that it was the opening of similar institutions that was responsible for an enormous increase of illegitimate children in England, and which led to the passing of a stringent poor law in that country in 1859, if he remembered correctly. The opening of such institutions here would mean that as soon as they took in one set of children into rescue houses, parents would send out another batch.

Mr. H. J. Rushie Gray said the poor Law provided for all the complaints that had been made at the meeting. The only question was whether the law was carried out in every parish. It provided that persons who were sick and too poor to provide themselves with medical aid, should be so provided by the Government. In case of epidemic the Inspector of poor also stepped in; and the last named also had power to give relief in the event of starvation. In Kingston for instance, there were three industrial schools which were maintained at a cost of upwards of £3,000 per annum. It cost more than £1,000 to maintain one alone. Such institutions would, he felt, be of great benefit to the community in other parts of the colony. The Parochial Boards had power to grant relief; and provided the necessary money was raised, and if the law was properly worked, there should be no starvation in a country like Jamaica.

Mr. Esson asked, in view of the increase of praedial larceny, if the Government intended to supply seeds to people other than those of the western parishes to assist them in planting.

Sir John Pringle said in a crisis such as the one with which they were faced there were two lessons they had to learn. The first was as to what should be done to treat the present situation and the second was to guard against the future. His view of the matter was that a great deal of the poverty which now existed was due to insufficient work. Long before a period of drought, a large section of the labouring population were unfit for work; they had gradually gone down more and more until they could not do any work even if work was provided for them. Labour bureaus in different sections of the country would, he was certain, go a long way in helping the people to remove from one district where there was no work to another where they could find employment. They had reached a stage where such a policy should be adopted by the Government. The same attention that was paid to indentured immigrants should be extended to native labourers. The bureaus would see that labourers were provided with work, and that they were paid at a fair rate. Legislation could ever be resorted to in order to fix the scale of wages. It struck him that in this way they would be able to deal with the situation in St. Elizabeth. The poor rate of the parish was one of the lowest in the island, and it was only natural that if the rate was low and the demand high, the parish should increase its poor rate. The people should not be allowed to suffer, and their sufferings would only be met by those who were in a better position and could assist, paying a little more. Reverting to the question of labour bureaus, the speaker said the establishment of such bureaus would be a relief to districts affected by periodic drought. Of course, the removal of persons from a stricken district to one where they could obtain employment could only be done by means of a ship. His view of the matter was that if something was not done in this direction, and if these periods of drought

were to continue, it would be beyond the Parochial Board of St. Elizabeth to cope with the situation. As he had already said, there were two lessons to be learnt. The first was to meet the present situation and the second was to guard against a recurrence.

Mr. Bertram said the *crux* of the situation was the differentiation in the scheme of taxation of properties over £1,000 and under £2,000 in value. St. Catherine was now faced with the possibility of paying 2/ in the £10 next year, although the valuation of its properties was over one million pounds. There were upwards of 111 estates there each of which was valued at over £1,000, but if they increased taxation, the burden would largely fall on 25,400 units below the value of £1,000. This was the result of the Governor's proposal not being carried out by the Legislative Council. If the Governor's idea had been adopted, the position would have been simplified as all real estate would be taxed fairly and progressively. He for one saw no reason why the tax should not commence at the £5 unit instead of the £25. All such anomalies would have been swept away if the Governor's taxation proposal had been adopted: it would have made the task of those responsible for the imposition of parochial taxation lighter, and would have left them in a better position to tackle some of the problems set out by previous speakers. He felt that a good deal of the discussion that day was outside the bounds and privileges of the Society; but as a previous speaker had referred to a disease which was epidemic in St. Catherine, he would also refer to the matter. There had been a serious outbreak of dysentery in the parish, beginning at Glengoffe, going through Troja and on to Ewarton. He took the Bacteriologist with him to inspect the streams from which the people got their water supply. One stream was a tributary of the Rio Cobre. Samples of water were taken just below the Natural Bridge, where the water tumbled over rocks, and where one thought that the liquid would be absolutely pure. The report of the Bacteriologist was that the water was very little better than diluted sewage. That was the cause of the outbreak of dysentery at Glengoffe and other districts. It had been suggested that the Government should aid the people by sending qualified nurses to the districts to tell people what to eat in periods of illness, but any one who knew Glengoffe would, he was certain, say that the sending of a nurse to that district would not have the desired effect, even if the nurse were to be sent on mule back about the place, for while she was travelling her instructions would not be followed. Dysentery and neuritis would continue so long as the leaders of the people, (and he would include the priests principally) did not impress upon their congregations the need of adopting much better habits. In their way, the parochial authorities had done all they could. Some 10 or 12 years ago the Rio Cobre and all its tributaries were declared a public water supply, and a drastic code of bye laws was drawn up, published and put in force. The police had other work to perform, and the authorities had not been able to establish a sanitary body to take over that portion of the police duties and carry out a proper system of watching the rivers. This would need an army of men to carry out; and if the care of such things were to be thrown on the Parochial Board, then there would be a heavy addition to taxation. As it appeared to him, the only practical solution of the difficulty was to get a reasonable number of sanitary inspectors to teach the people to improve their habits of living: to tell them they will never improve unless they get rid of their filthy habits. There were some respectable people in the districts referred to, but on the other hand there was a small proportion of barbarians, who had been accustomed to live in filth all their lives and thus became a menace to their fellow-men. He desired to say there was only one way of treating dysentery in such districts, and that was to remove the patients to hospitals where constant attention, medicine, and strict attention to diet would be obtained. The majority of the people referred to by him would not go to a hospital, neither would they take medicine although it was

provided for them. It seemed to him that unless they were going to alter their laws and provide that whenever an outbreak of disease occurred, an armed force should be sent to gather and remove the sick to hospital, there would be no hope of dealing with the situation.

The President said the discussion had gone beyond the subject before the meeting, and there was no use to continue the debate unless they were going to develop into a conference on sanitation. They had arrived at three proposals: first, provide for children of the destitute by the establishment of industrial schools; second, remove all able-bodied men to districts where they can obtain work; third, remove all who were not able-bodied to hospitals. Those were subjects for the Legislative Council.

Mr. McGrath said they should do all in their power to impress on the people the necessity of boiling water before drinking it.

AUTHORIZED PERSONS.—Mr. McGrath expressed satisfaction with the information supplied by the secretary to him; and he would say no more on the subject provided authorised persons were being instructed in their work by the police. On the question of handcuffs, they should not in his opinion, be placed in the hands of men who did not know how to use them.

BANANA DISEASE.—The president said that perhaps the Hon. Director of Agriculture would tell them how they stood with regard to Panama Disease of Banama. Mr. Cousins said so far as his information went, he did not think that even one banana plant was now affected by the Panama disease. During last year, a small field at Balcarres, Portland, was affected with the disease. The plants were destroyed, the ground treated, and then the field was replanted. Of the new plants, only about six succumbed, but the others were doing well. At Canewood, where the disease had developed considerably, it had been eradicated as a result of the steps taken by Mr. Cradwick in digging out and burning the plants. From personal experience, he was forced to the conclusion that Panama disease was one of the least dangerous they had here. The "Black Spot" disease was more troublesome, but as the spores of the disease were not so heavy it was not likely that it would spread over a large area. The Department of Agriculture was however, doing all in its power to eradicate it.

Mr. Stedman said while he had no desire to labour the question of Panama disease, still he would like to know whether the treatment of the disease in Portland was left in the hands of a foreman at Hope Gardens, who had recently qualified as a veterinary surgeon.

Mr. Cousins replied that in dealing with Banana disease, it was necessary to have a man of athletic tendencies, one who would be able to go over the tracts of land where the disease existed, one who could control labourers under him, one who could spend money to the best possible advantage. Mr. Sutherland possessed all these qualities. He had no one under him who could spend £100 with better results than Mr. Sutherland. The latter was his right hand man in coping with the disease, and so far as competency and ability to deal with work entrusted to him, he had no better man in his department than Mr. Sutherland.

Mr. Stedman said he had nothing against Mr. Sutherland, but as the banana industry was an important one, was it not necessary that a man with a little more scientific knowledge, should be on the spot, to direct the work of eradicating the disease.

Mr. Cousins said all the work was done under the supervision of the Microbiologist. There was, therefore, no need for fear on the part of the Hon. Gentleman on that score.

ORNITHOLOGIST.—Regarding the paragraph dealing with the appointment of a Mycologist and Ornithologist and the wish expressed also for an Entomologist. The President said the Government

had been enquiring into the probable cost of obtaining a qualified Entomologist, and Ornithologist, for say three years, but the reply was not altogether encouraging. It was difficult to get a good man. For instance an Entomologist was sent to Trinidad to do work there, and to get one here would be about £800 per annum, and the payment of out of pocket expenses. The matter was under consideration, but the point was, whether they could afford to spend the money in that way, or apply it in some other direction for the benefit of agriculture.

The half-yearly report was then adopted.

His Excellency the President said the time had come for him to vacate the chair as he had another engagement that afternoon. Before leaving the meeting, he desired to express to members of the Board of Management, and the Society generally, of the pleasure he felt in being associated with them. He had on many occasions, met many members of the society in various parts of the island, in connection with agricultural matters, and had also met them socially. All of them had helped him in his efforts to improve the agricultural resources of the colony, and he hoped they would continue their work of assisting the society to promote the agricultural interests of Jamaica (hear, hear). It had given him considerable satisfaction to work with them; and he could not help saying, that after his association with such an organization as the Jamaica Agricultural Society, it was a matter of satisfaction to him that he had been selected as a Permanent Head of the Board of Agriculture of England and Wales (hear, hear). It had been said that he would occupy the same position with the Home Government as that which Mr. Barclay occupied here (laughter). Well, all he could say was that he was thankful to members of the society, and their able secretary, Mr. Barclay, for the knowledge that had been imparted to him in the matter of tropical agriculture (hear, hear). His new position was a very important one, and the appointment was a source of satisfaction to members of the society too; for there could be no question whatever, that however poor his qualifications or the position he was about to take up may be such qualifications had been largely implanted by his association with the Society. Consequently, in bidding them farewell, in severing his long connection with them, he felt gratified, that he would still be even more intimately connected with agriculture (hear, hear). He was satisfied, from what he knew of the business of the Department of Agriculture of great Britain and Wales, that it had a good deal to learn, in the matter of tropical agriculture, by what the Jamaica Agricultural Society was doing; and he would no doubt, be able to offer his chief valuable assistance as a result of knowledge he had gained from the Society and suggestions from its useful publication, the JOURNAL. He would always continue to look to the JOURNAL for valuable suggestions, and hoped that Jamaica would always maintain great interest in the Agricultural Society and its branches. He could assure them that if there was anything the Board of Agriculture of Britain could do for Jamaica, it would be done, and he would take particular pleasure in doing all he could, to help the colony. He had to thank them for their kindness, and for the support they had given during the years he had been associated with them. As President of the Society, he would say with great pleasure, that their ready support had greatly helped on the work of the Society, and he wished them a hearty farewell. He was certain that with its excellent Board of Management and highly capable Secretary, Mr. Barclay, the Jamaica Agricultural Society would continue to make progress. Again he would thank them for placing him in the chair as head of the Society, and for their hearty support; and again, he would wish them farewell.

Sir Sydney Olivier then left the room, all those present standing.

Sir John Pringle assumed the chair.

Mr. Simmonds moved the following resolution :

The Jamaica Agricultural Society, at this its half-yearly meeting, in view of the approaching departure from the island of its President, His Excellency the Governor, desires to place on record its most grateful appreciation of the service His Excellency has rendered to the island in the support of the Society in all its branches.

The Society recognizes very strongly, that whatever progress in agriculture has marked His Excellency's administration, (and the progress has been considerable alike in results and in the improved attitude of the community towards agricultural development) has been in very great measure the result of His Excellency's sympathy and interest.

While deploring the loss which it suffers in Sir Sydney Olivier's removal, the society is gratified to know that his new appointment will interest him in similar work, with wider opportunities, and wishes for him much success and many years of health and happiness.

Mr. McGrath had much pleasure in seconding the resolution. He felt that His Excellency the President of the Society, had been a tower of strength to the progress of agriculture, and, consequently, to the agriculturists of the entire island. He did not think any one would attempt to deny the statement that His Excellency had always been most sympathetic in all matters brought forward for the betterment and uplifting of the colony's population. He did not know of any other Governor who had done more, and had been more active for agricultural developments. And in that direction, Sir Sydney Olivier had always displayed a restless energy to become acquainted with the needs of the people who resided in most distant parts of the island. Further, His Excellency, recognising that it would be useless to increase and encourage production without the necessary outlets to the market and shipping ports, had directed his attention to the opening up of roads, and railway extension in the interior, which every class of the population would always appreciate, (hear hear). To his (the speaker's) mind, it was most satisfactory to observe that thoughtful men at public meetings and other gatherings had borne testimony to, and proclaimed His Excellency's good work to the colony and had expressed regret at his departure. He had much pleasure in supporting the resolution. Personally, he did not know of anything that had ever occurred to interfere with the smooth and untroubled flow of the business of the Board, a Board he would venture to designate, seeing its composition, its rules and good management, as one of the strongest and most useful Boards of the island (hear, hear). He thought that every individual member of the Board of Management and the society would agree with him that amity and good will, had been always one of its chief characteristics. They wished His Excellency every happiness and contentment in his new and important position, and abundant good health for himself, Lady Olivier and family (hear, hear).

The Chairman (Sir John Pringle) in supporting the resolution, said he would like to say on his own account, that as one who had followed the work of the Society since its formation, he could endorse every word that had fallen from the lips of the last speaker. When Sir Henry Blake, who founded the Society, left Jamaica, it was thought that the work of the organization would suffer, but with the advent of Sir Sydney Olivier, they were able to take up the story of the Agricultural Society where it was left by Sir Henry Blake (cheers). There were various things that contributed to the advancement of agriculture besides mere planting. When they reaped what they had planted, they had to take their produce to the railway or seaports, and no one could fail to observe the increase in the output of produce of the island, since the appointment of Sir Sydney Olivier as Governor. New roads had been opened up, and he was certain they would all appreciate the enormous increase that had taken place in Jamaica. It was an Englishman's nature to complain. They had been told. "Ask and it shall be given," and it was no reflection on the Society to say, they were always asking for more. It was for the Gover-

nor, as President of the Society, to measure out skilfully, what he was able to give; and in this case, whatever was given came from the taxpayers' money. The position of a Governor was to act cautiously; and he was certain that members of the Board would appreciate the efforts of the Governor to husband the resources of the colony (hear, hear). Without any desire to enter into any comparisons, he would say that the retiring Governor, had been a Governor who had endeavoured to raise the peasantry of the island. A Governor for his own credit, would try to do the greatest good for the greatest number; and he was sure all would agree with him in saying that Sir Sydney Olivier had done the greatest good for the greatest number (cheers).

The resolution was carried *nem con.*

The Albany Branch (represented by the Rev. S. R. Brathwaite) presented the following resolution.

"Resolved:—That the Agricultural Society for the districts of Albany, Islington, Martin's Friendship and Carlton, having received with the greatest regret, information of the sudden and unexpected departure of His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., B.A., as Governor of Jamaica, unanaimously desires to place on record an expression of its high appreciation and gratitude for the valuable and distinguished services, the sympathetic and indefatigable endeavours, and the numerous and splendid achievements, which His Excellency has accomplished during his administration of the affairs of this colony.

"The Society is especially grateful for His Excellency's abundant and untiring efforts for the development of Agriculture, and for the improvement of the conditions of life among the people, and for the great success which has attended those efforts in the parish of St. Mary as well as in other parts of the Island.

"The Society will cherish the most grateful recollection of the heroic endeavours of his Excellency in initiating and carrying through measures, prompt and humane, for affording adequate relief to the people of this parish, and in fact to every section of the island, in times of calamity and disaster.

"The Society believes that His Excellency's distinguished administration has given a new and inspiring interpretation to the office and functions of Governor: has tended to enhance in the hearts of the people the sentiments of loyalty, love and devotion, to the person and throne of the Sovereign, and given to the entire colony a splendid example of faithful devotion to duty, of generous and self-sacrificing zeal in seeking the welfare of the community, and of wise and unfailing sympathy with misfortune and suffering, which will ever endear and enshrine the name of the Governor in the memory and hearts of the people of Jamaica.

"The Society wishes for His Excellency the very best that the future can bestow,—a long, useful, and prosperous career of ever advancing distinction in the service of the Empire, and in the confidence of the King; and the enjoyment of the choicest blessings of Providence by himself and family."

Signed by Hon. R. P. Simmonds, President, and Rev. S. R. Brathwaite, Vice-President.

The following resolution was also presented by the Stewart Town Branch (represented by Mr. Josiah Johnson).

RESOLVED:—That the Stewart Town Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society deeply regrets the near departure of His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, B.A., L.L.D., K.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica and its Dependencies; and desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the sympathetic and devoted interest His Excellency has displayed in promoting the welfare of the Island.

His Excellency has during his administration unselfishly and strenuously initiated works of progress; zealously advanced our agricultural operations and with much enthusiasm, rendered invaluable services to the cause of education.

The Branch would respectfully assure His Excellency that it will always bear in memory his enlightened and beneficent administration, and begs to convey its best wishes for his continued success in His Majesty's service, and a lengthened life of usefulness.—**JOSHUA JOHNSON**, Secretary.

These resolutions were directed to be forwarded to Sir Sydney Olivier.

The meeting proceeded to consider the revised rules of the Society.

The Secretary stated that the old rules had been in force from the formation of the society, seventeen years ago. It was found that revision was necessary, and so the matter was referred to a committee, which had completed its work. The rules were presented at the meeting of the Board of Management the previous afternoon, and slight alterations were made. They were now presented for confirmation. The principal changes were abolition of the practice of voting by proxy; extension of the rule covering the objects of the society; the manner of nomination and election of members to the Board Management were also affected.

Mr. Martin moved the adoption of the rules. Mr. A. W. Douet seconded.—Agreed to.

DUTY ON CITRUS FRUIT U.S.A.—The Secretary said this matter arose out of a letter from Mr. A. E. Wigan, of Hartlands, who was present with them that day, and who was a large grower and shipper of citrus fruit: that letter came before the November meeting of the Board of Management, and discussion on it was deferred till the December meeting. On the 19th December, it was agreed that the letter should be referred to the Half-yearly Meeting. The letter was as follows:—

"I see in to day's "Gleaner" that the President-elect of the United States intends as soon as he is inaugurated next March, to take steps to revise the Tariff of the U.S.A. It is well known that the principles of his party point to a revision in the interests of the commerce. Those interests are also those of the foreign consumer, as most reductions of duty result in a benefit shared by both, in proportions varying with circumstances.

"It seems probable that if the Government of Jamaica saw fit at this juncture to make a suggestion to that of the U.S.A. for some reciprocal readjustment of tariff, including the abolition or reduction of the present high duty on citrus fruits (1 per cent. per lb.) it would have a fair chance of success. Of course, Florida and California would oppose, but the offer of Jamaica, backed by the influence of the United Fruit Co., would be listened to by a party favourably inclined to reductions of duty.

"Supposing the attempt were made and succeeded so far as to halve the duty, it would cut at about 1/6 a box, instead of the present 3/ (72 cents). And supposing the shipper got half of the benefit, namely 9d. a box, it would make the shipment of oranges and grape fruit respectively not only more profitable during those months in which it is now worth doing, but worth doing for a few weeks longer each year. And that would be a great advantage to many Jamaica growers and shippers.

"I do not know what steps to take towards inducing the Government to act in the way suggested, but think that you may produce this letter at the next meeting of the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society. They, if they approved of the idea, would know how to proceed."

“ Mr. Graham moved : “ That this meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society hereby solicits the interest of the Government on behalf of the citrus fruit trade of the island, and requests that in case the opportunity occurs through any revision of the tariff of the United States, it should try to secure a reduction or the abolition of the present high duty on Jamaica citrus fruit.”

Mr. A. E. Wigan seconded, and in doing so said they had to show the feasibility of something being done in the matter of the duty on citrus fruit. Mr. Stedman, who was in sympathy with the move, had prepared a paper on the question of Jamaica's export trade in citrus fruit, etc., but he was unable to remain to read the paper, and so he (Mr. Wigan) would read the memorandum. In that paper the writer pointed out that Jamaica either had to seek to build up a trade with Canada, or continue to regard the U.S.A. as her natural market; and as Canada was still a young country, he was in accord with any attempt to secure better terms with the U.S. government with respect to the admission of our products into that republic. Continuing, Mr. Wigan said he knew that the orange-growers of Florida and California were making efforts to oppose the probable proposal of the President-elect to reduce the tariff. On the other hand, if Jamaica could send a Commission to Washington to make representations to the proper quarters on the subject, he felt sure that it would be a move in the right direction. He, therefore, had pleasure in supporting the motion.

Speaking on the motion, Mr. Graham said the resolution was seeking to get special interest taken in the citrus industry of the island. The island would derive considerable benefits if special advantages with tariff revision in the U.S. Places like Southern Manchester would benefit to a great extent, being important citrus districts. Mr. Woodrow Wilson, the President-elect, was a low tariff man. The reduction of the tariff was one of the issues of the recent electoral campaign in the U.S., and he was certain that President-elect Wilson and the Democratic leaders must do something to fulfill their pre-election pledges.

Mr. Hannan, in supporting the resolution, said the question of tariff revision in the U.S. and the working of our own tariff formed an important question. In some countries the tariff was responsible for war. A man had been elected to the presidency of the U.S. in peace, and he was pledged to tariff reform. Many persons in the republic were opposed to tariff reduction, and they were seeking to get in the first blow. Jamaica should try and get in her blow first; and therefore the home government should be asked to instruct her representative in U.S. to lay before the new government of that country the need for the revision of the tariff in favour of articles which are produced in Jamaica.

Mr. A. B. Ventresse sympathised with the idea set out in the resolution, but he did not think that greater attention would be paid to it until they could get citrus fruit dealers in New York and the United Fruit Company to interest themselves in the matter on Jamaica's behalf. If this could be done, such representations would carry more weight. He had no desire to stray into the field of politics, but he could not help referring to the time when pressure was brought to bear upon the U.S. government to impose a duty on pine apples and citrus fruit from places like Jamaica. New York houses who handled large quantities of such articles from Jamaica sent delegates to Washington to see if the idea of the duty could be abandoned. They were successful so far as pine apples were concerned, but the duty on citrus fruit had to remain, in order to prevent the bolting of senators from California. It was necessary to get strong local influence before the present resolution would have any effect. Influence meant more than diplomatic negotiations: and without strong influence, he did not see that they had much to hope from the resolution.

The Chairman said it was not the place of the Society to call on the local people, who may or may not support the resolution. If parties in America, desired to support the motion, they could do so for their own reasons. It must be remembered that the tropical and sub-tropical territory of the United States was increasing, and the people of the States would soon be able to get all the tropical fruit they required from territory controlled by their government. On the other hand, Canada had no tropical or sub-tropical dominions, and it was therefore likely that the Dominion would be more likely to continue her exploitations in tropical or sub-tropical fruits. Nothing disparaging to the U.S. was meant but that was, he submitted, the proper way to look at the matter. Canada was a young country, but it was growing with great speed and the day would no doubt come when it would be able to absorb all the fruit grown in Jamaica. He would, therefore, suggest that they should await the result of the negotiations now proceeding between the Government of Jamaica and the authorities at Ottawa with regard to improved steamship communication. Still, the Foreign Office might move in the matter set out in the resolution before the meeting; and if they could secure two markets for their citrus fruits it would be all the better for the trade.

Mr. Muirhead said they were more likely to get advantageous trade from Canada if the negotiations for closer trade relations were not set aside for good. He had pleasure in supporting the resolution; for if they could not get the two markets, they could get one.

Mr. Esson said if representations were made to the U.S. government and were pushed, the result would probably be satisfactory. Canada was all right, but it was a young country, with a population of 8,000,000 as against 90,000,000 in the United States.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

REGULATION FOR DRIVERS OF DRAYS.—The Secretary stated that at the October meeting of the Board of Management it was decided to lay to the notice of the Government the fact that irresponsible boys were allowed to drive drays, who were unable to control the draft animals. In December the Government replied that the Governor and his Executive Council did not consider it necessary to take such steps. The Society disagreed with the reply of the Government, and it was agreed that the matter should be discussed at the half-yearly meeting.

Mr. Martin was surprised at the action of the Government in not listening to the society's representations with regard to a serious nuisance. The Governor himself had spoken about what he had seen on the roads, about the reckless manner in which drays were driven on the roughfares, and the custom of several persons sitting on top of heavily laden drays with goods. Sometimes a drayman would not put more than ten bags of pimento on his dray, but later on, along the road, would find that man with two other men perched on the top of the dray and the weight of two men was certainly more than an additional bag of pimento, or so.

The Chairman enquired if such acts did not come within the provisions of the law dealing with cruelty to animals?

Mr. Martin said owners of drays could not play detectives on drivers.

Mr. Ventresse said years ago he moved a resolution at the Agricultural Society's meeting urging that not more than one person should be allowed to ride on a dray laden with produce; but that resolution was thrown out, as it was decided that it was not within the scope of the Society to deal with such a matter. It, therefore, looked as if they

going over old ground. It was, indeed, cruel to see from two to six persons on a loaded dray in addition to the driver. This caused more injury to the mules than the heaviest load.

Mr. Martin asked if they could not pass a resolution saying it was necessary for the Government to legislate on such a matter.

Mr. Hannan said Mr. Martin's suggestion was an excellent one. It was a difficult matter for planters to get their produce to the shipping points; but there was no difficulty for a driver to get a load of coussins, etc., out. Mr. Hannan (for Mr. Ventresse) then moved the following resolution:—

Mr. Williams said he would not support anything but the first clause of the resolution. If an attempt were to be made to legislate on what came under the Cruelty to Animals Law, it would be minute legislation, and would only add another law to the statute book.

Mr. Simmonds said while he would like to see a stop put to the things complained of, he did not see how it would be practicable to adopt all that was set out in the resolution. In St. Mary, for instance, more than one person had to ride on a dray in order to assist in getting the wheels out of ruts on the roads.

Mr. Hannan's resolution fell through for want of a seconder.

Mr. Martin moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of the Agricultural Society, the necessity has arrived for legislation to prevent incompetent youths from driving drays, and that the Government be asked to pass the necessary law to prohibit this."

Mr. Esson seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Mr. Esson asked if it was intended to afford persons outside the storm-stricken parishes at the west end of the island any relief in the shape of seeds.

The Secretary said the Government had agreed to assistance being granted to cultivators in other districts if there was money for the purpose. The amount he now had in hand was only enough to retain to buy sved corn for distribution. Corn, however, would be very dear, as it was scarcely to be got. He had been quoted by one grower who had escaped the storm, at 10/ per bushel, and the supply available would be only a small proportion of what was required.

Mr. Esson said in many parts of Manchester there was no seed corn for planting, and the matter was a serious one. Something should be done to get corn to assist planters.

The Secretary said he had been trying to get all the seed corn he could. He knew of a good crop, but would not come in until March, which was too late for most people. He was, however, making every effort to get enough good corn to satisfy the orders he had; but of course he could not get a supply of corn if it did not exist.

The meeting then adjourned.

TOOLS.—Keep your tools sharp. Then you can do more work with less labour. It is a good plan that has been adopted by several Branch Societies to have a Grind-stone of their own. In addition files should be kept in hand by every one.

AGRICULTURAL LOAN BANKS.

[FROM THE JAMAICA GAZETTE.]

Colonial Secretary's Office,

29th January, 1913.

The Acting Governor directs the publication of the following Rules made by the Agricultural Loan Societies Board and approved by the Acting Governor in Privy Council on the 23rd January, 1913, under the provisions of Laws 6 and 36 of 1912.

By command,

ROBT. JOHNSTONE,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Rules made under Section 5 of Law 6 of 1912 by the Agricultural Loan Societies Board for the control and superintendence of Agricultural Loan Societies.

1. Where used in these Rules, the term "Board" shall mean the Agricultural Loan Societies Board, "Society" any Agricultural Loan Society registered under Law 33 of 1902 which may apply to the Board for or be granted a loan under Sections 6 and 7 of Law 6 of 1912, or under Law 36 of 1912, and "Special Loan" shall mean any loan granted under the provisions of Law 36 of 1912.

2. The Board shall hold meetings as often as occasion shall require.

3. Agricultural Loan Societies to whom loans are granted by the Board shall not lend money except for profitable or productive purposes or to effect some economy, and in the case of Special Loans only to members who are in possession of land, the cultivation on which has sustained damage by the drought or hurricane of the year 1912.

4. All loans made to a society must be for and be devoted to Agricultural purposes.

5. Every application from a society for a loan shall be signed by the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of such society, and shall state concisely.

(a) The amount of such loan and whether required as a special loan or not.

(b) The period for which loan is required (in the case of Special Loans for a period not longer than 31st October, 1915).

(c) The purposes for which such loan is required.

(d) If to be repaid by instalments the dates of such instalments.

(e) And the periods of payment of interest.

6. In the case of Special Loans for the resuscitation of banana cultivations the accrued interest and any charges due to the 31st March, 1914, must be paid not later than 30th April, 1914, and the loan must then be repaid in not less than eighteen monthly instalments along with the interest accruing monthly, the first being payable not later than the 31st May, 1914, and the last instalment not later than the 31st October, 1915, along with all charges outstanding on the loan on that date.

In the case of cane or any other cultivation for a period not exceeding eighteen months or as the Board may decide.

Every application for a loan under Law 6 of 1912, shall be on a form supplied by the Board, as set out in Schedule A attached to these Rules, and in the case of special loans as set out in Schedule C.

7. Every application shall be accompanied by—

- (a) A copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Society.
- (b) The date of registration of Society.
- (c) The registered office of the Society.
- (d) The number of shareholders constituting the Society.
- (e) The names and addresses of the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditors, Managing Committee, and Council of the Society.
- (f) The number and paid up value of the shares held by the members of the Society.
- (g) The number of fully paid up shares.
- (h) The number of shares being paid by instalments and the nature of such instalments.
- (g) *The number of fully paid up shares.*
- (h) The number of shares being paid by instalments and the nature of such instalments.
- (i) The number of persons in arrears in payment of instalments on shares.
- (k) Copy of the last statement of accounts showing the amount of loans outstanding, of deposits on hand and of Reserve Fund.
- (i) A copy of the last annual balance sheet of the society.

8. Any society which shall apply for or obtain a loan under Law 6 of 1912 or Law 36 of 1912 shall at all times on being requested so to do by the Board submit all their books, papers and documents whatsoever to the Board and to any Inspectors, Secretary, Clerks, Auditors, Officers or Servants appointed by the Governor or the Board so that the same may be inspected and examined and extracts taken therefrom as shall be deemed necessary by the Board for obtaining the fullest information possible.

9. The Board shall have power to call upon any Society applying for or obtaining a loan under Law 6 of 1912 or Law 36 of 1912 to furnish all information, and to produce all documents, and do or

perform any act or thing necessary to enable the Board to obtain any information or complete any transaction as shall be deemed necessary to fully and effectually carry out the provisions of the said Laws.

10. On a loan being granted to any Society, a Loan Receipt in the form set out in Schedule B attached to these Rules shall be signed and delivered to the Board, or if granted under Law 36 of 1912, the Receipt shall be in the form set out in Schedule D.

11. A Society to which a Special Loan has been made shall apply for any instalment of a loan, after the first instalment has been paid, in the form set out in Schedule E.

12. A society may pay such interest on its share capital not exceeding four per cent. per annum as may be agreed upon by the members of the society ; but no such society shall be at liberty to pay any further interest to its shareholders either as dividends or bonuses or in the way of distribution of profits without the sanction of the Board, and on no condition will the Board sanction the payment in the aggregate of more than ten per cent. per annum on the share capital.

13. No amount in the way of salary or of reward shall be paid to the secretary, treasurer or any other officer of a society without the sanction of the Board ; and such sanction given may be withdrawn by the Board at any time.

14. The Board reserves the right of refusing to grant loans to any society, and when granted to call them in if the society fails to abide by the terms on which the loans are granted or if the Board is satisfied after due investigation and enquiry that the business done by the society is unsafe or precarious.

15. The society shall keep books which shall always be written up to date containing.

(a) The minutes of all meetings.

(b) A register of names and addresses of all members with the number of shares held by each and the amount paid up on such shares.

(c) Particulars of loans granted keeping separately and distinct from all other loans, the special Loans as provided in Law 36 of 1912, Section 4, shewing the names of the sureties and the description of security given, terms of repayment, and the condition of each borrower's account.

(d) Cash Book in which all amounts received or paid for any purpose shall be entered.

(e) A Ledger.

(f) Monthly Balance Sheet.

(g) Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

(h) Reserve Fund.

16. The Board may at any time depute an Inspector to inspect the lands, cultivations and property of any kind on which loans have been made or which are held as securities by any society to which the Board has made a loan.

17. The cost to the Board of at any time auditing and inspecting the books and documents of a society shall be payable by the society and shall be in conformity with the following scale :—

For a society with a capital of £200 and under	-	£0	10	6
For a society of over £200 and under £500	-	1	1	0
For a society of over £500 and under £1,500	-	2	2	0

and for every additional £500 or fractional part thereof over £500, 10/6 additional.

18. The consent of the landlord to a loan being made to a tenant or lessee, as required under section 13 of Law 36 of 1912, shall be in the form set out in Schedule F. attached to these rules.

19. The receipt as set out in the first schedule of Law 36 of 1912 as shewn in Schedule G.

20. The rules approved by the Governor in Privy Council on the 16th day of October, 1912, are hereby rescinded.

The above rules were passed at a meeting of the Agricultural Loan Societies Board held on 8th January, 1913.

C. C. ANDERSON, Chairman.

8th January, 1913.

Approved by the Governor in Privy Council this 23rd day of January, 1913.

F. L. PEARCE,
Clerk Privy Council.

SCHEDULE A.

No.

Application for Loan under Law 6 of 1912, "The Agricultural Loan Societies Law."

- (1) Name of Society.
- (2) The period for which loan is required.
- (3) The purposes for which such loan is required.
- (4) If to be repaid by instalments, and if so, the amount of such instalments.

Signed on behalf of the

Chairman.

Treasurer.

Secretary.

Dated this day of

191

SCHEDULE B.

The Agricultural Loan Societies Law, (Law 6 of 1912.)

We, the (name of Society) do hereby acknowledge the receipt from the Agricultural Loan Societies' Board appointed under Law 6 of 1912 of the sum of _____ pounds as, and by way of a loan, to be repaid with interest at the rate of four per centum per annum, payable quarterly on the unpaid balance of the loan on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December in each year. The principal sum is to be repaid on the day of _____ next.

Provided that if interest be regularly paid on each of the foregoing quarter days, and the instalments following be regularly paid, that is to say,

The sum of £	on the	day of	19
The sum of £	on the	day of	19
&c.	&c.		

then payment of the principle shall not be required otherwise than by such instalments.

We hereby charge and make liable for the repayment of the said loan of _____ pounds with the interest and in the manner aforesaid all and singular the share capital securities for money, goods, chattels and effects whatsoever of the said Society, and we agree to observe and conform to all Rules and Regulations of the said Board from time to time in force under Law 6 of 1912.

As witness the seal of the said Society the day of

191

Seal

Chairman.

Treasurer.

Secretary.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the said Society in the presence of

J.P.

SCHEDULE C.

Application for Loan.

We (name of Society) do hereby apply to the Agricultural Loan Societies' Board (under Law 6 of 1912) for a Special Loan under Law 36 of 1912 of (in words) _____ pounds in order that we may make loans to the members of our Society for the amounts specified in the annexed list opposite to their respective names. We hereby declare that the members named in this attached list are in possession of land the cultivation of which has sustained damage by the drought and (or) hurricanes of the year 1912 and that they are in all

respects qualified to be granted loans in accordance with Law 36 of 1912 and that the particulars in connection with such loans as set out in the annexed list are true and correct.

We desire the loan to be payable in instalments, in amounts necessary to meet the payments of instalments to the members to whom it is proposed to make the loans specified in the annexed list, the first payment desired being _____ pounds,

Dated this _____ day of _____ 191 .
 Chairman.
 Treasurer.
 Secretary.
 Declared before me this _____ day of _____ 191 .
 Justice of the Peace.

SCHEDULE D.

To be signed in duplicate.

The Agricultural Loan Societies Law (Law 6 of 1912) and the Agricultural Loan Societies (Special Loans) Law 36 of 1912.

We (name of Society) do hereby acknowledge the receipt from the Agricultural Loan Societies Board, appointed under Law 6 of 1912, of the sum of (in words) pounds, being on account of a loan of (in words) pounds to be made to us the said (name of Society) under the terms of the Agricultural Loan Societies (Special Loans) Law (Law 36 of 1912.) The said loan of (in words) pounds to be made in instalments, the payment of each instalment being dependent on our satisfying the Agricultural Loan Societies Board or any person authorised by them in writing that the previous instalment or instalments has or have been duly expended in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Loan Societies (Special Loans) Law (Law 36 of 1912). The said loan together with interest and all charges thereon to be repayable as hereinafter set forth; that is to say:—

On 30th April, 1914, the interest and all charges on the loan due by the said society.

On 31st May, 1914, one-eighteenth part of the principle paid on account of this loan and the month's interest thereon.

And in like manner on the last day of each and every month until the 31st October, 1915, when the balance of the loan with all charges thereon will become due and payable.

LIST OF LOANS ATTACHED TO SCHEDULE C.

Name of Member.	Address.	Securities.				Loans granted by the Society.						
		Description.	Borrower's Valuation.	Description of Title.	Description of cultivation.	Amount.	How Payable.	Names of Valuers.	Their Valuation.			

If default is made in payment of any amount or there be any breach or non-observance of any of the covenants expressed or implied or if we, the said society fail to observe and conform with all the provisions of the said laws or any amendments or alterations thereto that may from time to time be made by the Legislative

Council as well as by all the rules and regulations of the said Board from time to time made and in force under Law 6 of 1912, the whole or balance of the loan with all charges thereon shall immediately become due and payable.

We, the said society, do hereby charge and make liable for the repayment of the loan of _____ pounds or any part thereof in the manner herein covenanted all and singular the share capital, securities for money, goods, chattels and effects whatsoever of the said society and we further assign to the said Board the mortgages made to the said society by its members under Law 36 of 1912 as specified and described in the attached schedule.

As witness the seal of the said society, the _____ day of _____ 191 .

Chairman.
Treasurer.
Secretary.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the above-named society in the presence of _____

Justice of the Peace.

SCHEDULE D.—*contd.*

List of Securities.

Member's Name.	Amount of Loan.	No. of Shares held and value.	Security, stating nature, and giving list of documents.

SCHEDULE E.

Application for payment of instalment of loan granted.

The Agricultural Loan Societies Board,
Kingston.

Gentlemen.

With reference to the loan of £ _____ (receipt dated _____) kindly let the treasurer of this society have the (second, third, or as the case may be) instalment of £ _____ to meet advances to

member, as shown in the annexed list, to whom loans have been made, the securities for which have been transferred to you. This advance will make £ drawn on account of this loan.

We having had inspections made of the cultivations, etc., certify that the monies previously advanced to these members have been expended by them in accordance with the provisions of Law 36 of 1912 and the Rules of the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman.

Treasurer.

Secretary.

LIST ATTACHED TO SCHEDULE E.

Member.	Amount of Loan.	Amount of previous instalments paid.	Instalment applied for.	Total paid and applied for.

SCHEDULE F.

The Agricultural Societies (Special Loans) Law Law 36 of 1912.

I hereby give the consent required by Section 13 of the Agricultural Societies (Special Loans) Law, Law 36 of 1912, to a loan under that law being made to (*name of member to whom loan is to be made*) a member of (*name of Society*) in respect of (*describe land*) which he holds of me as (*if tenant state the terms of tenancy, whether from year to year or otherwise; if a lessee date when lease granted and for how long.*)

Signature of Landlord.

Signed in the presence of

J. P. for (*Parish.*)

SCHEDULE G.

The Agricultural Societies Special Loans Law, 1912.

Received from the (*name of society*) the sum of pounds on account of a loan of pounds to be made to me under the terms of the Agricultural Societies Special Loans Law, 1912, in

respect of all that piece or parcel of land (here describe land). The loan to be made in instalments, the receipt of each instalment being dependant on my satisfying the (name of society) or any person authorised by it in writing, that the previous instalment has been duly expended in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Societies (special loans Law) 1912. The said loan to be repayable in instalments in the following manner:—

(here specify times for repayment)

but in any case not later than the _____ day of _____ Interest at 6 per cent. per annum to be paid at the time of payment of each instalment, on the entire loan, or the balance due at the time of payment of such instalment. If default shall be made in the payment of the interest or of any instalment, the whole principal sum then unpaid shall become immediately payable without further demand, and shall carry interest at 6 per cent. per annum until recovery.

I fully understand that the signing of this receipt makes me liable to the covenants set out in the Agricultural Societies Special Loans Law, 1912 and confers on the (name of society) the rights and powers set out in the said Law and in the Agricultural Loans Law, 1887.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 19 _____

Signed by X Y in the _____ presence of
X Y of _____

J.P.

MOONSHINE.

Several correspondents have sent us Almanacs which give all kinds of predictions applicable apparently for all seasons and for all lands, from Greenland to the Equator, and from the deepest valley to the mountain tops, and have asked our opinion, especially as to an article entitled: "When to Plant and Harvest." The times to plant and harvest are indicated by the prophet according to the position of the moon and planets.

So many people believe in doing things only at certain times of the moon that we feel obliged to say that the most successful farmers we know in the United Kingdom, and the most successful planters here, are men who do not bother their heads about the moon and the planets but plant as their experience and judgment indicate. The same moon and the same planets shine over the parishes of St. Mary as over St. Elizabeth which are but small specks of earth on the map, as Jamaica is but a pinhead on the map, yet their planting seasons are different. The planting season of the members of our Cambridge-Woodford Branch for instance who live up at 3,000 feet in the mountains are different from the planting seasons of the Liguanea plain on which they look down. Readers, plant according as the rain comes and never mind the moon. As a rule, March 15th to April 15th is the best time to

plant corn and peas, indeed almost everything, but if rain falls early in January or February, as it does sometimes, but not always in some districts, and hardly so in others (yet they are under the same moon) it is well to take advantage of being able to plant a succession of crops of corn and peas. But few would plant corn in May no matter how nicely the rain comes, excepting in St. Mary where it is a very good time indeed.

Here is an example of sheer nonsense in the Calendar of predictions. "Set eggs for hatching when the moon is in Cancer." We set eggs here in the lowlands between January and April, when a hen is ready to set and we have eggs ready. And we may set a few again late in the year. In the hills where it is cool we set anytime it is convenient. In cold countries they set eggs in the Spring and Summer. No successful poultry-man thinks of the moon in his operations.

POTATO CULTIVATION.

(Being a Paper read before the Christiana Agricultural Society at their Meeting held on January 17th, 1913.)

In response to a request from this Branch, to prepare and read a paper on the Cultivation of the Irish Potatoe, I propose to deal briefly with the subject in a practical manner, giving the result of experience gained by experiments and tests. I have made experiments of my own, and tested the theories of others. And here I cannot help remarking that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Rev. G. H. Lopp for the start which he gave to this industry and which has been such a great boon to the Devon and surrounding districts.

1. The first point I will refer to is the choosing and preparation of the land. Success or failure will very much depend on the selecting of suitable or unsuitable land for planting on. Though the potato does not need the very richest soil, still to plant on impoverished land is a very unwise thing. Land therefore, for planting should be land that is fairly rich, either being so naturally, or which has been manured sometime previously, I should say a season in advance, either by mulching or stable manure. I have applied manure to the soil at time of planting, but not with satisfactory results. Potatoes grown on land so manured are likely to be attacked by worms and to have a strong flavour of the manure, especially if it is fresh. Guinea grass, bush and rotten wood, if applied to the soil say 6 months or so before hand, and then ploughed into the soil are good. Wood ash if sufficiently old—that is if it has been heaped up for a few months at least. By no means use fresh wood ash, as in its fresh state it attracts worms also, which will in turn destroy your potatoes. If you have stable manure at hand then apply it to the soil some time previous to ploughing. A very good way

to improve poor soil is to fly pen or place your feeding for stock on the land which you may fence, or if you like to take the risks tether them on it.

2. Next comes the ploughing or forking, which is best done 2 or 3 months prior to the time for planting. If there is grass on the land it will be sufficiently decayed to mix in with the soil—otherwise it would have to be removed—giving more trouble and depriving the land of valuable manure. After the land has been ploughed and allowed to remain for the length of time that I have stated, then it must be refined—all the lumps being broken up and the land cleared of sticks, roots, etc., and smoothed off as much as is practicable—when this has been done then it is all ready for planting.

3. Time of planting. This I have found out by experimenting with in every month of the year, and in this I have bought my experience. From the middle to the end of March I have found the safest time to plant. Though I have planted in February and had a good crop it is rather risky. If there is a dry March the plants will suffer before the spring rains, and give poor results. Planting on what is called a dry bed is preferable to planting on very wet soil. If there have been heavy rains and the soil is very wet then I generally wait for a couple days of sunshine if there is sufficient time not to miss the proper season. In case of a very dry March you are apt to lose the plants altogether if very great care is not taken as to the time of day planting is done. I remember one year having to plant very early in the morning before the sun was up and very late in the evening after it had gone down. Potatoes planted in hot earth get baked very easily.

4. Distance and depth of planting. I have always found drills made 2ft. 6in. apart about the best distance whether for hand cultivation or horse implements. If the drills are closer you will find that in hilling or bedding the ridges are narrow and close and do not afford sufficient space, especially for those varieties that bear some distance away from the roots. They then go across the hills and become exposed to the sun which spoils them. Then if the drills are sufficiently wide, the sets or plants can be placed pretty closely say 9 inches apart, as there will be good space between the drills for sunlight and air. The depth of planting may be varied according to soil and seasons, but 6 inches is about a safe depth for the drills to be made. If in rich damp soil and during a rainy season, I would recommend planting shallower, say 4 inches and cover very lightly, say 2 inches of earth thrown over will be sufficient. Under ordinary conditions when the soil is not too damp in the drier season make your drills 6 inches and put on about 4 inches of earth. If the weather is very dry a safe thing is to cover up level. Banking should be done in proportion to the depth that the potato is planted if they are put in deeply then the banks need not be so high. In good seasons plants can be cut to 1 ounce in weight with 1 eye, in dry weather they must be larger.

6. Choosing of Tried and Suitable Varieties. A very important thing in the successful cultivation of potatoes is to procure the varieties that are suitable to your soil and climate. I have experimented with several varieties, and in this particular also I have paid for my experience, as from some I got no return. The varieties which I have grown successfully are Early Rose, Beauty of Hebron, Scottish Triumph, Jacksons and Burbanks. The last named I have found to be the best all round. It is a good cropper, very hardy, a fine table potato, and the least liable to be attacked by worms it also keeps well. Early Rose is a fine table potato will give a good yield in good soil, and favourable seasons, but is very delicate, a few days of rain will cause the roots to rot. Beauty of Hebron is a very pretty potato, a fine cropper and a good table potato, but spoils easily and is generally attacked by worms.

Jackson, is a fine cropper, and very hardy, but it is not such a fine table potato as Burbank, Early Rose or Beauty of Hebron. Scottish Triumph is a very fine table potato and a good cropper, but I am not able to say anything further about it, as I planted it only once under favourable conditions.

With good seasons, potatoes will be ready for forking, or loosening the earth around the roots in 4 weeks after planting. Then the plants will be about 3 to 4 inches high. Forking should not be done when the earth is very wet. Better delay a few days to catch a few days of sunshine. Potatoes will blossom about 6 weeks after planting. Care should be taken that forking is done before this takes place, as the roots should not be disturbed then. In forking the earth should be well loosened about the roots of the potatoes. To test whether this forking was absolutely necessary I purposely left, on one occasion, a few roots, without forking them, and while the plants just next produced potatoes of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight, I got only marbles from these. In hilling, which can be done about 2 weeks after forking, the earth should be only scraped up. If the potato has been planted deeply then bedding I think is preferable. Be sure not to allow weeds among potatoes.

6. Reaping. This I think a very important matter. I have seen a good crop of potatoes spoiled by reaping too early. Potatoes should not be reaped till the haulms or stalks are quite dry. It is remarkable that they increase in size considerably up to the time of the death of the stalks, when they are fully matured and become mealy. So that too early reaping will cause loss both in quantity and quality. Indeed they are much better kept in the earth a month or so after. There is an idea current that early reaping will save them from worms, but this has not been my experience, as worms do not trouble them after they are fit. Ants will eat them then. You must also bear this in mind that potatoes reaped too early do not keep well.

A. E. BAILEY,

Devon.

OTHER LANDS.

THE LESSON OF JERSEY.

The Island of Jersey, is probably the most famous potato-growing region in the world. The total area of the island amounts to 28,700 acres, of which some 25,000 are under cultivation. The holdings are small and average from 15 to 20 acres. The farmers of Jersey have become rich on potatoes. Indeed, it is even said that some of them are now neglecting their famous cattle, so great are the profits which they are making out of this crop. Their most famous variety is called the "Royal Jersey Fluke." It is both early and prolific. Every year the people of this little island export potatoes to the value of £500,000. The potato was first introduced into Jersey in the year 1775, and it has been grown there ever since. In 1811 experiments began to be made with the object of proving the possibility of producing two crops of potatoes on the same land during a single year. Since then, the cultivation of this root has made steady and increasing progress. For example, during the Jersey potato season, which lasts only eleven weeks, that is from 30th April till 21st July, the weekly average price per ton ranges from £3 to £31. The Jersey farmer gets a yield of from 10 to 20 tons of potatoes per acre, according to the quality of his land. The earliest lands are the most valuable. During the potato season these island growers work from 3 a.m. till 10 p.m. Many men who are making from £1000 to £2000 per annum are to be seen toiling daily in their fields, six days in the week. Land is rented at from £8 to £16 per acre, and sells at £200 and more per acre. Not long ago a potato patch of 3½ acres sold for £1500, and another of 23½ acres, with a house on it, sold for £5760. All this is due to potatoes. The price of French labour varies from 12s. 6d. to 14s. per week; but the English labourer demands more, from 25s. to 30s. per week. The expense of potato growing is placed by Jersey growers at from £30 to £50 per acre, and the return may be as high as £100 per acre. This is not surprising when we learn that it is usual to dress these potato lands with from 20 to 30 tons of farmyard manure per acre, plus half a ton of crushed bones, plus a ton of "guano," costing from £7 to £8. Likewise, the cultivation of the ground is very thorough. It is customary to plough the land to a depth of 14 inches—a team of six horses being used. The result is that the tilth of the fields is as fine as that of a garden bed, and free from the smallest weed.

A few notes on the above may be useful. 1. There is the industry of the Jersey people. In the summer the people work long hours in the field. 2. The large quantity of manure added to the potato fields. 3. The success they work the soil to, fine as a garden bed. The large value of the exports of one crop from a small island.

POULTRY NOTES.

Hens of the setting breed in which classes are included Games, Plymouth Rocks, Orpingtons, Wyandottes, and all crosses or mixtures of these (while Minorcas and Leghorns are non-setters), often give much trouble by becoming broody after having laid only a dozen to two dozen eggs. It is a mistake to set hens from which all the eggs that can be got are wanted for setting, when a common hen to be bought for 2s. to 2/6 will do for a setter. The big heavy hens like Black Orpingtons make very poor setters, as they are heavy and clumsy and so break the eggs. To put hens off the set, have a coop to put them in and the day you see they do not leave the nest, take them off and put them in the coop. A small pen with a run is much better than a small coop, as the hens can then be given plenty of exercise in scratching in a heap of trash for their food which soon makes them forget that they wanted to set. If the coop is one that allows the hen to sit down comfortably, some rabid setters will imagine they are on a nest and remain broody. A coop with a barred floor and raised off the ground is best. When hens of different breeds are kept in separate pens, all that is needed to be done is to put the hen that wants to set, out of its usual run, away from its usual nest. It is a bad custom to half-starve the hen that is to be broken from its broodiness, and shut her in a dark, dirty coop. Instead, give her plenty of fresh air, fresh water and good food, and she will commence to lay again all the quicker. The other day a turkey hen wanting to set, was simply shut off from its nest, fed extra well and in ten days she began laying again. Often we get hens to lay again within two weeks. But it is necessary to take away the hens promptly from the nest, when they show signs of setting; if they are allowed to set for a few days, it takes longer to break them off.

* *

*

MEDICINES.—While it is a mistake to be constantly giving fowls medicines, it certainly is useful to administer simple and well tried medicines as preventatives of disease. One of these is a weekly dose of Epsom Salts given either in the water, a dessert spoonful to the quart of drinking water, or in soft food, at the rate of a half teaspoonful to every grown fowl. Sulphate of Iron in the drinking water is a good tonic. This can be bought in the hardware stores cheaper than the form used in human medicine as sold in the drug stores. The best way to use this is to put a dessert spoonful of the Sulphate of Iron crystals in a quart bottle, fill up with water and shake. The crystals will dissolve gradually. Two teaspoonfuls of the solution to a quart of drinking water is sufficient as a tonic. This can be used every day for a week, and then stopped. We also use a solution of Permanganate of Potash in the drinking water, not regularly but occasionally. The best way to use this is to put a half teaspoonful of the Permanganate crystals in a

quart bottle of water, and then enough of the solution to the drinking water to make it pink. If roup or jaws or cholera breaks out, this solution should be used in the water every day so long as illness lasts,

STOCK NOTES.

PONDS.—Many ponds are infested with parasites, especially *Strongyli*. Probably the fluke-worm which attacks the livers of cattle is also common. It is not expensive, and is certainly useful in disinfecting the water of ponds, killing parasites and being beneficial to the beasts, to put sulphate of copper (Bluestone), say one lb., to a very small pond and to very large ponds as much as 20 lbs., in the water. To distribute this equally over a small pond can be done by spraying the solution on to the water of the pond with a spray pump. For a large pond a man could be sent over it on a small raft spraying from a tub or barrel as he goes.

Health and vitality in stock are not the product of one generation, but are obtainable from stock having had good management, good feeding, good water, over generations.

* *

BARBED WIRE.—Any one who wishes to raise good milch goats with large udders should eschew barbed wire about their places or there will be losses from torn udders and teats.

In one week we had four goats which had all fine large bags full of milk, much damaged, one indeed died of gangrene, and two others had bad wounds. It is cheaper in the end to use woven wire fencing, as advertised sometimes in this *JOURNAL*.

* *

WORLD'S HORSE-JUMPING RECORD.—The world's horse-jumping record, was broken at Vittel, in the Department of the Vosges, at a horse show there. The Australian horse Beskra and the thoroughbred Montjore both cleared 2 metres 36 centimetres (approximately 7ft. 8in.), thereby beating the officially-recognised record hitherto held by the horse *Conspirateur*.

SEASONABLE HINTS.

SEASONS.—Up to the time of writing (5th February) the seasons since the heavy rains, storm of November, have been on the whole favourable for growth and for planting. Curiously, the central districts have been drier than the coast lands.

* *

BANANAS.—The growth of bananas continues to be most satisfactory. We do not remember a winter being so uniformly warm; and we have had no severe northers and no chills so far. Pruning should be kept up, and it is time now to single out the best suckers

for the 1914 crop, on the old roots of those bananas which were blown down. Settlers are often inclined to let a crowd of suckers grow, thinking they will get more bananas. The reverse is the result, even on very rich soil. One banana should always be allowed to get well ahead of the followers, otherwise they only retard each other. Where bananas were left standing after the storm, even though damaged, so as to fruit this year, even a small bunch being of value for food when provisions are so scarce, young suckers for 1914 should of course be much more advanced than where there is no large plant. But the exact height these should be now is so much a matter of locality that those who are in doubt should refer to the local Instructor. In the mountains for instance, such suckers should be at least, *man high to the break of the leaves*, while in the lowlands, a foot less than that would not be too forward, unless the field is very open. The pruning of bananas is where the expert local knowledge comes in.

In the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Andrew, St. Thomas and Portland, there was not so much damage done by the storm as elsewhere. Indeed, the estates in the irrigated plains of St. Catherine escaped very well, and shipping has continued right on. In Portland there will be as good crops of bananas and cocoa as any year.

The year for our exports now ends on 31st December, instead of as previously, on 31st March. We exported last year three million stems less of bananas than in 1911. That was through drought. We fear there is no hope of 1913 doing even as well as 1912 for although there might have been a great rush of fruit coming in from September next, there has been such severe pruning done to delay the fruit until the spring of 1914 that there ought to be, weather favourable, very fine crops of particularly good fruit then. The vigorous growth of the young suckers, through having the old plants cleaned out with the old bulbs to draw upon, with the abundance of moisture in the soil, the sunshine and heat, and the amount of trash on the soil to rot slowly as manure to the growing plants, are all favourable circumstances to the production of good fruit.

* * *

PEAS AND BEANS.—Those crops planted in November and early in December, are now coming in. The weather favoured planting right on through December and January. The demand for seed upon us has been very great, especially for red kidney beans—familiarily called “red peas”—and we are glad the imported beans have done so well. We have had to import a third consignment, and this we fear will not be enough. A plague of rats was reported from Hanover, which ate the Black Eye Peas just as they appeared above the soil, but the rats did not eat the red beans. Altogether the red beans have proved the most useful, and we store up this knowledge for the future.

CORN.—Owing to the very favourable seasons last March, there was a great planting out of corn. The drought set in, and there was not a tenth of the crop expected, reaped. Then, still hopeful, with good seasons the end of August and September, people planted largely again. The storm of November destroyed part of this crop and damaged most of it. What is coming in now (February)—and there is more of it than we expected—is poor in grain. Not many planted in October, as that is usually too late, but seasons being out of gear, some did plant then and this corn was too young to be damaged by the storm, and is at this time very promising for a good return in March. All our usual arrangements to lay in a stock of hybridized seed corn were nullified, and all that we can supply now to the very numerous requests for seed corn, is only ordinarily good country corn. People are all eager to plant early, and thus there has been a great demand. It is good to be ready to plant when seasons favour, and there may be rain in February and surely in March.

It is good policy to plant in succession, and by the middle of March we may have really good seed corn.

* *

POTATOES.—As a quick crop, and one easy to grow, there was a large planting of sweet potatoes after the storm. There would have been more, but plenty of plants were not available in some districts, where not much of this crop is usually grown; and in other districts drought had made plants scarce. This crop is coming in well, and will provide foodstuffs for March.

* *

IRISH POTATOES.—Owing to the scarcity of yams, there has been, and will be, a very large planting of potatoes (Irish), as they are a quick growing crop [10 weeks]. But they require, as we have often pointed out, better soil and better cultivation than is usually given to provisions such as yams, cocoes, sweet potatoes, and cassava. In addition to what we imported for a winter crop, we have 200 barrels of seed potatoes arriving for planting in March. We had the usual trouble—late orders coming in. Although it will be a big job, we shall, as usual, open these barrels, and sort out, so as to send out the potatoes without any being touched by rot. There is an article in this issue which will be useful to the many who are cultivating this crop for the first time, and be helpful also to those who have had some experience. The writer, Mr. Bailey, has grown potatoes as a business for many years here, and so he writes from intimate experience. This experience has been with red soils, but we have gone over the article carefully, and as we have had experience on black soils, light alluvial and dry gravelly soils, we can recommend the advice given as stiff black soils require preparation longer and soils of the lowlands require the surface soil loose with a cultivator, or be heavily mulched

LIBRARY
TNAU, Coimbatore :-



00001359

COCOES.—As yams are scarce and slow to grow, why not plant an extra patch of cocoes? These tubers are hardly ever seen on Kingston tables, yet we prefer them to potatoes or yams, and it is only prejudice that prevents towns' people from making more use of this excellent root, the mainstay of the people in most of the Pacific Islands, there called Taro or Talo.

COMMENTS.

We note that at some Branch meetings articles in this JOURNAL are read and discussed. This is a good plan. We find from our correspondence that many who receive a JOURNAL must read the articles very carelessly, because they write us for information which has already been published in the JOURNAL.

* *

IMPORTS.—During the quarter ending 31st December, 1912, there was imported into Jamaica no fewer than 14,438 barrels of flour more than in the same quarter of last year.

This is not due to the Biscuit Factory, for it started in September, 1911, so must be due to the effects of drought and the storm of November last,

* *

BRANCH NOTES.—Some of the Branches complain that their branch notes are not published in the JOURNAL. We have over and over again explained that we like to publish every report of a branch meeting sent to us, but some do not arrive in time; then those Branches whose reports are belated, think it would be quite easy for us to publish them in the following JOURNAL, but by then, they would not only be out of date, but as only a certain number of pages can be devoted to Branch Notes, there would be other up-to-date notes waiting to be printed. Some Branches appear to think we have a spite against them, when their Branch Notes do not appear. Now, if we refer to the Index for last year, we find that the Notes for Mocho and Brixton Hill Branch appeared 8 times, Preston in St. Mary 8 times, St. Mary Central 8 times, Frankfield 7 times, Enfield, St. Mary, 7 times, Tryall Hill, St. Mary, 9 times, Swift River, Portland, 7 times, Windsor Castle, St. Mary, 6 times, and others more seldom. This simply means that the reports arrived in good time. According to No. 12 of the rules governing Branch Societies, the reports of meetings ought to be in our hands within one week after the meetings. Then, again, some reports are made too lengthy. There is no necessity to give the remarks of any speaker at length. Only the substance of speeches should be given as concisely as possible. The Agricultural Instructor can guide the local branches in these matters.

* *

INSTRUCTORS AND BRANCH SOCIETIES.—Branch Societies should note that Instructors cannot usually make arrangements for visits.

at short notice. Their itineraries, that is, their programme of the work for each month, set forth day by day, requires to be sent to the Secretary before the end of each month, and may not be altered unless by permission, and then only under pressing circumstances, say some engagement drops through because of a Branch notifying that a meeting will not be held, when the date must be filled up by some other work.

* *

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—The Annual Report of the Society for the Protection of Animals in Jamaica for 1912, was published in January.

From it we note that 560 convictions for cruelty to animals were secured by the Police during 1912. The subscriptions to the Society during the year amounted to £90 7/6, not enough to pay the year's expenses. The Hon. J. R. Williams, Director of Education, is Chairman, and Mrs. K. H. Bourne Secretary.

* *

ORANGES.—A three days hard frost in California caused £50,000 loss to the orange and grape fruit crop. In consequence, the fruit advanced 2/ a box on oranges and 1/ a box on grape fruit. It is stated that over all Southern California two-fifths of the citrus fruit have been lost. The California crop is marketed during the spring and summer.

* *

LOANS.—What curious and erroneous ideas get abroad! One was that settlers cleaning up their cultivations promptly after the storm, or putting their places in good order, would be looked upon as not requiring a loan. So, many left their places as they were, or left their home places untouched, and put in more work on rented land. Now this is just the opposite of what would happen, and this the Instructors have explained. A man who has gone energetically to work will be looked upon as one who will likely make good use of a loan. The man who has been negligent will be looked upon with doubt.

* *

ESSENTIAL OILS.—We publish an advertisement of Ecuelles or Rinders for oranges, limes, etc. From the makers we have received the following letter:—

“With reference to our letter to you of the 28th October, we now have the pleasure to send you copies of our Catalogue and Price List.

“We shall be pleased to send you, or any interested persons desiring them, further copies on receipt of a letter or post card, or they can be obtained from Messrs. Stedman & Co. of Roseau, Dominica.

“We might mention that the Company have installed in Dominica two Ecuelles Machines for demonstration purposes, and that should you or any probable purchaser be at any time going to Do-

minica, Messrs. Allport & Devonport of Roseau, Dominica, will be pleased to demonstrate the working of the Machines, if you will write them and arrange an appointment.—ECULLES Limited."

SIR SIDNEY OLIVIER.—At very short notice, as far as we here are concerned, our Governor, Sir Sidney Olivier, K.C.M.G., who was President of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, was called to the Mother Country to take up the position of Permanent Home Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. This Board concerns England and Wales, not Ireland or Scotland, which have separate departments, their conditions being different. Always an important department in a country like England, where in spite of political neglect and more than their fair share of taxation, the farmers represent the biggest industry, and are the largest employers of labour, the agricultural output of Great Britain being £150,800,000, employing 1,840,000 people, still, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries there, farmers consider, has not been so energetic, enterprising, assertive and comprehensive in its operations as such a Board in such a country should be. It is said that with the appointment of Sir Sidney Olivier, the Liberal Government will initiate a new policy. It is possible that the great personal interest Sir Sidney Olivier had in the Agriculture of Jamaica may have had something to do with his appointment, as showing that his tastes and inclinations were in sympathy with Agricultural questions. At the Half-yearly General Meeting, the Board of Management passed a Resolution which was forwarded to the Governor before he left. (Page 78).

Most of our Branch Societies have also passed similar resolutions, which have been forwarded. See Branch Notes.

THE NEW GOVERNOR.—We, as an agricultural society, are very much interested in the new Governor, Brigadier General Sir Wm. Manning, K.C.M.G., as he will be President of the Society. He is a soldier who has had much experience in East Africa, and he has latterly been Governor of Nyasaland in East Africa. He leaves Nyasaland to come here. Nyasaland does not touch the sea. To get to it there is a long journey up the great Zambesi River, and then up a tributary, the Shire River, and then transport by land. There is no railway yet. The country gets its name from Lake Nyasa, which is 350 miles long and 38 miles broad, lying 1520 feet above sea level. It was the great Missionary Explorer, David Livingstone, who first explored Nyasaland and commenced the great work of civilization there.

The chief town of Nyasaland is Blantyre, called after Livingstone's native home in Scotland.

Nyasaland has a population of 958,000.

It has 23,300 acres under Upland Cotton, 753 acres under Egyptian Cotton, 7411 acres under tobacco, 9,014 acres under Para Ceava Rubber, and Coffee also is grown, but not with the success once anticipated.

LOAN BANKS.—We publish copies of the forms required to be filled up and sent to the Agricultural Loan Board, for the information of those districts which have not yet formed Loan Banks. We could not publish these before, as they were not issued in time for the January JOURNAL.

* *

INDEX.—We shall send out the Index for the volume for 1912 with the February number.

BRANCH NOTES.

Castleton (St. Mary).—The regular meeting was held here on the 1st January, when there were present: The president, S. C. Pickersgill, vice-president, the secretary, assistant secretary, agricultural instructor, and fourteen ordinary members. Several visitors were also in attendance. Four new members were added to the roll of the society. The minutes of the regular meeting of the 4th December, 1912, also the minutes of the special meeting of the 11th December, were read and confirmed. The secretary read a circular from the secretary of the parent society, acknowledging a special report on the condition of the yams in this district, and in what condition are the yams that should have matured now; and if damaged or destroyed, what is the prospect for heads for replanting. The matter, after being fully discussed, was referred to the Instructor, with a view of his throwing some light on it for the benefit of those present who suffered loss through the drought. In compliance with this request Mr. Briscoe kindly gave the necessary explanation. The subject of loan banks was next discussed, and it was decided that Mr. Palache be invited as soon as he comes in the parish, to pay the society a visit and give a lecture on loan banks. On the motion of Mr. Scott, a vote of thanks was accorded the instructor for his visit. The meeting was brought to a close in the usual way.—JAMES HARDIE, Secretary.

A special meeting was held on Thursday the 9th January, at 4 p.m. There were present, Rev. J. Robertson, president, the secretary, and eight other members. Circulars were read from the secretary of the parent society, intimating that the half-yearly meeting of that society would be held at its office on the 16th January, at which branch societies should be duly represented. It was decided that the president should, if the weather permits, represent this branch at the meeting. The next was a resolution to approach the parent society for a supply of peas, corn, and yam heads, for distribution among those members whose cultivations were damaged during the hurricane of November 1912. The secretary was authorized to forward a list of the quantity of each article to the secretary of the parent society. The secretary informed the society that he had written to Mr. J. T. Palache, inviting him to Castleton, to lecture on the formation of loan banks; also to the loan bank society at Annotto Bay, re the consent of this branch to unite with the Scott's Hall and Mahoe Hill branches to form a loan bank. The meeting then terminated by the singing of the National Anthem.—JAMES HARDIE, Secretary.

* *

Pratville (Manchester).—A meeting was held in the schoolroom on January 2nd, at 4 p.m. There were present, Rev. W. E. Evelyn, in the chair, Messrs. J. T. Palache, agricultural instructor, G. W. Fitzherbert, Farquharson, of Park Hall, Mrs. Evelyn, the secretary, and about 120 others. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. At the previous meeting resolutions in connection with further extension of relief

work, establishing an industrial farm in the district, and distributing plants, were drawn up, adopted, and sent to the member for the parish for representing to the Government. The member now wrote to say that he would do his best to put those resolutions through, and his letter was read by the chairman. The lecturer, on being called upon to speak, gave a lucid explanation of the rules for the working of the loan bank, and answered all the questions asked of him to the satisfaction of all. He assured all that the process of borrowing from the loan bank would not be an expensive or elaborate one, but one made as easy and simple as possible. Several old members of the local bank increased their subscriptions, and many others became members, while others again promised to join at an early date. The knowledge that the local bank may be financed by the Government, and loans made to responsible parties, has had the effect of greatly increasing the membership. Many who were previously very apathetic are now coming forward to join. After giving the usual weighty words of advice and encouragement, the lecturer was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and the meeting was closed with the singing of a verse of the National Anthem. A meeting of the committee of the local bank was fixed for Monday 13th January, at 4 p.m., when it was proposed to scrutinise the securities offered by would-be borrowers.—W. S. JONES, Hon. Secretary.

* *

Gibraltar (St. Ann).—A meeting was held on 2nd January. Mr. R. S. Barnett, the president, occupied the chair. There were present thirteen members and five visitors. Mr. Arnett, the travelling supervisor, was also present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Mr. H. Q. Levy, telling of his resignation as instructor of the district. The news was received with surprise and sorrow, and it was moved by Mr. J. B. Morrison, seconded by Mr. T. A. Campbell, and unanimously carried, that a letter be sent to Mr. Levy expressing regret at his resignation, but wishing him success in new sphere of labour. A letter was also read from the parent society re the half-yearly general meeting; and after the advantages of attending such meetings were fully pointed out by Mr. Arnett, it was decided to send the president, Mr. R. S. Barnett, as the representative of this branch. As the funds of the society are not very flourishing, it was decided that the members should subscribe towards the expenses of travelling, etc., and Mr. T. A. Campbell promised the nice sum of 5/, which offer was greeted with applause. Mr. Arnett, who intended to speak on co-operation in Ireland, pointed out that as the subject was such an important and wide one, and as the gathering was small and the time short, an afternoon be specially fixed for the lecture, when the entire community could attend. The secretary brought before the meeting several important items in the November JOURNAL, and impressed on the members the necessity of reading the JOURNALS carefully and acting on the important points contained in them. It was agreed that from time to time the chief items in the monthly JOURNALS be dealt with in the same manner. The meeting then terminated with the National Anthem.—J. B. MORRISON, Secretary.

* *

Mount Industry (St. Catherine).—The regular monthly meeting of this sub branch was held in the Long Hill schoolroom on the 3rd January. The meeting was presided over by Mr. J. M. Cousins, the vice-president, and about sixty persons were present, many of them were enrolled as new members. The agricultural loan bank scheme was discussed. The meeting thinks that such a bank would be a great blessing to the district, and the members of this branch are going to try to have one established here. In this district there is no "big man," but there are a large number of small planters. These, in many cases, for lack of funds to clean their cultivations at the proper time, get only half of what their field should

yield. A bank from which they can get a small loan at easy rate of interest, will remove this difficulty. At present if a man borrows money here, he has to pay as interest 2/ or 3/ on the pound every month. Mr. Mossman, who promised to attend this meeting, and who it was hoped would give valuable information on this subject owing to some cause did not turn up. The meeting was afraid of interfering with the special hurricane loan. At first many were anxious to get at it, but when it was explained to them that in order to get this, not only shares in the loan bank but a surrender of their titles for their lands were necessary, their anxieties for the loan vanished. The dangerous condition of the only road leading from this district to the Riversdale railway station, was brought to the attention of the meeting. The secretary was requested to call the attention of the authorities to it. By resolution, it was agreed that this branch be affiliated with the parent society. The secretary was directed to make application accordingly. The meeting adjourned to the first Friday in February.—R. SIMMON ANGLIN, Secretary.

* *

Richmond (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Richmond schoolroom on Friday 3rd January at 5 p.m. There were present, Mr. C. Abrahams, president; C. Gregg, secretary, and N. Thomas and C. Foster vice-presidents; also twenty members and a few visitors. The Instructor sent to say that he could not be present, for another meeting wanted him on the same day. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Arising out of the minutes, the president explained why the proposed resolution re a portion of the main road was not drafted. He said that he had seen the Rev. R. H. McLaughlin, and that gentleman told him that he had already written the superintendent of roads about the same road, and about a week after they had the talk. The new deviation was surveyed by Mr. Fletcher the engineer. Correspondence from the parochial board was read; also a letter from Mr. Cradwick, asking this society to send a representative to the half-yearly meeting to be held on the 16th January. The president read a lengthy piece that was published in the "Gleaner," of the rules and principles governing the agricultural loan banks. Thereupon a general discussion took place. The two main points argued on were the giving of a security, and how the loan will be given. The president explained as best he could, but everything was left to stand over until Saturday the 11th January, when the officers and other members will meet at the Richmond court house for the transaction of business. At this stage the National Anthem was sung and the meeting adjourned till the first Friday in February.—CHAS. GREGG, Secretary.

* *

Stewart Town (St. Ann).—A meeting was called on Thursday evening January 2nd, and opened with prayer. There were present the following: Messrs. J. Stockhansen J. P. president, in the chair. A. N. Bernard, Charles Bailey, Moses Moreland, Eustace Fagon, John Beveridge, Charles McFarlane, Assistant Secretary, also E. Arnett, the Travelling Supervising Instructor and his brother Mr. Ben Arnett who came in immediately after the reading of minutes. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence received was also read. No. 1. Letter from the Secretary of the Parent Society, advising not to use the £25 18s. 5d. now in the Bank from the show funds to give loans unless a properly organized Loan Bank be established in connection with this branch. 2. Letter from the Secretary of the Parent Society acknowledging receipt of branch report of meetings held in December and which he said would be in time for publication in January's JOURNAL; also inviting the Secretary to attend the Half-yearly meeting. 3. Letter from H. Q. Levy, Esq., expressing sincere thanks to the members, sec-

retary and president of the Stewart Town Branch, for the good wishes expressed towards him in the resolution sent re his resignation as Agricultural Instructor for St. Ann and Upper Trelawny and promising command of his help to this branch society when needed. The president explained fully to members present the cause for changing the holding of the meeting from the last Thursdays of the month to the first for which the members present were thankful and satisfied. Arising out of Mr. Barclay's letter No. 1 re Loan Bank. A discussion on the subject followed and it was decided to find out when Mr. Palache will be passing through these parts so that a meeting be arranged for and asking him to explain fully re the Loan Bank with a view of this society forming one of its own. It was noted that no reply was received from Mr. Barclay about the supply of red peas. Mr. Arnett informed members present that he was certain red peas could be got at 6d per quart but he did not know whether it would be given free except to the storm stricken parishes. Letter from Acting Director of Public Works. At a meeting of the Stewart Town Branch held 2nd January 1913, the reply of the Acting Director of Public Works with the report of Mr. J. F. Brennan Acting Inspecting Engineer in regard to the complaint made by the branch on the condition of the main Road leading through Stewart Town was read and the following resolution passed. Resolved. That this meeting strongly protests against the method adopted in making the enquiry into the complaint by sending the Acting Inspecting Engineer to enquire into the conditions complained of without giving due notice to the parties concerned which would have enabled a representative to be present to meet the special officer appointed. That material information would have thrown an entirely different light on the matter. That whereas the method adopted has placed this society in a most undesirable position. That this society is convinced that had it had the opportunity to do so it would have fully substantiated the complaint made. That it considers the enquiry made in an arbitrary manner. There being no other item of business, the meeting was then adjourned. CHAS. McFARLANE, Asst. Secretary.

* *

Trinity Vile (St. Thomas).—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 3rd. January 1913. There were present E. S. Edwards, Esq., vice-president, in the chair, nine members and the secretary. The Secretary stated that he was unable to present the minutes for confirmation as he could not find his rough notes, but would endeavour to do so at next meeting, and asked that he be dealt with leniently. A light vote of censure however was passed on him. Read letters from Mr. Barclay (a) with reference to the death of F. A. Stewart, (b) that Mr. James Telfer's name is struck off the list of authorized persons he having joined the regular police (rural) The secretary said he understood that he has not so joined the police force, the matter was however noted. Read letter from Mr. Briscoe as also a letter from Mr. Barclay to the competitors intimating the abandonment of the Prize Holdings Competition for this year owing to the show. A lengthy discussion took place. The chairman spoke on the unfair manner in which the Board of Management had treated the competitions. The circumstances were very regrettable, but they should not be content with such a treatment. He said the cocconut growina could remain. Messrs. Whitfield, Grant and others spoke on the subject, the former handed in a resolution seconded by Mr. Spleen. It was unanimously agreed to adopt this and refer it to a committee consisting of the chairman, Secretary and the mover and seconder for augmentation. The following is the resolution passed by the committee. Resolved: 1. That this branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society places on record its disapproval of the manner in which the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society has treated the competitors in the Prize Holdings Scheme. 2. That whereas most of the competitors in this parish had had their holdings adjudged prior to the

recent storm, only Bath district being left out, the society fails to see the reason why the prizes should not be awarded to holdings already judged, or why the judging was not carried through before the instructors were removed from the parish. 3. This society claims that in justice to the competitors who had put themselves to unnecessary expenses in getting their holdings in readiness for the competition, the Board of Management should treat the matter with more consideration, instead of abandoning the competition. 4. This society is quite alive to the great loss sustained in the western parishes in the recent storm, and hereby records its deepest sympathy for the sufferers; but fails to see the urgency that was needed in transferring the Inspectors to that end for the professed object of supervising in cocoanut plantings a crop which takes from 7 to 10 or more years to mature, instead of allowing them to complete work they had already begun here. 5. The society is of the opinion that such breach of faith, for as such we regard it, is not conducive to strengthening the people's opinion as to the interest which the Board really has in them. 6. The society begs to assure the Board of Management that great dissatisfaction exists over this matter and that their action will prove a great set back to the Agricultural interest in this parish. 7. For the above reasons the society would respectfully ask that the board re-consider its decision and complete the judging in this parish and award the prizes accordingly. Mr. Whitfield gave notice that the hour of meeting be 3 o'clock instead of one. Mr. Hall will at next meeting move the debate coffee and Mr. Brown cocoa Mr. Bogle will also at next meeting move that the Railway matter be resuscitated. The meeting then adjourned.—H. EDMAN, Secretary.

NOTE.—The meeting evidently had formed erroneous ideas of the reasons for abandoning the Prize Holdings Competition this year in all the parishes. The Traveling Supervisor of Instructors, who was the judge, was urgently required in the western parishes, not in connection with cocoanuts, but to supervise the Instructors work there, where there were only two inexperienced Instructors not able to cope with the work thrown on them through the effects of the hurricane; organise and supervise the distribution of seeds, and report on conditions to the Board. Further, part of the judging in the western part of St. Thomas was done before the storm. It would have been utterly unfair to judge the rest of the holdings after the storm had visited them and altered their appearance. It is selfish of one or two competitors to put their little affairs before the pressing needs of three parishes, almost ruined by a hurricane. Ed.)

* *

Smithville (Clarendon).—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 3rd January, when there were present, Messrs. F. McLymont, president, W. S. Reid, vice-president, thirty-four other members, and over fifty visitors. The president gave a hearty welcome to the members and visitors, and referring to the formation of the loan bank at Frankfield, congratulated them on the bright prospect before them. In spite of the calamity which has overtaken the island, never lose heart, he said, but take "forward" as your watchword, like the Israelites en route to Canaan, cross your Red Seas, for these calamities are blessings in disguise. The minutes of November meeting were read and confirmed, after which the secretary read a letter from the Hon. H. T. Ronaldson, expressing regret at his inability to be present at the meeting through ailment. The meeting felt that it owed a debt of gratitude to the hon. gentleman, his promised visit having brought out a large number of visitors, thirteen of whom became members. A letter in answer to a resolution sent the D. P. W. was read, and it was moved by Mr. Deacon, seconded by Mr. O. Card, and unanimously carried, that the D. P. W. be respectfully asked to visit the Smithville road at an early date, and say

for himself that the complaint contained in the resolution is warranted. A letter from the clerk of the parochial board, in answer to a resolution re No. 13 road, was read. The meeting learned with regret of His Excellency's departure, and felt that something should hitherto have been done to prolong the stay of the Governor. A lengthy discussion on the cultivation of canes took place, and it was decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting, when the instructor will be present. The National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.—J. A. EDWARDS, Secretary.

* *

Rock Hall (St. Andrew).—The monthly meeting was held in the Rock Hall church on the 6th January. Present: Mr. E. Rainford, in the chair, Messrs. T. Heslop, M. Curtis, J. Briscoe, instructor, nineteen others, and twelve visitors. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Points arising out of the minutes were dealt with. The next subject brought up by the instructor was the destruction of yams by the storm. After many questions and answers, the instructor gave a very encouraging address. He urged upon the members the necessity of up and be doing as they have acted in the past, as an instrumentality for a great many important changes to add to the comfort of the people. He also spoke in high terms of the good results to be gained at present. He pointed out that the Government had come to the aid of agriculturists by forming a loan bank. He, in a forcible speech, pointed out many incidents connected with the bank, and that no loan would be given except on bona fide property. He stated that Mr. Palache will be at Glengoffe to explain the law and to start a bank, and all who can possibly manage could go over there to connect themselves with it. He concluded his address by wishing a bright and prosperous year. The election of a president followed. Messrs. Chas. Dabney, E. Rainford, and Rev. C. Spencer were nominated and put to the vote. Rev. C. Spencer was elected, and Mr. Chas. Dabney first vice-president; the others remain the same. Two of the visitors gave their names to become members. A vote of thanks was given the instructor. It was agreed that the secretary be sent to the half-yearly meeting, but being in a very bad condition with influenza, he had to remain indoors. Business finished, the meeting was brought to a close with prayer by Mr. Chas. Dabney. Next meeting February 11.—E. J. GASCOY, Secretary.

* *

Mahoe Hill (Clarendon).—This branch held its monthly meeting on Monday January 6, commencing at 3.30 p.m. There were present, the president and twenty-four members, also Mr. Schleifer, the agricultural instructor for the district. The president, after opening the meeting, had the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. Correspondence from the general secretary on yams was the next item on the agenda, and this was read and discussed, also another re half-yearly meeting, which was similarly dealt with. The following resolution, moved by Mr. Edward Pusey and seconded by Mr. George May, was passed:—“That the Mahoe Hill Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society begs to remind the Director of Public Works respectfully of the urgent necessity of constructing the proposed branch road leading from Mount Carmel to Mahoe Hill, an exceedingly fruitful district of Upper Clarendon.” The loan bank was next dealt with. Mr. Edward Pusey desirous of having the matter put before him in the simplest and plainest way, put several questions to the instructor, and finally had his doubts and misinterpretations cleared. The explanation given by the instructor re the loan bank was much appreciated by all the members. It was next agreed to by the society to purchase a strongly bound book for the keeping of the minutes. Mr. Schleifer next dealt with pig rearing. He forcibly showed how a large amount of our money goes out of the

island because we are not sufficiently interested in our local industries. He showed how a well-fed pig can remunerate its owner and quoted extracts from Col. Pinnock's booklet on pig-rearing. He then gave directions as to the proper way of feeding and caring for the pig. It should not be overfed, he said, and the styes should be kept clean. He tried to eradicate the old-fashioned idea, that the pig likes to live in the mud; and strongly recommended the floored styes in place of the old dirty ones. The president thanked the instructor for his encouraging and helpful remarks, and the meeting was brought to a close.—C. J. ROBOTHAM, Sec.

* *

Above Rocks (St. Catherine).—On Tuesday, the 7th January, the regular monthly meeting was held in the St. Mary's schoolroom. There were about fifty persons in attendance. Among those present were Mr. Briscoe, the instructor, Mr. E. J. Gordon, president, Mr. Walter Lobban, vice-president, Mr. Alexander Carey and Mr. Ed. Waugh. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary read two letters from the parent society: one dealing with yams, and the other with JOURNALS. Mr. Barclay explained that the parent society made the enquiry so as to know what help may be offered to the western parishes as far as yams are concerned. Mr. Gordon then explained that loans could be got at once from Linstead, on the members here taking up shares in the Linstead co-operative bank. Mr. Briscoe asked that we wait for a while until Mr. Palache addressed us on the subject of loan banks. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that members of this branch may take loans from the Linstead bank through their president, who was responsible to look after this branch on the central board there, and in the event of a local bank being formed, then they would transfer their shares. Terms were supplied those who were desirous of loans. It was decided to draft resolutions to the Government re appointment of a D.M.O., and to write the Postmaster-General re telephonic communication. The branch also decided to prepare, through the secretary, a petition for a first class parochial road through Golden River. A committee, consisting of the president, secretary, instructor, treasurer, and Mr. John Simmonette, was appointed to arrange for the starting of work on the model plot. After the singing of the National Anthem the meeting was brought to a close.—FRED. DENNIE, Secretary.

* *

Grand Cayman (Cayman Islands).—On Jan. 7th the usual quarterly meeting was held. In the absence of His Honour the Commissioner, the chair was taken by Capt. A. Ayton, J.P. The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed. The show report was then read and explained by the show secretary. An interesting discussion followed, going beyond actual discussion of the report, which was adopted. It was thought that the meeting might be made more useful by discussion of problems that Cayman agriculturists have to face. The destruction of provision grounds by the rapidly increasing rabbits or coneys in the island having been mentioned, Mr. Young gave notice that at the next meeting he would make a motion bringing the matter before the board. This concluded the meeting.—MRS. SULLIVAN, Secretary.

* *

Bull Head (Clarendon).—This branch met at Mount Carmel on the 8th January. There were present, the instructor, the president, the secretary, Messrs. T. H. Robotham, N. Robotham, J. Hamilton, and several others. The minutes passed, the instructor addressed the meeting. He dealt with the loan bank matter, explained very carefully the benefits to be derived from such a society. The members were invited to ask questions regarding points in the matter about which they were not clear. This they did, with the result that the bank question was thoroughly

threshed out. At the request of the president, the instructor also lectured on the pruning of bananas, the time for planting, and the kind of suckers to be planted. The instructor proposed to speak on the pruning of cocoa at the next meeting, and arranged to meet the members at Mr. Reeves' field, to give a lesson on the pruning of coffee. There being no other business, the meeting rose.—I. S. ROBINSON, Secretary.

* *

Enfield (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the schoolroom at 2 p. m. There were present: Mr. W. Cradwick, agricultural instructor, Rev. W. S. Taylor, president, Messrs. J. R. Beckford, H. D. Sheriff and G. A. Perry vice-presidents, the secretary and seventy-five regular members. The president in his usual bright and cheerful manner, welcomed the members and wished them a happy and prosperous new year. He next asked Mr. Cradwick to take the chair. This he did, and after doing so, he wished the branch long life, and the loan bank which has been established in connection with the branch societies. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Next the correspondence was read. Fourteen new members were elected. After the enrolling of the new members, Mr. Cradwick then proceeded to explain to the members the usefulness of the loan bank and the principles governing its working order. He also explained the conditions on which the hurricane loan will be got. Many questions were asked on the subject of sureties, which were needed before obtaining loans, and they were satisfactorily answered. It was definitely pointed out that loans should be put to no other use but agricultural purposes. Mr. R. H. Giscome thinks that the money when borrowed should be used as the borrower deems fit. Mr. H. D. Sheriff asked what could be done for that class of people whom the paupers' law did not reach, and who are, under the crisis, practically dying from want. His question was satisfactorily answered by the president. It was moved by Mr. G. R. Edie and seconded by Mr. J. Fuller, that the superintendent of the P. W. D. be approached through the parent society and asked that he make his pay day weekly instead of fortnightly, so that the labourers on the roads may get relief, it being their only dependence at present. Mr. R. H. Giscome moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Cradwick for the able and lucid manner in which he explained the principles of the loan bank. This was seconded by Mr. T. R. Beckford. Mr. Cradwick replied. After this the roll was called, and Mr. H. D. Sheriff moved the adjournment of the meeting until the 12th February. The singing of the Doxology brought to a close a very profitable and enjoyable meeting. The effects of the recent drought and storm are keenly felt. The people are practically dying from want. Such a state of affairs has never before been experienced by even men of seventy summers.—J. F. JOHNSON, Secretary.

* *

Duanvale (Trelawny).—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 11th January, 1913. In the absence of the President and vice-president, the second vice-president, R. S. Small, Esq., occupied the chair. After the calling of the meeting to order by the chairman, the secretary, at his request tendered the minutes of last meeting, which were accepted. Important matters arising out of the minutes were dealt with. The Instructor Mr. Harrison who was present spoke at length on the utility, etc., of the establishment of a Loan Bank for Lower Trelawny. The secretary followed with a few hints, after which the consensus of opinion of the members was that meanwhile they were in favour of the organization yet they could not promise at present to support it. It was agreed to cancel the debate on corn growing. The instructor apprised the meeting of the fact that he had ordered some peas from the parent society for free distribution, and which would come under the care of the Rev. S. G. Robinson who would notify the Secretaries of the various societies as

its arrival in Falmouth. The following were appointed distributors for this district. Messrs Sn.all, Smart and Welsh. The instructor next advised the members always to visit the school garden. A communication from the board re No. 103 road was read, wherein the board stated its total inability from lack of funds to grant the society's request of extending the road for one mile. The secretary next informed the meeting of the president's regret in being unavoidably absent. After the roll-call which showed seventeen members present the chairman adjourned the meeting.—L. U. WELSH, Secretary.

* * *

St. John's (St. Catherine).—A regular meeting was held at Kitson Town on the 9th January at 7 p.m. There were 14 members and a few visitors present. Among the former were Messrs. H. L. Mossman (instructor for St. Catherine), S. A. Banton, secretary, James Richardson, Charles Grant, and Joseph Gonzales. The president and vice-presidents being absent, Mr. Mossman was elected chairman. The meeting was opened with prayer by the secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The instructor delivered a very delightful and interesting address on the subject of loan banks. He gave reasons why and how these banks should be helped, and appealed to all to endeavour to help themselves by taking shares in these banks. Punctuality, as far as payment is concerned, and honesty of purpose when borrowing, should be the aim of each individual. No one should endeavour to obtain a loan without first knowing what he is going to do with that sum. The Linstead Co-operative Bank, Limited, would be the only one that would be formed in St. Catherine. Each share would be £5. Anyone on becoming a shareholder can borrow money, say at about £2 10/ or £3 per acre, to make good the damage done to his cultivation. The payment of the share will be by instalments of at only 2/ per month, excluding the first month, which, with the Book of Rules, etc., will amount to 4/6. Money will be loaned at 7½ per cent. He compared this rate of interest, viz., 1/6 in the pound per annum, to what many people have to pay, cent per cent, besides being obligated. The secretary moved a vote of thanks to the instructor for his clear and lucid address. In reply Mr. Mossman asked for questions on what he had said; but so exhaustively had he dealt with the subject that every point was clear, and there was no need for questions. The secretary said he desired at that stage to move a resolution which he knew would be adopted unanimously. This branch society is one of the oldest in St. Catherine, about twelve years old. It was a well known fact that His Excellency who had done so much for Jamaica, was about to leave our shores in a short time, and for the interest that he had taken, which was second to that of no other administrator that had ever taken up the reins of government, he felt in duty bound to make this resolution:—"That the members of this society, learning with regret the coming departure of His Excellency the Governor, beg to place on record their appreciation of the services rendered by His Excellency to the agricultural interests of this colony; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency." The instructor, in seconding, spoke in eulogistic terms of the good works done during the present administration. It was a fact that everybody was not pleased, still His Excellency had endeavoured to do everything for the betterment of the inhabitants. His principle has been to go and see for himself, and not simply to depend on what he was told. The resolution was unanimously carried. This was also adopted: "Learning from His Excellency the Governor on the 30th November last that the construction of a tank at Kitson Town will put a certain sum in circulation in this vicinity, and learning subsequently that the money has been allotted for the construction of the said tank, and seeing that our need for relief work is still the same as when we petitioned His Excellency, resolved that the Commissioner for St. Catherine be respectfully asked to start

the work of making the tank at an early date." On the motion of the secretary, the meeting adjourned until the second Thursday in February.
—S. A. BANTON, Secretary.

* * *

Upper St. Johns (St. Catherine).—The regular monthly meeting was held at the Point Hill Baptist Chapel on Tuesday evening the 14th January, 1913. The following were present, the Agricultural Instructor, O. P. Jones, and twenty one members and many visitors. The meeting was opened with prayers. In the absence of the president and vice-president, Mr. Mossman was asked to take the chair. Messrs. J. H. Patterson, S. L. Crooks, and Samuel Dillion, became members. As a secretary was not yet appointed, Mr. Crooks was asked to act. The minutes were then read and confirmed. Mr. Mossman informed the meeting that the government fixed the interest on Loans from Hurricane Loan Banks at 6 o/c and not 7½ o/c as he anticipated at the previous meeting. He was sorry that the Prize Holding's Competition had to be abandoned for this year. He then reminded the members that their society was not in a satisfactory condition financially, and appealed to them to attend the meetings regularly, and support the society that was so very helpful to them. After speaking on the subject for a considerable time, the Instructor went on to deal with the subject of Hurricane Loan Banks in an able and interesting manner. In the course of this lecture he explained (a) the formation of Loan Banks, (b) their rules, (c) the benefits derived from them; and urged his hearers to be interested in these banks and take shares in them. After a lengthy discussion the meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.—S. LYCOURGUS CROOKS, Acting Secretary.

* * *

Swift River (Portland).—The regular monthly meeting was held at Mt. Olivet on Wednesday 15th inst at 4 p.m. There were present thirty members and four visitors. The president being away in Kingston also Mr. A. P. Hanson Instructor, having other engagements they could not be present. Mr. Jas A. Gray was then asked to take the chair, and preside in absence of a vice-president. The meeting was then called to order; minutes read and confirmed. New members were proposed by D. A. Parker, viz., E. N. Bailey and Hubert Haisley both were unanimously elected members. The roll was next called. Correspondence was read arising from this was a meeting of the committee of Management held on the 8th at 4 p.m. dealing with general half-yearly meeting. It was agreed that the president should represent this branch on Thursday, 16th and a sum of sixteen shillings was voted from the society's fund to meet his expenses. The subject submitted. The possibilities of Loan Banks to the branch societies that is the manner in which loans would be given. At this moment Mr. Fred. G. McGrath was voted by Mr. W. Faison and seconded by W. Curate to be vice-president this was agreed to by all present. He then spoke on the Loan Bank question which was being discussed and was able to answer some who questioned about shares to be taken and Loans, etc. This being ended vice-president then formally declared a Loan Banks started by submitting names of eight gentlemen as Trustees also a Treasurer and Secretary, viz. Messrs. T. O. Duhaney, George Shirley, John A. Thomas, Wilfred Curate, T. Harrison, William Gray, Elijah Holworthy, and Ernest E. Anderson, Treasurer. E. E. Anderson, Esq., Secretary Fred. G. McGrath, Esq. There were thirty seven men who have subscribed their names to take up shares, the secretary was then instructed to send a letter to the Secretary of the Agricultural Loan Societies Board with the names of the officers for their approval. The president had gone to Kingston on 16th in order to get book of rules, etc., printed for the S. R. Loan Bank. A vote of thanks was then moved by J. A. Gray to Secretary and vice-president for the

able manner they both assisted to carry the meeting through. Vice-President replied in suitable terms in behalf of Secretary and himself. The National Anthem was then sung and bring our meeting to a close.—
D. N. PARKER, Secretary.

* *

Albany (St. Mary).—The regular bi-monthly meeting was held on the 15th January, in the Friendship Baptist Chapel kindly lent by the Rev. W. D. Henderson. Many thought that the meeting would be washed out as it rained almost incessantly from daylight till about 2.30. p.m. when it cleared up. In spite of the rain and bad roads the members and friends turned out well, and as usual the much-thought of Instructor W. Cradwick was on the scene in time. The friends assembled for the first time, for the occasion in the spacious building. The meeting was called to order by the Secretary who asked the Instructor to take the chair the president and vice-presidents being absent. The chair being taken as requested, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The committee that was appointed at the last meeting to revise the rules reported thus. Committee met twice revised rule; which are ready to be submitted. The secretary read the revised rules. Many questions were asked bearing on the rules; these were all answered satisfactorily. Rule four states that the Society's year shall begin in April instead of November. The Instructor asked that the adoption of the rules be deferred till the next meeting, meantime he will write to Mr. Barclay to find out whether it is imperative that all branch society's years must begin in April. He would like very much to be present at the Annual General meetings of the branches but if all of them are to be in April then he could not possibly attend all. It was agreed that the adoption of the rules be deferred as requested. The treasurer's report followed which showed that the society had done exceedingly well since the last meeting. Two members of the managing committee were appointed to audit the treasurers accounts. These having failed to do so it was decided to refer the matter back to them to be submitted at the next meeting. Members were notified at the last meeting that all who are in arrears with their subscription shall be written to, and if they fail to pay up by this meeting then their names shall be struck off. The secretary stated that he had written to all and up to the day of the meeting only six had complied. The chairman asked that the names of all who have paid up in full be read out. This was done. He asked that the names of those who are in arrears be also read out. This was also done. Simultaneously with the reading out of the names, eight members paid in their share. The names of the others, who were most of them absent were struck off. The chairman explaining that it is a regrettable duty, but he as well as the other members of the society were simply following the instructions laid down by the mother society and besides that members were sufficiently warned. Continuing, he said that the society has no objection to admit these re-factory ones as new members provided they pay their subscription. The secretary was called upon to read the correspondence received. The first was a letter from the esteemed president. Hon. R. P. Simmonds expressing his regret for not being able to be present at the meeting having to go to Kingston to attend meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Other communications were read from. The Department of Agriculture informing the society that the Pedigree large black boar ordered in July, 1912 will soon be ready for delivery. Some discussion arose from this. One experienced in pig rearing said that he did not think the type of pig will suit our climate and in his opinion was not the best for the peasantry as it takes plenty of feeding and being not close quartered he did not think it the best match for the long sided sows that are to be found around. It was decided not to buy the pig but to advertise for a Poland China. The secretary read letter sent to the Parochial Board by the Committee appointed to report on the roads in the district and to whom a letter from the board

was referred to. The secretary read petition sent to the governor by the society in November, calling attention to the undesirable conditions prevailing in the districts as a result of long droughts and asking for loans to restore cultivations. He read also a reply to the petition. Replies were also read from branch societies to which copies of the petition were sent asking them to support some. The chairman in commenting on the petition said it had helped in bringing about the desired result. At this state the rain fell so heavily, that the meeting had to be adjourned. After about fifteen minutes the rain ceased and the meeting was called to order again. The Rev. Brathwaite moved a suspension of the standing orders to enable him to move a resolution expressing the regret of the society at the departure of His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier one of the most worthy of the Governors of Jamaica, one who has identified himself with every branch of Industry in Jamaica, and has shown untiring interest in the agricultural developments of the Island and in the welfare of both large and small proprietors, etc. The resolution was duly moved and seconded and the Rev. Gentleman was appointed delegate to the half-yearly meeting of the mother society, and to present the resolution to the governor who would be at that meeting. The secretary read resolution sent by Mr. L. S. Clarke, asking the parochial board to attach a part of road No. 12 to No. 14. Whereby making 14 a longer road capable of earning a larger grant which would ensure more and better work on the part attached. The resolution was seconded and unanimously carried. Another resolution was also sent by the same gentleman calling the attention of the board to the awful condition of the parochial roads in connection with the district notably No 12 which a member of the board and the superintendent had stated had shown marked improvement and asking that steps be taken to rectify the existing conditions. Rev. Brathwaite called attention to the bad condition of the main road leading from Annotte Bay to Port Maria, via Islington and moved a resolution drawing the attention of the director of Public Works to the matter. A most pleasing feature of this meeting is the large application for membership. The names of nearly fifty applicants were proposed and seconded and received as members. Many of these have paid in their subscription. The chairman now called upon the Rev. Brathwaite to address the meeting on coming to the item on the agenda, further developments re loans, being one of the deputation that went to the governor, sent from the Port Maria Loan Bank. The Rev. Gentleman said among other things that every day brings the loan nearer. They had seen the head of the loan bank department, got all that they wanted and more and he hoped that within the next few weeks the loans will be in the hands of the borrowers. Mr. Cradwick read or of application and gave valuable advice re the filling in of the application forms. The Rev. Brathwaite said that the society would be very much benefitted by the advice of experienced planters and stock breeders and suggested that a paper be prepared and read by a member of the society at its next meeting. It was agreed that the committee of management make arrangement for the preparation of a paper to be read as desired. Mr. Cradwick gave notice that he will be in the district on Tuesday and Wednesday the 4th and 5th of March for demonstration. He said that he will show how to spray a cow if one be procured. The attendance at the meeting was eighty five including a few visitors. The meeting then adjourned.—T. A. BUAKE, Secretary.

* *

Southfield (St. Elizabeth).—The regular monthly meeting came off on January 17th. The Rev. A. M. Smith, president, presided. Messrs. E. J. Smith, instructor, and L. C. Hibbert, vice president, were also present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The instructor addressed the meeting at length, depicting the ravages to crops by thieves, particularly children. The chairman and vice-president spoke

in the same strain, and as a result of this, a resolution was unanimously passed. The meeting next discussed the destruction of the corn crop by dogs, and at the next meeting a decision may be arrived at as to the best way of guarding against such a destruction. The instructor next addressed the meeting on the prospects of forming a loan bank here. A lengthy discussion followed. The instructor in a clear and practical way gave a very brief explanation of the law. The vice-president spoke encouragingly, but at the same time warned the members to be very careful as to how they borrow from the bank when it is started. The resolution was then unanimously carried. In an interesting address, in which the members were at times agreeably surprised, the chairman spoke of the prospects of irrigation in these parts, similar to what is done in Central Australia, where Artesian wells are dug by diamond pointed drills, and water pumped up from depths of 2,000 feet. The instructor informed the meeting that he had a little money in hand to supply red beans and peas to deserving persons. The meeting, at the instance of the vice-president, wanted to know if the general secretary could get some red beans for sale to those who would buy, and in consequence of this the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, that this meeting of the S. B. ask the instructor to ask the secretary of the J.A.S. to send them about ten bushels for sale among the members, as the amount which may probably be freely distributed would be insufficient to meet the general demand." The meeting then adjourned.—J. J. MILLER, Secretary.

* *

Lamb's River (Westmoreland).—The annual general meeting of this branch was held at Mount Hermon on Friday, 17th January. Present the officers of the branch, Instructors Somerville and Hoare, thirty two other members, Rev. A. DeBarrett, and some other visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Somerville told the meeting that in future Mr. Hoare will be the instructor in connection with the branch, as he will be removed to the lower parts of the parish. A discussion was held on Mr. Somerville's removal, and at the close the following was passed. Resolved, That this society deeply regrets the removal of Mr. Somerville from this district as agricultural instructor. During Mr. Somerville's address, he advice the meeting that in pruning bananas, it would do well to remove all suckers that were left for 1914 spring, and leave only those that peeped since the hurricane. He wished the branch continued success. A hearty welcome was extended to Mr. Hoare, and the meeting wished him a prosperous career. He spoke of the work being done at the cocoa nursery at Montpelier, and said there were a good many plants at the nursery ready for distribution. He booked a good many orders for the same. He had brought with him about 1000 cabbage suckers, and distributed to all present. He spoke of a caterpillar that is doing harm to bananas at present, and advised the prompt destruction of this pest where found. The secretary reported that he had sold four bushels of peas and beans, but there was still some more left; and asked that he be allowed to distribute these free to persons who had not yet received. This was agreed to. Mr. Edmund Graham reported that the society's board Roosevelt was dead; cause Hog Cholera. It was improving very much under Mr. Graham's care. The pig was born on the 23rd May 1912; arrived here on the 8th October, weighing 48 lbs. and at the time it took sick and died, it weighed 105 lbs. 29th December. It was suggested that the society procure another pig of the same breed from Hope, but it was decided to defer the matter until food stuffs were more plentiful. The following telegram was despatched to Sir Sydney Olivier. Resolved: That Lamb's River Branch deplores the sudden departure of H. E. It wishes to place on record its high appreciation of H. E. splendid work during term of office, especially in development of this district, and wishes H. E. bon voyage. Resolution passed requesting the public works department and parochial board, Westmoreland, to

make arrangement to send a pay clerk, to Seaford Town, to save persons the long journey to Darliston, to receive money for work done on the roads in these parts of the parish from time to time. The secretary read a very valuable paper on Arrowroot Cultivation. A vote of thanks was accorded to him for the same, and it was decided that the paper be published. The following were duly elected members of the branch Rev. J. J. Williams, s.j., Montego Bay; Rev. A. DeBarrett, Lamb's River, P. O. and Mr. C. L. Stevens, Lamb's River, P. O. All the officers of the branch for 1912 were re-elected, viz. Mr. G. R. C. Heale, president, Messrs. C. W. Whittingham, and G. Warburton, vice-presidents. Mr. T. A. Malcolm treasurer, and Mr. U. L. Brown, secretary. The president moved a voted of thanks to the secretary for his invaluable services to the branch from time to time. This was supported unanimously. The next meeting of the branch to be held on the 14th March, when a debate will be held on. Yams or bananas which is the more profitable to cultivate. The leaders being the treasurer and the secretary.—U. L. Brown, Secretary.

Preston (St. Mary).—The monthly meeting of the branch was held on Friday 17th January 1913, and was opened with the reading of scripture and prayer. The president Mr. A. D. Guffe presided. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. There was quite a full house, many came to hear about the intended loan to cultivators but were disappointed as Mr. Cradwick was not present. The president told them that with a little patient loans will sure be arranged. The petition re main road through the district was not ready owing to press of work. It was agreed that the getting up of the petition be placed in the hands of Messrs. Lawton and Parodie and that the draft copy be submitted to the president for approval. The committee on the road question submitted their report. They were satisfied that the complaint respecting the bad working of road No. 4 was just and from information they were led to believe that injustice is being done to the unfortunate people who work on the road and that some readjustment is required in the payment. Mr. Lawton contended as to the correctness of the committee's report. The president said that the committee only reported facts to which their attention was called and their report must be accepted. Mr. E. Brown's motion on road No. 1 in the oxford district next came on for discussion. Mr. Brown spoke of the unsatisfactory work done on said road, but Mr. U. Cox the contractor for that section of the road, showed that he had done his best in the working the road with the small allotment on it. Mr. I. Amiel's motion on the compensation by the government to losers of goods stolen when the thief is caught and imprisoned. After a short discussion the subject was dispensed with the president having given satisfactory explanation. Mr. R. Brown's motion on the protection by law of a spring in the upper part of the district came next. Mr. Brown began his subject but was informed that he must get the owners in whose land the spring is to give the land that will be required and the board will give it the attention it calls for. Mr. Lawton moved the following resolution which was carried. That this society learned with much regret the short notice given of the departure of His Excellency the Governor Sir Sydney Olivier from this Island for a New Sphere of labour in the mother country and as loyal subjects we feel grateful to him for the good he has done for the Island generally and particularly for the parish of St. Mary and the keen interest he has taken in Education and Agriculture. That we wish His Excellency and Lady Olivier long life, happiness and prosperity. There were forty seven members present. The meeting was adjourned with the doxology and benediction until Friday 14th February next.—I. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Birnawood (Portland).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Saturday the 18th January, at 11 a.m. There were present, Mr. R. Paulwell, acting president, in the chair, eighteen members and eight visit-

ors. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence from various sources were dealt with. After a little discussion on the subject of delegates to attend the half-yearly meeting of the parent society, on the suggestion of Mr. Wm. Savage it was agreed to elect one at the annual meeting in April next. The reply from the parochial board to the resolution re a trained nurse for the Buff Bay River Valley was read, and the matter being under consideration, the letter stated, it was decided to wait on the board. Letters from Mr. Barclay on the reports from this branch were read. The members felt strongly on the omission of the reports of their meetings from the JOURNAL. If a meeting was held late (say during the last week) so as to have the instructor for the district present, thus making it impossible for the report to reach his office before the close of the month, they failed to see why it could not be published in the next month's JOURNAL, and cited precedent for it. A letter from Mr. James Francis of Cedar Hurst, with an enclosed copy of a reply from the Colonial Secretary to him, was read. It showed that Mr. Francis has been in correspondence with His Excellency the Governor on the subject of a pay office for Birnamwood for those who did relief work on the main road, it being felt a great hardship for men after toiling five days a week, on the sixth to walk 20, 25, or 30 miles to be paid. The members expressed their appreciation of Mr. Francis's very considerate action on their behalf, and asked the secretary to inform him accordingly. They also subscribed their names to the form sent. Mr. Hanson, agricultural instructor, arrived at this stage. The chairman moved a resolution, seconded by Mr. Lafette, to be forwarded to the M.L.C. for Portland, urging that the re-opening of the Hardware Gap section of the road, for which a grant was voted at the last regular session of the Legislative Council, be no longer delayed. Mr. Hanson then took up his subject—"The Agricultural Loan Bank." He dealt fully with it, explaining clearly how the scheme will be operated, and outlined the benefits to be derived from becoming a shareholder. The members, who seemed very enthusiastic over the matter at the start, gave the speaker an attentive hearing, but when the restrictions safeguarding the bank, and the pains and penalties that would be imposed on defaulters were narrated, enthusiasm seemed to have received a stunning blow, and, contrary to expectations, not a member joined the bank. As if, however, to let the speaker feel that his efforts had not been absolutely wasted, Messrs. Russell and Patterson, visitors, bought shares, and were enrolled. Mr. J. Savage gave notice of motion of resolution re road to Crown Lands, for next meeting. The meeting then stood adjourned till February 15th next.—W. P. FRICKLERON, Secretary.

**

Ulster Spring (Trelawny).—The monthly meeting came off on the 22nd January. Present: Dr. Smith (in the chair), seventeen members and a few visitors. On the motion of Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mr. Pile' it was decided to follow as far as it is practicable, the suggestions re agenda in the December JOURNAL. It was decided to ask the authorized persons to be present at the next monthly meeting to give an account of their stewardship. Read letter from the Governor re sale of Litchfield Mountain, and a very long discussion ensued. Among other things, the society had asked the government to modify the conditions of sale by reducing the price from £5 to £3 per acre; by allowing purchasers other than tenants, to pay in instalments instead of paying up £26 1/9 in advance; by allowing purchasers to select the portions they want. On the first two points the Government refused to move. On the third the concession was granted. Mr. Forbes moved in substance that Litchfield Mountain be given free in four acre plots to deserving and industrious persons with no real property, on condition that these persons establish thereon permanent crops within two years, in default of this they should be turned off, the underlying

principle being that the taxes the government would derive therefrom would more than compensate for the apparent loss of purchase money. The secretary seconded for purpose of discussion. The socialistic idea contained in the resolution caused the majority of the members to speak, and the meeting developed into a very interesting one. Mr John Walcott thought an unparalleled rebellion would result if some persons got free lands and others did not. Mr. Forbes explained that the principle was in vogue in Canada, and that many heads of families in Jamaica live in unfloored grass huts, with no permanent crops or fruit trees around these huts, because the land did not belong to them. Mr. Pike moved an amendment, and Mr. Rogers seconded, that the lands be sold at £3 per acre up to five acres, and that purchasers of ten acres be allowed to pay £2 per acre; the idea being that a five-acre plot did not offer sufficient scope to an ambitious farmer, who would after a few years begin to rent lands, and thus become a prey to the praedial thief. The chairman was strongly opposed to anyone getting as many as ten acres, as better off parties would have an undue advantage over their poorer brethren, and thus defeat the main purpose of the government in offering these lands for sale. Mr. Pile further pointed out that if the lands were given away or sold indiscriminately, even unproductive parts would be bared, and within a few years Ulster Spring would become a drought stricken area. During the discussion, it was also pointed out that the free distribution of Litchfield Mountain would cause the rule to be applicable to all crown land sales in Jamaica, and that such radical changes might not work well. Further discussion was postponed. Loan Bank.—The chairman stated that the Ulster Spring People's Co-operative Bank, Limited, was registered and read extracts from the Book of Rules. Several persons are applying for shares, and applications for loans up to £650 have been booked. Mr. Palache will be again here on the 31st January. Read letter from Mr. H. Q. Levy, re his resignation as agricultural instructor for St. Ann and Upper Trelawny. The following resolution was moved by Mr. Pile, seconded by the chairman, and unanimously agreed to—“That the Ulster Spring Branch Society records its sincere regret in losing the services of Mr. H. Q. Levy, whose resignation, especially at this time, is a decided set-back to the agricultural development of Upper Trelawny.” The secretary was instructed to take orders for red beans, black eye peas, and corn at the close of the meeting from those members who wanted these articles from the parent society, and the secretary received 20/. The meeting adjourned.—G. W. MILLER, Secretary.

* *

Mt. Regale (St. Mary). A regular meeting of the Branch was held on the 10th January, 1913, in the schoolroom. Eighteen members were present. Mr. C. A. Robinson presided. The committee appointed to report on footpath connecting roads No. 19 of the Richmond district with main road through Platfield having giving a favourable report it was decided that a petition be sent to the Parochial Board asking them to take it over. The committee appointed at the last meeting to consider the insuitability of the location of the office of the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the district having failed to perform the duty have been again asked to make the necessarily enquiry. Letter from Mr. Barclay inviting the branch to send a delegate to the Half-yearly General Meeting was read. It was thought necessary that something be done to improve the goats and pigs of the district and that either a billy or a boar be got by the branch arrangements, for the getting and the keeping be settled at the next meeting, but in the meantime enquiry be made of Mr. Barclay as to the cost of both. It is decided to get a grindstone also.—B. THOS. ATKINSON, Secretary.